



# The Informer

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## The President's Message

Well, I hope everybody had a great tax season. I don't know about anybody else's, but this was one of the worst and craziest seasons in my 13 years at the office. I only think this is going to be start of the crazy and wild things that are going to be happening in the tax world. The fact is that the Internal Revenue Service and the Kansas Department of Revenue are both going to be having changes that will be a hindrance to us and our clients. These changes are going to both hurt the way we can take care of our client's issues and the charges that will now be incurred.

The first issue that we are going to be dealing with on the federal level is the changes to the E-services side for enrolled preparers. The changes in the E-Services are going to take away the use of the Electronic Accounts Resolution (EAR) and Disclosure Authorization (DA). The EAR is something that I feel should be kept and improved on to help the tax professional take care of there client issues faster and easier. Now, as for the Disclosure Authorization side of E-Services, this is going to cause us major problems in being able to take care of our clients issues faster. This also is going to take longer for us tax professionals to get authorization

to get a copies of the transcripts for our clients and take longer to see if we want to take on an engagement and research a client account. So, if you have not spoken or voiced your opinion to the Internal Revenue Service or your congressman, we need you to step up and please do so now.

This year is going to be the start of the biggest change in tax law in a very long time. The health care rules are going to begin implementation, and will continue until 2015. Therefore, all of us tax professionals, after dealing with a crazy tax season, have to start learning new rules and regulations. Also, there will be more planning involved in this process and implementation. I hope everyone has a lot of education planned and time allotted for this during the year.

Lastly, identity theft is becoming more rampant each and every year. With identity theft becoming such a problem, us as the preparers need to become more proactive for our clients. Being more proactive means that we as tax professionals need to guide those exposed to identity theft. The client needs to be recommended to alert the Internal Revenue Service of potential identity theft. Helping our



*From the Sunflower State.*

clients be more proactive will help us as the tax professional also. It will cut down on return rejects, and decrease delays to the client regarding refunds and IRS responses.

As you can see, there are many things that are ever changing in the tax world, and these will require us to keep on our toes. The changes will also require us to have more education and knowledge in many instances to help our clients with the ever changing tax laws. Therefore, I hope to see most if not all of our members and non members attend our educational opportunities across the state.

Tim Graham  
KS Chapter NATP  
President

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## MEET YOUR KS-NATP BOARD MEMBERS

My name is Leahann Snow. I have a small practice, Spruce Corporation, in Eudora, with two part-time employees. We offer most services associated with anything tax related and I love working with the small business clients, especially.

I have a degree in Education from St. Mary of the Plains College and was originally a Certified Athletic Trainer. I have a Master's in the Science of Education, with an emphasis in Exercise Physiology and Kinesiology. I worked in athletic training at St. Mary's, Wichita State University, KU and Baker University before taking a break.

While looking for a job in my field I fell into a position with a financial planner. I became a certified financial "para planner" and helped write financial plans. When my former employer wanted to add tax services to his business I volunteered for the training, right after the major tax reform act of 1986, and at the advent of tax software (thank goodness!). Due to ethical differences I purchased his tax client list and left in 1989 and have been in business for myself ever since.

I was born and raised in Tulsa Oklahoma but I have been a resident of Kansas for more than 30 years. My Grandfather was the first fire marshal of Tulsa. My husband is Brian and we have two sons, Kyle and Chris. One is a K-State Wildcat and the other will be a Jayhawk in the fall. I look forward to a very interesting football and basketball season. I got into taxes in a round-about way but enjoy it very much. Other than doing taxes and following various sporting events I have no hobbies. I am looking to expand the representation side of my business. I don't feel I could have felt comfortable being in this business this long without the educational support of NATP so I am definitely looking forward to expanding my association with NATP by being on the board of the Kansas Chapter.

### BY LAWS CHANGES

Nolin Christensen

The following are proposed bylaw changes that were approved by the KS Chapter's Board of Directors and now move forward to be approved by the National Association. This bylaw change will be presented to members for vote at the Annual Meeting in October.

#### THE CURRENT BYLAWS READ AS FOLLOWS:

##### ARTICLE 1

###### Chapter Name

The name of this Chapter shall be the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals (hereinafter called "[National Association.](#)") The principal office of the Chapter shall be the Chapter President's current business address in the State of Kansas.

#### THE PROPOSED CHANGE WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

##### ARTICLE 1

###### Chapter Name

The name of this Chapter shall be the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals (hereinafter called "[The Chapter.](#)") The principal office of the Chapter shall be the Chapter President's current business address in the State of Kansas.

The reason for this change is that throughout the bylaws it refers to the Kansas Chapter as "The Chapter" and the National Association of Tax Professionals as "National Association." Article 1 improperly referred to the local chapter as the National Association. By changing the "National Association" to be "The Chapter" corrects this problem, and therefore corrects Article 1 to correctly reflect the name of the chapter as referred throughout the rest of the bylaws.

## *Important Dates to Remember for 2013:*

WHAT	DATES	WHERE
NATP Nat'l Convention	July 08-11, 2013	JW Marriott-Phoenix, AZ
BOD Meeting	July 27, 2013	Jan Cowick's Office-Wichita, KS
IRS Symposium	August 8, 2013	Johnson CCC-Overland Park, KS
Annual Seminar	Oct 28, 2013	Doubletree by Hilton-Wichita, KS
Scholarship Fund Social	Oct 28, 2013 (PM)	Doubletree by Hilton-Wichita, KS
BOD Meeting	Oct 29, 2013 (PM)	Doubletree by Hilton-Wichita, KS
Nat'l 1040/1040X	Oct 29-30, 2013	Doubletree by Hilton-Wichita, KS
Western Seminar	Nov 04, 2013	Sternberg Museum-Hays, KS
Nat'l 1040/1040X	Nov 11-12, 2013	Crown Plaza-Overland Park, KS
Fall Seminar	Nov 13, 2013	Crown Plaza-Overland Park, KS

If you have a suggestion for a topic for these seminars, please contact Tim Graham or Tim Cain  
Their phone numbers are located on the last page of this publication

## *EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS & ME ETINGS*



### **IRS to Retire Two e-Services Products in August, 2013**

Terri L. Ryman

Many tax practitioners were disappointed to learn that they will be losing the ability to interact with the IRS using the convenience of e-Services EAR (Electronic Account Resolution) and DA (Disclosure Authorization) products. The first (EAR) gives tax professionals electronic access to the IRS Practitioner Priority Service (PPS) to resolve client account problems. The second (DA) allows for real-time input of Form 2848 (Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative), and Form 8821 (Tax Information Authorization), eliminating the waiting period resulting from IRS processing delays that occur when mailing or faxing disclosure authorizations to the IRS.

According to the IRS, the current average processing time for mailed or faxed authorizations is 10 days. If you key the DA yourself through e-Services, you are able to immediately turn around and correspond with the IRS on different types of IRS letter correspondences. I, for one, am VERY upset that they have made this announcement without asking for any input from tax professionals!

So, I am asking you to participate in several websites asking for comments and/or your name, e-mail, and business name. The first is on the IRS' own website (provided by Paul Cinquemani-NATP Director of Government Relations. He says that Kathy Morgan pointed out that practitioners can comment on this right on the IRS' website. It would be great if they got bombarded with responses! Here's the link: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Send-Us-A-Comment-About-the-Web-Site>

A petition being provided by "Beyond 415" is found at the following link: <http://www.beyond415.com/knowledgecenter/article/alert-online-petition-urge-irs-to-reverse-decision?dlg=eservices-petition-dialog>. Please plan to participate in each of these options, so that we will continue to be able to use these products and NOT overload the IRS Tax Practitioner Hotline! They say that the average wait time is 22 minutes, but my experience runs more to 65-75 minutes on hold and resolving the problem! The IRS wants more information electronically, but they are eliminating two of the best ways to work with them!

## Getting up at 4 am is never easy, especially when you are headed to a visit at the IRS!

Judee Bloyd

We arrived at the Kansas City Service Center and went through security that was stricter than previous years. We were escorted to the training room after riding the longest people mover in North America and were welcomed to the seminar by Catherine Murphy, Senior Stakeholder Liaison for Kansas and Missouri. We all had a good laugh when she announced that neither she or any of the days speakers would be answering any questions related to the recent IRS stories in the media. If there were any questions, they were to be referred to the National office!

Mark Harrington was the first speaker on the subject of Identity Theft. He discussed the two main types refund identity theft and employment related identity theft. The best advice he gave for the growing identity theft problem was to file Form 14039, the id theft affidavit as soon as there was any indication of id theft. There continues to be a backlog of id theft cases and the IRS is behind in getting the cases resolved. There was a discussion of the various ways that the IRS verifies identity and most often has to speak directly to the taxpayer to ask specific questions in order to verify identity, rather than speaking with a taxpayer's representative.

Jeraldine Todd, the Kansas City Taxpayer Advocate was the next speaker and she continued with the ID theft issues and let us know that 60% of the taxpayer advocate cases are related to id theft issues. Joanna Patton and Bart Manny from Campus Correspondence Exam spoke next and there was a lively discussion related to the letters generated such as the 90 day letter. They also provided the Examination E-Fax and Reconsideration fax numbers for the service centers.

Charlotte Maazouz and Joy Holiwell were from Automated Collection System and System Support. They went over the different collection notices and mentioned the Practitioner Priority Service phone line and that you could avoid long wait times by insuring that you press the right button!

Lunch was at the service center cafeteria, followed by a tour of the service center. I was glad I wore my tennis shoes as we walked for over an hour, touring the various sections of the service center which consists of the historic former Post Office Building and the new portion that was completed and moved into in 2006. The Kansas City Service Center is the only service center that has all it's operations contained in one location. If I could have taken a picture of one of the processing rooms that was the size of a football field, I feel I could convince people why they should NEVER file a paper return!

Tom Brown with Campus Accounts Management was next and was very interested in hearing the issues in the practitioner community such as the problems of POA's not being forwarded for processing after they had been faxed to someone. Another issue he took note of was problems with E services. He was going to forward the issues up the line.

Catherine Murphy finished the day with information about the Schedule C initiative. Tax practitioners are to encourage small business owners to utilize the many resources available from the IRS, such as webinars, YouTube videos and publications. The IRS is certainly trying to utilize social media to reach taxpayers, but they need our help as practitioners. We found out that this was the last face to face meeting with the IRS for the rest of the year.

We were escorted back through security and headed back to Salina. It was a good day!

## Changes to PFA for Kansas Collection Division

Tim Graham



There are many changes both at the state and federal levels with income tax. Kansas Collections is also looking to make changes. Some of our clients may not notice these changes, but we as tax professionals will.

The change at collections is something that has not been publicized across the state, and this relates to the Petition for Abatement (PFA).

The state is going to begin charging \$50 per year when processing a PFA. Therefore if your clients need to do a PFA for 10 years the state will charge a total processing fee of \$500.00.

This is something that I personally am partially against because a client would have to pay the state to get rid of a tax assessment that the state made up in the first place.

Therefore, this puts an undue burden on Kansas taxpayers. On the other hand, with the State of Kansas' recent income tax changes, the state needs additional revenue stream to help with the additional staff needs. The PFA's have to be manually processed, and this will require more manpower.

**We are looking for a few good folks that would like to become Board Members at our next Annual Meeting. Please contact Susan Fesler if you have an interest in being more active! 620.694.0427**

## MEET YOUR KS-NATP BOARD MEMBERS



My name is Susan Fesler. I've been in accounting since 1987 after graduating from Sterling College with an Accounting and Finance Degree. I worked for a CPA firm for 12 years. I received my CPA certificate in 1997 and in 2000 I started working for myself.

My practice includes most types of clients but focuses on small business. I enjoy helping individuals start and grow their businesses, from showing them how to set up their books to what type of entity would benefit them.

I've been a member of NATP since November 2000. During my tenure on the Kansas Chapter Board of Directors, I have served as both Vice President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

My practice is in Hutchinson, but I live on a farm about 20 miles away by Abbyville. My husband of 34 years farms full time growing wheat, soybeans, milo and cattle feed. We also have a small cattle herd. We have 3 grown children, my daughter and oldest son work for Hershey, lots of candy around my house, my youngest son works for John Deere and helps us on the farm.

# Kansas



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*Have you ever wondered about the history of your Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP)? Well wonder no more...*

*The Rusty Chase Scholarship Fund was created in 2002, in honor of former Chapter President Rusty Chase. Over the intervening years, chapter members have made donations by participating in various fund raisers at the Annual Meeting. The focus of the scholarship fund is now to assist aspiring Enrolled Agents! Go to the Kansas Chapter Website on [natptax.com](http://natptax.com) to download an application. Each scholarship awarded will be for \$250, giving up to \$1,000 each year. Get your credential now and we can help!*

### **Member Get a Member**

Do you know someone who might be interested in NATP and all the benefits for members?

You might want to check out National's "Member Get a Member" campaign. You could win a \$15 or \$30 gift card, a free membership, or even \$1,000 in cash!

Just put your name on NATP Membership Enrollment forms in the "Who recommended your to NATP?" line and hand them out to non-member tax professionals.

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**Janet Cowick** – Professional Standards

**Peggy Beasterfield**– Govt. Relations

**Jim Cain**– Convention

**Timothy Cain**– Regional

**Nolin Christensen**– Bylaws

**Mary Giesler**– Membership, Scholarship, Education

**Susan Fesler**– Nominating

**“Here to Serve”**