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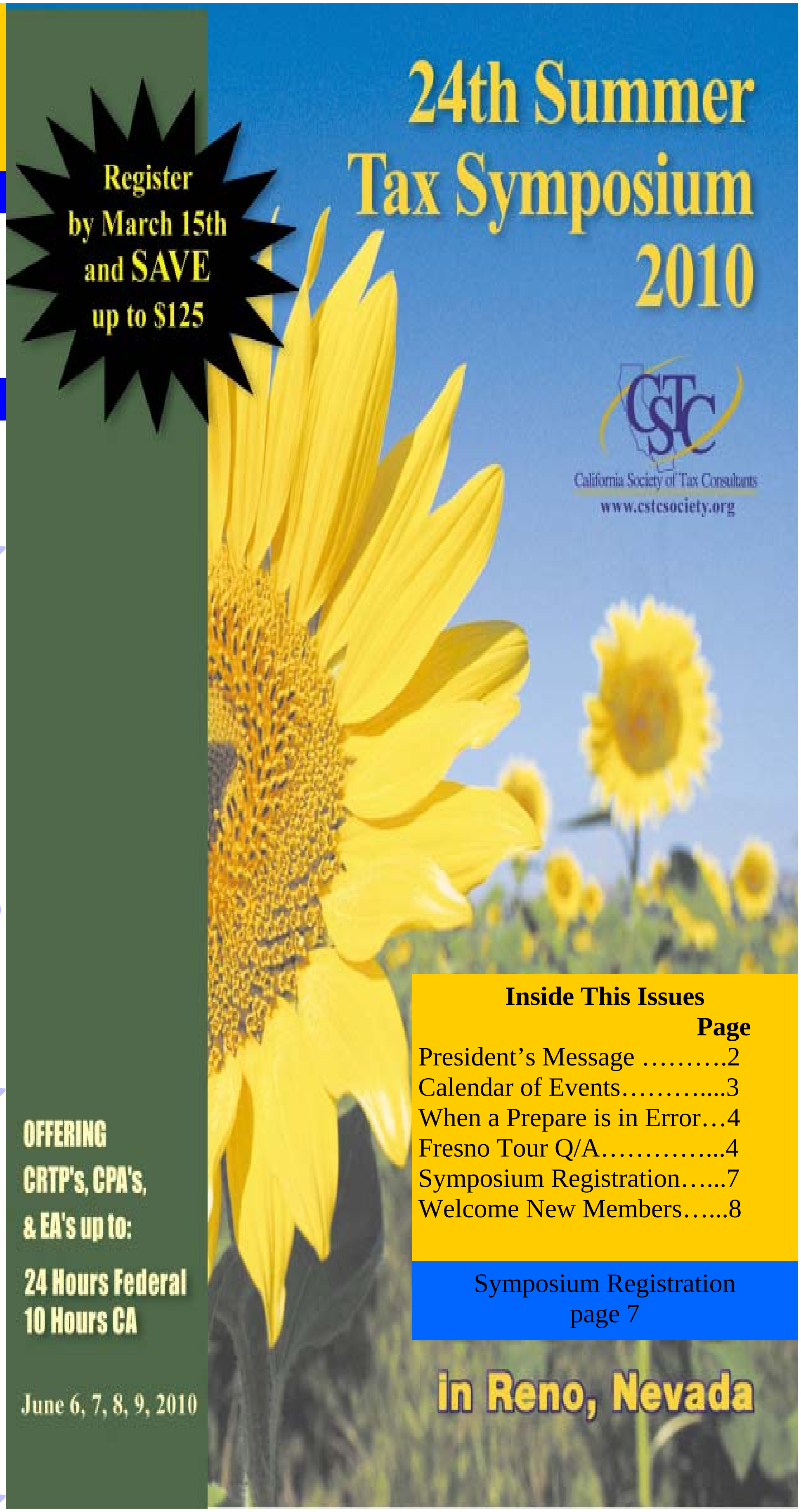
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF TAX CONSULTANTS

REPORTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow CSTC Members,

The tax season is becoming more difficult as each year passes us by!!! Corporations due on March 15th were extended. The California legislature waited until April 12th to pass conformity to COD issues that had put many California tax returns on extensions. Brokerage firms waited until March 15th to issue their "corrected year end statements" when many tax returns were already filed, creating forthcoming amended tax returns. Business taxes were due March 1st when most of our business clients hadn't even seen their tax professionals yet. K-1's are just now being sent to our clients. Software companies are still issuing updates to make our software compliant with tax laws that seem to change on a daily basis or are being retro'd back to 2009. Does anyone else see a recurring problem with the way tax deadlines are being set up??? What happened to our 3 month window to process the bulk of our clients??? There is a "push" to move the Business Tax filing date from March 1st to April 1st. We all need to write to our congressional leaders to make sure that one happens. That would help resolve one of our "deadline" issues. California has elections coming soon and maybe it's time for us to vote to "clean house" with our government leaders by not re-electing the incumbents. Something for us to think about!!

Our next Society Board of Directors meeting is fast approaching on May 7th & 8th. This year our 2 day meeting will take place at the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort. We will be getting an update from our IRS Stakeholder Liaison, Katie Williams on the upcoming plans that IRS is implementing for regulating all tax professionals. This is the time our state committees will make their plans for 2010 and our Chapter Guide revisions will continue to be addressed. I encourage all Chapter 1st VP's to attend this meeting. It will make your transition into the Presidency of your Chapter a lot easier!! Any other Chapter Board or CSTC members that want to participate and learn more about the Society Board and the plans for CSTC for 2010 are also welcome to attend. Reservations are necessary, so please contact Beverly Switzer at the office to make sure you are accounted for.

Spring is in full bloom and CSTC education programs are starting soon!! It's not too late to sign up for the 24th Annual Summer Tax Symposium at the March 15th pricing of $390 for members, which is scheduled to increase on April 23rd. Please be sure to get your hotel reservations in by May 5th. The price is $64 for single or double plus tax. The phone number is 800-687-8733 and our Group Code is CSTC10. We have a wonderful program lined up, with terrific speakers and special activities planned!!! Bring a colleague who has never attended CSTC and chances are you will be able to sign them up as a new member and that will give you a $25 certificate to use for other CSTC education programs. We lead off with our Sunday night Social event with great food, wonderful networking, vendor presentations and special entertainment. Tuesday night is the Comedy Club show and Thursday is our Leadership Workshop. If you have never attended this event, talk to someone who has and they will most likely change your mind about what you have been missing in the past!! This is your best opportunity to meet the people that you contact from our "Yellow Pages" that help you with your pesky tax questions. You can view the brochure and register at our website.

Our CSTC goal of "2012 by 2012" is still moving forward, but we still have a lot of work to do to meet that goal. This is something that ***everyone*** should be participating in and contributing to. We want CSTC to remain as California's BEST resource for tax professionals in education and networking!!! There are still a lot of $25 certificates to give out this year to those that bring in new members. If you have any suggestions for improving and enhancing CSTC, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. I can be reached at **310-534-3492** so we can talk or you can email me at **nlebrun@sbcglobal.net.**

Best Regards, Nikki LeBrun, EA
CSTC President

ABOUT THE REPORTER

2010 SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT……………………...Nicole LeBrun
1ST VP……………………..…...Linda Morlang
2ND VP…………………….......Shari Hardy
SECRETARY…………………..…...David Eastis
TREASURER………. … ....Barbara Marx Cleary
PAST PRESIDENT………...…...Anthony Bustos

HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIETY

California Society of Tax Consultants
12419 Lewis Street, #106
Garden Grove, CA 92840
(714)750-2782 FAX (714) 750-2722
Email: cstcsociety@sbcglobal.net
www.cstcsociety.org

ADD YOUR LINK TO CSTC'S WEB SITE
Call 714-750-2782

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5/7 & 5/8	Society Board Meeting
6/6—6/8	Summer Symposium, Reno, Nevada
6/9	Leadership Workshop, Reno, Nevada
9/20	Society Board Meeting
8/24-26	IRS Forum, Las Vegas, NV.
8/31-9-2	IRS Forum, San Diego, CA
11/15	Society Board Meeting

Three Things……….

that are vital to our organization.

Dues – A "must" to run an organization. Where can you get, for a reasonable price, great education and good friends to support you with your profession? July 1st starts the next year's renewal of dues. Don't allow your membership to lapse, watch your mailbox! Dues notices are going out the end of April.

Summer Symposium is an excellent venue to join your friends for a relaxing time while receiving education. Call the Society Office at 714-750-2782 or go to www.cstcsociety.org and download the Symposium brochure to register or register on line.

Leadership Workshop will be held at the Silver Legacy in Reno, NV. on June 10. A great opportunity to learn about the Society you belong to, get questions answered while receiving ideas that will help you become "engaged" with the California Society of Tax Consulants.

SYMPOSIUM HOTEL DEADLINE

Be sure to make your hotel reservations directly with the Silver Legacy Resort/Casino **before May 5, 2010** and use the group code of **CSTC10** to receive the room rate of $64 rate for single or double. See registration on page 7.

"2012 by 2012"

CSTC members in good standing that bring in a new member will receive a $25 Society Education voucher for each new member they bring into CSTC.

THANK YOU

Marv & Carol Sawyer of the Foothill Chapter for donating a overhead projector, screen and power point projector to the Society.

Rob Kosters of the Temecula Valley Chapter submitted this picture of five past Society Presidents from the 70's. Left to right: Ed & April Sallee, Bob & Janet Spidell, John & Marie Clark, Rob & Kate Kosters and Tom & Virginia Hess. Rob commented, "they all still have the same wives!" Great going guys and gals!

Questions and Responses from IRS Fresno Campus Practitioner Outreach Event July 30, 2009

Submitted by Linda Beckett & Kathy De Monte

The following is the first set of responses received for the questions submitted by the practitioners who attended the IRS Fresno Campus event and tour. Similar questions were combined and simplified to address issues that are general and applicable to the majority of practitioners and not specific to an individual taxpayer.

Q: How are IRS employees identifying themselves when they call for taxpayer information? How can the Taxpayer or Practitioners know they are not disclosing to incorrect people?

A: IRS employees, calling taxpayers or practitioners to discuss account issues, identify themselves by providing their (1) last name, (2) title, (3) badge number, and indicate that they are calling from the Internal Revenue Service. This identification is provided only when the taxpayer or authorized representative has been reached. The Service recognizes that the risk of identity theft is a legitimate concern that arises whenever a caller asks for the taxpayer's SSN or EIN. If the customer questions that the call is actually from the IRS, the IRS employee will provide the taxpayer with the last four digits of his or her SSN or EIN, and then request that the taxpayer verify the first five digits to confirm their identity. If the customer is still unsure that the call is from the IRS and chooses not to confirm their SSN or EIN, they are asked to call back using the IRS toll free number to discuss the account. The toll free number will be provided to the customer, and the IRS phone number can be confirmed by

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Q: How does a practitioner get their call expedited from the Practitioner Priority Service (PPS) to the Automated Underreporter (AUR) Unit?

A: Practitioners using the PPS toll free number with issues involving AUR are "live" transferred to the AUR assistors. These transferred calls are given priority treatment and are answered more quickly than calls made directly to AUR.

Q: How is a request made to keep an Automated Collection Service (ACS) case with the same employee for consistency purposes?

A: All ACS employees are able to work with any customer; information on previous contacts is documented and allows the next assistor to pick up where the last customer interaction left off. Incoming calls are routed to the next available assistor nationwide to provide prompt service. If the customer feels that they have received inconsistent information or that various employees are following different procedures, they have the right to speak to the manager to discuss their concerns.

Q: When will e-Services be updated to allow correspondence to be transmitted to AUR and Correspondence Exam?

A: At this time, an upgrade to allow transmittance of correspondence to AUR and Exam has been postponed due to security issues.

Q: Please provide an explanation of how e-Fax will work and when it will be available.

A: Electronic Fax (e-Fax) is a server-based solution that allows incoming and outgoing transmissions without having someone attend to a facsimile machine. Facsimile files can be routed to an employee desktop via the Outlook client or viewed utilizing Internet Explorer browser on the fax server web client. During the Interim deployment phase, faxes can be queried based on originating fax number, the number called, and/or date and time delivered and printing can be done selectively. e-FAX utilizes the Captaris Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) product called RightFax to accomplish its business mission. At this time, deployment has been postponed due to security issues.

Q: How often are National Standards reviewed and updated for Collection related cases?

A: This information is "refreshed" once a year and is based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data. This information is usually received by the IRS in January or February.

Q: How many Schedule Cs can be filed with a paper return?

A: Unlimited if you file a paper return.

Q: How many Schedule Cs will the IRS input into their system for a paper return?

A: The IRS will combine Schedule C's if more than 3 are submitted by the taxpayer; the IRS will combine to 3 Schedule C's, per the IRS web site, IRS.gov. It is not the taxpayer's responsibility to combine Schedule C's; they should follow their instructions to file a separate Schedule C for each business as given in the Forms and Instructions booklet.

Q: How many Schedule Es can be filed with a paper return?

A: Again unlimited if you file a paper return.

Q: How many Schedule Es will the IRS input into their system for a paper return?

A: The IRS will combine to one Schedule E (per the IRS web site irs.gov), if the taxpayer has not followed their instructions to provide a summary Schedule E, as given in Publication 17.

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Q: Considering all of the Forms 1040X filed with the IRS Fresno Campus, both easy and complicated, how long does it take before an easy case is processed, and what is the backlog, if any?

A: If the Fresno Campus received a simple Form 1040X (based on IRS criteria) on Monday, July 27, 2009, they would begin working that amended return on Friday, July 31, 2009. Of all Forms 1040X received, about 45-50% qualify as "easy" by IRS definition. It takes approximately six minutes for a tax examiner to work or enter an easy Form 1040X on the computer system, and once completed, the system will send the refund or update the taxpayer's account that a payment is due and a notice is issued.

Q: The IRS began using a new program recently to process the easy 1040Xs. What is the name of that program?

A: JEEDA.

Q: Why was the 1040X processing program given that name?

A: The program received that name as simply as "Gee da, why didn't we do that before." The IRS combined coding and entry into one area that made it much faster to enter a Form 1040X into the IRS computer system. About 10 "easy" amended returns can be processed in an hour. More difficult Forms 1040X are sent to another unit for processing.

Q: The IRS processes a 1040 tax return that has a Schedule A. The return has an amount on Line 21 for employee business expenses. At what number on this line is the IRS looking for a Form 2106 to support the number reported?

A: The IRS requires Form 2106 if the taxpayer claims any travel, transportation, meal or entertainment expenses for their job, or their employer paid them for any of their job expenses that would otherwise be reported on line 20, per taxpayer instructions given in the Forms and Instructions booklet. Due to IRS policy, the IRS cannot confirm whether or not a specific dollar amount on line 21 of Schedule A requires a Form 2106 to support the amount reported.

Q: What type of forms, if any are scanned at the IRS Fresno Campus?

A: Difficult Forms 1040X. The IRS will scan the entire return and supporting documents for the difficult Forms 1040X received. At that point, a taxpayer could call in and check the status of that return. For the easy Forms 1040X, they are not scanned, but the information as to status is available once the return is worked by the tax examiner.

Q: For the IRS to process a payment and correctly apply it to the correct taxpayer, the IRS needs certain information about the payment. What are the five things the IRS needs to know?

A: (1) Complete 9 digit Identification number (SSN or EIN) of the taxpayer for whom the payment is being made, (2) year the payment is for, (3) the Form the payment if being made for, (4) the date the payment was received by the IRS (not the date the payment is being processed but date of actual receipt), and (5) the name of the taxpayer for whom the payment is being made. The IRS regularly receives payments by a person on behalf of another taxpayer. In effect, the name on the check or even the name on a money order is not the name of the taxpayer for whom the payment is made. For instance parents send in a payment for a child or an individual pays tax for a corporation or other entity.

REGISTRATION

2010 SUMMER SYMPOSIUM FORM

Name ______________________ Nickname for badge ______________

Address ____

City/State/Zip ____________________________ E-mail ______________

Day Telephone (   ) ______________ Member of ________________ CSTC Chapter

Guest Full Name ______________________ Guest Nickname for badge ______________

Circle One: CRTP EA CPA Other Number: ______________

Member.......@ $390 / $440 / $515..........	______	x=$	______
Staff.................@ $415 / $465 / $540......	______	x=$	______
Non-Member.......@ $475 / $525 / $595......	______	x=$	______
*Focus Session A, B & C..@ $75 Total	______	x=$	______
Guest ....@ $100	______	x=$	______
Any One Day...	______	x=$	______
***Sunday Night Social.............................. (One free ticket per attendee)	______	x=$	
***Extra tickets to Sunday Social $40	______	x=$	______
Dues ($130) & Initiation fee ($25)=$155...	______	x=$	______
Comedy Club @ $13.................................	______	x=$	______

Join CSTC - Take advantage of the member rate

TOTAL $ ______

*Focus A, B & C - EA Cram Course Limited Enrollment

☐ Charge my: (circle one) VISA MC

Card No ______________________ Sec Code ______ Exp. Date ______

Billing Address ____

Signature ____

REGISTRATION FEES

Full Registration (3 Days)

	Postmarked by 3/15/10	By 4/23/10	After 4/23/10
Member	$390	$440	$515
Staff	$415	$465	$540
Non-Member	$475	$525	$595

Any One Day

	Postmarked By 3/15/10	By 4/23/10	After 4/23/10
Member	$215	$240	$260
Staff	$230	$255	$295
Non-Member	$265	$280	$340

Surcharges (in addition to other fees)

EA Cram Course	$75	$75	$75

*Limited Enrollment

☐ **Check here if you require special accommodations.**

SESSION SELECTION

Day 1 8:00 - 9:45 ________ (Select 1, 2, 3 or A) 10:00 - 2:50 ________ (Select 4, 5 or 6) 3:20 - 5:00 ________ (Select 7, 8 or 9)

Note: If A or B is selected, it is an all day session - Surcharge - Limited Enrollment

Day 2 8:00 - 9:45 ________ (Select 10, 11, 12 or B) 10:00 - 2:50 ________ (Select 13, 14 or 15) 3:20 - 5:00 ________ (Select 16, 17 or 18)

Note: If C selected, it is a 4-hour session - Surcharge - Limited Enrollment

Day 3 8:00 - 9:45 ________ (Select 19, 20, 21 or C) 10:00 - 11:40 ________ (Session 22, 23 or 24) 1:10 - 2:50 ________ 3:20 - 5:00 ________ (Session 25 & 26 General)

Mail Completed Registration Form To:

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF TAX CONSULTANTS
12419 LEWIS STREET #106
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840
(714) 750-CSTC (2782) Fax (714) 750-2722
Email: cstcsociety@sbcglobal.net

GUEST BADGE PRIVILEGES FOR ALL 3 DAYS INCLUDE:
* Free access to the Exposition Area
* Sunday Night Social
* Continental Breakfast * Refreshment Breaks
* Does NOT allow class admittance

YOUR REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:
* Educational material for all sessions except Focus Session
* Continental Breakfast each day
* Coffee & Refreshment Breaks each day
* Sunday Night Social

Materials for Focus Session - EA Cram Course – will be available at a separate charge.

• NO SMOKING IN MEETING ROOMS • NO SHOW POLICY: NO REFUND • SYMPOSIUM MATERIALS MAY BE REQUESTED • LIMITED SEATING ALL SESSIONS • REFUND FOR CANCELLATION: Fee less 15% for costs & handling will be made only if requested before May 21, 2010.

California Society of Tax Consultants
12419 Lewis Street, #106
Garden Grove, CA 92840

To:

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CENTRAL VALLEY
Rebecca Heering, Hayward

FOOTHILL
Bruce Fanslow, Monrovia

NORTH COUNTY
Jan Heeramaneck, San Marcos
Maria Salazar, Oceanside
Tony Totanes, Oceanside

SACRAMENTO
Valorie Teeple, North Highlands

SAN FRANCISCO BAY
Angie Dudzik, Belmont
Marcia Hyman, Pt. Richmond
Robert Jahnigen, San Francisco

CSTC MISSION STATEMENT

To promote professionalism by providing quality educational events for tax professionals, creating and encouraging networking opportunities for members, and advocating professional standards and positions within the tax industry.