



**Idaho Association
of Public
Accountants**

IAPA TODAY

The Newsletter for Idaho's Accounting & Tax Professionals

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www.iapacct.com

IAPA Hosts 5-State Convention

by Barbara Neiwert, IAPA Executive Director

As your head clears after a grueling winter tax season, look forward to June by relaxing with family and friends at scenic Templin's Resort in Post Falls. Be a part of the 2006 Northwest Annual Convention, hosted by the IAPA. We are meeting with accountants from Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Wyoming in what is hoped to be one of the best conventions in recent memory. Not only will we have a dynamic technology seminar for 12 CPE credits, but we have a host of recreation and relaxation opportunities for you as well!

An opening dinner on June 14 kicks off the festivities. While you are reaping the rewards of the technology seminar on Thursday, your spouse/guest can elect to participate in one of several entertainment functions from shopping, sight-seeing or massaging. On Friday evening we'll gather for an outdoor Western barbecue followed by a cruise of the Spokane River on the West-Coast River Queen sternwheeler. Saturday you can golf at one of the Northwest's most scenic courses—The Highlands—and complete the convention with the five-star awards banquet Saturday night.

The IAPA board of directors believes that meeting with fellow accounting professionals from our surrounding states will not only provide an opportunity to network and glean insight into the role other associations play in the health of their industry, but will create lasting professional contacts.

With the IAPA serving as host for this convention, I'd like to encourage each and every one of you—our dedicated members of the IAPA—to join us in Post Falls. There is power in numbers and with a strong showing of IAPA members, we can rest assured that others will know that while Idaho is a sparsely populated state, we do have a voice!

Bring your family, explore the Inland Northwest and enjoy this annual convention. And remember—it's sole purpose is for you, our members. I look forward to seeing you in June!



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District IX Governor's Message

by Governor Rex Cruse, EA, ABA, ATA

I know you are all very busy right now but I want to take a moment of your time to assure you that NSA is with you in this very busy time of year. The NSA staff, the officers, the governors, the state directors, the various committee members and many of our members are, as always, very busy representing the membership in Washington, D.C., in your state, or wherever decisions are being made that could affect our right to practice. As most of you know NSA spends a great deal of time and effort to provide a number of educational opportunities, one of the many member benefits provided by NSA.

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File Just One, Consider It Done! by IRS

IRS Takes Steps to Ease Employment Tax Filing Requirements

In recent years, the IRS has worked to save small business taxpayers millions of hours in preparing their taxes by simplifying forms and filing requirements. Starting in 2006, the IRS takes a major step forward in simplifying the Employment Tax filing requirements for certain small employers with the introduction of the new Employers' Annual Federal Tax Program (Form 944). Form 944 replaces the quarterly Form 941 filing requirement for certain eligible small employers. The first returns for calendar year 2006 will be due January 31, 2007.

The purpose of the new Form 944 is to reduce burden on the smallest of small business employers by establishing new rules and processes that will allow certain employers to file their employment tax returns annually, and in most cases, pay the employment tax due with their return. This program is designed for employers who have a total annual employment tax liability of \$1,000 or less.

Small business employers who have a total annual employment tax liability of \$1,000 or less approximately \$4,000 or less in annual wages, may be able to

take advantage of this new filing requirement.

By filing a single return rather than four per year and paying with their return, small employers will save time in form preparation, time that they will be able to devote to running their businesses.

Here's how the program will work:

Annual Filing Eligibility

Who's eligible? Employers who have a \$1,000 or less in total annual employment tax liability (approximately \$4,000 or less in annual wages).

What about new employers? When new employers apply for their EIN they will be asked to indicate what amount of tax/wages they expect to pay annually. If an EIN applicant indicates tax of \$1,000 or less (approximately \$4,000 or less in annual wages), the IRS will place them into the Form 944 program. If over these amounts, the IRS will establish their Employment Tax filing requirement as a 941. The IRS will advise the new business taxpayer of their filing requirement, either Form 941 or Form 944, in the same letter that provides the taxpayer their new EIN.

Annual Filing Requirements

Identified employers must file Form 944, Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return, by January 31st each year for the preceding calendar year's tax liability. Form 944 filers will not file any Forms 941 for that calendar year.

Form 944 filers can pay their annual employment tax by January 31st of each year with their return, unless they are required to make Federal Tax Deposits.

Form 944 filers whose businesses grow unexpectedly during the year to a total tax liability of \$2,500 or more (approximately \$10,000 in wages), will need to make Federal Tax Deposits in accordance with the current guidelines to avoid any failure to deposit penalties. They must still file the Form 944.

Special Circumstances

Designated Form 944 employers who believe their businesses will grow to more than \$1,000 in total employment tax liability for the calendar year, should contact the IRS at 1-800-829-0115 no later than April 1st to be re-established as a Form 941 quarterly filer for the current year.

"IAPA Today:" is the official publication of the Idaho Association of Public Accountants. Editor: Barbara Neiwert, P.O. Box 1106, Hailey, Idaho 83333, toll free 1-888-208-4272. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writer and not necessarily those of the Association or editor. Advancement of the profession of public accountancy is the principal aim of the publication.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the editor of any change of address, phone number or email.

While electronic filing for the Form is expected to be available next January, designated Form 944 employers who wish to electronically file Forms 941 quarterly should also contact the IRS by April 1 to be returned to a Form 941 filing requirement.

The program does not apply to Schedule H filers or Form 943 filers.

Events Making an Employer Ineligible for Annual Filing in a Subsequent Year: Employer exceeds threshold amount of \$1,000 employment tax liability per year. The IRS will send a notice advising those employers that they have been returned to a Form 941 quarterly filing requirement.

For further information see <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=146223,00.html#944> for a copy of the new Form 944 and instructions.

*The difference between an optimist and a pessimist?
An optimist laughs to forget,
but a pessimist forgets to laugh.*

Are you Addicted to eMail? By Katie Gilbert, editorial intern at Psychology Today

Comic strip character Dilbert is no stranger to the perils of addiction.

"I'm addicted to email," he once lamented to Dogbert. "My endorphins spike when I get a message. And when there are no messages, loneliness and despair overcome me."

Though melodramatic, Dilbert's complaint is quite common. According to a recent America Online poll, we live in a country where 41 percent of adults scramble out of bed and check their email before they brush their teeth in the morning. What's more, one in four people believe it's unthinkable to go more than two or three days without a virtual fix. We are a country with an email dependence problem.

Comparing email addiction to drug addiction might not be that far off. Getting connected actually mimics the path that a drug takes through the brain, found John Ratey, a psychiatrist and associate professor at Harvard. Consequently, all the symptoms of addiction are present: there's the dopamine rush with the "ding" of an email alert, and there's the twitchy email withdrawal during the family vacation.

"...41 percent of adults scramble out of bed and check their email before they brush their teeth in the morning."

These signs of addiction aren't the only symptoms we suffer because of our need to be wired; we also have shrinking attention spans. That's no small surprise considering all the chronic multi-tasking we perform in the hope of greater and greater productivity. Yet all this striving sacrifices one important thing: productivity.

David Meyer, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan, found that people who shift their attention between two activities (like writing an email and reading a report, for example) spend 50 percent more time than they would have if they'd just completed one task before moving on to the next. The bottom line: If you'd like to increase your productivity, try forgoing the tendency to multi-task—and stop checking and

rechecking your email inbox in the thick of it all.

Anyone who's ever experienced the battle between willpower and the virtual postal service knows that willpower doesn't always win. But there are solutions short of rehab. Here are some tips to help loosen the grip of the "send" button:

- Work with your email, not against it. Some programs, like Outlook, allow you to check for email only every 15 minutes or half hour
- Turn off the "ding" that alerts you to new messages
- Send certain messages, like thank you notes or birthday cards, by snail mail only
- Set an unwavering email timeframe, and tell yourself that email is not allowed before or after the set times
- Never make email the first thing you do in the morning or the last thing you do at night.

If all else fails, try to close up email shop completely for a few days. You'll discover that the tangled worldwide web you weave can, in fact, exist without the World Wide Web.

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District IX Governor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

One of the educational benefits mentioned above is the ASO Seminar Outlines. The NSA Education Committee has created topic outlines to assist ASOs in developing educational seminars. A description of this program and a list of the topic outlines now available can be found on NSA's Web site under "ASO Resources."

While you are on the NSA Web site, check out the "Calendar of Events" and be sure to go into the Members Only Section. One of the items you

will find in this section is Client Reports, which includes letters written to our clients on some of the current topics, as well as many more articles of interest. Also in this area is the 2005-2006 Income and Fees survey of Accountants in Public Practice. You can get averages by region, for the Northeast, South, Midwest and West. There is also a Salary Survey Report, and last but not least, you can find the NSA Condensed Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2005.

If we had more time I could go over

more of the many member benefits; however, most of you know about them and just need a reminder that they are there for your use.

I'll let you get back to work now and will try to get some of the tax returns off of my desk, as well. I hope each and every one of you has a very smooth and prosperous tax season and look forward to seeing many of you at conventions and seminars later this year. Be sure to get the NSA 2006 Annual Convention, August 17-19, 2006, on your calendar right now.

Free Data Storage—Online! by Bob Jennings CPA, CFP, CITP

Most internet users utilize an email service provided through Microsoft's Outlook, or by their Internet Service Provider. Over a year ago we began using a free email service from Google known as *GMail*. One of the unexpected by-products of *GMail* is the ability to store data on *GMail*'s servers rather than on your own.

GMail is available for free to anyone by invitation, or if you wish you can go to the Jennings Seminars website at www.gmail.com with a user name of *jenningsseminars* and a password of *2005technology* and send yourself an invitation to join.

Because *GMail* is internet based, you can access your own email from anywhere in the world where you have access to the Internet. Additionally, *GMail* provides you with nearly 3 GB of online storage for free! We used this storage for Jennings Seminars' attendees this year to provide attendees with private access to all of our Power Point presentations, as well as to numerous other items such as engagement letters, accountant's reports, etc.

What can you use this online free data storage for?

- Your firm's non-private internal

template files such as formats for reports & engagement letters,

- Your firm's own blank tax organizers for clients,
- Your firm's own private client website for free downloads,
- Your backup copies of presentations, manuals, research, etc.,
- Your personal backup of non-private information that you want available,
- We are using a file encryption program and storing encrypted data files there for backup purposes,
- Firm-wide access from remote locations to all of these items, We recommend setting up a simple email address and password for both internal firm use and client use and then go crazy!

What should not be stored on the *GMail* internet drive? Anything that is private, confidential or personally identifiable. Although we haven't heard anything about any compromises of *GMail*'s servers, we don't recommend putting any of these items in this public arena unless it is encrypted. Drawbacks to *GMail*? There really aren't any other than a few un-noticed ads on the right hand side of the screen, and the recognition that Google scans the email



for un-wanted items or content (pornography, criminal, etc.)

Once you have the account, we also recommend that you download the free program that allows your computer to see the *GMail* account as another hard drive. Go to <http://viksoe.dk/code/gmail.htm>.

Finally, *GMail* is now rolling out their free online chat program for those of you so inclined.

We will be talking about this and all of the other free software and hardware programs this summer in our Technology seminars around the country (including this summer's convention in Post Falls), and we **guarantee** that the free items discussed will more than off-set the cost of the seminar!

Don't Miss Jennings' Technology Seminar June 15-16, Post Falls

Course Description:

Wow, what a course! This course was conceived, developed, written will be presented by Bob Jennings. This group study seminar gives you live instruction in the use of technology, including hardware, software and techniques. Best of all, it's taught by the guy who has been paperless for more than 10 years. Questions are encouraged throughout the seminar. We not only discuss but **demonstrate** the latest technological tools you need to make your office efficient. We tell and **show** you what works, what doesn't work. **Free anti-virus software, free firewall software, free Word & Excel software will pay for the seminar in savings!**

Day 1—Morning:

What's new: Hardware and software must haves, the latest and greatest geek tools for your office

Free Software: Anti-Virus, Firewalls, Office Productivity, Free Email, Free Backup, Free Backup Software, Much more

Video conferencing: Software, uses and application, equipment needs, instant messaging uses and security risks

Space Saving Devices: The latest in "all-in-one computers," multi-function devices, ultra-mini computers, PDAs, and laptops

Afternoon:

Security: Back-up system & plans, stop hackers, viruses & spam

Networks: Wireless and wired network guidelines

Electronic File Cabinets: Alternatives-Windows, proprietary or 3rd Party, demonstration of use. Do I really need Adobe with today's software?

Case Study: Tax return preparation with dual monitor systems

Office Tools: Tablet PC, remote access, office productivity software

Implementation: All new step-by-step guide for upgrading equipment, training staff, processing, e-filing, what to watch for and what to avoid

Day 2—Morning Only:

Hardware: Workstation components, processors and RAM - how to determine what you have now and what you need to have; monitors, printers, scanners - how to use them and tips to optimize performance

Software: Tax preparation software evaluation and comparison, Tax Research software evaluation and comparison, Tax Utility software evaluation and comparison

Hands-On Training for Everyone: How to burn CD's, what software to use, what type of CD to use

Maintenance: What needs to be done daily/weekly/monthly

2006 Northwest Annual Convention IAP

June 14 ~ 17, 2006

Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming



Red Lion Templin's Resort

414 E. 1st Ave. * Post Falls, Idaho. For reservations call 1-800-283-6754.

Ask for the group rate for the Idaho Assoc of Public Accountants.

\$79.95 single/double, or \$89.95 triple, or \$99.95 for quad accommodations.

Riverview rooms are \$20 additional. Reserve by May 15 for Group Rates.

Technology ~ 2 days * 12 hours of CPE ~ Speaker: Bob Jennings

Name: _____ Address: _____
As you want it to appear on your name tag

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ / _____ Circle State Association: ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
As you want it to appear on your name tag

	Qty.	Amt.
▶ Members convention package * June 14 ~ 17, 2006	\$300 x _____	\$ _____
<i>Includes all meals, functions, CPE and the hospitality room.</i>		
▶ Spouse or Guest * June 14 ~ 17, 2006	\$150 x _____	\$ _____
<i>Includes all meals, functions, and the hospitality room.</i>		
▶ Seminar Only * June 15 & 16, 2006	\$225 x _____	\$ _____
<i>Two days includes 12 hours CPE, breakfast both days; lunch June 15 only.</i>		
♦ June 15, 2006 8:30 ~ 4:30		
♦ June 16, 2006 8:00 ~ 11:30		
▶ Saturday banquet only * June 17, 2006	\$40 x _____	\$ _____
▶ REQUIRED: Indicate your choice of Prime Rib or Stuffed Halibut for Banquet Dinner		
▶ Add Late Fee if after June 1, 2006	\$25	\$ _____

Method of payment: Check Enclosed  VISA  MC

Name: _____

CC#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Billing Address on CC: _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable and mail to:

IAPA * Convention 2006
 PO Box 1106 Hailey, ID 83333-1106
 Credit card registrations ONLY fax to: (208) 788-9530

Registration must be received by June 1, 2006 ~ After June 1, 2006 add a \$25 late fee.

*The 2006 seminar schedule has something for everyone!
And remember: With IAPA membership you save \$50 per seminar.
Invite someone you know to join the IAPA today.*

Registration Form
IAPA-Sponsored Seminars for 2006

(Circle one or more—One form per attendee)

Bob Jennings' Technology Seminar - 12 CPE

June 15-16 Post Falls, Red Lion Templin's Resort, 800-283-6754 Early Bird June 1
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Day One; 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Day Two

Gear Up Business Entities Seminar - 16 CPE

Sept 18-19 Post Falls, Red Lion Templin's Resort 773-1611 Early Bird Aug. 25
Sept. 28-29 Twin Falls, Red Lion Canyon Springs Hotel, 734-5000 Early Bird Sept. 6
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gear Up Estates & Trusts Seminar - 8 CPE

Sept. 27 Twin Falls, Red Lion Canyon Springs Hotel, 734-5000 Early Bird Sept. 6
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gear Up Individual 1040 Tax Seminar - 16 CPE

Oct. 26-27 Idaho Falls, Shilo Inn, 523-0088 Early Bird Oct. 4
Nov. 2-3 Boise, DoubleTree Riverside, 344-1871 Early Bird Oct. 11
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Seminar Registration Fees:

1040 & Business Entities: \$300 IAPA Members & Employees; \$350 Non-members

Technology: \$225 IAPA Members & Employees; \$250 Non-members

Estates & Trusts: \$150 IAPA Members & Employees; \$200 Non-members

Payments postmarked or received after Early Bird Deadlines: Add \$25 additional.

Common Seminar Registration:

Circle the seminar above that you would like to attend.

Name _____ License _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to:

IAPA
PO Box 1106, Hailey, ID 83333
or
Fax (208)788-9530
Questions? 1-888-208-IAPA

For those who may have a tendency to get "chilled," a sweater and/or light coat is advisable during the seminars.

Optional: Visa-MasterCard-Discover-AmEx
Card # _____
Expiration Date _____
Cardholder's
Name _____
Signature _____

Bits 'n Pieces

New Members Welcomed!

We'd like to welcome three new members to the ranks of the IAPA.

Please welcome:

- **Michael Chakarun**, MBA, CPA, McCall
- **Ruth Robertson**, CPA, Sun Valley
- **Edith Jeanette Wells**, student member, Buhl

New IAPA Member Benefit

IAPA members can take advantage of great savings in both time and money by subscribing to a comprehensive resource and reference center, HRInfoResources.

While IAPA members receive a generously discounted rate, a portion of your subscription returns to us! And a free, two-week trial offer affords you the luxury of canceling your subscription if this resource isn't right for you.

Your subscription provides you access to thousands of pages for Employee Benefits, Human Resources, Employment Law, Tax and Personal Financial Planning information. The web-based system simply and clearly explains complicated federal laws and confusing acronyms such as COBRA, ERISA, FMLA, HIPAA and others—without the legalese. It also features also features a popular *Reference Desk* tab containing numerous resources and links to hard-to-find State and Federal Government sites, forms and information.

Go now to www.iapacct.com and click on the **HRInfoResources banner** to receive your free trial. Get ready for tax season with all the tools you'll need right at hand!

As an IAPA member, you'll receive this resource for \$125 a year, a special member discount of \$200 off the \$325 annual subscription price.

If you have any questions, contact HRInfoResources at 1-800-339-8198 or sales@hrref.com.

More IAPA Savings

G580

G580 is the code to use when ordering any products from Gear Up/Thomson/PPC.

This association discount will provide you with a 10-20 percent savings on all the QuickFinder handbooks, self-study courses, products, Accountant City, and Independent Tax Practitioners Network. You must order by phone or fax to receive the discounts.

Not only will you net the discount, but the IAPA will receive a donation for each transaction!

Let IAPA Today Work for You

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Business Card (3.5 x2)	\$25
Quarter Page (3.5 X 4.5)	\$50
Half Page (7.5 x 4.5)	\$75
Full Page	\$125

Call Barb Neiwert for further information at 1-888-208-IAPA.

Upcoming IAPA Courses

1-888-208-IAPA

-2006-

June 14-17	Annual Convention Post Falls, ID Five states attending with IAPA, OAIA, MSPA, WAA, WAPA
June 15-16	Technology Seminar Bob Jennings, 12 CPE Post Falls
Sept. 18-19	Gear Up Business Entities , Post Falls
Sept. 27	Gear Up Estates & Trusts Seminar Twin Falls



EDUCATION

Sept. 28-29	Gear Up Business Entities , Twin Falls
Oct. 26-27	Gear Up 1040 Idaho Falls
Nov. 2-3	Gear Up 1040 Boise

IRS Tax Forums

June 27-29	Anaheim, CA
July 11-13	Chicago, IL
July 25-27	Atlanta, GA
Aug. 1-3	Orlando, FL
Aug. 22-24	Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 29-31	New York, NY
Visit	www.taxforuminfo.com

NSA Dates of Note

Serving Aging America

Las Vegas, NV
June 5-6, 2006: Level 1
June 7-8, 2006: Level 2
June 9-10, 2006: Level 3

Serving Aging America - Adv. Forum

Las Vegas, NV
June 5-6, 2006
<u>Serving Aging America Level 1 East Coast</u>

Atlantic City, New Jersey
October 30-31, 2006

NSA Annual Meeting

August 17-19, 2006
Providence, RI

National Accounting & Tax Symposiums 2006

Las Vegas, NV
September 25-26, 2006
Orlando, FL
November 13-14, 2006

AFTPNJ/NSA National Tax Update

December 4-5, 2006
Atlantic City, NJ

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Public Accountants**

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Fax: 208-788-9530

Email: iapa@sunvalley.net

**Join us at
Convention!!!**



IRS STAKEHOLDER LIAISON *Presents* PHONE FORUM



Foreign Person Withholding on US Property Transactions

(A **FREE** event where you **stay at your Office** to attend) 10 a.m. MDT May 10, 2006

Who Should Attend: Tax Practitioners, Real Estate Professionals and Attorneys, (including Property Managers), and Closing/Escrow/Title Companies **Note:** Enrolled Agents are entitled to 1 CPE Credit; other tax professionals may qualify depending on the requirements of their organizations.

Why Attend: If you have a client buying US real property from a foreign person or renting US real property from a foreign person, the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (**FIRPTA**) requires the buyer withhold 10% of the purchase price, and requires a renter to withhold 30% from rents paid to a foreign person. If the renter does not withhold, the property manager could be liable. Understanding the law is critical for real estate professionals and taxpayers to avoid personal liability. Both real estate and tax practitioners will want to know the ten recognized exceptions to the withholding tax and how to apply for a reduction or elimination of withholding tax. A US real property interest is land, buildings, mines, wells, crops, and timber, as well as an interest in a US Real Property Holding Company.

You are invited to join a teleconference with the following details: Conference Title: 823405-FIRPTA. Moderator Name: Jeanne Martin/Presenter Eric Smith, FIRPTA Subject Matter Expert. This conference will be a one-hour presentation and 30-minute Q&A.

Register at <https://www.atevent.com/rsvpreg.asp?PPass=824728> You will be assigned a PIN that must be used to join the conference. Conference access code: **824728** Conference dial-in number: **Toll free: 1-866-216-6835**.

* Please dial in 3-5 minutes prior to conference start time.

* Enter your access code, followed by the pound (#) sign.

* Enter your Personal Identification Number (PIN), followed by the pound (#) sign.

* Your line will be placed on hold with music until conference start.