

MI-1040 Report

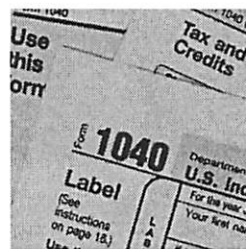
Michigan Chapter-NATP National Association of Tax Professionals

www.minatp.org

APRIL 2017

From the Education Desk...

Glen Mitchell, EA
Vice President



DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR PRACTICE!

WANT TO BE A WINNER? Come on **May 18** and see **Lisa Ihm E.A** speak on the multiple areas with **tax issues with children** at **FireKeepers Casino Hotel** Thursday 6 hours of dealing with children on the tax return from dependency, daycare, college, and beyond. We even squeeze in the proper way to handle your in home child care, the dreaded **nanny tax**, with Marilyn Meredith E.A. We end Thursday's education session with a lively 2 hours of **ethics** with Lisa Ihm's unique way to engage the audience. Later we will relax at our annual banquet and welcome our Board of Directors.

Friday begins with **"The Stuff You Thought You Knew"** with Lisa Ihm. E.A. Lisa then goes into a very interesting and understandable discussion on the **Alternative Minimum Tax**. After her session you will better understand the unpopular tax.

Friday afternoon we offer multiple topics including **Basics of Bankruptcy, Evolving Federal Tax Issues, Marijuana & Taxes, Correcting Depreciation, basic Canadian and Foreign Students**. You get to chose the 3 topics you want to attend. Marilyn Meredith E.A. then reviews the 2 day seminar with **"Putting It All Together"** to end the day on Friday.

If you only attend one education event this year, this should be **THE EVENT**. World class speakers, reasonable price, and at the easy to get to **FireKeepers Casino Hotel** near **Battle Creek** all make this a winning deal for you.

Watch for information on Michigan NATP's website for our seminar on employee business expenses coming up in late July. It will cover those automobiles, business, and fringe benefits that employers can provide to employees tax free and those that are be taxable.

See you May 18 & 19, at FireKeepers Casino Hotel

Glen Mitchell E.A. Chair of the Education Committee

YOUR 2016-17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Anna Mayer, Region 3

Vice President: Glen Mitchell

At-Large

Secretary: Duane Stoker, Region 5

Treasurer: Vickie Black, At-Large

Sylvia Collins, At-Large

Jerry Coon, Region 2

Susan Cullen, At-Large

Leslie Echols, At-Large

Jon Garlick, At-Large

Byron Kuxhaus, At-Large

Marilyn Meredith, Region 4

Sherry Nelson, Region 6

Diane Skop, At large

Lori Stafford, At-Large

Roger Voss, Region 1

From the Education Desk P.1
President's Letter & Updates P.2
P.3
UPCOMING SAVE THE DATES P. 4

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Jerry Coon

Certificates: Roger Voss

Charity: Duane Stoker

Education: Glen Mitchell

Facilities: Leslie Echols

Financial Review: Sylvia Collins

Government: Marilyn Meredith

Newsletter: Byron Kuxhaus

Nominations: Sherry Nelson

Publicity: Duane Stoker

Reference Books: Sherry Nelson

Registration: Susan Cullen

Website: Susan Cullen

THIS AND THAT...

- Arrests have been reported of an alleged mastermind of call centers located in India which were scamming US Taxpayers. Earlier, the U.S. Department of Justice reported arrests of 20 individuals in the United States.
- IRS is bringing back private debt collectors.
- Taxpayers with seriously delinquent tax debt will have passports restricted.
- Collection financial standard expense limits have increased.
- Michigan Treasury is revising form 151 again; proposed new rules are to be posted for review soon.
- The IRS has issued new final reporting regulations that address the rules for reporting payments from bingo, keno and slot machine winnings. (IRS Reg. 1.6041-10, 12/29/16)

REGISTRATION FOR YOUR SEMINARS

1. GO TO NATPTAX.COM
2. CLICK ON CHAPTERS
3. CLICK ON MICHIGAN
4. SELECT THE EDUCATION TAB
5. SCROLL DOWN THE LIST TO SELECT YOUR CLASS/ SEMINAR
6. COMPLETE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
7. PAY (CLICK SUBMIT)
8. RECEIVE EMAIL CONFIRMATION
9. PRINT CONFIRMATION AND BRING WITH YOU TO THE SEMINAR.

Newsletter Committee

Vicki Black
Susan Cullen
Jon Garlick
Byron Kuxhaus
Matt McKeitz
Brian Meredith
Marilyn Meredith
Glen Mitchell
Sherry Nelson
Cyndi Salinis
Jill Schneider
Lori Stafford
Duane Stocker
Ray Wojciechowski

Special Thanks to Chuck, Chris and Terese at Allegra Printing Fort Gratiot Michigan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whew! We made it through another tax filing season. Yeah!

From what I've heard from other preparers, tax season started slowly, probably because of the hold on some refunds, became fairly steady and then was crazy for last final 10 - 14 days.

Are you taking a break now? Or, like many of us, tax season never really ends but the nature of it changes.

This year it was interesting to follow other preparers on FaceBook. There are groups for Tax Pros, Enrolled Agents, Drake users and probably several others. There is also a group for MI NATP members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/minatp/>) though I must confess to not posting there as often as I probably should. Please help me out with the MI NATP FaceBook page, ask to join the group and share your thoughts and knowledge.

The Michigan Chapter of NATP Board is rapidly preparing for our upcoming education events, beginning with the Annual Conference May 18 and 19 at the FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek. If you would like to become a member of the Michigan Board, elections will be held during the Annual Meeting on May 18th. This is your opportunity to become actively involved, network and share.

Anna Mayer, EA, AFSP, CSA

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS

At our annual meeting in FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek on May 18 starting about 11:30 a.m., members in attendance will cast ballots for five members of your Michigan Chapter Board of Directors. Directors serve 3 year terms beginning the day of election. Some are regional positions; others at large. The Board of Directors elects from its members Chapter officers. The following list shows the incumbent, current office and area/region.

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>OFFICE</u> | <u>AREA/REGION</u> |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| SUSAN CULLEN | BOARD MEMBER | AT LARGE |
| JON GARLICK | BOARD MEMBER | AT LARGE |
| ANNA MAYER | PRESIDENT | REGION 3 |
| DIANE SKOP | MEMBER | AT LARGE |
| DUANE STOCKER | SECRETARY | REGION 5 |

Nominations, including self nominations, for all board member positions can be made from the floor at the annual meeting or via email before May 16 to turningpointtaxsolutions@gmail.com OR boktax@wowway.com.

MI NATP WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| John Acker | Farmington | Dwaine Kaiser | Brighton |
| Audrey Ackerson | Stevensville | Rebecca Kietzman | Middleville |
| Nick Bauerly | Jonesville | Jeremy Lockard | Jenison |
| Marc Bennison | Battle Creek | Ali Mahmoudi | Ypsilanti |
| Bethany Blehm | St Clair Shores | Dianne S McCulloch | Northville |
| Michael Bland | Warren | Brian Michael | Livonia |
| Markwei Boye | Southfield | Kathy M Minor | Ypsilanti |
| Steve Braun | Canton | David Moran | Portage |
| Brandi Bunch | Newport | Robert Mroczek | Saginaw |
| Denise Cobb | Southfield | Marc Myrick | Holland |
| Marlena Curtis | Flint | Afzal J Muhammad | Troy |
| Lyn Marie Dorman | Jackson | John Carter O'Brien | Hudsonville |
| Amber Ellington | Ypsilanti | Sheryl Pieprzak | Macomb |
| Martha Moya Eduardo | Kentwood | Leland T Proshek | Lambertville |
| John Elms | Battle Creek | Justin Rini | Almont |
| Renee Floer | Pontiac | Harold Rudd | Marysville |
| Sidney Fordonski | Oak Park | Kenneth Schad | Rochester Hill |
| Camea Franklin | Detroit | Robert Schmansky | Ann Arbor |
| Maryann L Freeman | Coopersville | Theodore B Slicer | Laingsburg |
| A G Matthwe Gambrell | West Bloomfield | Karen Stancombe | Fowlerville |
| Manny Glazier | Farmington Hills | Edward H Sumrell | Wyoming |
| James Hayden | Wyoming | Linda Tuck | Houghton Lake |
| Douglas Heath | Beverly Hills | Rosemary VanMaldeghem | Royal Oak |

YOUR save the date events!

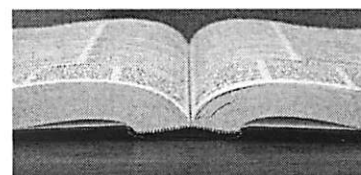
MI NATP APRIL 2017

Page 4

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| May 18-19 2017 | Michigan Chapter Convention Battle Creek (Firekeepers) | |
| Summer 2017 | Special Topic Seminar | Location and date to be announced. |
| August 7-10, 2017 | National Conference** | Washington, D.C. |
| September 15, 2017 | TWO FOR ONE CONFERENCE | Bath, Michigan |
| January 5, 2018 | LAST CHANCE SEMINAR | Lansing, Michigan |
| January 5, 2018 | INTRODUCTION TO TAX & BASIS OFFICE PROCEDURES | Lansing, Michigan |
| May 17-18 2018 | Michigan Chapter Convention | Port Huron, Michigan |
| June 21, 2017 | IRS WORKING TOGETHER | Laurel Manor, Livonia *** |
| Various Dates 2017 | Purely Michigan Tax | Various Locations |
| Various Dates 2017 | NATP National Essential 1040® and Beyond the 1040® ** | Various locations** |

*Evening of NATP Essential 1040 Seminar ** = National Functions

**** register at micpa.org www.minatp.org (new website)



Register on line!

National Association
Of Tax Professionals



Address Service Requested
MICHIGAN CHAPTER-NATP
P.O. BOX 271
BRIDGEPORT, MI 48722-0271
WWW.MINATP.ORG

CHECK LISTS FOR YOUR TAX PRACTICE

by Vickie A. Black, St. Johns Business and Tax Service, St. Johns Mich.

Our clients are more than ever bombarded with useless information nowadays. They have so many things on their minds from dealing with kids, animals, grandchildren, retirement and so on - taxes are somewhere near the bottom of the list. Sadly, this causes tax preparers to waste lots of time on new and/or unprepared clients. During tax season, we're all busy and reducing wasted time is a major focus.

I invite you to develop two different check-lists for clients - one for new clients and one for existing clients. Each checklist eliminates complexity and confusion - as they only think about taxes once a year. When writing a checklist don't overlook the basic and simple things - such bringing investment statements, actual property tax documents, last years taxes, and so on. You'd be surprised how much taxpayers forget over the year.

Most clients want to look good and prepared when meeting with you. Just knowing that they've brought everything will free up your time and allow them to feel more comfortable and confident during the meeting - maybe even give you a few extra minutes to chat with them.

In the long run this saves time. Be willing to mail them a checklist around the first of the year. This gives them enough time to find everything and allows you to complete the return during one appointment setting. Think about this - if someone forgets something - they'll have to drop it off a few days later (wasting their time) - this causes the preparer to have to revisit, re-evaluate, and re-orientate the return a second time and that just wasted at least 15 minutes of critical. This is truly "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cures" situation.

IN A WORD, HOW WAS YOUR 2017 TAX SEASON?**FUN!****TRYING****BUSYYYY****CRAZY****MORE TRYING****EXCILERATING!****SMOOOOTH****NEVER ENDING!****VERY EVENTFUL!****EXCITING!****UHG!****OVERWHELMING****CHALLENGING!****SLEEP DEPRIVED****UNDER PAID**

PRACTICE NOTES
SURVIVE AND ADVANCE... TO NEXT YEAR!

MI-NATP APR

2017

W-2

WEB EXTRA

By Duane Stoker, EA

If you are reading this, you survived yet another tax season. Yes, the 2017 tax filing season has come and gone. I hope that it met your expectations and was a successful season. Now it's on to extensions and CP2000 letters. And getting ready for 2018.

Something else that you might consider evaluating during this summer is your office's technology. Technology is the life line that keeps our offices functioning in today's world.

In a world of instant access to just about everything, should there be hiccups with any number of things in the office it can cause panic. Computers, servers, laptops, tablets scanners and printers are all relied upon by each of us to provide the services our clients are inquiring about.

I learned firsthand this season that new computers, network and server don't guarantee everything will work as expected. Even with proper preparation and planning, one must expect the unexpected, such as needing to upgrade one computer to Windows 10 while everything else uses Windows 8 just fine, or when the printer can only be found by one of three computers.

My take away from this season after dealing with what felt like the never-ending technology nightmare was practice what we preach.

We are accountants, Enrolled Agents, and Attorneys that are trained in taxation, not technology. Trying to solve issues without complete knowledge or training on the issues can add to the problems instead of correcting the problems. Without having the relationship, I had with an IT company, the issues would have been far greater and more expensive to correct.

Take this next several months to develop relationships with professionals that can support your business and help you reach the goals you have set for yourself. Set up meeting with several different organizations to determine who offers the services that you need to be successful and grow. This is no different than what we suggest to potential clients. If all else fails, ask the neighborhood fifth grader.

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP! GET INVOLVED!

If you cannot attend this year's annual convention, you still get involved in one of the many committees. Volunteers are always needed for the newsletter, education committee, government relations, publicity, facilities, registration, and reference books.



**Michigan NATP Annual Convention
May 18 & 19, 2017
Fire Keepers Casino, Battle Creek**

*****877-352-8777*****

Register On-line at www.natptax.com or www.minatp.org

SPEAKERS:

**Lisa Ihm, EA; Sherry Nelson, EA;
Marilyn Meredith, EA;
William Pratt, EA; Susan Cullen, EA.**

THURSDAY FULL PARTICIPANT SESSIONS

**Baby Oh Baby; MI NATP Annual Meeting; Nanny Tax;
Misc. Kiddie Issues; Ethics; Evening Annual Banquet**

FRIDAY FULL PARTICIPANT SESSIONS

Stuff You Thought You Knew; AMT.

FRIDAY BREAK OUT SESSIONS

**Bankruptcy; Fed Tax Issues; Marijuana Returns;
Foreign Students; Canada; 3115 Depreciation.
FULL SESSION: Finale-Putting It All Together.**

5/18 – SEMINAR 8AM – 5:30PM

5/19 SEMINAR 8AM – 4:30PM

ANNUAL BANQUET – THURSDAY at 6:00 PM

GOOD FOOD!! GREAT ENTERTAINMENT!!

*******Room Reservations Accepted Until May 2 for \$99. *******

Call Fire Keepers Casino: 877-352-8777. Use Group Code: 051717NATP.



Gold Card

Admit 1 to MI-NATP 2017 Events***

\$550

Name: _____

OFFER APPLIES TO MEMBERS ONLY

OFFER EXPIRES ON MAY 19, 2017

*****GOLD CARD APPLIES TO ONLY THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:**

MI NATP ANNUAL CONVENTION *May 18 & 19, 2017*

"2 FOR 1" *SEPTEMBER 22, 2017* SEMINAR (INCLUDES GUEST)

1 PURELY MICHIGAN FALL *2017* TAX SEMINAR

"LAST CHANCE" SEMINAR *JANUARY 5, 2018.*

Do you consider yourself a **Grade "A"** Tax Professional?

Does your **Tax Education** rank as a **Top Priority** on your calendar?

Do you attend at least 3 out of 4 MI-NATP annual **education seminars**?

If the answers are "YES", you can benefit by pre-registering with our **NEW MINATP GOLD CARD**.

Purchase the 4 events at **\$550** with the **GOLD CARD**. It's like getting one seminar **FREE!**

2017 Gold Card PTIN REQUIRED _____ NATP MEMBER # _____

Name _____ EA/CPA _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

City, State, Zip _____ EMail _____

FEE: NATP Member: \$550

Payment form: () Check - Payable to: "MI Chapter NATP" () Charge

VISA / MCARD / DISCOVER _____ CODE* _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Card Holders Name, Address, Zip Code _____

PURCHASE ON-LINE AT: www.minatp.org

MI Chapter NATP

P.O. Box 1

St. Johns, MI 48879

Fax (989) 579-6000

Phone Chapter Pres. Anna Mayer (989)777-5432

CONFIRMATIONS TO LEGIBLE EMAIL ADDRESSES ONLY

*Security code from signature strip on reverse of card

NOTE: Purchasers of Gold Cards must still register for seminars. Enter "Gold Card" in payment section.