

CONNECTICUT TAX COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

Virtual via Zoom, March 25, 2021

PRESIDENT Teresa Babon called the meeting to order at 10:03a.m. Teresa followed with a greeting to CTx members.

Housekeeping Items:

All members must be “seen” in order to earn continuing education credits. Questions should be asked through the “chat” box at the bottom of the screen.

For new members or those who have not been attending meetings, FYI: 3 separate entities: 1) CTx: currently 315 registered as dues paying members; only registered members will be receiving email blasts. 2: County level: Should attend County meetings on a semi-regular basis. Regarding procedural questions, members should first address those questions to their County President; 3) CCMC – Certification Committee – members appointed by OPM for a 6-year term. All continuing education will come from John Rainaldi, CCMC Chair at ccmchair@gmail.com. Direct all recertification questions here.

Event button will be active soon on CTx Website to register for the May Conference. Sign in first, then go to “Events” page. Email address regarding confirmation of conference registration is: cttaxassoc@outlook.com. If you DO NOT receive this email confirmation, you either did not complete registration process, or you possibly entered your email address incorrectly, or email went to junk/spam.

You may post job openings to the CTx Website on your own. Go to www.ct-tax.org. Click on “Employment” tab at top of page and follow instructions. Webmaster will proof and publish to the site. The membership will then receive an email from Assistant Secretary Ann Marie Burr from email@ct-tax.org. The email will have a link to the posting: JOBS CTx (ct-tax.org).

Lmadden@somersct.gov. Notify Lisa Madden of new hires and she will post to website.

Teresa has received questions about credit balances due to conferences/meetings being cancelled. Statements will go out to members regarding their credit balances.

SECRETARY REPORT: The Secretary’s Report from the November 2019 Annual meeting was distributed via email. Carl Hamel motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as presented. Motion seconded by Lisa Madden. **Motion Carried.**

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer’s Report was distributed via email prior to the meeting. Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as presented was made by Jill Fragola and seconded by Catherine Reynolds. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY REPORTS: County Reports were distributed via email and presented to the group as part of the Power Point presentation. Teresa Babon gave a brief synopsis of the following reports:

Fairfield: Had meeting in May and two \$500 scholarships were awarded.

Hartford: Hartford County held 3 business meetings. First was round table discussion of EO 7S. Second was in October: Jennifer Gauthier spoke, and they elected officers. December meeting: a representative from CCM talked about training program.

Litchfield: Awarded a scholarship. Elected new officers this year, as follows: Launa Goslee, President; Rebecca Juchert-Derungs, Vice President; Terri Collins, Treasurer; Sarah Brusco, Secretary. November meeting was a hybrid with Torrington.

Middlesex: Reviewed bylaws at an October meeting.

New London: No meetings to report.

Tolland/Windham: 4 virtual meetings; elections slate of officers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NE Regional: Conference goes from Sun-Wed. Sept 12-15th in Cape May, NJ – Grand Hotel. Info will go out when agenda is finalized.

Audit: The Audit Committee had nothing new to report.

Awards: Deb Heim is chair – recently suffered a fall. Is currently home. Any pins that are due to people will be presented at Aqua Turf meeting scheduled for November 18, 2021.

Retirees: Recently retired include the following: Phil Damato-Wilton, Joan Carroll-Ledyard, Nancy DiGirolamo – Portland, Beth Jacobs – Manchester, Cynthia Orcutt-Windsor Locks, Darryl Hotaling- Thomaston, Louise Traska - Glastonbury, Doris Yankowich – Darien.

CCMC Committee: Offering more workshops at minimal cost. Trying to do off hours as well, so as not to interfere with work. Committee has been receiving requests asking if additional workshops can be approved for credit; reach out to John Rainaldi at ccmcchair@gmail.com if you have requests that you want approved.

On website Ct-tax.org there is a list of county chairs and committee chairs.

Spring courses have started. On CCMC Website: ccmctax.org, you will find a listing of 44 approved items for continuing education credits.

The following individuals are recent CCMC designees: Jacqueline Banzhof – Milford, Teresa Blesso – Bloomfield,, Sherry Clemens – East Granby, Jennifer Cole – Bristol, Cassie Gorman - Thomaston, Anne Marie Heering - Plainville, Lisa Krohne - Easton, Renee Krugel - Derby, Jacqueline Langdon – East Hampton, Denise LeClair - Goshen, Jamie Monckton - Woodbury, Giselle Neri – Voluntown.

Education: The current focus of education committee is to develop and utilize technological tools to communicate with members. For example, the sign-up for the current meeting was the first time using the online meeting system. Everyone registered through the website and payment will be filtered through Quick Books.

We have annual subscriptions with GotoMeeting and Zoom. There were limits on GotoMeeting, so we also added Zoom (currently 212 people on this meeting).

The platforms are available for use on the Committee and County level as well.

Education committee is also working on the May Conference (typically in March, but flipped this year). The Conference will be a 12-hour virtual event held May 18-20. You will be able to pick and choose classes.

Escrow: Tentative meeting scheduled for Oct 6th, but any questions should be directed to Iris Laurenza.

Legislation: This session is incredibly busy. More CTx members are getting involved – thank you from Teresa and committee chairs. Updates: Thurs Feb 25th, Teresa, Bill, Dave, Martin Heft and others met regarding Bill 888 – Cannabis Bill. The bill authorizes the sale of Cannabis for adult use beginning May 2022. It proposes that any municipality with a dispensary collect municipal sales tax in addition to state tax, and the Tax Collector would be charged with the responsibility of collecting the money.

Bill Donlin provided testimony on a bill proposing the lowering of the interest rate. Substitute language subsequently removed this proposal from the bill.

Bill Donlin on SB968 – seeks to prohibit foreclosure or assignment of liens on Sewer Use if delinquency is less than \$10,000. Voted out of committee – will go to Senate for debate. Please reach out to your legislators at this point.

Dave Kluczowski on HB6553: Bill proposes to not allow tax liens on real estate for those taxpayers who are 50 years old or older, unless the delinquency is at least 15% of assessed value. Substitute language increased the age to 60 years old, but delinquent threshold was decreased to 8% of assessed value. The bill also mandated the Tax Collector to send a notice to taxpayers requesting their DOB if they want to be eligible.

HB6631: Seeks to allow Tax Collector to waive all or portion of interest due on delinquent property taxes. Bill and Dave testified virtually.

Randi Collins of CCM asked for 2 pieces of information: **email Teresa with answers:**

- 1) IF interest decreased from 18% to 12%, estimate the revenue loss to your municipality.
- 2) Statute 12-124: Selectman/Mayor may abate taxes/delinquent interest upon poor and unable to pay provided the municipality has a standing abatement committee, or OPM shall approve such abatement.

How many municipalities actually have such committee in place? YES/NO

DMV: Karen Wieduwilt provided the following updates:

- Oct 2020 list down from previous years.
- DMV made changes to online registration process.
- Can now cancel plate even if expired

Education Segment:

- **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Chris Drake, Director of Business Services for Secretary of State: CONCORD Updates and Changes**

- **PRESENTATION BY LAUNA GOSLEE AND CARLA HAMEL: STATE STATUTES REQUIRING ACTION OR ORDINANCE OF GOVERNING BODY**

Motion to adjourn at 1:35 by Helene Lefkowitz and seconded by Ana Legassey. Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helene J. Lefkowitz
Secretary