NEVADA CHAPTER NATP NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Chillin' in Phoenix - NATP National Conference & Expo  By Kathy L. Verne, RTRP, NV Chapter Secretary

We at the Nevada Chapter of NATP would like to extend our invitation to join us at an EVENT you will never forget...It's Chillin' in Phoenix the NATP National Conference & Expo from July 8th - the 11th being held at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa. Please sign up to attend the conference now at www.natptax.com. Their early bird special ends June 6th for a savings of $100. The best speakers in the country are gathering where you can earn up to 27 hours of continuing education.

This is truly the year's greatest four-day event for all tax professionals looking to help their business learn from our tax industry leaders. The expo will be filled with vendors that will make all attendees really appreciate how the conference will benefit them and their workers in the future.

The Nevada Chapter will be holding a Fantastic evening full of events that include a Charity Auction, Chapter Showcase and a Banquet Gala with a dinner and entertainment. On Sunday night, first-time attendees will be honored with a special party. You will have so much fun meeting and exchanging your ideas and conquests with other tax professionals. Please give yourself a reward and be dazzled with the information that is awaiting your presence at this year's Conference. Looking forward to Seeing YOU there!

Welcome NEW Board Members serving the Nevada Chapter of NATP

Joe Kennedy, EA, RTRP, began preparing tax return for the public in 1970 in New York. In 1972 he built a sea cargo company which eventually had 16 domestic and 12 foreign offices. After selling the company, in 1986 to a US publicly traded corporation, he served as CEO of a specialty paper company, a trucking company, a construction company and an environmental remediation company. His area of specific skills included accounting controls, software development for integrated business systems and tax
Ellen Nakamura, RTRP, is a current member of the Government Relations Committee and one of the Chapters StateNet representatives. She has contributed to the Chapter by submitting articles to the Newsletter Committee. On May 25th, she received her Registered Tax Return Preparer designation. She is currently a volunteer tax preparer for the Nevada Legal Services Low Income Tax Clinic. Ellen volunteered for the NATP Nevada Board to help expend the state chapter's footprint in Nevada. Her continuing interest is in technology and how to best implement it to make an organization better. She is interested in the workings of government in the private sector and wants to work on issues that will impact the tax professionals community by the IRS's recent programs and initiatives.

Kathy L. Verne, RTRP, operates an income tax business in North Las Vegas Nevada. Her business has been located here in Nevada for over 17 years now. Before moving to Nevada she lived in Upstate New York where she originally started her business in 1976. Having grown up with a mom in the accounting and tax business, the family tradition continues with her daughter and granddaughter in New York. Kathy prepares personal and business returns specializing in Offer in Compromises at both Federal and State levels. She runs a business of over 800 clients that rely on her specialties. She has been a member of NATP for over 20 years. She is currently an RTRP and is looking forward to becoming an Enrolled Agent.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS from IRS**  **By Joe Kennedy, EA**

If a continuing education attendee has a PTIN, providers should report it to the IRS. Providers should request a PTIN from a student at the time of registration, regardless of a participant's credentials.

Providers may now select a new audience type of Other Tax Return Preparers (OTRP’s) to new and existing CE programs. OTRP is not an official designation, BUT a term to capture tax return preparers who are not enrolled agents (EAs) or enrolled retirement plan agents (ERPAs). IRS CE is only mandatory for EAs and ERPAs. OTRPs may take continuing education voluntarily.

**The Future of the RTRP**  **By Shirley Callahan, EA**

Preston Benoit, Deputy Director of the Return Preparer Office, said that due to the Loving injunction, the IRS neither recognizes nor endorses the RTRP credential. The IRS will not comment on whether or not a professional can use the credential, but he did say there was nothing stopping professionals from displaying their certificates. On April 23 Sue Gaston, IRS CE Director, started using the term “formally known as RTRP” and formally designated RTRP. She has also stated there is NO voluntary RTRP testing and refunds are being processed for the year of 2013.
I think now we have all come to appreciate the benefits of a registration and education system for tax professionals. Taxpayers, who often believe the preparer is to blame for an incorrect return, generally focus on the size of the refund instead of the accuracy of the return. Our question to Congress, IRS, and the Justice Department is "Who is representing the legitimate preparers whose businesses are negatively impacted by unfair competition from preparers who do not play by the rules?"

In my opinion the RTRP program WILL continue. We just won't see it happen by December of 2013. The program was meant to eliminate the Tax Gap because of shoddy work by so-called tax preparers. Congress was willing to provide assistance, but IRS told them they had enough authority without passing any laws. However, preparers may not be happy with any additions Congress may dress up.

While the Loving Case is being litigated, the House Bill H.R. 1570 was submitted to Congress on April 15th, 2013 in their efforts to legitimize the RTRP designation. It is less than 400 words long; however, they added a "reasonable fee" limitation to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury. Congress may add even more requirements than IRS asked for. For example, Congress may also require CPAs and attorneys to be included, or their test to include not only individual tax returns, but a good working knowledge of all types of returns. Perhaps there maybe support for special licensing to be required for preparers of EITC claims. Whatever your personal preferences would be on preparer licensing, now would be the time to contact your congressional representatives. Their contact information can be easily located at: http://www.contactingthecongress.org.

How NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES Helps the Community   By Ellen Nakamura

Nevada Legal Services offers a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) where clients may receive legal assistance, including tax representation when appropriate. In controversies with the IRS regarding tax issues. Nevada Legal Services can also help taxpayers respond to IRS notices and correct account problems.

Services Nevada Legal Services Provides the Community are:

1) Assist with an audit or assist in obtaining audit reconsideration
2) File a petition or appearing in Tax Court
3) Prepare a settlement offer to settle a tax debt
4) Request q stay in collections
5) File a past due tax return & amend returns in connection with a federal tax controversy
6) Help settle tax debts through the Offer in Compromise (OIC) program
7) Help remove an IRS levy on Social Security Benefits Filing
If your financially-strapped tax clients face IRS problems and cannot afford to pay for professional tax assistance, they may qualify for tax representation program if their income falls within 250% of federal poverty guidelines. For 2012, one person earning less than $27,925 per year and a family of four earning less than $57,625 per year should qualify for assistance from Nevada Legal Services.

EAs or CPAs who are willing to help one client from intake to conclusion pro bono are asked to call (702)386-0404 to lend a helping hand. Let them know what organization you are a member, what day of the week and the best time to meet. The main office for the LITC is in Las Vegas but if you live outside of Las Vegas, please consider helping your neighbors where you live.

This article is submitted by our Tax Network friend Ellen Nakamura, RTRP. Ever ready to lend a helping hand, Ellen has devoted tremendous efforts helping taxpayers through AARP, VITA, and now Nevada Legal Services.

**Your PTIN Account - All New & Improved** **By Shirley Callahan, EA**

Your PTIN Account has been expanded. At www.IRS.gov/PTIN the "Manage My Account" feature now allows you to edit almost any field in your account. However, if your name changes, there are special procedures to notify your IRS; and don't forget to notify your CE provider too.

You can also view your CE credits online for your 2013 courses. Continuing education providers will report completed CE programs to IRS on a QUARTERLY BASIS regardless of your designation AS LONG AS you have a PTIN. If you fail to give the provider the correct PTIN at the time of the event, providers are no longer required to chase you down to get it from you. Last year in 2012 providers had to send one request to students to obtain their PTIN info, but now are relieved of this duty. If you fail to bring your PTIN with you when attending a CE event, you need to immediately notify your CE provider.

For those who have passed the RTRP exam, it is advisable to maintain the same education requirements as in 2012 (10 federal / 3 update / 2 ethics). In case the RTRP program is revived later this year, your RTRP designation will remain intact. As our friend Gregg Graening, Past President of the NATP Chapter in Kentucky, says "Education is perhaps the only asset that cannot be taken away from you."

If you receive excess Ethics and Update classes, those credits can be used toward your "Federal Taxation" CE credits. Also new is that PTIN holders and RTRPs can receive up to 10 CE credits for attending EA Exam Review courses. Remember that IRS does not communicate with you directly through your email account. Instead they will send you an email from TaxPro_PTIN@irs.gov, which will instruct you to go to your online PTIN account to retrieve your "secure message!"
The Best Reason to Take the EA Exam NOW       By Shirley Callahan, EA

Have you looked at the Health Care Reform Act and its 21 new taxes? On January 1, 2013 all Americans are expected to have health insurance or pay penalties. If you are a dependant, you are responsible for providing them insurance too or paying the penalty. The government has provided subsidies and changes to help Americans comply with their responsibilities, and IRS has been assigned the duty of reconciliation and collection.

When the RTRP program is reinstated, the new Health Care laws will be on the RTRP exam as well as the EA exam. Since you cannot take the RTRP test right now, how much better to take the EA exam this year on 2012 tax law instead of having to know the myriad of tax laws coming with the Health Care Reform?

Currently, the EA Exam has a 70% pass rate which is higher than any point in history. You can do it. Contact ShirleyCallahanEA@yahoo.com or (702)437-1500 for details on Lisa Ihm’s EA Exam Review in Las Vegas this summer and fall.

Last but NOT least....Remember NATP members to use your FREE research service...Their answers will provide you also with supporting documentation at no additional charge to you. NATP strives to bring you success in your business through many member benefits designed for the busy tax professional.

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Committee Chairpersons:

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Convention Committee/Sp Events:: Kathy, Stephanie, Linda-Chair

Education Committee: Hank, Stephanie, Robert, Shirley-Chair

Newsletter Committee: Carrie, Robert, Ellen, Shirley, Kathy-Chair

Government Relations Committee: Robert, Hank, Ellen-Chair

Membership/Professional Standards Committee:

Hank, Robert, Ellen-Chair


Website/Technology Committee: Shirley, Carrie