

CONNECTICUT TAX COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

Aqua Turf Spring Meeting, May 16, 2019

Southington, CT

PRESIDENT: Lisa Theroux called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m. and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Administrative item: Any changes to the website please send to Iris in East Hartford. We will also have the election of new officers in November. Lisa Biagiarelli and Pat Crisco are on the Nominating Committee.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes were emailed to the membership prior to the meeting. Barry Maynard, Old Saybrook, made a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes, seconded by Ana LeGassey, Plainville. Lisa Madden, Somers, made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Cheryl Brundage, Wallingford. **Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Copies of the treasurer's report were available at the registration table. Motion to waive the reading of the treasurer's report and approve them as written was made by Barry Maynard, Old Saybrook, and seconded by Peggy Duffy, Bethany. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTS:

Escrow - Iris Laurenza held an Escrow Meeting on April 25th with approximately 30 people in attendance, including bank representatives. Lereta stated that Mr. Cooper coding and payments will go much smoother this year. Corelogic and QDS have created a partnership to allow Corelogic to access delinquent real estate accounts once the Town approves it. They are also creating a new portal for adds and deletes. The main contact there is now Todd Miley instead of Carrie. Webster Bank is upgrading their online system and lockbox option.

DMV – Karen Wieduwilt said to email her if you need any help.

Certification: Patricia Monahan awarded CCMC certificates to: Aser A-Massih, Waterbury; Patricia M. Keane, Trumbull; Irene Nohavec, Weston; Catherine Petrini, Norwalk; and Heidi Tucker, Stafford.

Pat informed us that the next final exam will be on May 31st. To apply, you need to fill out the forms on the online application. Fall courses will be set by mid-August.

COUNTY REPORTS: The following County Reports were given:

Hartford: Peter Juszczynski, Windsor Locks, reported that Hartford County had a meeting December 13th and an attorney from Pullman & Comley gave a FOIA presentation. It was also their annual holiday luncheon. In April they had guest speakers John Rinaldi, and Jennifer Gauthier of OPM. Their next meeting will have CIRMA to discuss on line risk management.

Tolland/Windham: Lisa Madden, Somers, reported that they had two meetings since the last Aqua Turf, December 11th and April 9th. The Assessor Rep, Jason Lawrence, Tolland, had a Personal Property presentation and another on Crumbling Foundations. They also discussed staffing levels in our offices. A Nominating Committee was created in December and new officers were voted on, in April.

Litchfield: Rebecca Juchert-Derungs from Litchfield County reported that they have had two meetings since last Aqua Turf, in November and April. They lost Linda Scheffield due to retirement and lost two people due to illness/age.

Fairfield: Pat Moio, Redding, reported that their last meeting WAS at Testos in Bridgeport. Their next meeting will be held in the Legislative Building.

New Haven: Pat Crisco, Woodbridge, reported on recent activity for New Haven County, including the awarding of two scholarships and elected new officers.

New London: Alan Wilensky, Waterford, had a meeting in March with guest speaker, David Kluczowski to discuss recent Legislative happenings. They also discussed new scholarships. The next meeting will be held in June.

Middlesex: Douglas Sienna, Cromwell, said they had a luncheon on October 9th where they voted on new officers. He said they need more involvement. Their next meeting will be on May 9th.

NE REGIONAL UPDATE: Lisa Biagiarelli, Norwalk, said the 2019 Northeast Conference will be held in Ogunquit, Maine at the Meadowmere Resort. There will be online registration this year. She says it's a great conference and urged people to attend. Lisa said it was a great area with lots to do. There is no agenda as of yet.

AWARDS: Deb Heim, Monroe, thanked Lisa Madden for updating the awards list.

Deb presented 10 year pins to: Cheryl Brundage, Wallingford; Scott Ferguson, Danbury; Jill Fragola, Southington; Cheryl Higgins, Hartland; Terry Hjarne, Vernon; Patricia Horr, Granby; Cathleen Neblett, Weston; Tenley Nelson, Norwich; and Kimberly Pokrywka, Roxbury.

She presented 20 year pins to: Susan Boland, Seymour; Phil Damato, Wilton; Helene Lefkowitz, West Hartford; Linda Lewis, Woodbury and Cynthia Woodward, Watertown.

Deb presented 25 year pins to Linda Cahill, Woodbridge; Anna Gagne, Sterling; Joyce Hoffman, Lebanon, and Carla Hamel, Watertown.

Deb presented retiree gifts to Manny Cambra of Monroe and Melanie Yanus of Clinton. Manny received a standing ovation.

Lisa Theroux also noted that Pat Haddock of Tax Serv will be retiring as well.

LEGISLATION: David Kluczowski, Fairfield and William Donlin, Cheshire presented the Legislative update.

We are currently in the Long Session – Jan 9 through June 5th. There were 130 bills tracked for CTx.

In January, we had to deal with the Shutdown and the local tax implications/additional time allowed to pay. In February, the focus was on regionalization. There was a lack of presence from GFOA and 1st Selectman/Mayors.

SB 1135 is the bill that discusses local option for setting the interest rate. It is still being discussed, included options for 100,000 or more people.

There is still another 3 weeks, so anything can happen. They could add the wild card of an additional session. There is a lot on the table as gambling, marijuana and tolls.

Bill thanked David for his very active involvement.

David noted that the Elected vs Appointed Collectors and Shared Services is no longer on the current table. There is a potential bill of eliminating the motor vehicle tax and switch the assessment rate to 100% from 70%.

David noted that the letters opposing the SB1135 bill are located right on the State and CTx website. Jennifer said that OPM does not condone this bill.

There is also a current bill that could increase the number of yearS for registration renewals to 3 years, instead of 2. It also states that driver's license will renew every 8 years instead of 6.

The motor vehicle mill rate cap is set at 45 mills for the 2018 GL and beyond

NUTS & BOLTS PRESENTATION: Panel consisting of Lisa Biagiarelli, Norwalk; Carla Hammel, Watertown; Launa Goslee, Torrington; and Patricia Monahan, Killingly.

The presentation consisted of a review of 1) Due Dates, 2) Payments applied 3) Add on bills 4) Refunds and 5) Postmarks

The rules for applying payments changed in 2013 and 2015. If no instruction, then you must pay the unsecured tax first. You pay fees first, then interest, then tax. Lien fees are now paid last. If there is "Specific writing" otherwise, you must do what the taxpayer wants.

The presentation discussed Add on bills, and elderly benefit program, Veterans Exemption & Building fees.

ADJOURNMENT: Barry Maynard, Old Saybrook, and seconded by Carla Hammel, Watertown.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Madden
Acting Secretary