



## The Nebraska Independent Accountant Newsletter

Nebraska Affiliate of the National Society of Accountants

August 2009



To Eric Hansen on his election as NSA District VII Governor  
and being selected as the  
Norma Kraus NSA State Director of the Year  
at the 2009 NSA Annual Convention in San Diego

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Ray Scholl**

The time has come for my last President's article for the Newsletter. I have really enjoyed this past year serving as your NSIA President (recycled). However, I will still be around serving as NSA State Director and your recycled Past President!

Remember our Annual Meeting/Seminar on September 22, 23 & 24. The 1<sup>st</sup> business session will be Tuesday evening, 2<sup>nd</sup> session on Wednesday morning and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and closing session on Wednesday evening. The agenda will pretty much follow the past regular Board Meeting Agenda with the exception of the three session format.

The NSA Convention in San Diego was excellent. The weather was super. The average temp is 70 degrees – can't beat that! Wednesday evening was the Miramar event. We were on the flight line and got to see the cockpit of a jet up close and then enjoyed a fantastic 3 meat buffet and free bar at the Officer's Club. What a night!! I did find time to take the Old Town Trolley Tour on Saturday which was quite enjoyable. Sharon went on it 3 times!!

Visiting with old and new friends is always the highlight of the Convention. The excitement of the Convention was the debate on proposed By-Law changes. Naturally, the Nebraska element contributed to the discussions!! The proposed change of the NSA name failed. More about this and the other proposed changes at the Annual Meeting.

The Omaha Steaks Gift Certificate that was donated by NSIA was bought for \$475.00 at the NSA Scholarship Auction that was conducted after the Awards Breakfast on Saturday morning when Eric received the Outstanding State Director Award, a pleasant and well deserved surprise!! NSIA was also recognized for legislative monitoring which Ken Brauer takes care of. Then on Saturday night was the banquet and Installation of Officers when Eric was installed as NSA District VII Governor. A bit of history - Eric is the 2<sup>nd</sup> NSIA member to become District Governor. George Patchen was elected Dist. VII Governor in Chicago in 1981. Also, Sharon Cook, past Dist. VII Governor was elected NSA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for next year.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> there will be an IRS Liaison Meeting at Mahoney Park. Attendance is limited to 4 or 5 from each organization. This is not the same as the Nebraska Practitioners Symposium that is held in May at Mahoney Park. More discussion at the Annual Meeting.

In closing, THANK YOU, NSIA, for allowing me to serve as your President and congratulations, Eric. I am looking forward to working with you in the future for the mutual benefit of NSIA and NSA. See ya' all in Norfolk.

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dawn Liphardt

It has been a pleasure to serve this organization as First Vice President this past year. I have enjoyed getting to know some of you better and I welcome questions and input from all of the members so that we can make this organization viable for everyone.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> I had the privilege of attending a Practitioner Liaison Meeting at the Kansas City Service Center. There was a round table discussion in the afternoon that I attended with a small number of regional tax practitioners and IRS personnel. Some of the questions raised were timely and valid to what we as practitioners are experiencing in the field. You may have received a report of the meeting results via e-mail and I encourage you to read it. If you did not receive it and you would like a copy, please let me know.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> President Scholl, State Director Hansen and I met with the Senior Stakeholder Liaison Specialists Michelle Paschke and Barbara Pritchard. I have to say that I was very pleased with their willingness to help the Practitioner Community. I look forward to working with Michelle as we move forward.

During the meeting we discussed how we could work with the Stakeholder Liaison to ensure that significant issues and concerns of the practitioner community are addressed and how feedback is provided. Therefore if we as practitioners are experiencing issues either with a client situation or a procedural issue, our stakeholder liaison is the one to direct our questions to. They hold a wealth of useful information about the procedures of the IRS as well as providing us with educational opportunities and material.

In addition, if you are not signed up to receive e-news, I suggest that you take advantage of this opportunity. You will receive a once a week e-mail highlighting some of the most important events of the week. See [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for more information.

In September a Practitioner Liaison Meeting will be taking place which will serve to provide our organization the chance to be involved in resolutions to problems we are having with IRS practices, policies, and procedures. If you wish to forward any comments/suggestions to me about issues you may be having, I will bring those to the meeting and attempt to get an explanation as to why the IRS is doing what they are doing regarding the particular issue you are dealing with.

(Continued to next column)

## NSA DISTRICT VII GOVERNOR REPORT

By Eric Hansen

I was honored to be elected as District VII Governor at the NSA annual meeting in San Diego. There are many important issues the NSA Board currently is discussing, and I want to contribute my thoughts, ideas and views. I'm not afraid to voice a contrary opinion but at the same time know I need to be a team player, which can be tricky. This Nebraskan is up to the task.

While attending NSA events and meetings I have met many practitioners --- from Florida to Washington, from New Jersey to Arizona and all points in between. Although as a Governor we represent all NSA members, there is no doubt I am a Nebraskan. One of my first official acts as Governor will be to install NSIA officers and directors in Norfolk. That's just as it should be!

I'm proud to represent NSIA, Nebraska and you.



## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Issues raised that are local in nature, can often be resolved with an explanation of IRS policy and/or procedure. Issues with a broader range, however, may be input to the Issue Management Resolution System (IMRS) and elevated to the responsible parties. The important thing is that the Stakeholder Liaison is available to specifically help Tax Practitioners resolve issues on behalf of our clients.

I want to thank President Scholl, State Director Hansen, and Executive Secretary David for all of their help this past year. I have learned a lot from all of you. I look forward to seeing many of you in Norfolk in September. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, my e-mail is always open.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT**  
**By Mandy David**

It is annual dues time again! If you find a pink notice in your newsletter, that means you need to pay your NSIA dues for 2009-2010.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a lot of valuable information. First we have the NSIA Annual Meeting & Tax Seminar registration form, then the Farm Seminar registration form. Both of these events will take place in Norfolk next month. Next we have the Tax Book and Quickfinder order forms. I received a new updated form for Quickfinder this month. It looks like to me that they added a few more materials to purchase if you want. Please remember to use these order forms since they have NSIA's discount codes on them. As always, I will have the order forms available on our website, [www.nebsia.com](http://www.nebsia.com), and at the Farm and 1040 seminars.

I hope everyone has a safe Labor Day weekend and I hope to see you in Norfolk.

**ATTENTION FINANCIAL ADVISORS:**

NSIA is working on getting CPE approval for the NSIA Annual Meeting & Tax Seminar and Andy Biebl Farm Seminar for financial advisors.

A sign up sheet will be available at both seminars.

As always, we will have the CPE approved by the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy for these seminars also.

**EMPLOYEE VS. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**  
**IRS Summertime Tax Tip 2009-20**

If you are a small business owner, whether you hire people as independent contractors or as employees will impact how much taxes you pay and the amount of taxes you withhold from their paychecks. Additionally, it will affect how much additional cost your business must bear, what documents and information they must provide to you, and what tax documents you must give to them.

Here are the top ten things every business owner should know about hiring people as independent contractors vs. as employees.

1. Three characteristics are used by the IRS to determine the relationship between businesses and workers: Behavioral Control, Financial Control, and the Type of Relationship.
2. Behavioral Control covers facts that show whether the business has a right to direct or control how the work is done through instructions, training or other means.
3. Financial Control covers facts that show whether the business has a right to direct or control the financial and business aspects of the worker's job.
4. The Type of Relationship factor relates to how the workers and the business owner perceive their relationship.
5. If you have the right to control or direct not only what is to be done, but also how it is to be done, then your workers are most likely employees.
6. If you can direct or control only the result of the work done, and not the means and methods of accomplishing the result, then your workers are probably independent contractors.
7. Employers who misclassify workers as independent contractors can end up with substantial tax bills. Additionally, they can face penalties for failing to pay employment taxes and for failing to file required tax forms.
8. Workers can avoid higher tax bills and lost benefits if they know their proper status.
9. Both employers and workers can ask the IRS to make a determination on whether a specific individual is an independent contractor or an employee by filing a Form SS-8, Determination of Worker Status for Purposes of Federal Employment Taxes and Income Tax Withholding, with the IRS.
10. You can learn more about the critical determination of a worker's status as an Independent Contractor or Employee at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) by selecting the Small Business link. Additional resources include IRS Publication 15-A, Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide, Publication 1779, Independent Contractor or Employee, and Publication 1976, Do You Qualify for Relief under Section 530? These publications and Form SS-8 are available on the IRS website or by calling the IRS at 800-829-3676 (800)TAXFORM.

**NSIA BOARD MEETING/ANNUAL MEETING  
September 22, 2009**

6:00 – 7:15            Dinner on your own – Restaurant in hotel  
7:30 – ??             Board Meeting/Annual Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Session)  
                             -Agenda available on request  
                             Norfolk Lodge & Suites/Divots Conference Center

**NSIA ANNUAL MEETING & TAX SEMINAR AGENDA  
September 23, 2009**

8:30 – 9:00            Registration  
9:00 – 9:30            Annual Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Session) and Election of Officers  
9:30 – 10:30          Ethics Presentation by Nina Kavich  
10:30 – 10:45          Break Time  
10:45 – 11:30          Ethics Presentation (continued)  
11:30 – 1:00          Group Lunch – Bill Mueller on Legislature Issues  
1:00 – 3:00            Nebraska Department of Revenue Presentation  
3:00 – 3:15            Break Time  
3:15 – 4:30            IRS Presentation by Mary Hickey  
6:00 – 7:00            Happy Time  
                             (limited open bar)  
7:00 – ??             Annual Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Session)  
                             Banquet

Installation of New Officers:  
By NSA District VII Governor Eric Hansen

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**NSIA ANNUAL MEETING & TAX SEMINAR REGISTRATION  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee for September 23<sup>rd</sup>:            \$60.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Attending Banquet:                                    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Thursday night banquet tickets:        \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Banquet is free if you attend the annual meeting and tax seminar September 24<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, \$15 per ticket.)*

**Annual Meeting & Banquet will be held at:**  
Divots Conference Center  
4200 W Norfolk Ave.  
Norfolk, NE

**Motel rooms reserved at:**  
Norfolk Lodge & Suites  
4200 W Norfolk Ave  
Norfolk, NE  
(888)355-0553 or (402)379-3833  
Room rate \$76.49

Mail to: **NSIA; PO Box 203; Stromsburg, NE 68666**  
For more information call: (402) 764-2314 or (402) 466-8000



### Andrew R. Biebl

Andrew R. Biebl, CPA is a principal with Larson Allen, CPAs, Advisors and Consultants, in New Ulm, Minnesota. He is a member of the AICPA and the Minnesota Society of CPAs. Mr. Biebl is a past-president of the Minnesota Society of CPAs.

Mr. Biebl has co-authored the Farm Taxation: Planning Opportunities and Pitfalls seminar, previously co-authored the AICPA seminar Planning Opportunities in Farm Taxation, and is a frequent speaker on agricultural taxation issues before CPA groups nationally. He authors a column on taxation issues in Progressive Farmer magazine and the DTN Network, and co-authors Farm Tax Network, an email subscription service that addresses farm tax issues. In addition, he maintains active involvement with his CPA firm's agricultural and small business clients. Mr. Biebl is co-author of Practitioner's Publishing Company's (PPC's) Federal Tax Update, PPC's Tax Planning Guide-S Corporations, Practitioners 1040 Deskbook, and Practitioners 1120S Deskbook. With his partner, Bob Ranweiler, he has co-authored the PPC Biebl-Ranweiler Portfolio Series.

In addition to authorship activities, Mr. Biebl has spoken at numerous seminars and conferences throughout the country. He is a past recipient of the AICPA's Outstanding Discussion Leader Award, and also a past recipient of Outstanding Discussion Leader Award for Minnesota and Iowa CPA Societies.

### Course Objective:

This session will enable practitioners to recognize tax opportunities and pitfalls impacting agricultural taxpayers, and will allow practitioners a forum to discuss current tax issues affecting farm and ranch clients.

### Program Highlights:

- Recognize current issues and planning opportunities in farm and ranch taxation.
- Take advantage of opportunities under the 2008 Farm Bill, including the ag chemical security credit and increased optional SE election.
- Deal with the new 2010 limit on farm losses.
- Apply the Section 199 production deduction, including amended return opportunities and unique rules impacting agriculture.
- Address the latest IRS self-employment tax issues, including new statutory protection on retiree CRP income.
- Implement farm income averaging opportunities under the final regulations.
- Deal with HSAs, medical plans, meals and lodging, and other family farm corporation fringes.
- Create charitable remainder trusts to dispose of inventory and machinery at retirement.
- Understand proposed regulations on repairs and capital improvements.
- Managed self-employed health insurance issues.
- Handle Section 1031 exchange issues affecting agriculture.
- Understand the use of the C corporation as a farm transition vehicle to the next generation.

*(FSA rules and USDA program limits will NOT be covered in this course manual)*



## Andy Biebl Farm Tax Roundtable Seminar Registration September 24, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Approved for 8 Hrs. CPE Credit

	Member Registration	Non-Member Registration
Location:	# _____ @ \$175 per person before Sept. 10	# _____ @ \$205 per person before Sept. 10
Norfolk Lodge & Suites	# _____ @ \$190 per person after Sept. 10	# _____ @ \$220 per person after Sept. 10
Divots Conf. Center		
4200 W Norfolk Ave		
Norfolk, Nebraska		
(402) 371-4520		
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		

Additional attendees from same firm may deduct \$25 if no manual is required.  
 Please enclose check payable to NSIA.  
 Mail to: NSIA, P.O. Box 203, Stromsburg, NE 68666



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Executive Secretary & Publications & Promotion	Mandy David	402-764-2314
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Constitutional By-laws	Ray Scholl	402-462-9532
Past President Advisory	Cindy Buller	402-896-5191

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009:

**August 12-15**

NSA National Convention  
San Diego, California

**September 22**  
**September 23**  
**September 24**

NSIA Board/Annual Meeting  
NSIA Annual Meeting/Banquet  
Andy Biebl Farm Seminar  
Norfolk Lodge & Suites/  
Divots Conference Center  
Norfolk, NE

**November 5-6**

Gear-Up 1040 Seminar  
Downtown Holiday Inn  
Lincoln, NE



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STROMSBURG, NE 68666

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# NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

DUES

THRU AUGUST 31, 2010

\$60.00

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Dues for the 2009-2010 year are due September 1, 2009

*Deduct \$10.00 if paid by September 10th.*

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