



MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ENROLLED AGENTS

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President's Message.....Robert E. Jacob, EA August 2010

I just came back from Las Vegas from the NAEA national convention along with 12 other Michiganders who attended the event. I was joined by Tim Dilworth (VP) and George Vannilam (Secretary) of our board; we were all in the National Tax Practice Institute (NTPI) Level 1 class.

NTPI is the most advanced tax representation training available. I will be attending for the next two years to expand my skills in this area, and to earn the prestigious NTPI Fellow designation. You should consider this as well if your practice involves representation services. Some of the topics in the first level class were: Overview of Representation, Communication with the IRS, Introduction to Collections, Introduction to Examination, Engagement Letters, E-Services, Introduction to Criminal Investigation, Nonfilers, Introduction to Appeals, and Voluntary Collections. Scholarships are available to attend these classes if cost is an issue for you. Contact any of your board members for details if you are interested.

I also attended the NAEA annual meeting following NTPI. The hot topic was the name change for enrolled agents. The IRS will not allow anything with "Certified" in it. Most people at the meeting were in favor leaving the name the same or coming up with a more descriptive name for what we do. You may be contacted again by National again to answer a survey regarding a new name. Be sure to make your voice heard.

We will be having a joint state conference with the Ohio State Society of Enrolled Agents at Maumee Bay Resort near Toledo, OH from September 26-28th. See this newsletter for more information, or go to our website at www.misea.org for more information. During the conference we will have our annual meeting to elect a new President, Vice-President and Directors.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President the past two years. I will be continuing on as the public relations director and as the immediate past President on the Board. I hope to see you all in Ohio next month or at one of our monthly meetings throughout the state.

As Bob mentioned in his message, our annual conference and meeting are taking place next month. Most of you should have received a brochure by email in the past week from OSSEA. If not, you can view it at <http://www.ossea.org/MemberBenefits/2010ConventionBrochure.pdf>. The deadline for hotel reservations at the discount rate is August 25, but you may be able to get that rate even if you are late due to the tardiness of the information if you call and ask for the discount. As an NAEA and MiSEA member, you are entitled to the member rate on the conference. Having attended the OSSEA conference the past two years and being familiar with several of the speakers, we can attest to the quality of the program. You will not be disappointed. The venue is also a superb place to take along your spouse/family. There are many recreational opportunities at Maumee Bay.

We've received some pertinent information regarding the new registration requirements at the national conference and at a recent conference call with state and national leaders. Karen Hawkins spoke at the national meeting and had some interesting things to say. The Office of Professional Responsibility is going to have a lot more on their plate, but Karen and her staff are taking this very seriously. This should be good news for all of us who operate within the rules and regulations and bad news for those who do not. It was interesting to note that, of 800 preparer cases before OPR at the moment, approximately 500 are for non-filing. They did not release any information on how many of those cases involved EA's. Circular 230 is changing rapidly and Karen suggests checking the IRS website frequently to stay abreast of those changes. The target date for PTIN registration is September 2010. The fee will be \$50 per year plus a minimal vendor fee for the third party vendor handling the process. OPR is sensitive to our plight as EA's already having a fee to be enrolled and has assured us that there will be some kind of break for us when our enrollment period comes up.

The national convention added educational tracks for SEE prep, tax issues and practice management as well as a Graduate level for NTPI for those that were NTPI fellows. It was a smashing success with over 600 people turning out, including over 220 in NTPI level 1 and 35 in the SEE prep course. It's a great opportunity to get your non-EA employees enrolled. One person had already passed the test since returning from the conference last week!

We'll leave you with a reminder to check the website for updates on future seminars. We have our fall update coming up on November 19 at the Bavarian Lodge in Frankenmuth. Robert Kerr, NAEA's senior director for Government Relations will be our keynote speaker, updating us on the latest happenings on Capitol Hill and what is going on with preparer registration and OPR. Kevin Huston will be our seminar leader, featuring his ever popular Ethics Jeopardy game as part of his 7 hours of instruction. We are also offering ethics and Michigan training in October in Traverse City and December in Southfield. Stay tuned to the website for exact times and locations.

On the following page is the slate of nominees for the open positions on the MiSEA Board of Directors for the upcoming year. The President and Vice President slots are two years and are uncontested this year. There are two three-year board positions open with three candidates. We've included short bio's for the board candidates. Be sure to attend the annual conference at Maumee Bay to make your vote count! We look forward to seeing you all there.

Board of Directors – MiSEA

Nominations

President – Timothy Dilworth EA, CPA, MAFM; current VP – MiSEA.

Vice President – Martin Sviland EA, CFE, MST; current board member and IT Director.

Director – John Acker EA, MBA

We are entering a new era in the tax profession. The combination of a re-energized IRS in transition and a preparer licensing requirement provides an unprecedented opportunity for the MiSEA. Membership should grow quickly once the newly licensed recognize the value of cooperation and first-class education.

I offer MiSEA a perspective based on my multi-disciplinary professional experience and my education from U of Notre Dame and U of Michigan. I look forward to serving and delighting the MiSEA membership with my contributions.

Director – Kenneth Daniel EA, NTPI, AATP

The reason that I am making myself available for another year on the Board is that I have seen growth during the past year; I think that I have made a positive contribution, and believe that I can in the future. I believe that the establishment of chapters is important. I have improved communication with the California Society, and with National and while the amount of time that I have to devote to the Society is limited, since I do not have staff to support me, I have been vigorous in promoting the interests of the Society, and I look forward to continuing to do so.

Director – Dale Martinson EA

I have been preparing individual and business tax returns since 1977 and joined MiSEA in 1999. Except for a brief break, I have been a member since then. I also held a Michigan Series 6 and 66 Securities license for over 13 years with no ethical concerns. As a person who believes that providing solutions to tax and financial issues should be done in a highly ethical and caring manner, it is my belief that I would be a good candidate for the MiSEA Board.