

Why You Should be an Engaged Member

By Timothy Hedley, CTCPA Treasurer, Fordham University, KPMG (retired)



CTCPA provides many extraordinary benefits to its members. A small selection of these benefits includes professional headshots, technical help from fellow CPAs, the ability to easily track your CPE credits, receiving professional alerts and breaking news, finding professional networking opportunities, and obtaining special discounts on high-quality and reasonably priced professional development.

In addition, the CTCPA is motivated to ensure the future of the profession by working to get CPAs the praise they deserve, fighting countless unseen legislative battles, and helping to ensure that we have an influence at the national level.

These and other benefits (many listed on the page at right) are wonderful, making membership worthwhile. However, the CTCPA has so much more to offer the engaged member. As chair of the CTCPA Membership Committee, I am asking that you become an engaged member: a member who gets the most out of membership by making an active commitment to your career, your fellow accounting professionals, and the profession.

When I speak to very active members, they tell me about the many fulfilling activities at the CTCPA. The benefit I hear lauded most often is committee membership. CTCPA boasts more than two dozen committees, offering a wonderful way to network with like-minded people and get answers to complex problems and scenarios, not to mention providing you with the opportunity to offer up your own expertise to other professionals.

Our committees cover many fields of interest, including accounting, auditing and financial reporting, diversity and inclusion, trusts and estates, technology and employee benefits (you can see a complete listing of committees and groups on page 13 of this issue). If you are a recent graduate or new to the profession, we have a vibrant New and Young Professionals Group, which addresses the skills needed to become a successful leader and also gives you the opportunity to engage in some terrific community outreach.

Of course, you can join the Membership Committee, where we recruit new members, help them engage with the CTCPA, and work to ensure that membership is a rewarding experience. To learn more or join the group, please reach out to New Member and Special Project Manager **Alicia Strong** at alicias@ctcpas.org.

In socially distanced times, our committees are still as relevant as ever. Each group has an accompanying private online community where you can share information, ask questions, and get advice. Groups also haven't missed a beat when it comes to meeting virtually – transitioning from a remote participation option to completely virtual meetings for the time being.

Joining a committee is easy. Take the first step by getting on the CTCPA website at www.ctcpas.org/groups, finding the committee or group of interest to you, and clicking on “Join This Group.” Not only will you promote and expand upon your areas of interest, the CTCPA, and the CPA profession, you will have fun.

Check out these new volunteer opportunities!

We're seeking members to join advisory task forces to explore potential member groups.

Our Advisory Council and Board of Directors are seeking volunteers to serve on several advisory task forces to investigate the best ways to bring members together and help guide our association into the future. Participation in these advisory task forces and any resulting new interest groups will be available remotely as well as in-person.

If you or someone on your team would be a good fit to help us determine need, topics, and the best structure for these potential groups, please reach out to Bonnie Stewart at bonnies@ctcpas.org.

Small Business

Members have asked for a group to help address management matters specific to small businesses – both the businesses where our members themselves work as well as public accountants seeking to advise their clients. This group would address several of the top issues identified in our recent benchmarking survey of Connecticut business professionals including keeping up with state and federal regulations, adopting new technologies, finding new clients, and recruiting and retaining workers.

Managing Partners/Management of an Accounting Practice

This group will bring together firm managing partners and other leaders to share ideas and learn together as we build the CPA firm of tomorrow – including growing or sustaining an accounting practice, staffing and workload management in a rapidly changing world, billing structures, and integrating new technology.

Emerging Technologies

One major goal identified during our extensive Strategic Planning Initiative was to increase investments in emerging technology and tools. We're working to put together a pilot Emerging Technology (blockchain, AI, robotics in finance) Group to connect members with this area of interest/expertise and to help bring their knowledge to the general membership.



Keep on top of emerging issues from technology and the economy to the latest compliance developments.

Engage in in-depth conversations and hear from experts on a wide range of topics important to your organization – data analytics, robotics in finance, block-chain, financial reporting, compliance, labor and employment issues, and more.



Build connections with regulators, agency leaders, and policymakers.

We're well-connected, and we make sure our members are, too. From DRS, DOL, and the State Board of Accountancy to OPM, DECD, and more – we're here to help you get the answers you need.



Use technology to expand the conversation with virtual meetings.

We've invested in technology to greatly expand your ability to participate in committee meetings, group discussions, and professional development programs virtually from wherever you are.



Take advantage of specialized professional development for you and your team.

Our new conferences and programs will keep you in-the-know on technology, regulations, and trends. We're also developing skill-level-based curriculums that will help you easily match educational opportunities with the professional development needs of your team.



Learn and have fun at our specialized diversity, young professionals, and industry-specific events.

From educational breakfasts to business chemistry training to even laser tag and zip-lining, our specialized programs offer something for everyone.



Connect with other business professionals through joint programs and events.

Form meaningful relationships and help your business grow and thrive. Our diverse membership includes about half professionals at businesses and half in public accounting. Our joint programs connect you with other professionals including attorneys, bankers, engineers, architects, and more.



Stay in-the-know and get involved in developments at the State Capitol.

Our Capitol Corner updates help you stay in-the-know and get involved on issues that affect your business at the State Capitol, state agencies, and accounting standards boards.



Ask questions and swap knowledge in our private online community.

We have 20+ groups to help you get feedback from peers on a tricky compliance question, see how others are interpreting the latest guidance, connect with members in different practice areas, and more.



Make connections at meetings that come to you across the state.

We bring the networking and professional development opportunities to you – from our Fairfield and Southeastern Connecticut chapters to our free CONNecTion educational series in Torrington and Easton to our popular Regional Professional Updates spanning the state.



Looking for leadership opportunities? Explore all the ways you can step up.

Chair a committee, talk to students about the profession, run a charity drive, connect with a nonprofit seeking a board member, serve on our Advisory Council and, maybe someday, our Board of Directors.



“The CTCPA Federal Tax Committee is a great resource. We discuss ideas and information related to current issues we are faced with in our ever-changing profession, in real time.

Regardless of your experience level, the information shared in our meetings will be beneficial to you.”

Ralph Anderson

**Federal Income Tax Committee Chair,
Advisory Council Member**

Beers, Hamerman, Cohen & Burger



“My involvement in the CTCPA has given me access to leaders in the accounting profession. I am inspired by them and aspire to be like them. The CTCPA has provided me with a platform and leadership opportunities.

As co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative, our goal is to plan events and programming that foster an environment that is educated and stands united against unconscious bias and inequities. If you are motivated to make a change, please participate in our events or join our group.”

Cynthia R. Calderón

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative
Co-Chair, Advisory Council Member**

CohnReznick