



President's Message

Alexander B. Thomson, EA, CFP



I look forward to serving as your President of the Virginia Society of Enrolled Agents for the 2008-2010 term. While a great deal was accomplished under my predecessor, Winston A. Macon, EA, more work is ahead in our anniversary year. Winston has left me with very large shoes to fill. I will take this as a challenge and hopefully rise to the occasion.

One of my first priorities as your President is to review and update VASEA's Strategic Plan, which was last revised in October 2006. The VASEA Board will meet in October to begin this task. Your input and feedback is very important to us. In early September, all VASEA members and associates will receive a membership survey via email. I ask you to please take a few minutes to respond to the survey, which will greatly assist us in developing the Society's Strategic Plan. Please contact the VASEA office at 1-800-344-8732 if you do not receive the survey.

Another major priority is ensuring the continued success of VASEA's Special Enrollment Exam (SEE) Prep Course. For over 15 years, VASEA has been committed to helping individuals pass the SEE. In addition to VASEA's flagship 3-day course, this year we are also offering a 15-week Live Intensive SEE Prep Course that includes physical classroom time in conjunction with on-line course work. Read more about VASEA's SEE efforts on page 2 of this newsletter.

VASEA is also sponsoring a number of NCPE Seminars this Fall. NCPE Seminars are always highly rated. I hope you will attend so you may receive excellent CPE while supporting your Society.

NCPE Fiduciary Form (1041) and Federal Estate (Forms 706 and 709) (16 hours CPE)
September 23-24, 2008, Dulles Crowne Plaza

Welcome New Members and Associates!

Congratulations to the following new members and associates of the Society!

Amber M. Boyd, EA
Virginia Beach, VA

Theresa Cofsky, EA
Hampton, VA

Jeffrey A. Hanson, EA
Arlington, VA

Laurie Kerns, EA
Warrenton, VA

Carol Kocovar, EA
Chesapeake, VA

Charles G. Prince, EA
Washington, DC

Adrienne A. Spelling
Vienna, VA

Carmen M. Spruill, EA
Stafford, VA

NCPE 1040 Individual Income Tax Workshops
(16 hours CPE)

November 5-6, 2008, Holiday Inn Select Norfolk Airport

November 12-13, 2008, Holiday Inn Roanoke

November 19-20, 2008, Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport

Again, I look forward to serving as your President. I am always available to hear your comments, suggestions and to accept any assistance you may offer. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL'.

VASEA Pioneering Again With SEE Preparation Programs

by D. Barry Iacono, EA, CFP
VASEA SEE Preparation Course Chair

Background – VASEA has offered a Special Enrollment Exam (SEE) Preparation Course for more than 15 years. This classroom program has been an ongoing success. We pioneered changes to our course immediately when the examination format changed more than two years ago. In 2007 we made two significant changes from a 4-day course format over two weekends to a 3-day format over one weekend and changed to Gleim training materials. Once again both changes were very positive.

Exciting New Opportunities – In May 2008 at the NAEA State Affiliates meeting it was announced that NAEA and Gleim would be partnering to offer an on-line SEE preparation course at a discount to NAEA members. This course was to be rolled out in August and it was. At this meeting it was discussed and encouraged for State Affiliates to develop classroom programs to enhance the on-line learning experience.

VASEA is the pioneer again. On July 19 we introduced the VASEA-GLEIM 15-Week Live Intensive SEE Prep Course. Barry Iacono, EA, CFP is the professor. Part 1 of the pilot program held in Virginia Beach is now complete and the students are preparing to take their Part 1 exam by the end of August.

Part 2 of the live pilot program will commence on September 6, 2008 and will run for five Saturdays in Virginia Beach from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Part 3 of the pilot program will commence on November 1, 2008.

In 2009 we anticipate having two sites for the VASEA-GLEIM 15-Week Live Intensive SEE Prep Course, Williamsburg and Fredericksburg, starting in May.

Flagship Program – Beyond these new and innovative learning opportunities VASEA will continue to offer our 3-day classroom program October 24 – 26, 2008 in Reston, VA. Registration for this class has begun and space is limited so please register soon. Contact the VASEA office at 1-800-344-8732 to register. This 3-day program will be offered again in October 2009 in Reston, VA.

Learners – There are three types of learners. Some may be comfortable with a strictly on-line course and can work well independently. Others have limited comfort with an on-line course and benefit from an instructor and other students to interact with. Then there are some who do best in a strictly classroom setting. VASEA and NAEA are committed to support any and all of these learners and help them become Enrolled Agents.

Summary – There are three distinctive ways to prepare for the SEE (EA exam):

- 1) NAEA-Gleim Professor-Led On-Line SEE Course. This is strictly an on-line course with a cadre of NAEA members as professors.
- 2) VASEA-Gleim 15-Week Live Intensive SEE Prep Course. This class includes 15 3-hour classroom sessions in combination with the on-line course that NAEA is offering.
- 3) VASEA 3-Day SEE Course. This is our flagship 3-day classroom only course offered each year in October.

Sign up now for the course that will best suit your schedule and learning needs. If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact Heather Greenwell, Society Administrator, 1-800-344-8732, admin@vasea.org or Barry Iacono, (757) 671-7000, biacono@barryiacono.com.

VASEA Education Update

by Kenneth W. Whitley, Sr., EA
Education Committee Chair

VASEA held its 20th Annual Spring Seminar on June 12-14, 2008 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. There were roughly 100 attendees at the three day seminar and a total of 22 hours of CPE . Overall, this was a very successful seminar and the attendees received a wealth of information from the subjects presented, including some excellent handout materials to take back with them for use in their offices. Another benefit from attending VASEA seminars is the opportunity to network with other professionals and get valuable information from their experiences. Most everyone is willing to share their knowledge and expertise with others. The camaraderie generated is very beneficial for those in the profession.

At the July IRS/Virginia Seminar on July 10-11, on Thursday evening Barry Iacono, EA, CFP, gave a presentation entitled, "Individual and Small Business Retirement Plans," in which he explained how various plans can work for small businesses to get tax deductions as well as providing retirement plans for employees. On Friday, representatives from the Internal Revenue Service and the Virginia Department of Taxation came to make presentations on tax law updates and other tax matters that we deal with on a regular basis in our professions. The presenters were well received by the attendees.

The VASEA Education Committee reviews evaluations from the seminars and plans future seminars based on what attendees tell us they would like. We welcome comments and suggestions in addition to the evaluation reviews. Please share your ideas with us about what you would like to have presented in VASEA education. Also, if you have comments on how we can improve our education events we would like to hear from you on that also.



Highlights from the 2008 Spring Seminar. Above left: During Thursday's afternoon break, VASEA Charter Members Ken Winston, EA and Mike Cullers, EA, cut the celebratory cake in honor of VASEA's 25th Anniversary. Above right: Past President Sherry Loop, EA, administers the membership oath during the Annual Meeting. Bottom right: Barbara Taylor, EA, and Ron Grafman, EA, enjoy cocktails, hors d' oeuvres, and networking during the Town Hall meeting on Thursday evening following the Annual Meeting.



Above: Your fearless leaders! The 2008-2009 VASEA Board of Directors was elected and installed during the Annual Meeting on June 13th during the Spring Seminar in Fredericksburg. From left to right: President Al Thomson, EA, CFP; Vice President Rosemary McMahon, EA, CPA; Treasurer Barbara Taylor, EA; Secretary Ken Whitley, EA; Directors: Julie Compton, EA; Rebecca Donehew, EA; Steve Rue, EA; Diane Beverly, EA; Alisa Lam, EA; A.K. Shyllon, EA, PhD; and Charles Spencer, EA.

Below left: VASEA Administrator Heather Greenwell and Ken Whitley, EA, work the registration table during the Spring Seminar. Below right: Winston Macon, EA pins Charter Member Stuart Logan, EA, with his 25 Year Membership Pin during the Annual Meeting.



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