November Session: “Taxpayer Advocate”

Speaker: Tiffany J. Todaro
by Robert L. Seymour, EA

The IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is the one part of the Service that can truly say, “I’m from the IRS and I’m here to help you!”

This service helps taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS and recommend changes to prevent problems.

This EBAEA program will answer some of our common questions, such as:
1) How is the Taxpayer Advocate connected to the IRS?
2) What kinds of cases are handled by the TAS? Which are accepted, and which are rejected?
3) How does the TAS interface with the IRS?

4) Can TAS help with OIC or appeals rejections?

The Taxpayer Advocate also makes reports to Congress, based on its observations of IRS practices, tax law changes and taxpayer problems.

This is your opportunity to learn about a service that can help a great deal when you and your client don’t believe that you’re getting fair treatment.

With 1 hour of CE on Federal Tax Law Topics, the target audience is: Enrolled Agents, attorneys, CPAs and unenrolled preparers.

Tiffany J. Todaro is the Local Taxpayer Advocate for the San Francisco Bay Area, supervising the Oakland and San Jose Taxpayer Advocate Service offices. She works with Congressional offices, tax professionals and taxpayers daily. Previously, she was Supervisory Associate Advocate, with a group of Case Advocates in the Oakland and San Jose TAS Offices. She has worked for the IRS since October 1992 - three years as Taxpayer Service Representative, ten years as Taxpayer Assistance Center Manager, two years as Taxpayer Advocate Service Manager and six years as TAS Senior Manager.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
by Patty Pringle, EA, President, EBAEA

We finally made it past the October 15th extension deadline. Whew!! I don’t know about you, but mine went right down to the wire. Some of our other members had a lot of last minute information come in. Some of our more experienced members have trained their clients to know that, if they don’t provide their information by a certain cutoff date, their return will not be filed on time. I need to learn how train my clients.

November is always filled with lots of activities, as it is this year. There is still time to sign up for the East Bay Fall Seminar Tax Talk 2014 on November 5th, 6th and 7th. (See the flyer at the back of this bulletin).

Our dinner meeting is on November 19th. We have special events planned that evening. EBAEA Membership Chair and 1st Vice President, Aida Torres, EA has planned a Member Appreciation Night, to thank all of
our loyal members. Plan on coming a little early to socialize with other members, and enjoy the free wine that we are serving during the networking time.

In honor of Veterans Day, we are having a special ceremony just before dinner, to honor our members that are veterans and to thank them for their service to our country. Robert Seymour, EA has arranged to have a local Boy Scout Troop present the Colors. They will march in with the American Flag and one of our veterans will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We did this a couple of years ago and it was a very moving ceremony.

After the ceremony, we will enjoy our dinner meeting with some really useful education. My thanks to our Program Chair, Peggy Hall, EA. I hope you will join us!

Finally, I’d like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. As we spend the holiday with our family and friends it’s time to reflect on just how much we have to be thankful for.

WHICH TAX SOFTWARE AND WHY?
Tax Software User Group Meeting
Date: November 4, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Location: Ronald J. Hanson, EA Office, 2121 North California Blvd., Suite 290, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Now is the time to review your software needs and share ideas. Ron Hanson, EA, FNTPI, is hosting a meeting to discuss the various programs and their features and user satisfaction. There will be a presentation, handouts, group discussion, questions and answers. The group will examine cost, user satisfaction, software support, learning curve, migration to new software, defects, and more. Feel free to call with questions you may have.

Software products and solutions reviewed: ATX, CCH Axcess, Drake, GoSystem, Intuit Tax Online, Lacerte, ProSeries, ProSystem fx, TaxACT, Tax SlayerPro, TaxWise, TaxWorks, UltraTax and cloud-based program options and costs.

If you would like to attend, please send Ron an email at taxhotline@comcast.net or give him a call at 925-736-4842. Note: Space is limited: RSVP to hold your spot!

MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
by Aida Q. Torres, EA, Membership Chair

The September 15th and October 15th tax deadlines are behind us now! We can say, "What a Relief, and we all survived!" The busy season may be the reason why we had no new members join us in September and October. No spare time to join professional associations!

But, even when it’s busy, we continue the recruitment process seeking EA non-members, with the help of the CSEA "Just Ask One - Recruitment Campaign"! This resource will help us reach our goal to strengthen the membership, improving on last year.

We have received phone calls from EAs who have been member of CSEA, but who didn’t know that our Chapter exists, and who are very interested in being involved in our organization! We are following up with them by various means of communication.

For our current members, we’ve scheduled "Appreciation Night", as part of the November 19th Dinner Meeting (details on page one); the networking starts at 6:15 p.m. Please come and enjoy camaraderie and free wine (white and red) served prior to dinner, as a gesture of appreciation for being an active member of our Chapter, and to celebrate Thanksgiving and honor our Veterans, too!

Thanks to all our Members! You make success possible for EBAEA!

To get more information on coming events, please login to: www.ebaea.org.

If you have recently joined, and your name is not listed, contact Aida, at aidatorres.com or aidatorres@realtor.com. All new members, professional associates and professional affiliates will receive a packet from CSEA. All new EA members will receive a packet and certificate from EBAEA. If you are a new EA member, and haven’t received a packet from the Membership Committee, please let us know.

MEMBERS SPEAK

For EBAEA members to list speaking engagements next month, please email Andy@TaxBuddha.com with details. Upcoming presentations include:

November 4 (Tue): “Basic Payroll,” 9 am - 3 pm, in San Francisco, 455 Market Street, Sixth Floor. Andy Rogers, 510-332-0401 or Andy@TaxBuddha.com for more information

November 11 (Tue): “Schedule C for Enrolled Agents,” 4 - 6 p.m., ‘Depreciation for Real Estate,” 7 - 9 p.m., Taix Restaurant, Los Angeles, for four hours’ CPE, Andy Rogers, 510-332-0401 or andy@taxbuddha.com

November 18 (Tue): “Schedule C for Business Owners,” 6 pm - 8:30 pm, in San Francisco, 455 Market Street, Sixth Floor. Andy Rogers, 510-332-0401 or Andy@TaxBuddha.com

December 10 (Wed): “Basic Payroll,” 9 am - 3 pm, in Oakland. Andy Rogers, 510-332-0401 or Andy@TaxBuddha.com

EBAEA EMAIL LISTS

EBAEA sends news to Members via two one-way (send-only) email distribution lists. Subscription is free and completely voluntary, and you can subscribe or unsubscribe to either list any time you wish. For more information and to manage your subscription, visit: http://ebaea.org/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi
CHECK YOUR CE CREDITS!
by Marjorie Williams-Jones, EA, Education Coordinator

At every meeting, those of us at the front desk pester you for your PTIN. We’re not just testing your memory, but making sure we have the correct number to report your CE credits to CSEA, who then upload them to the IRS.

You can (and should be) checking the CE credits that have been reported for you at the website https://rpr.irs.gov/datamart/mainMenuUSIRS.do

You can also find this site through IRS.gov / For Tax Pros / Register or under “Renew your PTIN.”

This is the same place that you’ve likely been re-newing your PTIN the last few years, and if you haven’t renewed yet for next year, you need to go there.

If you can’t locate your login information, there’s a “forgot password /forgot User ID” wizard to help. Do NOT “Create a New PTIN Account”. That will create a new PTIN, which you don’t want to do.

After logging in, a window will open that allows you to re-new your PTIN (if needed), read your Messages from the IRS; at the very bottom of the window is “View My Continuing Education Credits.”

Selecting that will open a screen which displays the total credits reported for you for 2014. You can toggle it between 2013 and 2014, and also expand the information to see the detail of the credits reported for you.

It is because people checked regularly (and reported back to me) that we realized that the credits for our March 2014 meeting didn’t successfully upload to IRS. We’ve notified CSEA and they are re-uploading those credits.

After you check your credits, please let me know if you find anything amiss for EBAEA meetings you’ve attended. Contact me at marj@marjtax.com.

“LETTERS TO THE EDITOR” REMINDER
by Robert L Seymour, EA

At the September dinner meeting, Patty Pringle, EA, announced that our Bulletin will test a “Letters to the Editor” feature. We continue to invite your comments.

If you have thoughts that you want to share, please send them to EBAEA.Editor@gmail.com. I will treat your ideas respectfully, but will not promise to publish everything that I receive.

If the spirit moves you, and you have more time now than with filing deadlines approaching, consider commenting on Bulletin content, an interesting article, that would benefit other EAs, a court case that we should be aware of, a blog or web site with really great info, good tax jokes.

I do not suggest any question -- like those we put in the discussion boards -- which call for prompt response from multiple participants.

Please allow your name to be published.

EAs AVAILABLE TO SPEAK

Although our speaker’s development group has been dormant this year, there are still a number of chapter members who welcome the opportunity to speak on a variety of tax topics. If you know of a group that would like a guest speaker, please contact Andy Rogers, EA, or Mark Bole, EA for suggestions.

Small Group Tax Meetings

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QUICKFINDER ORDER TIME!
by Clare Flores, EA

Once again, we are able to get a group discount on orders for the Quickfinder products. Our chapter also gets a commission on each item you buy. It’s a perfect way to get an excellent reference for the tax season and support your chapter at the same time. So, fill out the form (at the back of this Bulletin) and send it to the chapter office or to me, and we will take care of the rest.

You can also order on line at http://quickfinder.thomson.com; just be sure to use the discount code Q521. Your order will be shipped directly to you at the price indicated on the form.

Please email clare@taxandpayroll.com if you have any questions or need additional information.
SPEAKERS GROUP WORKSHOPS

The EBAEA Speakers Group will hold another workshop for you to hear and provide constructive criticism on:

During November 8th, 1 pm - 3 pm for "Schedule C for Enrolled Agents" intended to be a two hour seminar for Enrolled Agents and will cover selection for audit, DIF scores and intuition about returns, what to say to the client who reports their barber's tax advice, new simplified home office and what questions to ask before submitting a Schedule C.

The event will be conducted free of charge, at 3333 Fernside Blvd. in Alameda (off of High Street bridge) by Andy Rogers Andy@TaxBuddha.com. Beverages provided, and possibly some cheese and crackers. No CPE provided (but if you really, really want it, let him know!)

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT & AVAILABILITY
by Robert L Seymour, EA

In general, please expect the current month issue to be available at the beginning of the month, and you don’t need to wait to be notified. You may want to store in your browser this permalink to access the Bulletin: http://www.ebaea.org/Bulletin/current.pdf

If you have bookmarked the permalink, you can view the latest Bulletin at any time. The same link will work every month.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING POLICY
by Robert L Seymour, 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 a maximum of three months. If you wish to run a notice for a longer period, you must resubmit the notice.
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 desired text to: EBAEA.Editor@gmail.com.
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.

HUMOR

Ever wonder why the IRS calls it Form 1040? Because for every $50 that you earn, you get $10 and they get $40.

“People are getting smarter nowadays; they are letting lawyers, instead of conscience, be their guide.” -- Will Rogers

“President Obama has announced a task force to review the tax codes. He’s concerned there are too many loopholes and too many people manipulating the system to avoid paying taxes. And that’s just in his administration.” -- Jay Leno

A tax accountant, a tax lawyer and an actuary were dining together at an upscale restaurant.

“With income tax being so complicated, we tax accountants are all doing quite well these days,” the tax accountant commented. In order to prove it, he pulled out a $5 bill, lit it with a match, and used it to light his cigar.

“With so many people engaging in tax avoidance, the IRS pursuing offshore accounts and auditing more wealthy taxpayers, we tax lawyers are also doing very well these days,” the lawyer said. To emphasize his point, he got out a $100 bill, applied a match to it, and used it to light his cigar.

“With the new Affordable Care Act, we actuaries are doing even better,” the actuary responded. To prove it, he wrote out a check for $1 million, lit it with a match, and used it to light his cigar.

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of Division Manager. He asked each candidate the question, “What is two and two?”

The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was “Twenty-two.”

The second was a social worker, who answered, “I don’t know the answer, but I’m glad we had time to discuss this important question.”

The third applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a slide rule and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001.

The next candidate was a lawyer, who noted that in the case of Jenkins v. Jones, two plus two was proven to be four.

The last applicant was an accountant. When the businessman asked him, “How much is two and two?” the accountant rose, closed the door, then leaned across the desk and asked in a low voice, “How much do you want it to be?” He got the job.
CSEA ONLINE LEARNING PORTAL

The CSEA Learning Portal offers exceptional tax education, on demand.

Did you miss SuperSeminar this year? Is there a SuperSeminar session you wanted to attend but conflicted with the one you chose? What about one you attended, and took careful notes, but now that you need to resolve an issue, they don’t make clear what the speaker said? What about a client matter that just came up and you’re not sure how to handle it?

Would you like a free hour of learning? CSEA Members are offered a complimentary one-hour webinar featuring IRS OPR Director Karen L. Hawkins. It’s a very informative hour, though it doesn’t qualify for CPE.

CSEA offers online replays of SuperSeminar presentations, and the 2014 sessions are now available. This is a great refresher, or a primer for a subject you need more info on now.

Available sessions include:
Ron Roberson, CPA, on Social Security
Lisa Ihm, EA, on Foreclosures and COD
Mark Seid, EA, CPA, on the New Repair Regs

Check this out now! Go to www.csea.org and mouse over the “Education & Events” tab, then mouse down and click on “Online Continuing Education”. You won’t be sorry…

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2014

5-7 EBAEA Tax Talk Seminar @ Holiday Inn, Dublin
19 EBAEA Dinner Meeting: “Taxpayer Advocate” @ Holiday Inn, Dublin
20–21 Mission Society: 1040 Review & Update seminar @ San Jose Airport
25 North Bay seminar: “Affordable Care Act” @ Fountaingrove Inn, Santa Rosa

December 2014

17 EBAEA Dinner Meeting: [tentative topic] “Tax Treaties and Foreign Tax Credit”

January 2015

8 Mission Society: Cast in Concrete Updates @ Mariani’s Inn, Santa Clara
9 Jim Stern Legislative Day In Sacramento
15 North Bay seminar: K-1 Competencies @ Inn Marin, Novato
16 North Bay: Last Chance Updates seminar @ Inn Marin, Novato

February 2015

7 Save the date (Saturday) for Tax Help Day!
2014 - 2015 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
1st VP: Al Wise, EA 707-634-4TAX
2nd VP: Aida Torres, EA 510-724-6409
Treasurer: Tim Hintzoglou, EA 925-930-7737
Secretary: Carrie Kroeger, EA 925-686-1600
Immed Past Pres: P Gail Nanbu, EA 925-943-3993
Director 2013 - 2015:
  [temporary vacancy]
  Sal Romo, EA 510-471-9492
  Marjorie Williams-Jones, EA 510-482-6204
Director 2014 – 2015:
  Katherine Judd, EA
  Peggy Hall, EA 510-388-1040
CSEA Director: Al Wise, EA 707-634-4TAX

Website: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
IRS Practitioner Panel: Phil Fiegler, EA 510-530-1174
CTEC Panel: Walt Thomas, EA 510-487-1691

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Chair: Al Wise, EA 707-634-4TAX
Continuing Ed:
  Educ. Coord.: M. Williams-Jones, EA 510-482-6204
  Mini Seminar Team: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
  Program: Peggy Hall, EA 925-388-1040
  SEE Class: vacant
  Tax Talk: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
  Town Hall: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
  Town Hall: Peggy Hall, EA 925-388-1040
  VITA Team: vacant

Administration Committee (IPP)
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Bylaws/SOP: Sal Romo, EA 510-471-9492
Bylaws/SOP: Clare Ashby, EA 925-462-0538
Budget & Finance: Walt Thomas, EA 510-725-8356
Chapter Office: Dagmar Bedard, EA 510-537-3883
Financial Review: Luciann Leraul, CPA 925-518-9076
Nominating: P Gail Nanbu, EA 925-943-3993
Volunteer Coordinator: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682

Communication Committee (2nd VP)
Chair: Aida Torres, EA 510-724-6409
Bulletin: Robert Seymour, EA 925-212-8062
Disaster Services: Janet Bridges, EA 510-505-0818
Legislative: Peggy Hall, EA 925-388-1040
Membership: Aida Torres, EA 510-724-6409
Practice Preservation: Linda Fox, EA 925-846-5913
PIA: Patty Pringle, EA 510-912-1682
Quickfinders: Clare Flores, EA 510-785-8356
Social Affairs: Luciann Leraul, CPA 925-518-9076
Social Affairs: Carolyn Krieg, EA

EAST BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENROLLED AGENTS
6400 Village Parkway, Suite 201, Dublin CA 94568-3006
(800) 617-1040 or (925) 320-7802 fax (925) 553-3515 email: ebaea@ebaea.org

If you haven’t already done so, please note the current address for the East Bay Association of Enrolled Agents:

EBAEA
6400 Village Parkway, Suite 201
Dublin, CA 94568-3006
2014 TAX TALK
Holiday Inn - 6680 Regional Street, Dublin, CA 94568

Nov. 5, 6, & 7 - 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Presented By
EAST BAY ASSOCIATION OF ENROLLED AGENTS
https://www.123signup.com/register?id=ytprv
(Copy and paste into your browser)

***If paying by check please complete Seminar Registration Form on last page of this flyer***

November 5th

Lisa Ihm, EA – “Tax Jeopardy” Have fun while learning. We’ve all had those light bulb moments, when we realize we’ve been missing out on a great tax deduction for a client or have overlooked a perfect tax planning opportunity. You’ll have at least one “AH HAH Moment” guaranteed (4 Fed Hours).

Vicki Mulak, EA, CFP – 2014 Tax Law Update for the California Practitioner
“A Blend” of federal and CA Updates.
Includes an update on the “Affordable Care Act”. What are the penalties?
Learn about the new repair regulations. Should you Capitalize or Expense?
(3 Fed Hours, 1 CA Hour or 1 NAEA Hour).

“Tax Talk after Hours” 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Enjoy Wine, Cheese and Crackers during a Q & A Session
Featuring
Brenda Voet, EA, California FTB Technical Assistant to the Taxpayer Advocate

November 6th


Vicki Mulak, EA, CFP – “C Stands for Competent”. This class will explore multiple issues affecting Schedule C. Since Schedule C is shared by sole-proprietorships and single-member LLC’s, attention to each type of business will be included. (4 Hours)

November 7th

Mark Seid, EA, CPA – “Hobby Losses” Update on rules for income and expenses. When is it considered a hobby? (2 Fed Hours).
“The 3 C’s of NOL’s” Calculation, Carryback and Carryover (2 Fed Hours).

Jennifer MacMillan, EA - Ethics (2 Hours Required)
Ms. MacMillan is Past Chair of the CSEA Ethics Committee

Peggy Hall, EA – “Affordable Care Act (ACA)
What are the rules and what is really going onto the Form 1040.
**Registration includes Continental Breakfast, Hot Lunch(Selection), Snacks, All Materials**

***After Hour Session on Wednesday (with paid Wednesday registration))***

**After 9/30/14 Before 10/17/14**
NAEA/CSEA Members (3 Days 24 Hours CE) $525.00
Non-Members (3 Days 24 Hours CE) $550.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours CE) NAEA/CSEA Members $219.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours) Non-Members $239.00

**After 10/17/14**
NAEA/CSEA Members (3 Days 24 Hours CE) $550.00
Non-Members (3 Days 24 Hours CE) $575.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours CE) NAEA/CSEA Members $239.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours) Non-Members $259.00

All Registrations Include: Continental Breakfast, Lunch (Selection) and Afternoon Snacks

- Learning level: All Courses Intermediate Update Provides General Review of New Developments
- CSEA and its Chapters have been recognized as a qualified sponsor of continuing education by the Office of Professional Responsibility to meet the requirements of 31 Code of Federal Regulations §10.6(f), covering maintenance of attendance records, retention of program outlines, qualifications of instructors and length of class hours.
- “The California Society of Enrolled Agents & its local Chapters have been recognized as an approved curriculum provider by the California Tax Education Council. Successful completion of this course may be reported to fulfill the continuing education requirement of the California Business & Professions Code §22250-22259. This does not constitute an endorsement by the California Tax Education Council as to the quality of the course or its contribution to the professional competence of the preparer.”

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds must be postmarked by October 15, 2014. All refunds are subject to a service charge of $50.00 per person.

**Additional Information Contact Seminar Chair:** Patty Pringle, EA at 925-320-7802 or e-mail: eapattypringle@sbcglobal.net

Stay overnight and combine business with pleasure! Bring your spouse and tour the Greater Bay Area via BART, shop at nearby Stoneridge Mall, visit Livermore Wine Country or the Sunol Trail.

Special Seminar Rates at the:

**Holiday Inn**
6680 Regional Street
Dublin, CA 94568

**Phone:** (925) 828-7750 (Any calls outside this information may be routed to a central reservation desk and may not recognize the room blocks)

Single or Double (2 beds): $89.00* (plus tax) per night Reservation must be made prior to 10/15/14
Reservations should be called in between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Mon – Fri
* Be sure to identify the group as EBAEA!
Name: ____________________________________

Firm Name: ________________________________

Address: ___________________________________

City: ________________________ State: _____ Zip: ________________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ______________________

E-Mail: _____________________________________

Badge Name: ________________________________

☐ Check here if you need special accommodations to fully participate and describe: ____________________

Check all that apply:       EA         CTEC         Non-member

Enrollment License #:_______________ PTIN: _______________ EA Chapter Affiliation: ________________

**Early Bird** Postmarked on or before 9/30/14

** 3 Day NAEA/CSEA Member $475.00
** 3 Day Non-Members $525.00
**Any 1 Day NAEA/CSEA Members $199.00
**Any 1 Day Non-Members $229.00

**Postmarked After 9/30/14 on or Before 10/17/14

** 3 Day NAEA/CSEA Members $525.00
** 3 Day Non-Members $550.00

Any 1 Day (8 Hours CE) NAEA/CSEA Members $219.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours) Non-Members $239.00

**Postmarked After 10/17/14

** 3 Day NAEA/CSEA Members $550.00
** 3 Day Non-Members $575.00

Any 1 Day (8 Hours CE) NAEA/CSEA Members $239.00
Any 1 Day (8 Hours) Non-Members $259.00

Total Payment $ ________

********Please Indicate Lunch Choice for Each Day in Attendance: **********

** Wednesday, November 5th **

_ Pork Loin Dijonaise
_ Chicken Piccata
_ Vegetable Lasagna

** Thursday, November 6th **

_ London Broil
_ Chicken Dijonaise
_ Garden Vegetable Risotto

** Friday, November 7th **

_ Salmon
_ Chicken Pomodoro
_ Eggplant Parmesan
# 2014 Quickfinder Tax Year Products

## CSEA- East Bay Chapter.

**DISCOUNT CODE** Q521

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