

President's Message

Rosemary C. McMahon, EA, CPA



Dear fellow members of VASEA,

I hope you all fared well with the earthquake and hurricane that visited our area in August. It reminds me that we all need to stay informed on the disaster provisions in the tax code.

The VASEA board and committees have been busy since May, planning education, membership, government relations, and public relations opportunities for current and future years. Here are some of the things that have been happening:

EDUCATION

- David Williams from the IRS Return Preparers Office will be speaking on September 20 at the Springfield Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22152. The Northern Virginia Chapter of VASEA is sponsoring this program. Up-to-the-minute information on the Registered Tax Return Preparer (RTRP) initiative and new continuing education requirements for Enrolled Agents and RTRPs will be discussed. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Vivian Sangunett, EA at uofmiea@comcast.net to register. Seats are still available.

- The Education Committee has a full lineup for the Current Tax Issues Seminar in Charlottesville on October 20-21, to include speakers from various departments of the IRS, the Social Security Administration, and the Virginia Department of Taxation. A two-hour Ethics course will be included at this seminar. IRS representatives will be on hand to answer your questions.

- The Spring Seminar topics have been selected and speakers are being confirmed now. This seminar will be held in Fredericksburg again next year. Topics will include Ins & Outs of K-1, Real Estate Rentals, Net

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VASEA Leadership

President	Rosemary McMahon, EA, CPA
Vice President	Steve Rue, EA, CTRS
Secretary	Kenneth Whitley, Sr., EA
Treasurer	Gerald Machek, EA

Directors

Diane Beverly, EA	Jim Lam, Sr., EA
Jeffrey Bruce, EA	Barbara Taylor Roe, EA
Julie Compton, EA	George Walsh, EA
Edward Griffing, EA	

Chapter Presidents

Blue Ridge	David Tanner, EA
Fredericksburg	Gerald Machek, EA
Hampton Roads	George Walsh, EA
Northern Virginia	Bill Wilke, EA
Richmond	Jeffrey Bruce, EA

Operating Loss, IRM & Audit Technique Guides, and a 2-hour Practice Management session.

- The instructors for the SEE Prep Course are expecting record registrations for the 15-week course beginning in May 2012. If you know anyone interested in becoming an Enrolled Agent, please inform them of this course. Flyers will be available starting in September. Classes are scheduled in Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Hampton Roads. The program can be extended to other areas of the state if there is enough interest.

- NAEA has developed a program called "Presentations in a Box". There are currently three two-hour presentations available that can be used by chapters for their monthly meetings. The topics include: Ethics, Cancellation of Debt, and Bankruptcy. There is also a one-hour course available on Taxation of Virtual Workers. Please contact Heather Greenwell for additional information.

- VASEA sponsored Gear Up Seminars are an excellent source for continuing education. Business Entity and 1040 Update Seminars are available throughout the year. Be sure to call (800) 231-1860 with code **VSEAG10** when you register to get your 10% member discount.

- The Education Committee is exploring a partnership program with Fast Forward Academy to bring additional Enrolled Agent Exam and RTRP education products to Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP

- The VASEA Membership Committee met on August 2 to discuss procedures and strategies to improve recruitment and retention of members. Those in attendance were Jim Lam, EA, Membership Committee Chair (FC), Kathleen Stasulis, EA (HRC), Anne Uno, EA (NVC), Michael Harrison, EA (BRC), Diane Hosenfeld, EA (RC), Rosemary McMahon, EA, CPA and Heather Greenwell, Administrator. At the meeting, we reviewed committee responsibilities at the state and chapter levels, procedures for welcoming new members and retaining current members, exit interviews for expired members, new ideas for recruiting and retaining members, and expanded offerings for the new Registered Tax Return Preparers.

- On August 17, Jim Lam, EA, Heather Greenwell and I attended the Blue Ridge Chapter Luncheon Meeting to discuss how we can improve membership offerings in the Blue Ridge Chapter. I was pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm for our organization. We exchanged ideas that promise to bring better communications and assistance to a broad area of the state.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Steve Rue, EA, Government Relations Chair and Heather Greenwell met with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) on August 16 to assist in developing an outreach program for private sector organizations to work with VDEM in disseminating information to Virginia residents in the case of emergencies in the state.

- Government Relations Committee members attend meetings and forums with the Internal Revenue Service and the Virginia Department of Taxation on an ongoing basis. These events are scheduled throughout the year. If you have any questions related to new legislation, this is the place to get the answers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- The Speakers' Bureau is continuing its Small Business Workshops in conjunction with the Northern Virginia Community College. Pat Inman, EA is working on an expanded version of this workshop which will be offered at Germanna Community College's Fredericksburg and Culpeper campuses starting in September.

- Speakers are working with Small Business Development Centers throughout the state. Please contact Ley Mills, IRS Stakeholder Liaison at (703) 647-5591 if you know of SBDCs or community colleges in your area that might be interested in the Small Business Workshops.

- Pat Inman, EA and Heather Greenwell are working with the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond to develop an "Enrolled Agent" curriculum for their accounting department similar to programs developed in California with the help of the California Society of Enrolled Agents.

Don't forget! The Annual Meeting and Town Hall will be held during the Current Tax Issues Seminar in Charlottesville on October 20. We are planning for

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excellent attendance at this event! Come enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with your colleagues. VASEA's leadership will be on hand to answer questions and listen to suggestions. If you are interested in VASEA's future, this is the place to be!

I look forward to seeing you all there!

Sincerely,



Rosemary C. McMahon, EA, CPA
VASEA President



Welcome New Members and Associates!

Asha B. Aikat
Newport News, VA

Mary S. Comess, EA
Richmond, VA

William DeBeau
Hartfield, VA

Sherry Gail Drifmeyer, EA
Stone Ridge, VA

Eric M. Duncan, EA
Glen Allen, VA

Mark I. Gripentrog, EA
Potomac Falls, VA

Katherine A. Halberg, EA
Mechanicsville, VA

Seung Won Kim, EA
Annandale, VA

Raymond D. Nations, EA
Hampton, VA

James P. Simos, EA
McLean, VA

Birendra K. Sinha, EA
Arlington, VA

VASEA Education Committee Update

by Pat Inman, EA, Chair

Our 2011 Annual VASEA Current Tax Issues Seminar will be held in Charlottesville, October 20th and 21st at the Holiday Inn University Area & Conference Center. In addition to changing locations this year we have extended the seminar from one to two days, adding Ethics and our VASEA Annual Business meeting. Both Ethics and the Annual Meeting were included in the Spring Seminar in earlier years.

Our Current Tax Issues Seminar will include IRS and Virginia tax updates again this year, but we will also have presentations by the Social Security Administration and an IRS Panel, including representatives from the Collections, Appeals and Criminal Investigation Divisions. We requested a representative from the Social Security Administration based on feedback from our members. The following topics will be addressed:

- Social Security benefits for federal retirees and other offset individuals;
- Medical insurance benefits for eligible persons who are still working;
- Medicare Parts A, B, C and D
- Medicare application process

The VASEA Education Committee has been busy planning education events for the coming year and looking at how best to comply with the newly published Circular 230 requirements. Toward that end, we are planning dual track presentations for the 2012 Spring Seminar to provide education opportunities for the new Registered Tax Return Preparers (RTRP). RTRPs will be required to obtain 16 hours of continuing education beginning in 2011, including 2 hours of Ethics. Again based on feedback from our members, we are offering Ethics at the 2012 Spring Seminar. Stay tuned for additional details in the coming months.

In another effort to comply with the new Circular 230 requirements, NAEA has prepared “canned” programs called “Presentations in a Box” for use by state affiliates. VASEA in turn has provided these programs to our local chapter presidents. The presentations include cancellation of debt, bankruptcy, ethics and taxation of virtual workers and qualify for two hours of CPE.

As many of you know, VASEA’s continuing education sponsor status was extended by the IRS through December 30th, 2011. The newly formed IRS Return Preparer Office is in the process of developing guidelines for continuing education providers in compliance with Circular 230. We will share further information with you as it becomes available.

Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline

VASEA’s memorial scholarship fund was originally created in honor of the passing of two outstanding members, Bess Messmer, EA and Jim Reames, EA. The purpose of the memorial scholarship is to help aspiring EAs who wish to take the VASEA SEE Review Course. VASEA members who were inspired by Bess, Jim or both donated to the fund allowing us to offer over \$1,000 in scholarships in recent years. VASEA chapters and members also have donated to the fund in memorium for others. The amount of funds awarded for 2012 will be based on donations received. We currently have \$400 in the 2012 fund. Please call the VASEA office for more information, or visit www.vasea.org and look under the heading “Tax Seminars” for information on the SEE Review Course and scholarship.

EA of the Year Nominations Due September 30th

VASEA's highest honor recognizing member contributions will be awarded at the Annual Meeting scheduled for 3:10 p.m. on October 20, 2011 at the Holiday Inn University Area & Conference Center, Charlottesville. All nominations are due by Friday, September 30th.

Eligibility

Any Society Member in good standing is eligible to receive the Enrolled Agent of the Year Award.

The award will be presented to the Enrolled Agent who has contributed to the enhancement or improvement of the status of Enrolled Agents, a local Chapter or the Virginia Society.

How to Make a Nomination

Each member may nominate one person. In addition, each Chapter of VASEA may nominate one person. The nomination of the Chapter must be accompanied by a letter signed by the Chapter President, indicating it is the official nomination of the Chapter.

Additionally, each Officer of the Society and each VASEA Director may nominate one person. The person submitting the nomination shall be clearly identified.

Nominations must be legibly written. The heading of the information shall clearly state it is a nomination for Enrolled Agent of the Year.

There is no limitation on length, and specific efforts and achievements shall be cited. Generalities should be avoided, so that the actual merits of the contribution may be accurately weighed.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, September 30th, to be eligible for consideration for this year's award. Nominations may be mailed to VASEA Administrator, 2415 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230 or email to admin@vasea.org or fax to (804) 288-3551.

Presentation

The recipient of the *Enrolled Agent of the Year Award* will be presented with a plaque at VASEA's Annual Meeting.



Blue Ridge Chapter Update

by David Tanner, EA, Chapter President

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Society of Enrolled Agents meets monthly on the third Wednesday at various restaurants at noon in the Lynchburg, Roanoke, Rocky Mount area. We meet each month except for November, February and March. Each month we have different speakers except for April when we have a roundtable discussion about the previous tax season. The speakers enable us to offer continuing education credits. Speakers include IRS personnel, tax attorneys, local government officials or members of our group talking about their specialty.

Hampton Roads Chapter Update

by George Walsh, EA, Chapter President

A monthly breakfast meeting, with CPE, is usually held on the third Wednesday of each month except May. The breakfast meetings begin at 7:30 a.m. and are held at the Hilton Norfolk Airport, 1500 N. Military Hwy., Norfolk, VA 23502. We do not have a breakfast meeting in May, but instead, hold a four-hour seminar on a Saturday in mid-May.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, September 21 : Estate Tax Update - Richard L. Ferris, JD, LL.M., Ferris & Associates
- Wednesday, October 19 : Speaker and topic to be announced.
- Wednesday, November 16 : Tentatively scheduled: North Carolina Department of Revenue Tax Presentation and Update
- Wednesday, December 19 : Virginia Tax Update with the local Virginia Commissioners

Northern Virginia Chapter Update

by Bill Wilke, EA, Chapter President

A dinner meeting with one hour of CPE is generally held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna. Daytime seminars (3-4 hours of CPE; free to chapter members) are held in May and September. In addition, the chapter sponsored annual Tri-State Seminar is always held the third Saturday in January and includes presentations by tax administrators from Virginia, Maryland, and DC on changes to their tax laws, as well as problem sets showing how these laws translate to tax returns.

The September seminar will be Tuesday, September 20th at Springfield Golf & Country Club featuring David Williams, Director of the Return Preparer Office. The topic will be the changing landscape of the tax profession. The time is from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join us on September 28th at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna. Joe Nesarie of JW Law, PC will be talking about bankruptcy. Cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. RSVP to Sherry Loop swloopea@aol.com or (703) 866-9152.

Fredericksburg Chapter Update

by Gerald Machek, EA, Chapter President

The Fredericksburg Chapter of the Virginia Society of Enrolled Agents has been in existence since October 2006. The chapter meets monthly for dinner on the third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. except for June at Ristorante Renato, 422 William Street, in downtown Fredericksburg.

Our meetings generally have a speaker, but during the months of February, March, and April we will have roundtable discussions on current tax matters. The remainder of the year our meetings generally have a speaker who is capable of providing Continuing Education Credits. Past topics have been the Health Care Act, Reverse Mortgages, Converting Traditional IRA's to Roth IRAs, Virginia Employment Commission and other VA State Issues. Every January we have invited the local Commissioners of Revenue: City of Fredericksburg, Stafford County, and Spotsylvania County to come and speak to us on local tax issues and tax processing that they do for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Our chapter leadership is: Gerald J. Machek, EA, President; Carolyn Brammer, EA, Vice President, and Deborah Gladden, EA, Secretary Treasurer.

Richmond Chapter Update

by Jeffrey S. Bruce, EA, Chapter President

Calendar year 2010 was an eventful one for the Richmond chapter of the Virginia Society of Enrolled Agents. Our breakfast meetings (held the second Thursday of each month at Richmond's Westwood Racquet Club) proved to be an excellent source of education for the members in 2010. Some of the topics included trust accounting, ethics, Obamacare and health savings accounts. The turnout at our breakfast meetings has increased each year and with a varied and useful schedule of speakers for 2011 we expect it to increase even more. Our roundtable discussions are insightful and thought-provoking due to the large amount of tax knowledge that exists within our chapter. Edward Levine, EA and Stuart Logan, EA are regular participants at our meetings and they not only provide their knowledge but since they are two of the Virginia Society's founding members, they also provide us with their unique historical perspectives. Another regular attendee of our meetings is past VSEA president Winston Macon, EA who continues to assist us with his unique knowledge of the inner workings of Internal Revenue Service and his vast expertise on qualifying continuing education.

The Richmond chapter also will continue to have its annual Enrolled Agent Christmas Party the first Saturday in December of 2011. Besides talking "shop", the Christmas party allows our members and their "significant others" to mingle in an atmosphere outside of the office. This event has been a big success and allows the members to "let their hair down."

Lastly, The Richmond chapter will continue to support the efforts of the State Society in terms of encouraging member participation in VASEA supported Gear-Up tax seminars and annual meetings based on the idea that greater participation means a stronger and more responsive State Society.

VASEA Calendar of Events

VASEA SEMINARS

Current Tax Issues Seminar (10 CPE hours)

Thursday-Friday, October 20-21, 2011, Holiday Inn Charlottesville – University Area

Holiday Inn Charlottesville - University Area. 10 hours of Circular 230 tax CPE presented by speakers from IRS, Social Security Administration, Virginia Department of Taxation, and elsewhere on the latest changes in tax law. Two hours of Ethics is included.

VASEA 22nd Annual Spring Seminar (22 CPE hours)

Thursday-Saturday, June 7-9, 2012, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

22 hours of Circular 230 CPE - topics will include K-1's, Real Estate Rentals, Net Operating Loss, Schedules A & B, IRM & Audit Technique Guides and a two hour Practice Management session.

15-Week SEE Review Courses

Classes start in May 2012 at three locations - Richmond, Vienna, and Virginia Beach.

VASEA GEAR UP SEMINARS

Below is the list of 2011 VASEA Gear Up Seminars. VASEA members, their coworkers and employees, receive a 10% discount on these and other Gear Up Seminars. The 10% discount can be used in addition to any current promotions Gear Up may have at the time, including group discounts. **In order to get the discount, you must call Gear Up at 1-800-231-1860 to register and cannot register online. You will need to mention a special code - that code is VSEAG10.**

Gear Up 2-Day Business Entities Seminar (16 hours CPE)

Wednesday-Thursday, September 28-29, 2011, Fairfax

Wednesday-Thursday, October 5-6, 2011, Tyson's Corner

This course will provide a review of new tax laws including legislation, court cases, IRS rulings and notices, and other developments. This seminar will explore the advantages and disadvantages of C corporations, S corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), general partnerships, and limited partnerships (including family limited partnerships). This course will address important issues, planning opportunities, and techniques essential to providing service to all business clients. Updated to include the key provisions of the HIRE Act, the tax implications of Health Care Reform and the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

Gear Up 2-Day 1040 Seminars (16 hours CPE)

Thursday-Friday, October 27-28, 2011, Tyson's Corner

Tuesday-Wednesday, November 1-2, 2011, Virginia Beach

Monday-Tuesday, November 7-8, 2011, Fredericksburg

Thursday-Friday, December 15-16, 2011, Reston

Many changes have occurred from recent legislation and case law. Gear Up brings you up-to-date and gives you the essential planning tools to help you navigate through those changes as well as provide a review of Form 1040 complexities. Updated for tax legislation passed in late 2010 and 2011 including key provisions of the HIRE Act, the tax implications of Health Care Reform, and the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, as well as IRS rulings, court decisions and other important topics that impact your clients.

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VASEA Calendar of Events

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Gear Up Federal Tax Update Seminar (8 hours CPE)

Friday, December 2, 2011, Fairfax

Federal Tax Update is a one-day, fast paced seminar that covers the latest developments affecting individuals, corporations, pass-through entities, and estates and trusts. Written and taught by practitioners for practitioners, it is designed to provide you with practical, working knowledge of the latest tax law changes. This course features full coverage of all significant new federal taxation legislation, coverage of Treasury regulations, IRS pronouncements, and judicial decisions issued during the past year, and also includes tax planning ideas.

For more information about VASEA's educational offerings, please visit the VASEA website at www.vasea.org and look under the headings "Tax Seminars" or "VASEA Chapters." Please feel free to contact the VASEA office if you have any questions.



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