

# ASA NEWS

News & Information for Accounting Professionals



## Notes from ASA President - Dan Rieke

Hello and Congratulations for making it through another tax season. I hope all of you have had a chance to take a few days off after the 18th to get some fresh air and some rest. We have a family tradition of taking off and going fishing in Hot Springs. My dad and mom, along with four to five other couples had camping trailers that they would take to Lake Greeson, in Daisy, Arkansas.



This was about thirty miles southwest of Hot Springs. When I returned home to practice with Dad, he would come in my office about the 12th of April and ask me if it was okay for him to take off and get the trailer and fishing boat to the state park and have everything ready for me to come on down the day after the 15th. Of course, I "let him." I have been doing this after every tax season now for over 40 years.

I remember each trip, the drive down Highway 70 with all of the dogwoods blooming, the trees with their new leaves, and the green grass. It was a new beginning, a new season, a time to reflect. Tax Season is hard on all of us, but we make it through it each year. After tax season, we have a new beginning, a new season and time to reflect. Our businesses keep us fed and allow us to enjoy the most important things, faith, family, and friends. So, get out and enjoy.

Our society is continually trying to offer our members quality CPE and keeping you updated on the changing tax laws. We encourage you to contact us or visit us at the live meetings with any new ideas you might have. Bring a friend to one of our meetings so they can see our group. We want to get our attendance back to our pre-Covid numbers.



Dan Rieke

We are looking –for new board members with new ideas. Let any of our board members or Donna know if you are interested. It is an honor to serve you as President for this coming year. Please get out and smell the fresh air as we start a new season.

Dan Rieke  
ASA President

## 2023 ASA Seminars

• **TaxSpeaker Preparations, Compilations & Reviews Live Webinar**  
July 24, 2023- 8 hrs.

• **TaxSpeaker Business Entities Live Seminar**  
September 18, 2023 - 8 hrs.

Benton Event Center  
17322 I-30, Benton, AR  
Hotel Accommodations: Fairfield Inn & Suites - 501-722-6330

+ **BONUS** 1-hour seminar on the Arkansas State Board Rule Ethics! There is no additional charge for the added session for seminar participants.

• **TaxSpeaker 1040 Live Seminar \***  
November 9-10, 2023 - 16 hrs.

Benton Event Center  
17322 I-30, Benton, AR  
Hotel Accommodations: Fairfield Inn & Suites - 501-722-6330

\*This seminar will also offer a live simulcast option.

Register online at:  
[arksocietyofaccountants.com](http://arksocietyofaccountants.com)  
or call 501-305-9110 for additional information.

## NSA '23 Convention Set to be Held in Orlando August 26-28

Do you ASPIRE to get more clients, earn more money and learn more? Mark your calendars for NSA's annual convention, "ASPIRE," to be held August 26-28 in Orlando, Florida. We are on the cusp of a full announcement, so stay tuned and get your sunscreen out!



## NEWS from the IRS

### 2024 IRS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Applications Accepted Through May 31, 2023

The Internal Revenue Service is accepting applications for the 2024 Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council (IRSAC). Applications are due by May 31, 2023. The IRSAC serves as an advisory body to the IRS commissioner and provides an organized public forum for discussion of relevant tax administration issues between IRS officials and representative of the public.

The advisory council:

- Proposes enhancements to IRS operations
- Recommends administrative and policy changes to improve taxpayer service, compliance and tax administration
- Discusses relevant information reporting issues
- Addresses matters concerning tax exempt and government entities
- Conveys the public's perception of professional standards and best practices for tax professionals

IRSAC members are appointed the three-year terms by the IRS commissioner and submit a report to the commissioner annually at a public meeting. The IRS is accepting applications for terms that begin in January 2024.

Nominations of qualified individuals may come from –individuals or organizations. IRSAC members are drawn from diverse backgrounds representing a cross-section of the taxpaying public with experience in:

- Tax preparation for individuals, small businesses and large multi-national corporations
- Tax exempt and government entities
- Information reporting
- Taxpayer or consumer advocacy

Applications should document the proposed member's qualifications. Applicants must be in good standing with their own tax obligations and demonstrate high professional and ethical standards. All applicants must apply and pass a tax compliance and practitioner check. For those applicants deemed "best qualified," FBI fingerprint checks are required.

More information, including the application form, is available on the IRSAC webpage (<https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/internal-revenue-service-advisory-council-irsac>).

Questions about the application process can be emailed to: [publicliaison@irs.gov](mailto:publicliaison@irs.gov).

## EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CAN BE USED TO PAY STUDENT LOANS

Employers who have educational assistance programs can use them to help pay student loan obligations for their employees.

*These programs can now also be used to pay principal and interest on an employee's qualified education loans.*

Though educational assistance programs have been available for many years, the option to use them to pay student loans has been available only for payments made after March 27, 2020, and, under current law, will continue to be available until December 31, 2025.

Traditionally, educational assistance programs have been used to pay for books, equipment, supplies, fees, tuition and other education expenses for the employee. These programs can now also be used to pay principal and interest on an employee's qualified education loans. Payments made directly to the lender, as well as those made to the employee, qualify.

By law, tax-free benefits under an educational assistance program are limited to \$5,250 per employee per year. Normally, assistance provided above that level is taxable as wages.

Employers who don't have an educational assistance program may want to consider setting one up. In a tight labor market, worthwhile fringe benefits such as educational assistance programs can help employers attract and retain good workers.

These programs must be in writing and cannot discriminate in favor of highly compensated employees. For information on other requirements, see Publication 15-B, Employer's Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits. For details on what qualified as a student loan, see Chapter 10 in Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.



## MORE PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE 1099-KS

Starting in 2023, businesses and other tax payers who received more than \$600 in income from third-party settlement organizations, including popular payment apps, may receive Forms 1099-K, Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions. Typically, they'll receive these reporting forms during January 2024.

The \$600 reporting threshold is lower than it's been in the past. For that reason, some people and businesses may receive a Form 1099-K that didn't receive one in previous years.

There are no changes to what counts as income or how tax is calculated. For business taxpayers, most income is taxable, even if it's not reported to them on a 1099 or another form issued by a third party.

The 1099-K reports various business transactions, including income from:

- A business the taxpayer owns
- Self-employment
- Activities in the gig economy

Good recordkeeping is key. For information, visit the Understanding Your Form 1099-K page on IRS.gov.

## EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT:

### Claim it if Eligible but Avoid ERC Scams

Eligible employers who overlooked the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) when they filed payroll tax returns for 2020 and 2021 can still claim it by filing an amended federal payroll tax return.

At the same time, the IRS has warned businesses not to fall victim to one of the many ERC-related scams being promoted online, in social media, on the radio, and even phone calls, and emails. Anyone who improperly claims the ERC has to pay it back, possibly with penalties and interest, so it's important to avoid getting scammed.

Among other things, scammers misrepresent many features of the ERC and in some cases are merely using the credit as a ploy to steal the taxpayer's identity or take a cut of the taxpayer's improperly claimed credit. Eligible employers who need help claiming the credit should work with a trusted tax professional, not one of these scammers. ERC scams are so widespread this year that the IRS added them to its annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams.

The ERC is designed to help employers who kept paying their employees while shut down during the pandemic or who suffered a significant decline in gross receipts during the eligibility period. The ERC is a payroll tax credit, not an income tax credit, and it was available only during 2020 and 2021.

Most eligible employers who overlooked the credit can still claim it by filing Form 941-X, Adjusted Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return or Claim for Refund, available on IRS.gov. Form 941-X filers and businesses that file other types of returns can visit IRS.gov/ERC for details, forms, and instructions.

## 2023 Seminar Highlights

### TaxSpeaker Preparations, Compilation & Review Live Webinar - July 24

This eight-hour seminar is the most useful accounting course you'll ever attend! Full of up-to-date SSARS 26 material, in addition to SSARS 21, this course is written and taught by experienced practitioners. Featuring applicable, relevant guidance including dozens of example reports, engagement, and client letters, as well as unofficial checklists, and more. A rapid review of the latest SSARS and alerts, plus a discussion of the requirements for prepared financial statements and disclaimers, will also be addressed.

### TaxSpeaker Business Entities Seminar - September 18

The eight-hour Business Entities Seminar will be a live in-person seminar at the Benton Event Center. Kept up-to-date through the day before the class, this seminar will include the latest modifications from Congress, as well as other relevant IRS Notices, announcements, ruling and court cases for corporations, S corporations and entities taxed as partnerships and discussion of common compliance issues encountered during tax preparation season. The seminar will be followed by a one-hour seminar on Arkansas State Board Rule Ethics presented by Tim Montgomery from The State Board of Accountancy. *There will be no additional charge for this extra hour.*

### TaxSpeaker 1040 Seminar - November 9-10

The 16-hour 1040 Seminar will be a live in-person seminar at the Benton Event Center, along with offering a live simulcast option. This seminar offers thorough and hands-on individual tax guidance including detailed coverage, with planning ideas, of the latest changes from the 2022 Secure Act, court cases, IRS changes and all late-season Congressional changes up to the day before the class with special focus coverage of pension changes, high risk areas, and an annual review of common preparation issues throughout the two days. The accompanying 1,100+ page course manual, which has been recognized as the Top Research Live Course CPE Manual in the U.S. for six straight years, supports the 1040 Tax in Depth course.