

MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION



OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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MAPA
Can
POSITIVELY
Do anything

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

SUSAN W. BEARD, EA, ABA

Where has the time gone? August is here already, I am beginning my second term as your president, school is starting, August 15th is right around the corner, and the stores will be gearing up for Christmas in a few more weeks. I hope each of you has had a very enjoyable summer. Mine has been eventful, some happy but, unfortunately, some sad. I am working to get my "Positive" attitude back on course.

For those of you who did not attend the 3rd Annual Joint Convention this year, you really missed a wonderful opportunity to learn, earn CPE and fellowship with your contemporaries. The facilities were top-notch, CPE was very well presented and the socializing couldn't have been better. Next year the 4th Annual Joint Convention will be held in Branson, MO, so mark your calendars now.

On Tuesday, August 3, 2004, MAPA held its first Technical Seminar presented by Bob Jennings and Tony Johnson of Gear-Up. I am now ready to take my practice "paperless" and have made a list of all of the gadgets I never knew I had to have. At the top of the list is a dual-monitor followed by an "accountant friendly" scanner. The seminar ended too soon for me. I hope that MAPA is able to offer this seminar again. If you weren't able to attend this year, you definitely want to attend next year.

Several of us will be attending the NSA Convention in San Antonio, TX at the end of August. I am sure we will come back with ideas to help MAPA and in turn benefit MAPA members. As a MAPA member, you should be eager to let your colleagues in on what they are missing by not being a member too. The excellent CPE at very reasonable prices, networking with some of the brightest and best accountants, and the joy of being a part of such a "Positive" organization.

Susan W. Beard

SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to Susan Beard, MAPA President, on the unexpected loss of her sister to a massive stroke. We know that with time and God's help in answer to our prayers for the family they will overcome this tragic loss.

Sympathy and prayers should also be offered to long time MAPA member Patrica Bang on the loss of her husband to cancer. Although this loss was expected and Alton had been sick for a long time, it is never easy to lose a loved one.



FROM THE MAPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sanford D. Warren, CPA

The tax code prohibits churches from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office at the federal, state or local level. This is often called the Acampaign@ limitation. A church that violates this limitation can lose its tax exempt status. This limitation has rarely been enforced by the IRS because of constitutional concerns and a lack of clarification in the law regarding the meaning of “participation” or “intervention” in a political campaign. Yet it remains a threat that must be taken seriously by church leaders because of the serious consequences that could befall a church found to have violated the limitation. The recently proposed American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, while primarily designed to create jobs, contained an amendment clarifying that churches are not engaged in campaign activities “solely by reason of a statement by a religious leader of such organization which is clearly identified as a statement made as a private citizen and not made on behalf of or in representation of such organization.” The amendment also imposed an excise tax on churches that violate the campaign limitation. The House and Ways and Means Committee unanimously voted to remove this amendment from the bill, citing concerns by church leaders that the provision would lead to excessive entanglement between church and state. However, one group has taken the bill and filed a suit against a church in Arkansas, alleging a violation of church and state.

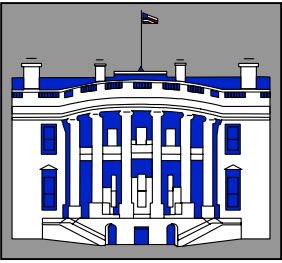
Many churches have had cars donated to them. Often, the donor is a member of the congregation who wants the car to be transferred by the church to a designated individual (such as a staff member or needy person). The donor’s objectives in many cases are (1) to claim a charitable contribution deduction for the value of the car, and (2) to specify the recipient of the car. Whenever a car is donated to a church there are three issues that church treasurers should understand.

- Can the donation be treated as a charitable contribution (and receipted by the church)?
- What substantiation requirements must be met for the donor to claim a charitable contribution?
- Should title to the car be transferred to the church?

In order to be deductible, a donation must be made to a charity that has full control and discretion over the disposition or use of the donation. This suggests that persons who donate a car to their church with the stipulation that it be transferred to a designated individual are not making a charitable contribution. On the other hand, the donation of a car can be treated as a charitable contribution if the donor makes no designation regarding its intended use, or stipulates that it be used in furtherance of one of the exempt purposes of the church. There are court cases that have allowed and disallowed these donations. Be safe.

Thank You

The Neil Magruder Scholarship Trust offers a big “thank you” to all who contributed items for the auction held at the convention last month and a special thanks to each one that bought an item or gave a donation. The auction proceeds of \$1,625.00 will be used to provide scholarships to accounting students.



CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

By: *Jo M. Allen, EA, ABA, ATA*
MAPA Executive Sec./Treasurer/Editor

DATES TO REMEMBER

Gear Up - Business Entities Seminar - Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Jackson, MS, September 22-23, 2004. Brochures were mailed August 6th. If you have not received yours please contact the central office.

Central Mississippi Chapter's Annual Seminar - Jackson Southwest Hotel, Jackson, MS, October 20, 2004. Brochures will be mailed in early September.

Gear Up - Individual Income Tax Seminar - Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Jackson, MS, December 1-2, 2004. Brochures will be mailed the last week of September or early in October.

ATTENTION TAX FOLDER USERS!!!!!!

MAPA will no longer offer tax folders. It will be necessary for you to purchase your folders for the upcoming tax season from another source. We are sorry we can no longer offer this service to you and suggest you contact a local printer to see if they can do this for you. If you are unable to find someone in your area to print the folders, you may want to contact Jimmy Boyd for the name of his printer. He has his folders printed locally, in Vicksburg, by the printer who did the folders for us when we first offered them for sale to members.

2004 FEDERAL/STATE E-FILE SEMINARS

The schedule for the annual IRS E-file seminars follows. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at each location. The seminars will run from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. No pre-registration is needed and CPE credits will be issued for attendance.

October 5, 2004
MS e-Center @ JSU
1230 Raymond Road
Jackson, MS 39204

October 19, 2004
University of Mississippi
Advanced Education Center
1918 Briar Ridge Road
Tupelo, MS 38804

October 26, 2004
Meridian Community College
Webb Hall - Room 100
910 Highway 19 North
Meridian, MS 39307

October 7, 2004
Bolton Building
Old Memorial Hospital
1141 Bay View Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

October 21, 2004
Delta State University
Union 302-A
Highway 8
Cleveland, MS 38733

Topics: e-file Update; e-Services;
EFTPS; e-file Specifications; Form
Changes; Tax Law Changes; SSA
Wage Reporting; Mississippi State
Tax Commission

For additional information contact any of the following:

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District Governor's Column

The joint state convention in Jackson, Mississippi has come and gone and, as Governor of District VI of the National Society of Accountants, I wish to congratulate those state association leaders concluding their year of service and stepping aside for those that follow. To those new leaders accepting new responsibilities, the leadership of NSA wishes you well. To the members of your state association, I thank you for your continuing support of your state chapter, NSA and, most importantly, myself. My four years of serving you as the NSA District VI Governor will end in August and it has been a pleasure and honor to have served you in this capacity. I feel NSA currently has the staff in place to continue to meet our members' needs and the new officers have the vision to carry forward with the long-term goals we have set forth the past few years.

It has been a primary objective for this administrative year to seek ways to partner and enhance the collaborative possibilities between our state associations and NSA, be it through leadership development, partnered educational events or active joint membership. Together NSA and our associations can enrich member benefits while protecting the rights to practice for all accounting and tax professionals.

Here are some of the activities and programs NSA is currently providing for its members:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. The annual convention will be in San Antonio, Texas on August 28-30, 2004. This year it is linked with the IRS National Tax Forum to be held in San Antonio August 31 through September 2, 2004. There are many exciting events planned for the convention including a margarita mixer and a "NSA Idol" contest.
2. One of the most exciting events for NSA this year is the NEW National Accounting and Tax Symposium on September 27-28, 2004 in Baltimore, Maryland. This provides 16 hours of advanced CPE for a net cost of \$50 for NSA members. The education is going to be given by some of the best speakers our industry has to offer, such as Leslie Shapiro and speakers from NCPE. At this seminar the new NSA Tax Accounting Guidelines for Small Business (TAGSB) will be introduced. This is one of the best opportunities to get members for NSA. For \$229 a prospective member can get membership in NSA and a seminar worth \$575. An ASO member can get membership in NSA and the seminar for only \$149. Space is limited, so talk to your prospects and reserve your space as soon as possible.
3. The annual National Practice Development Institute will be November 15-16, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada and the National Tax Update Seminar will be December 6-7, 2004 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
4. The 2005 Serving Aging America seminar will be May 23-28, 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada. You will have the opportunity to take from one to three consecutive levels of the course at the same time. You can earn the Elder Care Specialist credential in one week instead of three years.
5. The speaker database is up and running. ASO's can contact Susan Noelle for a list of speakers available to conduct seminars. New this year, the professional development committee has developed ASO seminar outlines as an assistance tool for ASO's developing mini-seminars. Contact Susan Noelle at headquarters for more information.
6. NSA's online learning module is expected to go online in August 2004.

