



OFFICERS

President
Peggy Beasterfeld
(785) 232-1724

Vice President
Tim Graham
(785) 827-1304

Secretary
Joyce Schultz
(785) 524-4499

Treasurer
Rhonda Stillwell
(620) 538-3833

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Your President's Message...

President Peggy Beasterfeld attended the IRS Practitioner Liaison Meeting at the Kansas City Campus on May 1, 2009. It was attended by practitioners from nineteen organizations, representing five states. Eleven members of the KS Chapter of NATP were in attendance. In addition to the regular meetings, Peggy had the privilege of attending an executive meeting held with IRS executives and one practitioner representative from each organization of each state.

Editor's Note: Peggy e-mailed notes from Catherine Murphy, Senior Stakeholder Liaison for Missouri. The following information is taken from those notes.

Larry Orozco, Stakeholder Liaison Area Manager, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first area-wide meeting at the KC Campus. Johnny Witt, Submission Processing, Jeff Basilla, Filing and Payment Compliance, Robert Banks, Filed Director Accounts Management, and Jeff Stetina, Compliance Services all gave a brief welcome and explanation of their division.

Donna Lunnon, operations Manager Examination, gave a presentation on Correspondence Audits. Donna announced a new toll free number, 866-897-0177, that is available from 8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. for correspondence

audits. Anyone who answers can work any correspondence case and resolve it. Donna also told the group that ACS can now read the exam data and find the reason for the assessment. A new program has now been put into place to get the correspondence input as soon as it is received.

Patty Carman, operations manager, ACS Call-Site, spoke about the best method to contact campus employees, how to get levies released, hardship cases, installment agreements and more. Patty also talked about what to do when you want to speak with a supervisor and the Practitioner Priority Service.

Karen Gelling, IRS Site Coordinator, explained some of the functions of campus and then gave the group instructions for the Tour. Donna Vermillion, Chief Submission Processing, gave an overview of the processing center. Her presentation gave a further description of the processing areas located within the Kansas City campus. In the afternoon there was a guided tour of the campus.

Comments from participants were positive. Attendees felt the day was very informative and educational. It shed new light on the IRS tax processing centers.

IRS News.....

www.taxtalktoday.tv IRS has added two new Tax Talk Today programs on July 14, 2009 and October 6, 2009. Also, there will be a **phone forum on July 15, 2009**. Topics will be collection issues, installment agreements, OIC, COBRA Legislation, and 1099-OID schemes.

www.irs.gov Find the newest tax forms drafts by clicking on “Tax Professionals”, then the “More Topics” link, and scrolling down to “Draft Tax Forms Picklist”. New schedules to watch for include Schedule L (Standard Deduction) and M (Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credits).

www.ssa.gov The Social Security Administration offers a new service which allows employers to verify SSN’s 24/7. Also, check out **Social Security e-news** or **SSA W-2 News**.

Tax Professionals Asked.....The IRS Listened

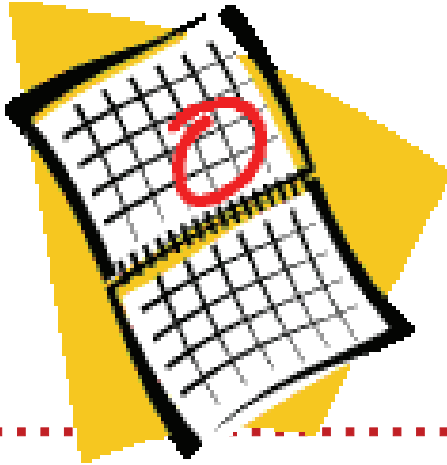
Tax professionals asked the IRS to review letters and notices to improve the language, readability, and make them more specific. Result: There is now a team of experts currently reviewing all letters and notices. IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman chartered the Taxpayer Communications Task group (TACT) to study and improve the clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness of written communications to taxpayers.

Tax professionals asked to work with revenue agents in auditing the tax return. Result: The IRS is currently identifying Field Exam audit procedures that may be in need of review and revision. Your feedback about the Field Exam audit process from the practitioner’s view will help direct resources to improve the quality of communications and the length of the audit process.

Tax professionals asked the IRS to ensure their calls were assigned to a customer service representative that had the experience to resolve their issue. Result: The IRS has several initiatives in place to improve customer service, including review of the automation of the phone system and ensuring that callers are assigned to an IRS representative who has the experience to resolve their issue expeditiously.

Tax professionals asked the IRS to make improvements to the IRS.gov website. Result: The IRS created a more extensive search engine to facilitate user research and established an “Ask the IRS” page and a FAQ page with links that connect the IRS publications to the tax code.

The Kansas Chapter, NATP Newsletter is distributed with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering tax, legal, accounting, or other professional or technical advice and assumes no responsibility whatsoever in connection with its use. You are advised to research any subject or topic before acting upon any information appearing in this publication.



IMPORTANT DATES

NATP Conference

Reno, NV July 20—23,
2009

KS Chapter Board Meeting

Wichita, KS August 8, 2009

KS Chapter Annual Meeting

Wichita, KS Oct 19, 2009

NATP 1040/1040X

Wichita, KS Oct 20—21, 2009
Overland Park, KS Nov 16—17,
2009

KS Chapter Fall Seminar

Overland Park, KS Nov 18, 2009

KS/IRS Tax Symposiums

Overland Park Sept 09, 2009

*A penny saved is a
government oversight.*

There's still time to register..... **NATP National Conference 2009**

July is almost here! It's not too late to sign up for the national conference to be held in Reno, NV from July 20-23, 2009. You can still sign up on-line at www.natptax.com and click on "Education/CPE".

Review the brochure and notice how many different topics are being covered. The seminars range from basic to advanced, and cover topics such as NOL's, Daycare Providers, Audits, Transportation Workers, Taxpayers in Distress, Depreciation, LLC's, Engagement Letters, and more! There's sure to be something you can learn that will help you meet the needs of your clientele. And where else could you cover so many topics and acquire up to 33 CPE's in just four days?

Find more info at www.natptax.com

KS Chapter Annual Meeting

Join your fellow KS NATP members for the annual meeting at **Wichita, KS on October 19, 2009** at the Wichita Airport Hilton. There will be representatives from both Kansas and Oklahoma bringing us up-to-date on the latest in tax law changes. We will be voting for officers, and the day will be followed by a fundraiser for the Rusty Chase Scholarship Fund. This meeting takes place the day before the NATP 1040 seminars in Wichita.







KS Chapter Fall Seminar







The fall seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn in **Overland Park on November 18, 2009**. The seminar content is different from the annual meeting, and will have speakers from Kansas and Missouri. This seminar takes place the day after the NATP 1040 seminars in Overland Park.









Mark you calendars and be watching your mail for more information and registration forms!

















 **Bugs!** 







 Summertime in Kansas brings a variety of weather. Days might be hot, humid, windy, wet, dry, or cool and springtime fresh! Along with the warm, muggy weather come bugs! 
 Some, like lightening bugs, dragonflies, and ladybugs are kind of pretty, and fun to watch. 
 Others, like mosquitoes, spiders, and ants can be a real problem. And then there is another kind of bug that is with us year-round..... 







 We've all received weird e-mails at one time or another. Recently I received an e-mail from one of our board members. It stated that she was sending me some pictures and then proceeded to give me instructions for "registering" to get these pictures. I was suspicious because I was not expecting any pictures from her, and why did I have to "register" to get them? 
 I contacted her to ask about the e-mail. She advised me NOT to open it, and said she began having this problem a while back when she opened an e-mail from another individual, and 
 Wham! Her computer was attacked! Bugs! She thought she had gotten rid of the problem. 

 About the middle of tax season I began receiving "questionable" e-mails from another preparer. I immediately let her know there was a problem and she found that a bug had entered her system. Every night this little devil was busy..... mailing out e-mails to everyone in her address book! The address book contained names of business contacts, family, and friends, including her pastor. The e-mails were beyond "questionable".....they were almost porn! She was so embarrassed. The first thing she did was cancel that e-mail address with her provider, then spent several days contacting people with an apology. It cost her some dollars and down time (right in the middle of tax season) to get this mess fixed. 
 
 
 

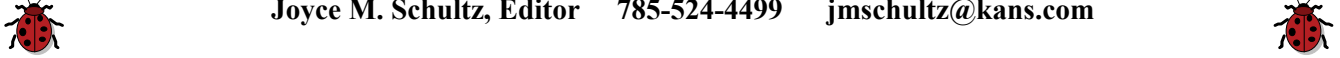
 I think we have all been guilty of forwarding e-mails from our office to our friends, family, and to other preparers. I am as guilty as anyone. No, they are not "questionable." In fact, many of them are encouraging, uplifting, funny, thought provoking, and cute. But even when we know the person who sent the e-mail we don't always know the person they received it from. Have you ever noticed how many times an e-mail has been forwarded? Have you ever wondered how many bugs travelled the dark cracks and tunnels of the internet from another computer and into yours? 
 
 
 

 One area of concern for us as tax professionals is that our computer systems contain so much information about our business and our clients. We must make every effort to protect the privacy of our clients and our business. We should not compromise that information by sending and receiving e-mails that contain jokes, stories, etc. from sources which we may (or may not) be familiar with. If we choose to send these e-mails we should do so on our personal computers, not our business computers. 
 
 

 Don't misunderstand.....e-mail can be a very useful tool. I like using this media. It is a fast way to send and receive information important to our business. The recipient can let you know in minutes whether or not they have the information. And I do enjoy a good e-mail letter from a friend. But even when used properly, we can't always control the viruses and bugs which might attach themselves to a file or picture. 
 
 

 If we stop forwarding, can we get rid of the bugs? Probably not. Someone out in "internet land" will always propagate a new bug or virus in their internet lab. But by choosing to reduce the amount of stories and jokes we send, we can reduce the odds of being attacked by a swarm of unwanted bugs. Hopefully, no matter what the weather is in Kansas, we can eliminate some of the bugs. 
 
 

Joyce M. Schultz, Editor 785-524-4499 jmschultz@kans.com





Tax Office Tales
True Stories of Tax Office Happenings
Funny, Serious, Ridiculous, Unbelievable

The first of our stories is in. This came from LB in Mission, KS.

On April 1, 2009 I was wondering if we would get everybody's tax returns completed. Then a telephone call was transferred to my office. The lady on the line explained that she was not a client but would appreciate it if I would give her a little information. I told her that I would try to help.

She proceeded to tell me that the Federal withholding had decreased on her husband's paycheck. She was concerned that this would create a balance due on the 2009 tax return. I explained about the stimulus measures that had taken place and she seemed to understand.

Then she asked what amount should have been withheld on \$1,000 if he claimed two exemptions. I was feeling the pressure of getting returns done, but I grabbed the new (confusing) withholding table and let her know. She said that was really close to what had been withheld.

Then she asked for the amounts based on \$1,200 in earnings, then \$1,400, and then \$1,500. Well, my patience was wearing thin, but I gave her the amounts.

Then came the straw that broke the camel's back. *She wanted to know if I could just go ahead and read her the entire withholding table!* I told her we were under a deadline to complete our client's returns and that it would not be possible to read the complete chart to her. I told her the chart was available on the internet. She told me she did not have a computer and it was too much trouble to go use the one at the library. So much for trying to be helpful. LB

This comes from the Editor, JMS in Lincoln, KS.

One of my clients brought his tax info to me which included lists of all his income and expenses. As I prepared the return based on his "lists", I realized that his fuel expenses were really high for his business. I considered the fact that fuel prices were up, but it still seemed excessive. I asked to see all his receipts, (which he was not happy about because he said they all matched his list) but he produced them. His list did indeed match the receipt totals dollar for dollar. He had kept and totaled all of his receipts and put them all under "fuel". However, in reviewing the receipts, I discovered that most of his purchases were from the local convenience store and not only contained charges for fuel and tire repair, they also showed charges for pop, snacks, cigarettes, and beer. Lot's of beer! By the case....Beer!!! He said he didn't think the IRS was going to check all of those receipts and I told him we were **not** going to give them a reason to! I disallowed those receipts and advised him to pay for his business expenses separate from personal expenses. I thought about asking if he enjoyed the party (parties)!

If you have a story to share, we'd love to hear from you. E-mail to jmschultz@kans.com.



“THE INFORMER”
SCHULTZ TAX SERVICES
Joyce M. Schultz, Editor
PO BOX 247
LINCOLN, KS 67455



Member Get a Member

Do you know someone who might be interested in NATP and all the benefits for members?

You might want to check out national’s “Member Get a Member” campaign. You could win a \$15 or \$30 gift card, a free membership, or even a \$1,000 in cash!

Just put your name on NATP Membership Enrollment forms in the “Who recommended you to NATP?” line and hand them out to non-member tax professionals. When they join, you win!

Officers/Board Members

Peggy Beasterfeld, Pres
(785) 232-1724
amtaxsvcs@sbcglobal.net

Tim Graham, Vice Pres
(785)827-1304
timjrtax@cox.com

Joyce Schultz, Secretary
(785) 524-4499
jmschultz@kans.com

Rhonda Stillwell, Treasurer
(620) 538-3833
RSbiz2@embarqmail.com

Jim Cain, Board
(316) 686-6500
dejafs@cox.net

Veda Downs, Board
(316) 524-0143
wisewoman73@hotmail.com

Susan Fesler, Board
(620) 286-5294

Terri Ryman, Board
(620)697-2422
tryman@elkhart.com

Pete Phillips
(316)683-9557
taxsvs@swbell.net

Committee Chairs

Janet Cowick
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“Here to Serve”