



# The Bulletin



East Bay Association of Enrolled Agents  
*To Enhance and Protect the Professional, Economic, and  
Educational Interests of all Enrolled Agents*

March 2008

## NEXT MEETING Wed, March 19, 2008

Place: **NEW SITE: DUBLIN Radisson Hotel**  
(go to [http://www.radissondestinationguide.com/location/Map.process/OID\\_EB39EA2D/?hotelCode=CADUBLIN](http://www.radissondestinationguide.com/location/Map.process/OID_EB39EA2D/?hotelCode=CADUBLIN))

4:30 Board Meeting

6:15 Networking

6:45 Dinner Buffet

7:15 Program: **"IRS Panel"**

Cost: \$35.00 with reservation by Friday March 14  
\$45.00 with reservation after deadline

Signup online at:

<https://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=ebaea>

(please print out your confirmation to ensure that you clicked all the right buttons to register) Questions: email [ebaean@ebaean.org](mailto:ebaean@ebaean.org) (preferred) or call 800-617-1040.

## March Topic: "IRS Panel"

**Speakers:** Joe Calderaro (IRS), Sharon Kreider, EA, CPA and Karen Brosi, EA, CFP®

*By Gregory Crofton, EA, Program Chair*

This month we will have a panel discussion on Federal tax issues. We have our long-time friend Joe Calderaro, IRS Technical Coordinator for Northern CA District, blessing us with his considerable wisdom again. We also have Karen Brosi and Sharon Kreider, two of the best-known and highest-rated speakers on the educational circuit.

**It is crucial to e-mail your questions to Mike Power ([michael.power@PowerInvesting.Net](mailto:michael.power@PowerInvesting.Net)) by the afternoon of Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, if you want to have the best chance of having them answered.**

Questions will be taken during dinner, but they will be answered in the order received, with all the emailed questions going first. If your question is com-

plex, PLEASE email it in early so the panel will have a chance to research it before the event.

Once again, the session will be transcribed and the answers will be emailed to everyone on the Chapter NEWS mailing list, so if you're not on that, go to <http://ebaean.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi> and select the NEWS list from the pull-down menu, then follow the simple instructions to subscribe to that list.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Tom Johnston, EA*

After a hectic and busy month of taking care of the clients expecting refunds, it is time to gear up for the more complicated returns. It is also time to take a breath of fresh air and come to the March Dinner Meeting to enjoy the fellowship and comradeship.

As we delve into the complexities of Federal tax law, be sure to send your questions in so our expert panelists can prepare answers. The depth of knowledge of Karen Brosi, EA, CFP®, Sharon Kreider, EA, CPA, and Joe Calderaro is immense. I am very grateful for their willingness to share their knowledge with us.

Don't forget to take care of your health and put back in your schedule some exercise and breaks, even if it is just walking around the block or down the street to a restaurant. Getting out of the office for a few minutes is great therapy for stress.

*Remember the Legacy and Accept the Opportunity to Serve with Purpose.*

## **CHAPTER OFFICE HAS MOVED**

Effective immediately, the new address is 30100 Mission Blvd, Suite 6, Hayward 94544. The contact phone remains the same at 800-617-1040, and the new local number is 510-487-2063. The old local number 925-691-1866 has been disconnected. The new fax number is 510-487-1501. The email address remains [ebaean@ebaean.org](mailto:ebaean@ebaean.org).

**\*\*PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS\*\***

## **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT EXAM CLASS**

Once again, we are offering the SEE prep class for all prospective EAs. The class will be offered in three parts, corresponding with the three parts of the exam. Classes will start July 12 and continue through October 18th. The class qualifies for CTEC continuing education credit. More information is available on the web at EBAEA.org or by contacting Tom Johnston at 925-828-4500 or at [taxtomea@comcast.net](mailto:taxtomea@comcast.net).

## **ASK THE ATTORNEY**

(Attorney Frank Acuña answers questions frequently asked by our clients (and us). These are general answers and are NOT legal advice. For clarification or other questions, contact Frank at (925) 906-1880 or at [ohc@aclawnet.com](mailto:ohc@aclawnet.com))

### **My parents don't have a will or a trust. Which one do they need?**

In California, anyone who owns real estate worth more than \$20,000, or other assets totaling more than \$100,000, needs a living trust or other probate avoidance plan. All adults need a will (called a pourover will if made in connection with a living trust), a durable power of attorney for financial decisions, and an advanced health care directive. A particular individual's needs must be assessed by an experienced estate planning attorney. Beware of "trust mills" who deliver "cookie-cutter" documents without offering the benefit of an attorney's attention and guidance.

### **What is the difference between a Will and a Trust?**

A will sets forth who is to receive a person's assets after death. It must be "proved" in probate court to be effective. It is a public document which can be examined by anyone who walks into the courthouse.

A trust is a self-proving instrument in which the trustee holds property for the benefit of another. It does not need to be "proved" in probate court. Therefore, what would take a year or more in probate court can be accomplished in less than half the time with a trust. Unlike a will, the terms of the trust remain private and, in most cases, are revealed only to the beneficiaries.

## **WANT TO BE PART OF THE ACTION?**

*by Bonnie Buhnerkempe, EA, etc, Imm Past President*

Do you want to make some more friends? Now is your chance to get your name in to be considered for next year's Board of Directors. By joining the Board you get a chance to develop a deeper friendship with people than just attending the dinner meetings, plus you get to be a part of what will affect our organization for next year and the years to come. Yes, we want new people who have not served before who will have a fresh new approach to things. Send me an email so I can pass

your name on to the nominating group. [bonniebuhner-kempe@comcast.net](mailto:bonniebuhner-kempe@comcast.net)

## **IRS PRIORITY TELEPHONE LINES**

Practitioner Priority Service	(866) 860-4259
IRS Individual Tax Help Line	(800) 829-1040
Business & Specialty Tax Line	(800) 829-4933
e-Help (Practitioners only)	(866) 255-0654
Refund Hotline	(800) 829-1954
Forms & Publications	(800) 829-3676
National Taxpayer Advocate	(877) 777-4778
EFTPS	(800) 555-4477
TeleTax Topics & Refund Status	(800) 829-4477
Forms 706 & 709 Help Line	(866) 699-4083
Employer Identification Number	(800) 829-4933
Excise Tax & Form 2290	(866) 699-4096
Information Return Reporting	(866) 455-7438

*For the complete 2008 FTB Directory, go to:*

<http://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/misc/1240.pdf>

## **BULLETIN ADVERTISING POLICY**

*by Duncan Sandiland, Bulletin Editor*

To encourage more Members to use the Bulletin to fill their needs, we present the Bulletin advertising policy:

- 1) All Bulletin notices are run for three months maximum. If you wish to run a notice for a longer period, you must resubmit it.
- 2) Maximum notice size is 1.5 column inches. This equals a space one and one-half inches high by one column (3.5 inches) wide. The standard Bulletin font is Times New Roman 11 point.
- 3) The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to edit any notice for style, content and length.
- 4) All notices must be submitted (and payment received) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to initial publication. Send the desired text to: [bulletin@ebaea.org](mailto:bulletin@ebaea.org)
- 5) Member notices seeking or offering employment, clients or EA-practice-related matters are run at no charge as a Member benefit. This includes an ad run by a firm which employs a Member. Member notices offering other services or products, and all non-Member notices are run at the standard fee of \$150 for the three-month insertion. The Bulletin Editor reserves the right to modify or reject any notice which, in the sole opinion of the Editor, violates any of the principles of EBAEA.

## **OFFICE SPACE NEEDED**

Enrolled Agent needs an office in the Pleasant Hill, Concord or Walnut Creek area to interview tax clients one day per week. Please call Bill Harrison at (510) 452-1580.

## **HMMMM...**

The combined cost of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will double as a percentage of our nation's

gross domestic product (GDP) from now through the year 2045. The cost of the three government programs is projected to rise as a percentage of GDP from 9% to 18%. GDP is the annual market value of all goods and services produced domestically by the US (Center for Retirement Research).

Ted Turner, the founder of CNN, is the largest private landowner in the USA. Turner owns 2 million acres, equal to 3,106 square miles, or land equal to three times the size of Rhode Island (Turner Enterprises).

There are 22 million Americans who have access to employer-sponsored 401(k) plans and have chosen not to participate (Investment Company Institute). Only 8% of workers are saving at least 15% of each paycheck for retirement (Principal). 52% of American households have saved \$25,000 or less for retirement (AARP).

### HUMOR

Tax avoidance means that you hire a \$250,000-fee lawyer, and he changes the word 'evasion' into the word 'avoidance.' Franklin D. Roosevelt

It seems to me that there must be an ecological limit to the number of paper pushers the earth can sustain, and that human civilization will collapse when the number of, say, tax lawyers exceeds the world's total population of farmers, weavers, fisher persons, and pediatric nurses. -----Barbara Ehrenreich

What's the difference between an optimist, a pessimist, and an accountant?

To the optimist, the glass of water is half full.

To the pessimist, the glass of water is half empty.

To the accountant, the glass of water is twice as big as it needs to be.

### SAVE THE DATES!

Tax Talk 2008 will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. We have completed our program for Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>! We will have Bryan Gates (one of the founders of NTPI, and one of the highest-rated EA instructors ever) presenting 4 hours of audit issues including, but not limited to, Subchapter S audits, employment tax audits (misclassified workers), new disclosure rules for tax return preparers, "more likely than not" tax return positions and Sec. 6694 penalties, effective use of collection due process hearings and more.

We will also have Lloyd Kendall, former IRS agent, attorney and former owner of Lawyers Asset Management, Inc. presenting 1031 exchanges. We will also have our two hours of required Ethics. Please feel free to email any questions or concerns to Diane Jaworski-Faulhaber at [synergyf@pacbell.net](mailto:synergyf@pacbell.net). See you in November!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March 2008

- 19 EBAEA Dinner Meeting  
-> IRS Panel: Brosi, Kreider and Joe Calderaro  
@ Radisson Hotel, Regional St, Dublin

### April 2008

No April meeting – enjoy your nap!

### May 2008

- 19-21 CSEA SuperSeminar A  
@ Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas
- 21 EBAEA Annual Corporate and Dinner Meeting  
-> Election of Officers, possible Ethics topic  
@ Radisson Hotel, Regional St, Dublin
- 22-24 CSEA SuperSeminar B  
@ Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas
- 29-31 CSEA SuperSeminar  
@ Grand Sierra Resort, Reno

### June 2008

- 18 EBAEA Dinner Meeting
- 26 CSEA Annual Meeting (Sacramento)

### Small Group Tax Meetings

**Antioch /Brentwood** Fridays 8:00am  
Brentwood Café, 8500 Brentwood Blvd, Brentwood  
**Ken Seamann EA** (925) 634-8297

**Oakland/Berkeley**  
Group is looking for new coordinator...will you help?

**Danville Area** 4<sup>th</sup> Tue 9:30am  
Pascals French Oven, 155 Railroad Ave, Danville  
**Michael Power EA** (510) 366-8836

**San Ramon**  
Contact Bonnie for time and location  
**Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA** (925) 855-0829

**Livermore Area** Fridays 8:45am  
Rock House Café on Portola Ave, Livermore  
**Richard Goudreau EA** (925) 606-6672

**Castro Valley** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 8:00am  
Carrow's, 2723 Castro Valley Blvd @ Lake Chabot, CV  
**Dagmar Bedard EA** (510) 537-3883

**South Alameda County** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 9:30am  
Dino's, 1 block W of I-880 on Industrial Blvd, Hayward  
**Sal Romo EA or Walt Thomas EA** (510) 487-1691

# 2007 - 2008 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Web Page <http://www.ebaea.org>

President: Thomas Johnston EA	925-828-4500	Disaster Services: Janet Bridges EA	510-505-0818
1st VP: Walter Nygaard EA, etc	510-547-0440		
2nd VP: Peggy Hall EA	925-388-1040	<b>Education Committee, (1<sup>st</sup> VP)</b>	
Treasurer: Tim Hintzoglou EA	925-930-7737	<b>Chair:</b> Peggy Hall EA	925-388-1040
Secretary: Don Wayne EA	925-472-0990	Inter-chapter Liaison: (vacant)	
Past Pres: Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA, etc	925-855-0829	Tax Talk: Diane Jaworski-Faulhaber EA	510-538-0948
Director 2007-2008:		Charleen Daefield EA	925-872-4075
Philip Fiegler EA	510-530-1174	Program: Greg Crofton EA	925-218-2301
Barbara Sparks EA	925-634-8630	Scholarship: Norm Madge EA	510-489-8713
Greg Crofton EA	925-218-2301	Continuing Ed: Joanne Anderson EA	925-938-9086
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Dagmar Bedard EA	510-537-3883	SEE Class: Thomas Johnston EA	925-828-4500
Lonnie Gary EA, USTCP	650-559-5124	Mini Seminar Team: (vacant)	
Ravi Sundarraj EA	925-984-1219		
CSEA Directors: Walter Nygaard EA	510-547-0440	<b>Administration Committee (IPP)</b>	
Peggy Hall EA	925-388-1040	<b>Chair:</b> Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA	925-855-0829
IRS Practitioner Panel: Phil Fiegler EA	510-530-1174	Financial Review: Lonnie Gary EA	650-559-5124
		Bylaws/SOP: Sal Romo EA	510-487-1691
<b>Communication Committee, (2<sup>nd</sup> VP)</b>		Budget & Finance: Walt Thomas EA	510-785-8356
<b>Chair:</b> Walter Nygaard EA	510-547-0440	Chapter Office: Lonnie Gary EA, USTCP	650-559-5124
Membership: Barbara Sparks EA	925-634-8630	Legislative Affairs: Kim Kastl EA	510-537-2122
Judy Gilmer EA	925-373-1468	Nominating: Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA	925-855-0829
Outreach: (vacant)		Strategic Advisory:	
Public Affairs: Dagmar Bedard EA	510-537-3883	Bulletin: Duncan Sandiland EA, etc	925-691-1040
Social Affairs: Janet Bridges EA	510-505-0818	Tax Agency Liaison:	
Practice Preservation: Linda Fox EA	925-846-5913		

## EAST BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENROLLED AGENTS

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