

From Jerry Gintz – President:

Flux, flux, flux; everything seems to be in a state of flux, more so than what I can ever remember! And if you view my profile, you'll understand that has been from a while ago. Economic solutions, social mores, attitudes toward all kinds of debt, capitalism – is it good or is it bad, taxes – too high or too low, politically correct speech; does it matter, does it not matter and on and on and on....! These are, without a doubt, troubling times. You and I understand it in terms of the IRS and what is going on with regard to Registered Tax Return Preparer (RTRP) initiatives – registration, testing, CPE, etc., etc. CPA's, EA's and Attorneys are exempt; but what about their staff? Are they, or are they not exempt? Do they, or do they not need 15 hours of CPE in 2012.....soon to be announced with certainty, I'm sure! Can you remember back to such a time with this much confusion and uncertainty? I can't!

We have some very smart and in-tune members, here at WAA. I can think of Gene Bell, EA, CPA, RTRP and Kathy Hettick, EA, RTRP, who for the past 2 years have been speakers at the IRS symposiums all across the county. These two dialogue with the likes of David Williams (Director, RPO) and Karen Hawkins (OPR) on a regular basis, as they travel around the country. No other association has this intimate level of access to what's afoot at the IRS, with regard to the RTRP roll-out. NO association serves the tax preparer community in the State of Washington, with regard to matters like these, as well as the Washington Association of Accountants.

Take a look around our education offerings on our web-site www.waa.org to see for yourself. We exist for YOU, the small practitioner. Whether you are a member or non-member, our reason for existing has everything to do with your ability and most importantly, your right to practice in the State of Washington! Of course your membership assures our continued success in doing just that. Yes, we are an affinity group, made up of small practices, be they CPA's, EA's, RTRP's, credentialed or non-credentialed – business owner or staff. WE-ARE-YOUR-ADVOCATE! Not for everything, but for some very important right to practice issues!

If ever there was a time to belong to an affinity association, it is at this exact time! WAA is committed, tooled up and capable of providing you with excellent advocacy, CPE and professional relational integrity - via social networking, local chapter CPE meetings and on-line provisioning.

Yes, we DO want you as a member! But, that is not at the core of this message. It will most likely be a welcomed result, yet, if my message here is successful in convincing you, at some level, the importance of the changes going on in our industry, AND that WAA is a reliable and trustworthy partner for you as you maneuver through these changes, then YOU will be the greater beneficiary from the relationship. WAA is committed to seeing you and your staff to successful completion of the RTRP exam requirement. Difficult times create new opportunities for you, for me and for WAA. I like the partnership! I trust it will be valuable for you as well!

Much success to you and your practice!