

## MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

HOPE YOU ALL ARE IN THE MIDST OF A PROFITABLE TAX SEASON AND ARE MANAGING TO FIND AN OUNCE OF LIFE BALANCE.



Did you make it to the Famous NJ Tax Seminar? If so, you know that the state is making a few changes to their programs and developing a portal to help us preparers going forward. So, we as a chapter will have one of the members of the NJ Department of Taxation, teach our members how to use this portal. His mini seminar will be held in the spring. Please keep a look out for more details.

We have other interesting changes to our Annual Meeting come Fall. We will combine 2 of our best seminars in one day. Brad Messner & Jason Daughtry will both be joining us to for this event and bringing to us their specialties, AI & Due Diligence.

Something else exciting, Forum will be held in Philadelphia this Fall! Hopefully many of you will be able to attend. We look forward to planning an event for our NJ members during that time.

If you haven't already, please consider liking the NJ NATP member Facebook page. The discussions on this page are very informative and sometimes humorous. Plus you can always look on this page to see upcoming NJ events.

During 2024 NJ celebrated its 35th Year as a Chapter. We are proud of this amazing organization. One reason for our success is that the NJ NATP takes educating their members very seriously. We love hearing your suggestions for topics. Keep them coming.

We love volunteers. Each of you has bright ideas that the Board of Directors wants to hear. Ask anyone on the board how to get involved. We would love the help.

*Alyce has been a member of NATP for 15 years. She is a partner at Taylor Tax Group with her mother, former NJ President and National Board Director, Colette A G Taylor. Their practice is Barrington NJ and Alyce is opening another practice in Sea Isle City, NJ. Alyce has served as the Vice President and Secretary of NJNATP and is well into her third year as President.*

## save the DATE

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025**

Topics, speaker and location: to be announced

**NATP TAXPOSIUM**

**JULY 21-23, 2025**

Caesars's Palace, Las Vegas, NV

**WEBINAR OR IN PERSON**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025**

**NATP TAX FORUM**

**SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2025**

Location: Sheraton Downtown, Philadelphia, PA

**NJNATP ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025**

Location, topics and speakers (possibly two):  
to be announced

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025**

to be announced

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# NJ TAX TIP OF THE QUARTER

## SPRING, 2025

BY MARILYN H. AYERS, CPA



**O**UR JANUARY NJ SEMINAR HELD JANUARY 11, 2025 AT THE APA HOTEL IN ISELIN WAS VERY INFORMATIVE. ALTHOUGH, THERE ARE FEW TAX CHANGES IN NJ, THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT UPDATES THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION.

### NJ TAX PORTAL

The New Jersey Tax Portal will launch in the spring of 2025 for the filers of NJ Sales and Use tax including 16 other taxes under the Sales & Use tax category. Every business filing and paying tax under the NJ Sales and Use category will be able to register their business in the portal. Tax Professionals will also register and our business clients will give us access to their accounts. Besides filing tax returns on our clients' behalf, it will allow tax professionals to have access to current and prior year account information and allow for more direct communication with the Division to solve problems.

Filing and paying taxes without a portal will be done as a "Guest." However, it will limit the access to account information. The ability to file using the NJ telephone system will be discontinued when the NJ Portal is up and running.

**Our NJ Chapter of NATP hopes to have a webinar with a full demonstration of the Portal by the NJ Division of Taxation after tax season, please watch for further details.**

### Combined Application for Property Tax Relief:

The Division announced a new simplified application for taxpayers 65 and older and SSD recipients who qualify for the Property Tax Reimbursement program. The PTR booklet, often referred to as the Senior Freeze Blue Book, will be replaced with this combined **Application for Property Tax Relief**. This combined application will include the Anchor program, the Property Tax reimbursement program and the NJ STAY program. This new book will be mailed to taxpayers 65 and older and SSD recipients in late February or early March. The application will also be available on the NJ website and you will be able to electronically file the application instead of mailing the application, if you wish. The Anchor will not be separate application for those taxpayers over age 65 and SSD recipients.

Taxpayers will no longer be required to provide verification of real estate taxes with the combined application. Of course, they must still meet the eligibility for each of the three programs to receive reimbursements. The deadline to file the application will remain the same, October 31st.

Once the budget is passed and these programs are funding in the budget, reimbursements will be mailed to qualifying taxpayers on the same schedule as last year. PTR checks will be mailed after July 15th on a rolling basis as applications are received. Anchor checks will be mailed in the fall of 2025. The STAY reimbursement amounts will not be issued until February 2026.

Those taxpayers who filed applications will receive a notice from NJ in November 2025 outlining benefits they qualified for and how much they received through the Anchor and PTR reimbursement programs and any remaining benefit the taxpayer is entitled to through the STAY program. STAY reimbursements will not begin until February 2026 and will be issued quarterly to homeowners.

Anchor applications for all those under the age of 65 or not receiving SSD will be mailed separately in August or September 2025. *Only seniors and SSD recipients are eligible to file the combined application.*

Please watch the NJ Chapter News for updates and more information.

I hope you all have a very successful tax season and, as our friend Kathryn Keane always reminds us, take care of yourself first so you can help your clients!

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Marilyn graduated from Rider University in June 1978 with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Accounting and earned her CPA license in 1990. Marilyn's practice, established in 1988, provides tax and accounting services to approximately 900 individual clients and businesses, where service is the number one priority. Marilyn has been a member of NATP since 2000 and served on the New Jersey Board of Directors from 2004 through 2016, including secretary, vice president and past president of the New Jersey Chapter. Marilyn is also a member of the AICPA and the New Jersey Society of CPAs.

## From the Editor

BY JEAN MILLERCHIP, EA



# ARE YOU READY???

## HERE WE GO AGAIN!!!

Hopefully, you were able to attend NJNATP's Famous NJ State Tax Seminar on January 11, 2025, at the APA Hotel, packed with attendees! Our excellent speakers from Taxation University took us through NJ Updates. There are not a lot of changes for this year, except for the new Property Tax Relief application, which combines the Senior Freeze, ANCHOR and Stay NJ. Make sure you read Marilyn Ayers' Tax Tip of the Quarter, in which she explains the particulars about it. I also put in a little paragraph, giving you the link to access the complete booklet with instructions and the application. The link is: [propertytaxrelief.nj.gov](http://propertytaxrelief.nj.gov). The book is still BLUE, and is called PAS-1. The instructions are clear, but I'm betting our clients will be confused, so let's be prepared!!

Keep on the lookout for upcoming educational events. June 12th should be an in person event, several topics are being discussed as well as location. **Save the Date**, on Page 1 gives dates and tentative details. The NJ Chapter is very excited about having the NATP Tax Forum this year at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, September 26-27th. Registration is open and is discounted early in the year. Plenty of things to see in Philadelphia, and many wonderful restaurants.

Welcome to **Alicia Foster**, our newest Board member! Alicia has been active in the Chapter for the past few years, helping at educational events, contributing to the newsletter, taking many pictures at events, always ready to jump in and volunteer when needed. Welcome, Alicia – you're a great addition to the NJ Board!

NOW.... Are we ready for tax season? Remember NATP is always there for you; so many various webinars are offered- mostly only 1 or 2 hours- on so many aspects of our tax practices. Sometimes, a refresher is just what is needed. Kathryn Keane did an excellent 2 hour webinar earlier in January, to get us ready for tax season, and always with some last minute changes.

As I always say, put yourself first (no, it is not being selfish), make sure to take time for yourself and stay healthy! Take care of you, so you can take care of your family and all those clients. When stress starts to hit me, it's a short walk up the street to watch the ocean. Even when it's rough and angry, the ocean brings peace.

Until next time.....

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Jean Millerchip, EA has been in the tax business since 1976, and is in private practice in Lavallette, New Jersey. She earned her EA license in 1985. Jean has been a member of NATP since 1988, and served on the NJ Board of Directors from 1991 until 2009, in various positions, including Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President. In 2008, Jean was elected to the National Board of Directors, and served a full 9 year term, during which she served as the National Vice president for 5 years and the National President for 2 years. Jean can be reached at [jean.millerchip@gmail.com](mailto:jean.millerchip@gmail.com).

## SPOTLIGHT ON NATP: Happenings

BY TERESA MARRON CPA



**DID YOU KNOW THAT ALL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS INCLUDE BUSINESS TOOLS? HERE IS WHAT YOU HAVE ACCESS TO WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP:**

- 1) AFTR Course and the Exam!
- 2) The review course for Part 1 of the EA exam!
- 3) Twice a year you will get a newsletter that you can send to your clients.
- 4) Downloadable tools that can be found in the Tax Knowledge Center.

### In the Tax Knowledge Center you will find:

- 1) Tax Act Summaries – easy to understand summaries of the most recent and past tax acts.
- 2) Toolkits for disaster preparedness called the Plan and Recover Toolkit and Section 7216 for disclosure and consent forms for your clients.
- 3) Whitepapers that address pertinent tax topics such as *Due Diligence*, *Accounting Method Changes* and others.
- 4) Worksheets and Tax Information to aid in tax preparation to keep you organized and accurate!
- 5) *You Make the Call* archive of tax questions and answers to difficult, but not uncommon questions.

I hope you find these helpful to use the valuable resources found in your membership no matter what your level is this tax season! Wishing you a smooth tax season with many rewards!

### The Famous RMD Chart

Year of Birth	Start RMD's after reaching age:
Before 7/1/1949	70 ½
7/1/1949 - 12/30/1950	72
1951-1959	73
1960 or later	75

## STATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Each year the NJ Chapter acknowledges one of its members for their outstanding contribution to the Chapters' success, with the State Member of the Year award. **Josh Melum** was the unanimous choice for the 2024 State Member of the Year for many



reasons. Josh has been a member of NATP since 2012 and joined the NJ Board of Directors a few years later. Josh served as VP in 2019 and 2020, making sure that educational events were timely, pertinent and of interest to the members, as well as being in charge of all AV equipment at all events. He then ran for President during the COVID pandemic, serving in 2021 and 2022.

Josh kept the Chapter on track during the pandemic, setting up Zoom Board meetings, so we never missed a beat; he began offering webinars for the members, as well as offering 2 years of our Famous NJ State Tax Seminar online, when we couldn't meet in person. Josh has been the one who gave us the confidence to present webinars and simulcasts, giving the members more ways to attend our great education events. He, with his good humor, helped us through technology issues and did it all with patience. Without his expertise, the Chapter could not have moved forward.

Josh has been in charge of keeping the NJNATP Chapter website up to date for many years, and has served on numerous committees of NJNATP.

Josh, in your years on the NJ Board, you led us through a pandemic and made us a better Chapter. You are truly worthy of being the State Member of the Year for 2024.

The NJ Chapter has been presenting this award since 2008. Following is a list of all who have received it over the years:

2008	Jean Millerchip	2017	Sherry Diamond
2009	Willie Lau	2018	Kathryn Keane
2010	Robert Flach	2019	Ken Portera
2011	Colette Taylor	2020	Marc Standig
2012	Chuck Wyland	2021	Julia Robinson
2013	Barbara Fletcher	2022	Teresa Marron
2014	Marilyn Ayers	2023	MaryRose Martino
2015	Jaimee Hammer	2024	Josh Melum
2016	Joyce Skerlanitz		







## MANY THANKS, NJNATP MEMBERS, FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

As you know, NJNATP adopted Angels Community Outreach several years ago as our annual charity, after we discovered how this wonderful organization began by a 12 year old girl.

Every year, at the Famous NJ State tax Seminar in January, NJNATP collects warm clothing and other accessories to be delivered to Angels Community outreach. This year, there was a mixture of hand knitted and crocheted hats, scarves and blankets, as well as numerous fleece jackets, mittens, gloves, sox and other assorted pieces of warm clothing.

Pictured is NJ Board member, Joe Wisniewski, presenting a very large bin, filled with all of the donated items, to the director and two employees of the Angel Community Outreach in Pitman, NJ.

Again, many thanks to the NJ attendees for their continued generosity- it is greatly appreciated.

If anyone wishes to donate further to this worthy cause, the website is: [Angelsoutreach.org](http://Angelsoutreach.org) and their phone number is 856-625-8652

## INTRODUCING TAXBERT, OUR NEW AI TAX RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The TaxBook is excited to announce TaxBert, our new AI Research Assistant powered by the Federal content of The TaxBook. TaxBert is scheduled to release on December 15th and will be available to all WebLibrary Plus subscribers at no additional charge!

### Key Features

- Powered by the award-winning Federal content from TheTaxBook Series.
- Clear, concise, and accurate answers.
- Extensive sourcing provided to do additional research and verify information.

### TaxBert's Expertise

- Federal tax research questions.
- Locating specific tax information.
- Understanding complex tax concepts.
- Interpreting tax rules and regulations.

### Availability

- Scheduled release date is December 15th.
- Available to all WebLibrary Plus subscribers at no additional charge.
- WebLibrary Plus users will have no limitations on usage.
- Base WebLibrary users, please call if you would like to upgrade your subscription.

The homepage of the WebLibrary Plus will automatically switch to the 2024 content once its available in mid-December. Look for the new "Ask TaxBert" button in the WebLibrary header at that time.



## SWEARING IN OFFICERS FOR 2025



At the **Famous NJ State Tax Seminar**, on January 11, 2025, National President, **Jaimee Hammer** had the honor of swearing in the elected officers of NJNATP for 2025:

President	Alyce Taylor
Vice President	Pat SeSanto
Secretary	Ethan Hundley
Treasurer	James Jimenez



Large group of attendees at the **Famous NJ State Tax Seminar**, held on January 11, 2025 at the APA hotel in Iselin. The seminar covers all new and updated changes from the NJ Division of Taxation, as well as a NY Update from **Kathryn Keane**.



**Jacob Foy**, one of the instructors from Taxation University, giving the attendees the instructions regarding the new combined property tax relief application. It will include the Senior Freeze, the ANCHOR program and the new STAY NJ program.

## LATEST NEWS ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF!!! And, now we have a different BLUE Book!

We heard about the new property tax relief application on January 11th at the Famous NJNATP State Tax Seminar. Now, you can access the application form and the complete booklet with instructions. *There is a single 3 page application and the booklet is entitled: 2024 Form PAS-1.*

For those who have received benefits from Senior Freeze and ANCHOR, there are changes to this new application. For Senior Freeze applicants, the application looks different and the income standards have changed. Worksheets are included in the booklet. For ANCHOR homeowner recipients, you no longer need an ID Number and PIN to file for benefits.

By late 2025, the State will send a letter to combined application filers to explain the Senior Freeze, ANCHOR and STAY NJ benefit amounts calculated for each applicant. Basically, the State will determine which programs you are eligible for and calculate the benefits you are entitled to receive. Please note that the availability of these programs is subject to annual State Budget appropriations.

Let's be prepared for our clients' questions!! **The link is: [propertytaxrelief.nj.gov](http://propertytaxrelief.nj.gov)**

# "Tax Season Self-Care:

## Small Steps for Big Impact"

Tax season is in full swing, and we all know the demands it brings: long hours, tight deadlines, and countless client questions. But amidst the chaos, it's essential to prioritize your well-being. Self-care doesn't require big changes or long breaks; it's about finding small, meaningful moments to recharge. Here are some practical tips to help you thrive without stepping too far from your desk:



### 1. Take Care of Your Body

- **Stretch it out:** Relieve tension with quick desk exercises: shoulder rolls, neck stretches, or standing to touch your toes.
- **Stay hydrated:** Keep a water bottle nearby and sip regularly to stay energized.
- **Snack smart:** Avoid sugar crashes by keeping healthy snacks like nuts, fruit, or granola bars within reach.

### 2. Recharge Your Mind

- Step outside: A five-minute walk or even standing in the sunlight can refresh your perspective.
- Practice mindfulness: Use a short guided meditation app, like Headspace or Calm, for a quick mental reset.
- Breathe deeply: Try the "4-7-8" technique - inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 7, exhale for 8 - to calm your mind.

### 3. Find Joy in the Moment

- Share a laugh: Keep your favorite jokes or memes handy and share them with colleagues. A little humor goes a long way.
- Celebrate small wins: Finished a tricky return? Take a moment to acknowledge your effort. Every step forward counts!

### 4. Protect Your Time

- Set boundaries: Create a hard stop for emails or work at night; your rest is just as important as your results.
- Focus on what matters: Prioritize high-value tasks and delegate when possible, to reduce being overwhelmed.

Tax season can feel like a marathon, but these small steps can help you stay energized and positive.

Remember, a well-cared-for tax professional is better equipped to handle the challenges ahead.

Let's approach this busy season with resilience, humor, and balance—you've got this!



*Submitted by, Alicia Foster*

## Gross Income Tax Notice

### Clarification on Difficulty of Care Payments and Tax Exemption

**Difficulty of Care** payments do not fall within any of New Jersey's defined taxable income categories.

Prior to the release of the 2024 NJ-1040 instructions, New Jersey tax forms and guidance did not specifically mention these payments or clarify whether they were excludable from NJ Gross Income Tax. Due to this lack of explicit inclusion or exclusion in State tax statutes, some taxpayers may have assumed these payments were subject to New Jersey taxation.

To address public inquiries, the New Jersey Division of Taxation has now explicitly confirmed that Difficulty of Care payments are non-taxable for New Jersey Gross Income Tax purposes. This clarification is officially included in the 2024 NJ-1040 Gross Income Tax Instructions.

Although this clarification appears in the 2024 tax year instructions, it does not represent a change in policy—these payments have been recognized as non-taxable since the 2014 tax year, as long as they were excluded from federal taxable income under the same conditions.

If a taxpayer mistakenly paid New Jersey State taxes on these payments in prior years, they may be eligible for a refund by filing an amended New Jersey tax return. However, please note that New Jersey law generally allows only three years from the original filing date to amend returns and claim refunds.

Additionally, the New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit (NJ EITC) does not apply to Difficulty of Care payments because these payments are considered non-taxable and do not count as "earned income" for New Jersey Gross Income Tax purposes.

## Accountant Jokes AND ONE LINERS...

**What sort of sense of humor do accountants have?**

*Self-Depreciating*

**Why are accountancy departments the most welcoming?**

*They know everyone counts!*

**What an accountant's favorite cereal brand?**

*Post*

**When do accountants fall over?**

*When they lose their balance*

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

### NJ PRACTITIONER HOTLINE

609-633-6657 for Personal Income Tax  
609-633-6905 for Business Tax

### IRS PRACTITIONER HOTLINE

For practitioners with POA on file to call  
about a specific client problem:

866-860-4259

Tax Law Questions: 800-829-1040

### NJ-NATP CHAPTER OFFICE

TEL 856-546-7201

FAX 856-546-4678

### INTERNET ADDRESS

**NJ CHAPTER**

[www.njnatp.com](http://www.njnatp.com)

[www.natptax.com](http://www.natptax.com)

Directory of National Members

[www.taxprofessionals.com](http://www.taxprofessionals.com)

*Website:*

[www.njnatp.com](http://www.njnatp.com)

*or Call:*

856.546.7201

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