



# SOLANO-NAPA NEWS

CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF ENROLLED AGENTS



*"WE SPEAK TAX"* - the Tax Professionals

**Volume II, Number 20**

**December 2007**



**December 11, 2007, 6:30 pm**  
**Jack & Linda's Country Café**  
**See page 6 for details! Fun, fun, fun!!!**

## President's Message

December is another holiday month. It is a time to be with family and friends and to celebrate life. Soon, all too soon, we will be in tax season, where we will devote most of our time and energy for our clients. Just what can we expect this tax season?

It is likely that Congress will pass some type of AMT reform during December. We just love it when they make changes late in the year. It will take 10 weeks to revise the forms and update IRS computers, which means, our clients who file in January and early February will have delays in processing of their returns by the IRS. The forms affected would include child care credit, foreign income credit, residential energy credit, education credit, and qualified retirement savings credit.

Another change, this tax season, will be the required filing of e-postcards for small non-profits. Check out this web link: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-22299.htm>

Last month, the IRS approved unlimited access to e-Services to all Circular 230 practitioners. Those of you who mainly do representation will now have access to your clients' information at the IRS. Click her for [instructions](#). Did you know that if your e-Services password expired that it is no longer necessary to wait for a confirmation via (see Prez, page 2)

## Solano-Napa Chapter Breakfast & Dinner Programs

Solano-Napa EAs meet on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month to share information with other EAs and tax professionals. The meetings are at Jack & Linda's Country Café, 2390 N Texas St., Fairfield, CA and, as announced, at other locations in the Solano-Napa area.

### Breakfast Meetings – 8:00 am - 9:00 am:

On the second Tuesday, we have Breakfast Meetings where a predetermined topic will be discussed. All attendees are encouraged to participate by sharing their knowledge and experience. Cost is Dutch.

### Dinner Meetings:

<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Attitude adjustment</b>
<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>After dinner</b>	<b>Education</b>

On the fourth Tuesday, we have Dinner Meetings where generally there will be a speaker on a topic for continuing education, practice management, legislative, or other issues pertinent to our profession. **Cost is \$35, Members and staff, \$40, non-members, who attend any portion of the meeting.** There is a **\$5** discount if your reservations are made timely. Reservations, and meal choice, when applicable, are due to Tereza Avalos, EA, fax (707) 678-1144 or email: [tereza@tabertax.com](mailto:tereza@tabertax.com) by 5 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. **Tereza is our only contact with restaurants. No member should ever contact restaurants for meal choices.**

If you don't want to worry about timely reservations, this would be a perfect time to have your name added to the **Standing Reservation List**. (That way you only have to give notice when you are not going to be there!)

## Napa Satellite Group Luncheons

Napa Satellite Group meets on the **third Thursday** of each month. These luncheons are at the Napa Elks Club, 2840 Soscol Ave., Napa. Meetings start at the 12:30 pm.

### Lunch Meeting – 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Invitation is open. **Cost is \$14.** For reservations, contact Chuck Gravett's office at (707) 258-1030 and RSVP with his secretary. Make checks payable to Linda Luchsinger.

Jerry Pusateri, EA is available for car pool from Fairfield.

**(Prez, from page 1)**

the mail? You need to enter your AGI and PIN. Once these are validated, you must change your password and then you can access the system, however, if you have forgotten your password that will require a confirmation by mail.

Are our clients aware of the new age limit for the Kiddie Tax? Are our clients aware of Home Land Security interest in the Form I-9s and identification information employers have on their employees? Are our clients aware of their obligations as an employer? Do we know what to do when a client comes in who has had a foreclosure, a short sale, a deed in lieu of foreclosure? This month and early January might be a time to get informed and ready to solve our client's tax issues.

Last, but not least, I want to thank all of you for the calls, cards and flowers. I am doing fine and if my doctor permits will be at our Holiday Party!

**Happy Holidays to All.....**

**Alma Guenther, EA  
President**

**Next Generation Tax Professional!!  
Welcome, Kaylie Paige Camara  
Arrived November 26, 2007, 2:13 pm**

**5 lbs 9 oz  
"A keeper!!"**



***A keeper, indeed!***



**The Scarrotts with Kaylie  
Proud Grandma and Grandpa!  
Congratulations!**

**Good Stuff from Social Security Administration:  
Business Services Online (BSO) Availability**

[www.ssa.gov/employer/bsobnew.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/employer/bsobnew.htm)

Monday-Friday .....5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern Time  
Saturday.....5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
Sunday.....8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Eastern Time

**Note: Wage reporting applications will not be available  
from December 14, 2007 through December 16, 2007.**

**Password Reminders**

- Passwords must be changed every 365 days to keep your User ID (PIN) active. Keep in mind that you can change your password as often as you like, but remember to make a note of the new one.
- If you have forgotten your password, you can request a new one online. Select "Log In" from the BSO home page at [www.ssa.gov/bsowelcome.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/bsowelcome.htm), once you pass the General Log Attestation page, you can select "Forgot your password?" from the Log In to BSO page. Or, you may call the Employer Reporting Assistance number at 1-800-772-6270.
- It takes up to 2 business weeks to receive a temporary password.

**Note: We've changed the name of the Personnel  
Identification Number (PIN) to User ID.**

**Dates to Remember**

- December 14-16, 2007 Wage reporting applications will not be available
- December 17, 2007 BSO will begin accepting tax year 2007 submissions.
- January 1, 2008 Update payroll system to reflect the 2008 wage base rates. **(See page 4)**

**This is an open invitation to all CTEC and other tax professionals to join our chapter:**

Dear Business Professional:



The Solano-Napa Chapter of the California Society of Enrolled Agents would like to inform you of our upcoming and continuing meetings. The meetings are open to all tax, bookkeeping, payroll, accounting, legal and financial business professionals with an interest in taxation.

**President:**

Alma Guenther, EA  
(707) 643-2226; Fax (707) 643-2222  
e-mail: [almaea@pacbell.net](mailto:almaea@pacbell.net)

**1st Vice-President:**

Ken Spingola, EA  
(707) 553-2645  
e-mail: [kspingola@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kspingola@sbcglobal.net)

**2nd Vice-President**

Sherri Scarrott, EA  
(707) 426-9472; Fax: (707) 426-9478  
e-mail: [eataxldy@pacbell.net](mailto:eataxldy@pacbell.net)

**Secretary:**

Lea Garrity, EA  
(707) 386-3390  
e-mail: [leagarrity@charter.net](mailto:leagarrity@charter.net)

**Treasurer:**

Chris Raycraft, EA  
(707) 428-4741; Fax: ((707) 428-0256  
e-mail: [craycraft@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:craycraft@sbcbglobal.net)

**Directors:**

Tereza Avalos, EA  
(707) 678-4477; Fax (707) 678-1144  
e-mails: [tereza@tabertax.com](mailto:tereza@tabertax.com)

Marcia Gillespie, EA  
(707) 251-5520; Fax: (707) 251-5525  
e-mail: [marciaea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marciaea@sbcglobal.net)

Louanna Grindle, EA  
(707) 451-7611; fax (707) 451-4866  
e-mail: [taxhouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taxhouse@sbcglobal.net)

Matt Jones, EA  
(707) 557-6838; Fax (707) 557-7702  
e-mail: [mattstax@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mattstax@sbcglobal.net)

Gerald Pusateri, EA,  
(707) 426-4396; Fax: (707) 426-4397  
e-mail: [untaxit@pacbell.net](mailto:untaxit@pacbell.net)

Don Wulf, EA  
(707) 252-0442; Fax (707) 252-7942  
Email: [dwulf@calltpac.net](mailto:dwulf@calltpac.net)

**CSEA Director**

Sharyn Scarrott, EA  
(707) 426-9472 Fax: (707) 426-9478  
e-mail: [eataxldy@pacbell.net](mailto:eataxldy@pacbell.net)

**IPP**

Anne Arms, EA  
(707) 745-1040; Fax: (707) 745-0281  
email: [armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)

**Breakfast Meetings – 8:00 am – 9:00 am:** On the second Tuesday of each month Solano-Napa EAs meet to share information with other EAs, tax professionals, and interested parties. They are Breakfast Meetings where a predetermined topic will be discussed. All attendees are encouraged to participate by sharing their knowledge and experience. The meetings are at Jack & Linda's Country Cafe, 2390 N. Texas Street, Fairfield, CA and, as announced, at other locations in the Solano-Napa area. Cost is Dutch Treat.

**Dinner Meetings – 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm approx.** On the fourth Tuesday, we have Dinner Meetings where generally there will be a speaker on a topic for continuing education, practice management, legislative, or other issues pertinent to our profession. Cost is \$35, Members and staff and \$40, nonmembers. There is a \$5 discount if your reservations are made timely. Reservations and meal choice are due to Tereza Avalos, EA, fax (707) 678-1144 or e-mail: [tereza@tabertax.com](mailto:tereza@tabertax.com) by 5 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

**Napa Satellite Group** meets on the third Thursday of each month. These luncheons are at the Napa Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Ave, Napa. Meetings start at **12:30 and last till about 2:00pm.**

Invitation is open. Cost is \$14. For reservations, contact Chuck Gravett's office at (707) 258-1030 and RSVP with his secretary. Make checks payable to Linda Luchsinger.

If you would like to be placed on our e-mail list and receive our e-mail newsletter, please contact either of the following two people and they would be happy to oblige.

**Alma Guenther, EA-Chapter President**

Ph. 707-643-2226 e-mail: [almaea@pacbell.net](mailto:almaea@pacbell.net)

**Jerry Pusateri, EA-Membership Chair**

Ph. 707-426-4396 e-mail: [untaxit@pacbell.net](mailto:untaxit@pacbell.net)

Respectfully,

**Alma Guenther, EA**

President, Solano-Napa CSEA

**For your convenience, a CSEA Professional Associates Application is attached to this Newsletter.**

**We believe that the benefits of membership are well worth the fee.**

## **Foreclosure? Debt Forgiveness?** **How do you handle these?**

Are your clients facing foreclosure on real property? Where do you go to find the answers? North Bay Chapter CSEA is having a dinner meeting presentation on this topic on **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Here is what they have advertised about this meeting:

When mortgaged property is foreclosed, repossessed, or abandoned, both the debtor and the lender have tax consequences. Congress may change the rules for this year. Bonnie DeSimone, **EA**, has been teaching Federal taxation on a national lecture circuit for over 15 years. She will travel from Santa Barbara County to Marin on December 13 to offer two CPE hours on **Foreclosure and Debt Forgiveness** at Inn Marin in Novato. North Bay will extend its member discount to any Solano-Napa Chapter member who registers. **To get the early-bird price of \$30 (rather than \$35), you should register by December 6<sup>th</sup> at <http://www.northbayea.org/>** On the left side, click on "Resources" then "North Bay Events", and then near the bottom of the page "calendar" or click on the calendar box. A calendar will pop up and go to the date of the meeting (6:00pm on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>) to register. There is a new registration procedure using 123Signup with a place to indicate that you are a member of another CSEA Chapter so to get the member price.

If you are interested in attending contact: Marla Eckdahl, **EA**, 415/971-3401 or [meckdahl@novato.net](mailto:meckdahl@novato.net)

## **Standing Reservation** **Reminder:**

If you have a standing reservation for dinner meetings and if you do not want to be charged for a dinner that you do not consume due to not attending a meeting, then you must notify Tereza Avalos, EA, [tereza@tabertax.com](mailto:tereza@tabertax.com), that you will not attend a meeting. Please keep in mind that we need to have an accurate head count to give to Jack & Linda to prepare sufficient enough food, and for us to keep dinner cost as efficient as possible. If you do not notify Tereza, via email, that you will not attend a meeting, then you will still be charged for the standing reservation. Your cooperation is requested. Thanks.

(From page 2)

(Visit

[www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2008.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2008.htm))

- January 31, 2008                      Deadline for supplying W-2s to employees.
- February 28, 2008                    Deadline for filing paper W-2s.
- March 31, 2008                        Deadline for filing electronic W-2s.

(The Internal Revenue Service will consider electronic annual wage reports for tax year 2007 to be late if submitted after this date.)

*Note: Don't wait until the last minute. Start filing early since BSO experiences delays when there is a high volume of submissions.*

### **Use the Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS)**

[www.ssa.gov/employer/ssnvs\\_handbk.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/employer/ssnvs_handbk.htm)

- Submit names and Social Security numbers for verification online through our input screens and/or through the electronic file submission.
- Review your file for the correct formatting to ensure that the file is error-free—a properly formatted file will avoid rejection.
- Verify your entire payroll record before you file your W-2s through the SSNVS electronic file submission. You can zip (compress) your file. The transmission time required will be substantially reduced if the file is zipped.

**- - - WIN - - -**  
**- - FREE SUPER SEMINAR - -**

SOLANO NAPA CHAPTER, in the small chapter category, had the largest increase in membership, 2005 - 2006.

With that honor comes a free SUPER SEMINAR Registration.

There will be a drawing at the dinner meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

Tickets may be purchased for \$10.

**Or**

You will receive one ticket for each Solano Napa function you attend beginning November 1, 2006. This includes:

Breakfast in Fairfield - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays

Lunch in Napa - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

Dinner in both locations - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays

Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 12, 2007

**Or**

Sponsor a new member by February 15, 2007, and receive 5 tickets

**Or**

Win the dinner drawing and trade for 3 tickets

Need not be present to win. Registration may be in Reno or Las Vegas.

Early Bird deadline is March 15, 2007

Questions? Order by mail? Call - Anne Arms - (707) 745-1040  
1075 First St, Suite 6, Benicia, CA 94510

## Solano-Napa *Holiday Party* Tuesday, December 11, 2007

A Holiday Party for EAs, spouses, significant others and family members will be the theme of our December 11<sup>TH</sup> meeting.

Bring 1 wrapped white elephant gift (for our gift exchange) and non-perishable food donation for a local charity food pantry. Social hour with hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:00 pm, dinner and entertainment starting at 7:00 pm. A special performance of magical mayhem will be provided by our own *Spingola the Great & Daughter*.

There will be no CPE or speaker at this meeting, just come and enjoy a time of celebration with fellow EAs. The site for the meeting will be Jack & Linda's Country Café, 2390 N. Texas

St., Fairfield. *Fun! Fun!! Fun!!!*

## WHAT IS YOUR PRACTICE WORTH?

Many of our tax practices are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. You have taken steps to protect you and your family with disability insurance, life insurance, etc. What will happen to the value of your asset if you become disabled or if you pass away? If you have planned well, you might have a contingency plan in place. However, many of us have not been able to find a way to protect the value of the practice. It is very possible that the value of our practices will be greatly diminished, if not eliminated in the event of disability or death.

The Solano-Napa chapter of Enrolled Agents has developed a plan to assist its members through member participation in Preservation of Practice due to Medical Emergency or Death (PPMED). PPMED chairperson, Peggy Elliott, **EA**, has prepared letters that will be mailed to members in December 2007. There is a letter of renewal for members who have participated in the past and who wish to renew, and a letter of introduction to the benefits and requirements of the plan.

Look for those letters. Read them carefully and consider the benefits of participation.

# Solano-Napa Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Alma Guenther, EA</b> 707 643-2226 <a href="mailto:almaea@pacbell.net">almaea@pacbell.net</a>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Ken Spingola, EA</b> 707 553-2645 <a href="mailto:kspingola@comcast.net">kspingola@comcast.net</a>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Sherri Scarrott, EA</b> 707 426-9472 <a href="mailto:eataxldy@pacbell.net">eataxldy@pacbell.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lea Garrity, EA</b> 707 386-3390 <a href="mailto:leagarrity@charter.net">leagarrity@charter.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris Raycraft, EA</b> 707 428-4741 <a href="mailto:craycraftea@sbcglobal.net">craycraftea@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>CSEA Director</b>	<b>Sherri Scarrott, EA</b> 707 426-4396 <a href="mailto:eataxldy@pacbell.net">eataxldy@pacbell.net</a>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Anne Arms, EA</b> 707 644-9016 <a href="mailto:armspna@aol.com">armspna@aol.com</a>

<b>Directors</b>	<b>Marcia Gillespie, EA</b> 707 251-5520 <a href="mailto:marciaea@sbcglobal.net">marciaea@sbcglobal.net</a>
	<b>Matt Jones, EA</b> 707 557-6838 <a href="mailto:mattstax@sbcglobal.net">mattstax@sbcglobal.net</a>
	<b>Gerald Pusateri, EA</b> 707 426-4396 <a href="mailto:untaxit@pacbell.net">untaxit@pacbell.net</a>
	<b>Tereza Avalos, EA</b> 707 678-4477 <a href="mailto:tereza@tabertax.com">tereza@tabertax.com</a>
	<b>Donald Wulf, EA</b> 707 252-0442 <a href="mailto:dwulf@calltpac.net">dwulf@calltpac.net</a>
	<b>Louanna Grindle, EA</b> 707 451-7611 <a href="mailto:taxhouse@sbcglobal.net">taxhouse@sbcglobal.net</a>

## Chapter Committee Chairs

<b>AUDIT</b> Phil Correia, EA 707 426-0920 <a href="mailto:pcorreia@sbcglobal.net">pcorreia@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>DINNER/SITE</b> Sherri Scarrott, EA 707 426-9472 <a href="mailto:eataxldy@pacbell.net">eataxldy@pacbell.net</a>	<b>NOMINATING</b> Peggy Elliott, EA 707 421-8088 <a href="mailto:peggye@aol.com">peggye@aol.com</a>	<b>PUBLIC AWARENESS</b> Marcia Gillespie, EA 707 251-5520 <a href="mailto:marciaea@sbcglobal.net">marciaea@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>BYLAWS</b> Lea Garrity, EA 707 386-3390 <a href="mailto:leagarrity@charter.net">leagarrity@charter.net</a>	<b>BREAKFAST FACILITATOR</b> Alma Guenther, EA 707 643-2226 <a href="mailto:almaea@pacbell.net">almaea@pacbell.net</a>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Gerald Pusateri, EA 707 426-4396 <a href="mailto:untaxit@pacbell.net">untaxit@pacbell.net</a>	<b>RESERVATIONS</b> Tereza Avalos, EA 707 678-1144 <a href="mailto:tereza@tabertax.com">tereza@tabertax.com</a>
<b>Preservation of Practice due to Medical Emergency or Death (PPMED)</b> Peggy Elliott, EA 707 421-8088 <a href="mailto:peggye@aol.com">peggye@aol.com</a>		<b>FINANCE &amp; BUDGET</b> Doug Ellis, EA 707 448-1407 <a href="mailto:dellisea@pacbell.net">dellisea@pacbell.net</a>	<b>NEWSLETTER</b> Matt Jones, EA 707 557-6838 <a href="mailto:mattstax@sbcglobal.net">mattstax@sbcglobal.net</a>

### *hEArd It Through The Grapevine*

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be: **50.5 cents** per mile for business miles driven; **19 cents** per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and **14 cents** per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 48.5 cents per mile for 2007. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 20 cents in 2007. The rate for miles driven in service of charitable organizations has remained the same.

Newsletter Editor: Matthew J. Jones, EA  
Phone: (707) 557-6838  
Fax: (707) 557-7702  
Address: 2437 Springs Rd., Vallejo, CA 94591-5610  
E-mail: [mattstax@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mattstax@sbcglobal.net)

Co-Editor: Alma Guenther, EA  
Phone: (707) 643-2226  
Fax: (707) 643-2222  
Address: 715 Tennessee St., Vallejo, CA 94590-4506  
E-mail: [almaea@pacbell.net](mailto:almaea@pacbell.net)

# Solano-Napa Chapter CSEA

c/o Matt Jones, EA

2437 Springs Rd.

Vallejo, CA 94591-5610

First Class Mail

Return Service Requested



## 2007-2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DEC

- 5 CSEA **Federal Update I**, Bonnie DeSimone  
Check [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org) for more details.
- 11 **Solano-Napa 2007 Holiday Party**, Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield  
*Happy Holidays!*

### JAN

- 4 CSEA **FTB Facilities Tour**, check [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org) for more details.
- 8 Solano-Napa Breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue.) 8:00 am  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield  
Topic: **Digital Document Management**
- 9 CSEA Federal Update II, Bonnie DeSimone  
Check [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org) for more details.
- 17 Napa Satellite Group, Lunch Meeting, Napa Elks Club, 2840 Soscol Ave, Napa, 12:30 pm
- 22 Solano-Napa Board Meeting, 4:00 pm  
Solano-Napa Dinner (4<sup>th</sup> Tue.) 6:30 pm Topic:  
**Learning to Love the S Corp**, Andy Rogers,

### FEB

- 12 Solano-Napa Breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue.) 8:00 am  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield  
Topic: **Evaluating New Clients**
- 21 Napa Satellite Group, Lunch Meeting, Napa Elks Club, 2840 Soscol Ave, Napa, 12:30 pm
- 26 Solano-Napa Dinner (4<sup>th</sup> Tue.) 6:30 pm Topic:

**Panel Discussion**, Joe Calderaro, IRS  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield

### MAR

- 11 Solano-Napa Breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue.) 8:00 am  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield  
Topic: **Irate Clients!**
- 20 Napa Satellite Group, Lunch Meeting, Napa Elks Club, 2840 Soscol Ave, Napa, 12:30 pm
- 25 Solano-Napa Dinner (4<sup>th</sup> Tue.) 6:30 pm Topic:  
**Panel Discussion**, Joe Calderaro, IRS  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield

### APR

TBA *Thank Goodness It's Over!*

### MAY

- 13 Solano-Napa Breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup> Tue.) 8:00 am  
Jack & Linda's Country Café, Fairfield  
Topic: **Out-of-Season Revenue – Staying in Business**
- 15 Napa Satellite Group, Lunch Meeting, Napa Elks Club, 2840 Soscol Ave., Napa, 12:30 pm
- 19-21 **CSEA Super Seminar A, Las Vegas, NV**  
Check [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org) for more details.
- 22-24 **CSEA Super Seminar B, Las Vegas, NV**  
Check [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org) for more details.
- 26-28 **CSEA Board Meeting, Reno, NV**
- 27 Solano-Napa Board Meeting, 4:00 pm