

# Board Meeting Sets the Table for Interesting Dialogue

## A Summary of the September 24-25, 2011 Board Meeting

By Andy Stamatelatos, EA, CSEA Secretary

The September meeting was at a new location, the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento, CA, and it proved to be an engaging few days. The State Tax Agencies Liaison Meeting, with presentations by representatives from the Employment Development Department (EDD), the Board of Equalization (BOE), and the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) was held on the Friday preceding the Board Meeting. Details of that event can be found in the September/October issue as well as on pages 26-27 of this edition of the *California Enrolled Agent* magazine.

On Saturday at the opening of the Board meeting President Jean Nelsen, EA announced that 20 CSEA Members now hold the prestigious title of National Tax Practice Institute (NTPi) Fellow: Owen S. Arnoff, EA, Pauline M. Baldenegro, EA, Douglass Edward Bodemann, EA, Coleman E. Cook, EA, CFP®, MBA, Karen R. Davenport, EA, Phillip Duncan, EA, Antonia K. Enriquez, EA, Terry Fallis, EA, Jay W. Kim, EA, Christy A. Kohl, EA, Raul T. Leon, EA, Rosalinda Soliven-Manaois, CPA, Patricia Gail Nanbu, EA, David Michael Nicthodes, EA, Hyung Park, EA, Daniel Passon, EA, Jaswant "Jessie" Singh, EA, Ray Teasdale, EA, Sherri Tescher, EA and Valerie Tom, EA.

First Vice President Raven Deerwater, EA started the strategic issues discussion with the June Board Evaluation Summary and then turned the floor over to Membership Chair Sandy Danioth-Jones, EA to lead a discussion on membership issues. She informed the Board that historically the retention of Members is between 91 and 92 percent, but the goal for 2011-2012 will be 96 percent.

Committee meetings consumed the rest of Saturday, and the Board was called back into session at 8:03 a.m. Sunday by President Nelsen, and the floor was turned over to Mr. Deerwater to continue with the strategic issues discussions. There were conversations throughout the day about the different categories of membership and how to approach registered tax return preparers. There were also strategic discussions on the purpose and emphasis of the CSEA website, which was highlighted by a presentation by Executive Vice President (EVP) Scarlett Vanyi, CAE on the current state of the website. The final discussion concerned the number, scheduling, and format (face-to-face or electronic) of Board meetings.



*Second Vice President Patty Kappen, EA, Immediate Past President Kim Kostl, EA, Treasurer Cap Porterfeld, EA, Secretary Andy Stamatelatos, EA, President Jean Nelsen, EA, and First Vice President Raven Deerwater, EA pose in front of the Capitol together during the September 24-25, 2011 Board Meeting.*

The Board passed three motions. The first motion was a dues waiver request. The second motion concerned awarding the hosting of the 2014 Annual Meeting to the Mission Chapter. The third motion was from the Finance and Budget (F&B) Committee to authorize the EVP to encumber the Society's real estate with a line of credit in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. This motion was complex and difficult and requires approval at two consecutive meetings by two-thirds of the Board. Because of the two-consecutive-meeting requirement, it was brought up in September. Before the January meeting, both the EVP and the F&B Committee will be working hard so that no such line of credit will be needed in the future, but the Board thought it was prudent to keep all options available while research was being conducted to improve CSEAs cash flow.



Andy Stamatelatos, EA is CSEA Secretary. He has been sole owner of a tax practice since 1980, after leaving a company called Tax Corporation of America. He specializes in business and rental property, and has been a real estate broker since 1980. He can be reached at [astam11@aol.com](mailto:astam11@aol.com).