



The Bulletin



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

April 2008

NEXT MEETING Wed, May 21, 2008

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

4:30 Board Meeting

6:15 Networking

6:45 Dinner Buffet (check start time?)

7:15 Program: **Annual Corporate Meeting +
"Corruption in the Federal Tax System"**

Cost: \$35.00 with reservation by Friday May 16
\$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
ebaia@ebaia.org (preferred) or call 800-617-1040.

May Topic: "Corruption in the Federal Tax System

Speaker: Julie Parodi,

TIGTA Assistant Special Agent in Charge

By Greg Crofton, EA, Program Chair

Did you ever wonder where to report misuse of position by an IRS employee without causing problems for you or your client? Do you know who and what TIGTA is?

After finishing that last tax return for this season and a well deserved period of recuperation, we have a fascinating dinner topic for our next dinner meeting. Rather than dive right back into the tax code, we have a speaker from TIGTA who will speak about Corruption in the Federal Tax System, what TIGTA is and why we want to know about TIGTA.

TIGTA stands for Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. TIGTA has oversight over IRS

activities. Their role is to protect the tax administration process and will speak to us about the role we play in reporting IRS employee and practitioner misconduct. This topic will qualify for 1 hour toward your annual ethics education requirement.

Speaker Julie Parodi is a graduate of Cal State University Sacramento. She began her law enforcement career in 1987 with the IRS Inspection Service as a Criminal Investigator in San Francisco. In 1998, the Inspection Service was removed from the IRS and TIGTA was created in its place. She continued as a TIGTA Special Agent until January of 2007 when she became the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Oakland group in the San Francisco Field Division. She currently supervises seven Special Agents in Oakland, CA and Honolulu, Hawaii.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Tom Johnston, EA

I remember my first tax season as a part-time tax preparer. I had placed an ad in the classified flea market and received a call requesting I take a new client and get him an extension on April 15th. So I went down to his small grocery store to meet with him and try to figure what numbers to put on the extension forms.

The client didn't have a copy of his prior year's tax returns. He did not have any accounting of his receipts or expenses. I asked him about copies of his cash register totals for each day....nothing. He paid his bills with cash from the cash register as each delivery person brought the groceries to the store. I became very frustrated and agitated trying to figure how I could possibly fill out the form 4868 and be in compliance with the law. As my agitation grew so did the client's. Finally in desperation some numbers were put on the form and I left very disturbed. I was grateful the client never called again for an appointment for me to prepare his tax returns.

Later as I related the experience to the CPA for whom I was working part-time, she said that she never accepted new clients at the last minute because they

were "bears." I asked "what do you mean by that?" She said that they growl like bears because they know they owe money to the government. Meeting with them is a no-win situation for you and them.

Today my policy is to not accept new clients after April 1st. If they really want me to prepare their tax returns I tell them to figure out their own extension and I will meet with them after April 15th. I have enough "bears" from my long time clients and prefer to not take on more in April.

I also try not to transmit returns on April 15th, whether they are the extensions or completed returns. I have been burned too many years by either my internet being jammed, or my software provider being jammed. Last year I had to snail mail a number of extensions because Intuit got jammed and I could not e-file.

I try to spend my April 15th very quietly these days, occasionally answering a phone call from a client and leisurely watching "Harry's War" in the evening. Last year it got way out of hand with last minute extensions.

It takes me a few days of total relaxation and diversion to get my disposition to where I am a likeable person again after April 15th. Don't forget your health and that you need a break to regain your sanity.

These are my thoughts in hopes that you draw a line in the sand now, before you get caught in the tide. Also schedule a vacation. You have earned it.

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

NEXT YEAR'S BOARD SLATE ANNOUNCED

by Bonnie Buhnerkempe, EA etc, Nominating Chair

Per the requirements of the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates for our 2007-2008 fiscal year:

President:	Peggy Hall EA
1 st Vice President:	Walter Nygaard EA, etc
2 nd Vice President:	Don Wayne EA
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Tim Hintzoglou EA
Director 2008-2009:	Dagmar Bedard EA
Director 2008-2009:	Lonnie Gary EA
Director 2008-2009:	Ravi Sundarraj EA
Director 2008-2010:	Cherry Comstock EA
Director 2008-2010:	Bob Olsen EA
Director 2008-2010:	vacant

The election for these positions will be held at the May Annual Meeting. Per the Bylaws, eligible Members can run from the floor with no advance notice. However, as a courtesy to those planning the meeting (which is already under a very tight timetable), it is requested that any floor candidate provide advance notice to the Nominating Committee through its Chair, Bonnie Buhnerkempe at (925) 855-0829.

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 ebaea@ebaea.org.

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

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)

What can I do to take care of my pets when I die?

In many homes, pets are loved members of the family. You may use a will or trust to determine who will take care of your pets and to set aside money or other assets for their care. However, a pet cannot inherit your estate. Look for an attorney who has created many "kitty trusts" (and "puppy trusts", "horse trusts", "bird trusts", and "turtle trusts", too!).

How can I help my grandchildren go to college?

A direct gift of \$12,000 per year from each grandparent to each child is always possible. However, there are a number of ways to help grandchildren with college costs, while making sure that they are not in control of large sums of money before they are ready.

One of the most effective ways is a \$529 Plan, which permits up to five years worth of gifting in a single year, and permits the money to grow and to be spent on college costs, tax free. Some families may choose to create their own college trust, which is an effective way to provide for a number of grandchildren of different means and needs.

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 25th of the month prior to initial publication. Send the desired text to: 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.

HMMMM...

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of inflation compiled by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The monthly rate of inflation is based upon the changes in 8 major categories, including: housing (43% of the overall index), transportation (17%), food (15%), medical care (6%), education and communication (6%), recreation (6%), apparel (4%) and other (3%). The overall level of prices in the USA (as measured by the CPI) has doubled over the last 23 years, for an average annual increase of 3.0% (Department of Labor).

Americans have bought 24 million cars in the last year and a half, more than the 22 million cars that are owned in China today (China National Bureau of Statistics).

It is estimated that American save over \$1 trillion per year as a result of our free trade policy (the US allows many foreign countries to sell their good within our borders without restrictions or tariffs). The savings to US consumers from the less expensive foreign products are 19 times larger than the estimated 225,000 jobs – and \$54 billion in lost lifetime wages – eliminated annually as a result of our free trade policy (Peterson Institute).

HUMOR

Where is the politician who has not promised to fight to the death for lower taxes- and who has not pro-

ceeded to vote for the very spending projects that make tax cuts impossible? Barry Goldwater

Most of the presidential candidates' economic packages involve 'tax breaks,' which is when the government, amid great fanfare, generously decides not to take quite so much of your income. In other words, these candidates are trying to buy your votes with your own money. -- Dave Barry

What's the difference between a Revenue Agent and a politician? No one has the faintest idea how Revenue Agents are chosen.

What's the difference between an Revenue Agent and a soldier? The soldier jumps to orders and the inspector jumps to conclusions.

An accountant tries horseback riding:
Yesterday I had a near death experience that has changed me forever. I went horseback riding. Everything was going fine until the horse started bouncing out of control. I tried with all my might to hang on, but was thrown off. Just when things could not possibly get worse, my foot got caught in the stirrup. When this happened, I fell head first to the ground. My head continued to bounce harder as the horse did not stop or even slow down. Just as I was giving up hope and losing consciousness the Wal-Mart manager came by and unplugged it.

It's tax time. I know this because I'm staring at documents that make no sense to me, no matter how many beers I drink. -- Dave Barry

SAVE THE DATES!

Tax Talk 2008 will be held on November 5th, 6th and 7th, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel Dublin. We have completed our program for Friday, November 7th! We will have Bryan Gates, Owner & Manager of American Academy of Tax which provides annual tax conferences for advanced taxpayer representatives, 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 Diane Jaworski-Faulhaber @ synergyp@pacbell.net with any questions or concerns. See you in November!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2008

No April meeting – enjoy your nap!

May 2008

- 19-21** CSEA SuperSeminar A
@ Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas
- 21** EBAAE Annual Corporate and Dinner Meeting
-> Election of Officers, TIGTA speaker
@ 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** EBAAE Dinner Meeting
- 26** CSEA Annual Meeting (Sacramento)

July 2008

- 16** EBAAE Dinner Meeting

Small Group Tax Meetings

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

Oakland/Berkeley 3rd Fri 10:30am
Park Avenue Grill, 4184 Piedmont Ave at Linda, Oakland
Philip Fiegler EA (510) 530-1174

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

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

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

South Alameda County 1st 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

President: Thomas Johnston EA 925-828-4500
1st VP: Walter Nygaard EA, etc 510-547-0440
2nd VP: Peggy Hall EA 925-388-1040
Treasurer: Tim Hintzoglou EA 925-930-7737
Secretary: Don Wayne EA 925-472-0990
Past Pres: Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA, etc 925-855-0829
Director 2007-2008:
Philip Fiegler EA 510-530-1174
Barbara Sparks EA 925-634-8630
Greg Crofton EA 925-218-2301
Director 2007-2009:
Dagmar Bedard EA 510-537-3883
Lonnie Gary EA, USTCP 650-559-5124
Ravi Sundarraj EA 925-984-1219
CSEA Directors: Walter Nygaard EA 510-547-0440
Peggy Hall EA 925-388-1040
IRS Practitioner Panel: Phil Fiegler EA 510-530-1174

Communication Committee, (2nd VP)

Chair: Walter Nygaard EA 510-547-0440
Membership: Barbara Sparks EA 925-634-8630
Judy Gilmer EA 925-373-1468
Outreach: (vacant)
Public Affairs: Dagmar Bedard EA 510-537-3883
Social Affairs: Janet Bridges EA 510-505-0818
Practice Preservation: Linda Fox EA 925-846-5913

Disaster Services: Janet Bridges EA 510-505-0818

Education Committee, (1st VP)

Chair: Peggy Hall EA 925-388-1040
Inter-chapter Liaison: (vacant)
Tax Talk: Diane Jaworski-Faulhaber EA 510-538-0948
Charleen Daefield EA 925-872-4075
Program: Greg Crofton EA 925-218-2301
Scholarship: Norm Madge EA 510-489-8713
Continuing Ed: Joanne Anderson EA 925-938-9086
Town Hall: Ravi Sundarraj EA 925-984-1219
SEE Class: Thomas Johnston EA 925-828-4500
Mini Seminar Team: (vacant)

Administration Committee (IPP)

Chair: Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA 925-855-0829
Financial Review: Lonnie Gary EA 650-559-5124
Bylaws/SOP: Sal Romo EA 510-487-1691
Budget & Finance: Walt Thomas EA 510-785-8356
Chapter Office: Lonnie Gary EA, USTCP 650-559-5124
Legislative Affairs: Kim Kastl EA 510-537-2122
Nominating: Bonnie Buhnerkempe EA 925-855-0829
Strategic Advisory:
Bulletin: Duncan Sandiland EA, etc 925-691-1040
Tax Agency Liaison:

EAST BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENROLLED AGENTS

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