

ASA NEWS

News & Information for Accounting Professionals



Notes from ASA President - Chris R. Clatworthy



It seems that in each of the past several newsletters, I have opened with this being unusual times that we are living in. That theme is continuing and appears as if it will continue for some time. With that being the case, your Board has reviewed the

by-laws and made the decision to leave the current officers and Board in place for 2021. This will provide continuity as we deal with the Society operations and providing the continuing education to our members. Regarding our continuing education, the Board would like to offer live seminars in 2021. However, at this time we are uncertain if we will be able to resume live seminars. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation and work with the continuing education providers and make a decision regarding live seminars as soon as is practical. Please remember that we were unable to provide Ethics training in 2020. Be sure to review your education requirements and make certain that you have completed the necessary courses and hours.

During this Holiday Season, it seems that it is even more important than ever to take a few minutes to reflect and be thankful for the many blessings we have. On behalf of the entire Society, I would like to thank Executive Secretary Donna Gowan for all of her hard work. She has put in considerable extra time for our Society this year as we have dealt with all the difficulties and necessary changes presented by COVID. We are fortunate to have her in that position. I hope every has a happy Holiday Season.



It is an honor to serve as your President.

Thanks,
Chris R. Clatworthy, CPA, CPCU, ARe, ACU

Chris R. Clatworthy, CPA

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ASA



**Please note:
The 2021 ASA
Seminar Schedule
will be announced
at a later date.**

NSA Annual Meeting

The National Society of Accountants held their annual meeting virtually in August 2020. Officers elected for 2020-21 include:

President - Curt Lee from Raleigh, NC
1st Vice President – Marchelle Foshee from Morrilton, AR
2nd Vice President – Debra Cope from Chattanooga, TN
Secretary-Treasurer – Ruth Godfrey from Upland, CA

ASA congratulates our own Marchelle Foshee on being installed as first vice president!

NSA works hard for the accounting and tax preparation profession. If you aren't a member, contact the Arkansas State Director, Debbie Turner at 501-327-7181 for more information on becoming a member.

2020-2021 ASA Board Members

As President Chris Clatworthy mentioned in his letter, the ASA officers and board members will remain the same for the 2020-21 year and they are:

President – Chris Clatworthy, Marvell, AR
President Elect – Dee Hare, Hazen, AR
1st Vice President – Dan Rieke, Hazen, AR
2nd Vice President – Bill Craig, Little Rock, AR

District Governors:

Bryan Johnston , Jonesboro, AR
Donny Woods, Nashville, AR
Tom Ed Simmons, Hot Springs, AR
Jeanice Neel, Nashville, AR
Trey Tucker, Hot Springs, AR
Donny Whitfield, Mabelvale, AR

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UPDATE

On November 20, 2020, IRS Commissioner, Charles Rettig, told lawmakers that IRS is doing everything they can to reduce the mail backlog. As of that date, they had approximately three million pieces of mail and one million returns that remain unprocessed. The mail backlog is down from five million the prior month.

Looking ahead, Commissioner Rettig stated that the IRS is expected to open the 2020 tax filing season on time in January and will determine an opening date in due course. He also stated that IRS wants to emphasize how important it is, now more than ever, for taxpayers and practitioners to utilize e-filing and online virtual services.

IRS is working to reduce the CAF backlog and will begin accepting Forms 8821 and 2848 with electronic signature images in January 2021.

IRS ISSUES SCAM WARNING TO EROs

The Internal Revenue Service today warned Electronic Return Originators of an identity theft scam targeting EFIN holders. Fraudsters posing as a “contractor” for the IRS may contact EROs, suggesting they are verifying or checking on the ERO’s EFIN acceptance letter. The scammers may request that the ERO email them a copy of the EFIN acceptance letter and provide a telephone number to call for questions. As with all scams, this one can evolve and the elements may change. EROs should remain vigilant and take steps to protect their identities and taxpayer data.

EROs who receive contacts from individuals posing as the IRS should contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at www.tigta.gov to file a complaint. EROs who received a contact and disclosed their acceptance letter should contact the e-Services help desk immediately.



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