



California Political Treasurers Association



Greetings and welcome to CPTA Newsletter Volume 2

The August 18th meeting at FarmShop in Larkspur Landing was well attended with over 30 members and guests.

The highlight of the meeting included a presentation and training session by David Montgomery, President of Netfile, on the updated campaign finance program. NetFile's new 'Pro'

reporting software has now entered beta testing, exclusively limited to CPTA members. According to David Montgomery, Pro offers significant productivity enhancements, while maintaining NetFile's traditional focus on disclosure reporting as the primary purpose of the system. This early testing period is focused on California-specific reporting, data migration from NetFile Classic, and usability. Any CPTA member wanting to participate in the beta program should contact NetFile to apply.

*Kudos to Nancy Warren for selecting such a lovely venue.
The food was great!*

All the Best!



Legislative Update

by Branché Jones

With the legislature winding down eyes are turning to the special election to re-call Senator Josh Newman in the 29th district and legislative efforts in 2018. Senator Newman represents the 27th vote Democrats need for a supermajority in the State Senate so the fight over his seat will truly be a rumble for the ages. The result will determine if Democrats can pass legislation that needs two-thirds vote next year.

For the California Political Treasurer's Association 2017 was a successful year. We worked with Assemblyman Bill Quirk, from Hayward, to pass AB 895 and we increased our profile with the



SAVE THE DATE

Next CPTA meeting will be held
Friday, November 17th in
Sacramento

Details to Follow

• WHAT'S NEW?

The Governor signed AB 187, the Umberg for local measures, which goes into effect on January 1, 2018. This bill requires a general purpose recipient committee to file a report each time it makes contributions totaling \$5,000 or more or independent expenditures aggregating \$5,000 or more to support or oppose the qualification of a single local ballot measure. The report must include contributions or loans received of \$100 or more since the last report filed. The report will be filed with

Secretary of State's office and within the legislature. Though AB 895 was a modest measure it allows us to enter into the legislative process and pursue other issues. During the interim recess, between September 15 - December 31, legislators will begin crafting their legislative packets for 2018. The Governor will also be planning for the release of his budget in early January. This provides CPTA an opportunity to find legislators that are willing to draft legislation on our behalf. If you have any ideas, please forward them to myself and Laura Stephen. Later in the year we can discuss which ideas to pursue. My e-mail address is branchejones@gmail.com and Laura's is lstephen@eichmancpa.com.

the local filing officer within 10 business days of reaching the aggregated amount.

In addition, the Fair Political Practices Commission voted to reverse a longstanding rule that limited how much money politicians and their committees can give to a candidate-controlled recall committee. The vote reversed a 2002 FPPC opinion that limited politician contributions to candidate-controlled recall committees to \$4,400. The rule change now allows politicians to give unlimited amounts of money to help fight the recall of Democratic Senator Josh Newman. Chair Jodi Remke was the only dissenting commissioner in the 3-1 final vote.

CPTA Web Site: www.cpta.info

Please check out the new and improved CPTA website. And if you need the password to access the Members Only section, please contact Stacy Owens. Stacy's email address is stacy@hlgcpa.com.



- **Member Spotlight**

Very few, if any, CPTA members start their careers in campaign finance fresh out of school. Most members' paths are circuitous and this brings unique talents and perspectives to our profession. Transplanted Philadelphian, now long time Long Beacher, Christopher Thomas is a case in point.

With eight years as an airman in the United States Air Force, 4 years active-duty and 4 years in the reserves, Chris served in missile defense and intelligence operations - key experience for keeping one's cool in the harried campaign finance world. While in the Air Force Chris developed his love of travel and pursued his love of airplanes. Although mostly stationed in Southern California, Chris had tours of duty in Germany, Korea, Japan and Kuwait. While serving in the reserves Chris not only worked for the City of Long Beach he worked part time with Jet Blue Airways as an Operation Crewmember. In addition, Chris is an Administrator of the Facebook group – Los Angeles Aviation Spotters. There he connects with representatives of several fields in the airline

industry including pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, and airline managers. Chris is fortunate to have a friend who works in the airline industry who may soon provide Chris the opportunity to fly wherever, whenever. Australia is beckoning

But in 2008 after the death of his grandmother which left him heartbroken, Chris resigned from the City of Long Beach, relocated back to Los Angeles, and entered the campaign finance profession working with Steve Mele at ML Associates during the No on 8 Campaign. Mele's exit from Southern California led Chris to Betty Anne Downing at California Political Law which he greatly enjoyed for several years. "Betty Anne taught me so very much and I am grateful for her wisdom and knowledge and to have been a part of her team," said Chris. Upon Betty Anne's firm's merger with another firm, Chris transitioned to Gould and Orrellana during their move to Long Beach. Both David and Ingrid have taught him so much about our industry and he is pleased that they believed in him to be a part of their team. In addition, says Chris, "I would say the best part about my current position is it's closer to home. I live three blocks away from the office. And I also have the ability to broaden my horizon. I have a lot more responsibility and now feel a lot more confident in my knowledge of campaign finance, thanks to all three of my mentors and their guidance. "

Chris is also involved in the state and local political scene including a Third term as state delegate to the Democratic Party representing the 70th Assembly District and Assembly member Patrick O'Donnell. Chris is also in his 5th Term as an Executive Board Member, Vice President of Finance for the Long Beach Democratic Club and a member of Long Beach Democratic Women's Study Club and Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club.

Chris truly values CPTA membership, and feels that the sharing of ideas and gathering information from fellow treasurers is extremely important. He has also made lifelong friends in CPTA. Since his first CPTA conference in 2012 in Las Vegas Chris feels the support he received from fellow members, especially Laura Stephen, D'Ron Smith and Mia Brumfield, have been integral in his depth of knowledge and have made his transition from a very new member to part of the CPTA family from Day One.

(If you would like to be featured in our next issue, please contact Sheila Scally)





Make a note - the 2018 CPTA Conference will be held in San Diego

If you need to add a new member for your firm or revise your current members - contact Rita Copeland, the CPTA Treasurer. Rita's email address is rc@rcbs.us

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