



CTx Spring Meeting Hybrid – Online and In-Person

Aqua Turf- May 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by President Lisa Madden.

After greeting the group and making opening remarks, Lisa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Amanda Tashea made a motion to dispense with the reading of the November 9, 2023, minutes. Cory Gumbrewicz seconded the motion. Cheryl Brundage motioned to accept the minutes and Kathy Larkins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Matterazzo made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report and accept it as present. Motion was seconded by Scott Ferguson. All in favor. Motion Carried.

President Lisa Madden invited new tax collectors and lifetime members to introduce themselves.

County Reports

Hartford County – Sherry Clemens

Since our last CTx meeting in November, we had our lovely holiday luncheon at the Simsbury Inn hosted by Colleen O'Connor in Simsbury. Thank you Colleen. In April, we had our spring meeting in East Windsor hosted by Patti Kratochvil – we did a recertification training session presented by her Assessor Helen Totz – “Where does my tax bill come from and What can I do about it?”. It was a very informative training especially for those collectors facing revaluation this year. Your training certificates will be coming out shortly. This past year we also want to give a special thank you to QDS for supporting another season for the Jeffery Johnson memorial fund and the Buddies and Bobbers fishing derby – the success each year is amazing and they really appreciate getting that donation to keep the program going.

I would like to thank the ladies who really make all this happen for Hartford County Tax Collectors Association – Kelly Fleitas – Tax Collector from Manchester – Our Secretary – she just makes our minutes happen – always on time – Thank you for that!

Deborah Swan – Tax Collector from Berlin – Our Treasurer – she makes all our accounting just happen – along with registrations, collecting dues, follow-up's and always making sure she counts me in for lunch at the meetings – Thank you!!

This fall opens our elections for board members – a thank you to Samantha Pletcher in Farmington for heading up our nomination committee for this fall.

And to all the members of the HCTCA who devotedly attend each meeting – participate in our growth conversations – to all those who volunteer to host our meetings – We could not do this without your participation.

We are looking forward to our fall meeting in South Windsor hosted by Jennifer Hilinski in October – Thank you Jennifer.

I also want to end with a special thank you to Colleen O'Connor who has made my transition over to Simsbury so seamless – she retired on March 28th and I started on April 1st – she has been so supportive in coming back to assist – I wish her well and thank you for being there for me.

Fairfield County – Heather Smeriglio

Our last meeting was held on December 7th at the Spinning Wheel Restaurant in Redding. We had a wonderful Christmas Luncheon followed by a presentation on lien assignments given by Scott Ferguson, Danbury Tax Collector.

We have received 17 applications for our scholarship program. The scholarship committee led by Kathy Larkins, Darien Tax Collector, is in the process of reading and grading the applicant's essays. The selection of winners will be determined, and scholarships will be awarded in June.

In closing I would like to recognize our Vice President, Cathy Neblett who will be retiring in June. I would like to thank Cathy for her dedication and years of service to our association. She will be greatly missed! Best of luck and many blessings.

Litchfield County – Sarah Brusio

Since our last report- we held our Holiday meeting at the Painted Pony in Bethlehem.

In March we held a meeting in Barkhamsted. We held our county elections, and the board will remain the same. We had a presentation by members of CT State Library on Records Retention/ Management. In April we held our meeting in Bantam and had a presentation by Linda Gordon on QDS spring user group. The county awarded 4

scholarships to local students. I want to thank QDS and TaxServ for their donations to our scholarships.

On June 11th we will hold our annual fundraiser- a felting workshop, in Litchfield. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me.

Middlesex County – Kimberly Bratz

Middlesex County had a dinner meeting in October. Officers were elected. The next meeting was in April. During the April meeting a roundtable discussion was held. Middlesex County awarded four high school seniors' scholarships. Thank you to QDS and TaxServ for their contributions to the scholarships. We are hoping our next county meeting will be an educational opportunity.

New Haven County – Jo-Anne Rusczyk

Fall Meeting Nov 14th at Gaetano's Tavern in Wallingford we had 15 attendees

Lisa Theroux Tax Collector of Shelton presented "Performance Measurements ", it was very informative and was subsequently approved by CCMC for 2 CEUs

We received 33 essays and awarded 2- \$500 scholarships based on essays submitted on "How the state and local taxes can affect education."

The recipients are:

Bianca Tynes of Lyman Hall High School from Northford

Ellen Papa of Joseph A. Foran High School from Milford

New London – Michell Wyatt

New London County held a December 8th meeting. At this meeting officers were elected. New London County also held a Toys for Tots event. Scholarships – there were 24 applicants. The next New London County meeting will be June 7th and will be a luncheon.

Tolland/Windham County – Nora

The Tolland/Windham County had a December holiday meeting. They also held a March meeting where a 2-hour Excel presentation via Zoom was given. The County would like to thank QDS.

Committee Reports:

Audit: Lisa Biagiarelli – The Audit Committee meets as needed. The By-Laws Committee will be meeting next week and will be reaching out to the Executive Committee for guidance.

Education: Kathy Larkins – Attendance was higher than ever in person and remote for the conference. There were 108 participants for the survey, thank you. Kathy wanted everyone to know that the information from the surveys is used. The Education Committee will review the information as a group. Kathy reminded everyone that they needed to sign in and out in order to receive credits.

Escrow: Iris Laurenza – The scheduled Escrow meeting was postponed. It will be rescheduled. Iris will make sure new escrow contact sheets are distributed.

Motor Vehicle: Patti Kratochvil – Patti mentioned the DMV contact sheet that was distributed to the association. She went over that during a DMV meeting that there was confusion about how/when to transfer online payments. The DMV group decided to reach out to Adam Cohen for clarification. The legal advice from Adam Cohen was sent to the Association.

Awards Committee: Teresa Babon and Kristin Battistoni – Teresa and Kristin presented retirement awards to the following:

Lisa Krohne, Easton; Ann Devine, Danbury; Michelle Kane, Meriden; Barbara Murray, Marlborough; Cathleen M Neblett, Weston; Carol W Price, Columbia; Lynn Landry, Thompson; Colleen O'Connor, Simsbury; Mary B Chartier, Sprague.

Northeast: Lisa Biagiarelli – This year's conference will be in Sturbridge, MA at the Public House, September 15th through 18th. Look to the website for more information. Lisa listed many topics for the upcoming conference. Next year's conference will be September 21-24, 2025 in Cape Cod.

Recertification and CCMC: John Rainaldi

Update on recertification – John has urged everyone to know how many hours you have accumulated.

CCMC Certificates were presented to recently certified collectors by John Rainaldi:

Jennifer Bourque, Shannon D. Cieslowski, Inna Ginzburg, Cara Hennessey, Richard Light.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

Legislative Update: David Kluczwski and Peter Juszczynski

David gave a brief overview of some legislation that was of interest to the group. A full presentation will be given on June 11th at 11 am presented by our lobbyist, Mike Dugan. In order to watch it an email with the link was sent out and you must register and pay a registration fee. CEUs have not been confirmed as of yet.

Presentation: The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Tax Receivables Collection presented by Roger Blain, President of TaxServ Capital Services, LLC and Jeff Frantz, Executive Vice President, TaxServ Capital Services, LLC.

This presentation and San Jose Generative AI Guidelines 2023 will be sent via email to the participants.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:44 am by Cheryl Brundage and seconded by Kathy Larkins. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kratochvil

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Secretary
Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association