

# ASA NEWS

News & Information for Accounting Professionals



## Notes from ASA President - Debbie Turner

Soon you will receive a notice to renew your Arkansas Society of Accountants (ASA) membership. Please take some time to contemplate the value of this membership. What does your membership in ASA do for you? The first answer most people say is provide quality CPE. Providing quality CPE at an affordable price is a major benefit that ASA provides to its membership, but it is not the only member benefit.

Another important benefit that your society provides is monitoring changes that affect our members. We have a member who volunteers to attend all the meetings of the State Board of Accountancy and report on the activities, proposals, and laws which affect our members. This enables us to speak up for our members when new rules or regulations are proposed by the State Board.

A third important benefit received through membership is networking with other ASA members, who are small to medium practitioners just like you. There are many times as a practitioner in a small firm that I need someone to help me deal with strange tax or accounting problem which I have never encountered. My fellow members have always been available to help. Their guidance and support have given me the best references to follow and ways find the answers. In a profession where our time is always at a premium and when we seem to have little time, even for friends, I have found that the ASA membership offers me a whole host of colleagues who are a lot like me—challenged by performing detailed work, balancing client interests, and trying to spend more time with family and friends. The membership directory gives us access to a large pool of experts in our field.

Like most memberships, you receive more when you give more. Whether it is simply greeting and having conversations with another attendee at a seminar, filling out a questionnaire regarding possible new seminar topics, volunteering to serve on an ASA committee, or serving on the board of governors. We need members who can represent our society in many areas. Your membership can be a key to advancing both our profession and your career. Let me encourage you to continue your membership and promote membership in ASA to your colleagues.



Debbie Turner

*(I wish to express my gratitude to Jeanice Neel, prior president, for her promotion of ASA membership in a 2018 newsletter from which this article is largely borrowed.)*

Debbie Turner  
President, Arkansas Society of Accountants

## 2019 ASA Seminars



All of the seminars will be presented by Tax Speaker (Bob Jennings Group)

- **Business Entities Seminar**

- **September 27, 2019**

- Embassy Suites, Little Rock  
- 8 hours

- **1040 Seminar**

- **Fayetteville**

- **November 4-5, 2019**

- Fayetteville Town Center,  
Fayetteville - 16 hours

- **1040 Seminar**

- **Little Rock**

- **December 10-11, 2019**

- Embassy Suites, Little Rock  
- 16 hours

Register online at:

[arksocietyofaccountants.com](http://arksocietyofaccountants.com)

or call 501-305-9110 for

additional information.

## Welcome New ASA Members



David Purcell – Fayetteville, AR

Jerry McCarty - Greers Ferry

Clarence Woodard - Jonesboro

## IRS, States and Industry Outline ‘Security Six’ Protections to Help Tax Professionals and Taxpayers be Safer Online

Using a new “Taxes-Security-Together” Checklist, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners urged tax professionals to review critical security steps to ensure they are fully protecting their computers and email, as well as safeguarding sensitive taxpayer data.

The Security Summit partners - the IRS, states and tax industry - urge tax professionals to take time this summer to give their data safeguards a thorough review. To help the tax community, the Summit created a “Taxes-Security-Together” Checklist as a starting point for analyzing office data security

In the first of a five-part weekly series, the initial step on the checklist involves the “Security Six” protections. These steps fall into several major security categories.

“These six steps are simple actions that anyone can take,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “The important thing to remember is that every tax professional, whether a sole practitioner or a partner in a large firm, is a potential target for cybercriminals. No tax business should assume they are too small or too smart to avoid identity thieves.”

Although the Security Summit - a partnership between the IRS, states and the private-sector tax community - is making major progress against tax-related identity theft, cybercriminals continue to evolve, and data thefts at tax professionals’ offices continue. Thieves use stolen data from tax practitioners to create fraudulent returns that are harder to detect.

The Security Summit partnership urges tax professionals across the nation to remember these basic steps to help in the battle against identity theft.

## Deploy the ‘Security Six’ steps for basic protections

The following are the basic protections that everyone, especially tax professionals handling sensitive data, should deploy:

1. Anti-virus software
2. Firewalls
3. Two-factor authentication
4. Backup software/services
5. Drive encryption
6. Virtual private network

## How to get started with the ‘Security Six’

All tax professionals also should review their professional insurance policy to ensure the business is protected should a data theft occur. Some insurance companies will provide cybersecurity experts for their clients.

These experts can help with technology safeguards and offer more advanced recommendations.

Having the proper insurance coverage is a common recommendation from tax professionals who have experienced data thefts.

## Additional resources

Tax professionals also can get help with security recommendations by reviewing the recently revised IRS Publication 4557, Safeguarding Taxpayer Data (PDF), and Small Business Information Security: the Fundamentals (PDF) by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Publication 5293, Data Security Resource Guide for Tax Professionals (PDF), provides a compilation data theft information available on IRS.gov. Also, tax professionals should stay connected to the IRS through subscriptions to e-News for Tax Professionals and Social Media.



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## ASA Announcements

Please watch your emails in the near future for a request from ASA to complete a survey. Please take the time to complete the survey. It is a very simple, short survey that will take less than five minutes of your time. The results of the survey will help your board and committees in planning events for the coming year.

ASA will hold our annual business meeting along with the election and installation of officers for the 2019-2020 fiscal year on the evening of September 26. This meeting will be held immediately following the board meeting at Embassy Suites in Little Rock. Please watch your emails for an exact time and room location. We encourage all members to attend.

The NSA Annual Meeting will be August 21-24 in Charlotte, NC. We are pleased to announce that ASA member and past president, Marchelle Foshee, will be running for 2nd vice president of NSA at this meeting. NSA members who aren't able to attend the annual meeting may vote on line for officer candidates and by-law proposals.



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