Going Once…. Going Twice....

Sold!! This was the topic of many conversations at the annual Spring Fling. One of our very own members, Nelda Bunch, woke up the crowd and got them bidding on some great items. Nelda’s wit and skills kept everyone on the edge of their seats. At the end of the auction there was over $4,600 raised to start up our New Scholarship Fund.

Congratulations Wes!!!!

At Spring Fling this year Wesley Mott, Sr. was recognized for his outstanding service to the Chapter. He was given a Certificate of Recognition for twenty years as a NATP Member and plaque for service as the AL Chapter Education Chairman. Thank you Wes for all of your hard work!!!
Message from the President.....

Dear Members,

We had a wonderful Spring Fling!! If you missed this year… you really missed a great time of education, networking and socializing opportunities. The education was very much on par for today’s tax professional and the kick-off of our Scholarship Fund was a huge success. Ms. Nelda Bunch auctioneered our first Annual Scholarship Auction to a phenomenal and prosperous start, with a total of $4,638 raised during the auction, with an additional $1,275 in donations. THANK YOU MS. NELDA! We could not have done this without you!

We started our Annual Spring Fling Banquet off with, per your request, a seafood buffet. The shrimp cocktail, cheese salad and scrumptious shrimp gumbo were my personal favorites. Ms. Deb Lewis, our Board representative, sent out a “Salute” to all of our Veterans and thanked them for their faithful service to our Country.

We were also privileged to recognize another one of our members for Twenty Years of Membership, Mr. Wesley Mott. Wes also received a plaque for his years of service to our organization as Education Chairman. Wes has been on our Alabama Chapter Board of Directors for many years, and continues to serve as a Board Member. Thank you Wes for all your hard work as our Education Chairman, you did a fine job! This successful evening finished with our first Annual Scholarship Auction, which as I have already stated was a resounding success.

Don’t forget National Conference is coming up fast! If you haven’t already made your reservations and registered for Conference, you better hurry!! July 8th to 11th is coming upon us in a big hurry. This conference is one of the best places to get the “where withal” to further the success of your tax practice. Don’t miss it!

Lastly, a reminder of the coming Annual Membership Meeting and Fall Conference, 2013 on November 7 & 8th located in Pelham, Alabama. Mark your calendars now and watch Chapter Weekly for Agenda and Reservation Information.

As always, as your Chapter President, I encourage you to contact me or any of your Chapter Board Members with any suggestions, questions or comments you may have. We are here to serve our members. (Contact information listed on page 6 of this newsletter.)

Shirley L. Bolt, EA
AL NATP President
MEMBER HIGHLIGHT......

My name is Nicole Tuck and I operate Tax Target located in Tuscaloosa, AL. Originally from Detroit, Michigan I made my way to Alabama via Texas where I completed my bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering at Prairie View A&M University. After graduation I accepted a job with a small tax firm in Alabama because the owner convinced me I would make enough to pay for grad school the next year. Doing taxes and staying in Alabama was not in my plan. This was my first lesson in the importance of building clientele. Because I was paid commission only, per client, I did not make enough to pay for school that year. Instead I earned the respect of the clients I serviced who wanted to make sure I stuck around to do their taxes the next year.

To make a super long story short, I did stick around Alabama to grow my tax business. I did finally make it to graduate school and completed my Master in Engineering and Management at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. Doing taxes helped to pay for that degree yet my clients loyalty convinced me not to work in engineering but to work for them.

Tax Target has been preparing individual tax returns for seven years now. I serve the middle income community and small business owners. In addition to taxes I provide bookkeeping, payroll and change management consulting to various small businesses around town. I love what I do, especially since being introduced to NATP at my first conference in Austin, TX. The knowledge I received that week alone was so informative I knew I was hooked for the duration of my tax life. And I’m so lucky to be involved in such an awesome chapter. I look forward to becoming more involved as the years progress.

Getting to Know Each Other

Each newsletter a different member will be highlighted. This is to allow us to get to know one another. Sometimes we go to conference and don’t get to meet everyone. Getting to know other members allows for networking and building a successful chapter.
2013-2014 Board Nominations

November 2013 brings us to the time of year when new Board Members are elected. Each year there are approximately 4 vacancies of Board Members rotating off the Board. To be a Board Member requires a desire to serve the Alabama NATP in a leadership position, to be a member in good standing in NATP, and to have the time to devote to NATP activities. Your Board Members work diligently behind the scenes to provide you with excellent educational opportunities, networking, membership activities, leadership and teamwork experiences, and to keep you up to date on tax knowledge areas. If you feel that you can do these things and have a true desire to help improve you Alabama Chapter, please let Lorene Reed (r_lorene@bellsouth.net) or Deb Lewis (TeamDeb@CableOne.net) know. You will be asked to verify in writing that you would like to run and to present a short bio to the membership in November before the vote. Please consider doing this.

Thanks,
Deb Lewis, Nominating Chair

Have you Survived the Maze?

We are now half way through the year and the most stressful part of tax season is over. It was a tough year as far as waiting on Congress to make final decisions. These decisions carried over into the new year which caused delays. The delays had people confused and had a major impact on the rush within the office. Tax law alone is already large and confusing but when Congress is delaying decisions it makes it tough.

Albert Einstein once said, “The hardest thing in the world to understand is the Income Tax.” If the person who developed the general theory of relativity had a hard time understanding tax law imagine how hard it is for the average taxpayer to understand.

In 1913 there were a little over four hundred pages of tax law. As of 2012 there was a count of approximately 73,608 pages. That is in the tune of over nine million words. That is a lot for any person to read let alone remember. We also have the U.S. Tax Code (Title 26) that we must take into consideration. There have been more than 5,000 changes to the tax code (Title 26) since 2001 or more than one a day. The tax code (Title 26) holds more than four million words, nearly five times as many as the King James Bible.

Considering the extent of tax law and tax code it is very difficult to sometimes give answers to taxpayers. Based on history it appears the Tax Code and Tax Laws will continue to grow. We must continually stay up to date. With that being said another tax season rush is down and we will have to wait and see what is in store for us in 2014. Just guessing but there will probably be some additions to the maze in 2014.
Note from the Education Chair....

WOW!!! What a great time we had at our Spring Fling 2013! I think we had the best education conference ever. There were 70 in attendance with 85 at the Seafood Banquet and Auction. Although, the sound check was done prior to beginning and all seemed to be ready to go, the sound system still gave us a few problems, we finally conquered its uniqueness and were able to get on with the program. (“Batteries” are a necessity for today’s wireless world!)

Nelda Bunch you are the Best!!! Our first annual auction would not have been such a great success without you! Never know what hidden talents people have, you did a wonderful job and for myself and your Alabama Board of Directors “THANK YOU!”

We had a great program with a 98% overall approval, which I think is phenomenal, although I would have loved to please “everyone”. 😊 I am working on Fall Conference 2013 Education line up now. There are a few items that have to be finalized before sending the Agenda to National NATP Office for approval. Upon receipt of said approval I will send Brittany the Agenda and Registration Forms for publication in a Newsletter. I will also post to NATP’s Chapter Weekly and on our NATP Alabama webpage.

Education is of upmost importance to every tax professional. With our continued tax changes it is imperative that we stay abreast of all these changes, i.e. Affordable Health Care. Many of you are requesting information on the upcoming Health care issues. This subject is already on our Fall 2013 Agenda, at the current time I have a request into IRS Agent Ms. Nora Huffman and she is working on having someone either present to speak to us or we may have to do an IRS Webinar. Also, I am going to Phoenix, AZ and will be attending all classes I possible can.

NOW… I have a request for our membership…. 

In an effort to reduce confusion, I have requested that the Education Committee be reduced from 12 to 15 to 5 or 7 people; One to Two people from the Board and the balance from our Membership. That means “you”! SO, if you would like to have input in our education program and are willing to volunteer your time and efforts, please send me an email to: kathystax@millry.net. I am also looking for qualified people willing to teach, you do not have to attend education committee meetings to teach so please send me your resume’ and a list of topics you feel comfortable teaching and that are pertinent to today’s tax professionals. Then the education committee can review and make decisions for presentation for approval to your Alabama Board of Directors then be sent on to National.

I need your help and suggestions to be able to bring you the education you need. I look forward to your emails. As always, if I can help you in any way don’t hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Kathy R Hallford, EA
AL NATP Secretary & Education Chairman
**Little Humor**

To: Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20001

Enclosed is my 2003 Form 1040, together with payment. Please take note of the attached article from USA Today archives. In the article, you will note that the Pentagon paid $171.50 each for hammers and NASA paid $600.00 each for toilet seats.

Please find enclosed in this package four toilet seats (value $2,400.00) and six hammers (value $1,029.00). This is in payment for my total tax due of $3,429.00.

Out of a sense of patriotic duty, and to assist in the political purification of our government, I am also enclosing a 1.5 inch Phillips head screw, for which HUD duly recorded and approved a purchase value of $22.00, as my contribution to fulfill the Presidential Election Fund option on Form 1040.

It has been a pleasure to pay my taxes this year, and I look forward to paying them again next year in accordance with officially established government values.

Sincerely,
Another satisfied taxpayer

**At the Corner of 230 & Circular**

Question:
What section in Circular 230 handles the omission of information by the client?

Last Newsletter’s Answer:
1. Rules Governing Authority to Practice
2. Duties and Restrictions Relating to Practice before the IRS
3. Sanctions for Violation of the Regulations
4. Rules Applicable to Disciplinary Proceedings
5. General Provisions

**What Would You Do?**

A practitioner prides himself on providing outstanding client service. He visits the house of a new client to obtain tax information and meets client’s wife and four children. The practitioner is in awe of the large house and new Mercedes SUV with temporary tags in the driveway.

Upon reviewing the documents the practitioner is surprised. The client gives him documents showing $50,000 wages, $40,000 mortgage interest, and $600 of interest and dividends. Client claims to have no other income and tells the practitioner to work his “tax magic” because he has a big cruise coming up next month.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Any comments, suggestions or concerns reference the newsletter please direct them to Brittany at: alstaxservice1@centurytel.net or 334-393-3860.