

*Connecticut Chapter*  
*National Association of Tax Professionals*  
*October, 2009 Newsletter*

**Presidents Comments** by Bill Van Hall, EA

The years go by faster and faster. Seems like it was only a couple of months ago that I was writing for the last newsletter. But OH well!

I hope everyone was glad to see that the budget plan to require sales tax to be collected on the preparation of tax returns was not included in the final budget. But we are going to see some changes in the revenue that the state collects from our clients.

Now is the time to plan for your tax education for the coming year.

Our new Vice President, Dana Andrews is planning for our fall seminar to be held at the Marriott in Cromwell on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar and look for Dana's column in this newsletter and his upcoming flyer.

NATP is also planning for their Essential 1040 and Beyond the 1040 workshops to be held in Connecticut. You should have received information on their sessions. The first is at the Crown Plaza in Cromwell on November 9 and 10, the second at the Trumbull Marriott on the Merritt Parkway on November 11 and 12, and the third at the Hilton Garden Inn Bradley Airport on December 2 and 3. If you have not received their flyer, you can get all of the detail on the NATP web site.

We are always looking for ways to improve the services that we provide to you our members, so if there is anything that you feel your chapter could for you or your clients be sure to let any board member know.

We will be holding a board of directors meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cromwell Marriott at 4:00PM. We welcome any Connecticut NATP member to attend our board meetings

**IRS Approves New Per Diem Rates**  
**With Permission of Mary Mellem, EA**

The IRS Approves New Per Diem Rates Effective October 1, 2009

The IRS has approved new per diem amounts for meals and lodging effective October 1, 2009. These are the same rates which the Federal government uses to reimburse Federal government employees and that we referred to in an email sent out on September 10, 2009.

Here are some of the changes:

**MEALS & INCIDENTAL EXPENSES (M&IE)**

M&IE rates increase to \$46, 51, 56, 61, 66, and 71, a \$7 increase over the previous rates. Therefore we will need to know if our clients incurred the M&IE expenses before October 1 (old rates from \$39-\$64) or after September 30 (new rates).

**TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY**

As we expected, the IRS raises the transportation industry amount to \$59 for travel inside CONUS when the taxpayer is traveling among multiple per diem localities during the day. (Reminder: the allowable percentage of meals deductible for the transportation industry is 80% for 2008 and later years as previously set by Congress.) Again we will need to have a separation of the meals before October 1 and after September 30.

Some of the high-cost localities have changed for those employers using the High-Low Substantiation Method. Also as in past years, taxpayers have the choice of using the old or the new rates for the period from October 1 – December 31, 2009.

More details can be found at [www.irs.gov/pub/](http://www.irs.gov/pub/) by clicking on irs-drop and then on rp-09-47. The per diem rates can be found at [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov).

This text has been shared with you courtesy of: David & Mary Mellem, EAs & Ashwaubenon Tax Professionals, 920-496-1065 (fax 920-496-9111)



## **Welcome New Members**

By Mary Aresimowicz, EA

Welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Connecticut NATP chapter:

Wilson Acheampong, East Hartford  
Allen Arnell, Danbury  
Virginia Bell, Bloomfield  
John Dubois, Hartford  
Laura Greene, New Britain  
Henry Knoth, Stamford  
Michael Poe, Waterford  
John Sansonetti, Trumbull  
Aloysius Udoh, Hartford  
Kathryn Wild, New Hartford  
Jackie Ziegler, Hamden

## **Advertising in this Newsletter**

By John Littel

Do you know a vendor that comes to your office that would like to advertise to CT-NATP? They might have office supplies or consulting services. Do they need to advertise for goods and services they provide such as office equipment, consulting or employees?

Ask them to consider this newsletter for our targeted group of tax practitioners which is sent in May and October to our members.

### **Length:**

The ad would be an attachment to the newsletter up to one page in length - each vendor would get one page.

### **Cost:**

Single page ad \$50

CT-NATP member may advertise for half price \$25

### **Procedure**

Vendor would submit the ad (via email) to a Board of Director designate (John Littel JLTX@JLTX.COM) to approve or reject the ad. If the ad were controversial, the designate would meet with the CT chapter Board of Directors so they can make a decision. A check would be sent to the treasurer.

## **Newsletter Submissions**

If you would like to submit anything for the next CT Chapter newsletter, e-mail your information to [gparch1@aol.com](mailto:gparch1@aol.com).



**Connecticut Chapter**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAX PROFESSIONALS**

William Van Hall, EA President 203-798-9528

**NATP FALL Conference**

Cromwell Marriott Courtyard, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell CT 06416  
860-635-1001

**Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Let us meet and greet each other in preparation of another challenging tax season ahead!!

**Guest Speaker: Ron Woltjer, EA.** Ron Woltjer is a distinguished professional with more than 20 years of experience in working with self-employed individuals, farmers, and small business professionals. His work history demonstrates a wide range of educational, consultative, and business experience. He is the author of 2 books on Social Security and a comprehensive book on Elder Care.

**Registration:** 7:30 to 8:00 AM

**Meeting:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM including Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon refreshments.

**Morning Session:**

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM **Current topics from our friends at the IRS:** Joe McCarthy and His staff will present on current issues including a talk on non-enrolled preparer regulation, (and as time allows): Quick Alerts Sign Up, SMLLC EIN Issue, Andover Lockbox closing, 1040 Modernized e-file phase in, Issue Management Resolution System, EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System) – especially for small businesses, IRS Phone Forums / webinars, E-news for Tax Professionals.

10:00 to 10:15 Break

10:15 to 12:00 Ron Woltjer, EA

**Maximizing Social Security Benefits For Wage Earners And Their Families.**

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM to 2:50 PM Ron Woltjer, EA **Social Security Strategies for the Self Employed.**

2:50 to 3:00 PM Break

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM **Social Security Strategies for The Self Employed, Continued.**

**THIS SEMINAR QUALIFIES FOR 8 HOURS OF CPE!!**

Registration is due by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

You can send in your checks made out to CT-NATP to:

**Mary Aresimowicz**  
**211 New Britain Road Suite 209**  
**Kensington, CT 06037**  
**(860) 827-8787**

Registration Fees as Follows: Received by November 1<sup>st</sup>, Members rate \$ 125.00  
Received by November 1<sup>st</sup>, Non-Members rate \$ 150.00  
(Registrations received after November 1<sup>st</sup> are subject to an additional \$15 dollar surcharge)

**As an incentive to bring in new members we are offering a very special rebate to members who bring in Non-members as new members.** If a member brings in 1 new member, and that new member pays for their membership at the event, the member will **receive a 50% rebate of their event registration fee.** **Bring in 2 new members** and the member's conference is **FREE!** (Paid as a rebate to the original member after the conference is over) (The new members must come to the event, pay for their membership AND member price for the conference)

Registration Form: (circle one) Member Non-Member About to be a member

(Name of sponsoring member : \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID Number: (If Known) \_\_\_\_\_