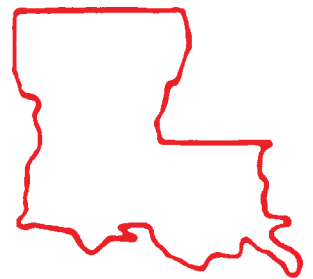




The Louisiana



Independent Accountant

Official Publication of the Louisiana Society of Independent Accountants

April 2011

President's Message

~ Lloyd Doré III, EA, ATA, ATP

I do hope that you had a very successful tax season. Each tax season appears to bring it's own unique challenges.

"Congress Is the Culprit" appears to be an appropriate phase (without trying to make any political statement). Once again the much delayed tax changes (or extensions) made by Congress impacted several taxpayers, and tax practitioners. LA. Citizens Assessment Rebate continues to be considered a four-letter word. Note: Approximately \$355 million (63.42%) remained unclaimed from insurance assessments made from 2006 through 2010. It appears the unclaimed funds will eventually be transferred into the State's general operating account.

This tax season again reminded me of one of my favorite movies, Jeremiah Johnson (1972). In one scene the title character meets up with a fellow mountain man (Bear Claw Chris Lapp) who he had not seen for a long time. Bear Claw: "You've come far, pilgrim." Jeremiah's reply: "Feels like far." Bear Claw: "Were it worth the trouble?" Jeremiah [*painfully*]: "Ah, what trouble?"

The heart of Cajun Country (Lafayette, Louisiana) will be the site for the 60th anniversary LSIA annual state convention, taking place on June 26th, 27th & 28th, 2011. Registration is available on the LSIA

website. Efforts are ongoing to make this year another special educational seminar and member benefit. Don't miss this unique opportunity to receive a great deal for your money.



The 2011-12 seminar schedules are available. Do not forget to also apply for the SBET reimbursement program before the deadlines pass for each seminar you plan to attend in 2011.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now. You can renew by sending a check or applying directly online at LSIA.com. Also on our website is the opportunity to register for our outstanding CPE seminars.

If you are not an active member, I highly recommend that you get active and become an officer or director to promote a great organization. Nominations are currently being accepted. Please contact Past President Hilma Stolf, EA at 504-834-1615 or stolfandassociates@att.net.

Thank you to all of you involved with LSIA and supporting LSIA mission. Merci Beaucoup!

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2011-12 Calendar of Events and Member Information

SEMINAR INFORMATION

60th Annual Convention

June 26-28, 2011
Holidome, Lafayette, LA
(2032 NE Evangeline Thruway)
337-233-5815

Corp/Ptr.

Thurs. & Fri., Sept. 29-30, 2011
Crown Plaza Hotel, Kenner, LA
N.O. Airport
Williams Blvd.
504-467-5611

Corp/Ptr.

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 6-7, 2011
B.R. Embassy Suites
225-924-6566

1040 Workshop

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 27-28, 2011
Holidome, Lafayette, LA
(2032 NE Evangeline Thruway)
337-233-5815

1040 Workshop

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 17-18, 2011
Crown Plaza Hotel, Kenner, LA
N.O. Airport
Williams Blvd.
504-467-5611

Gear Up

Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 1-2, 2011
Crown Plaza Hotel, Kenner, LA
N.O. Airport
Williams Blvd.
504-467-5611

Annual 1040 Individual

Thurs. & Fri., Jan. 5-6, 2012
B.R. Embassy Suites
225-924-6566

Local Chapter News

For information on
THE ACADIANA CHAPTER
contact L.J. Olivier at (337) 234-2202

THE BATON ROUGE CHAPTER
meets the first Tuesday of every other month.
For more information call Marjorie Moore at
(225) 654-7024.

THE CENLA CHAPTER
meets the third Tuesday of every month. For more
information about the meetings, please contact
Leonard Harris at (318) 445-9207.

THE NEW ORLEANS METRO CHAPTER meets the
second Monday of every month. For more information
about the meetings, please contact Venessa Caldwell at
(504) 454-0999.

For information on
**THE SHREVEPORT/BOSSIER CITY
CHAPTER**, contact Jerry Kutz at (318) 742-8843.

HOUMA/THIBODAUX CHAPTER meets at
Piccadilly the fourth Monday every other month.
Contact Hayes Babin at (985) 580-2020 or
Glenda Spoon at (985) 876-4024

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from Your
NSA STATE DIRECTOR

DEXTER DUHON, EA, CPA

Hi Everyone,

Another April 15th, or should I say April 18th, has come & gone. Contrary to popular belief however, most tax preparers, including us, are still very busy. Two things happened this year which enabled us to get more tax returns out by the deadline. Of course, one of the things was the extension of the deadline to April 18th. The other was the fact that Easter week fell after April 15th this year. This occurrence does not happen very often. In our office, both of these items made the tax deadline a little less stressful.

As we continue to prepare extended 2010 tax returns, we are slowly beginning to shift our attention to the seminar season in order to get prepared for next year. We will begin by attending the state convention in Lafayette on June 26th – 28th (at the Holidome). We look forward to networking with other tax preparers. You could be surprised with what you will learn from the recently past experiences of your fellow tax preparers. In addition, the available CPE will get you to start thinking (worrying) about the 2011 tax season.

Shortly after the state convention comes the national convention. This year, the convention will be in Anchorage Alaska. It will be held during the month of August. From the information that I am getting, this will be a convention that will be enjoyed by everyone attending. NSA always provides excellent CPE as well as exciting entertainment.

For those of you who cannot make the trek to Alaska, there are several tax forums coming up. Six cities nationwide will host tax forums. These cities are: Atlanta, Orlando, Dallas, San Jose, Las Vegas & Washington DC. If you have never attended one of these tax forums, now would be the time to begin planning to attend one. Both the networking & the CPE will be excellent.

In closing, I will leave you with a few words of caution regarding IRS correspondence. Regarding tax situations, IRS does not send unsolicited emails to taxpayers or tax preparers. If you or your client receives an unsolicited email from IRS, BE CAREFUL, most likely it's a scam. IRS impersonation schemes appear to be increasing.

With that said, Cathy & I wish all of you the best of luck on the completion of any tax returns you have left. Have an enjoyable summer.

Condolences go out to the family of Ronald G. Brasseaux

Better known as Ron. You may have met him at one of the LSIA seminars. Ron normally went to the Lafayette seminar and the corporate seminar in Baton Rouge. Ron died on Monday April 11, 2011. His funeral was held on April 16.

I first met him at least 20 years ago. Ron was an Enrolled Agent with a large practice in Lafayette, La. He will be missed by his wife, children, family and friends.

Ron was originally from Church Point, but lived in Lafayette most of his life. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He was born on Nov 6, 1941.

Ron developed a fast acting leukemia in the middle of February 2011 and never came out of the hospital once admitted. When I saw his name and picture in the obituary in the Wednesday paper of April 13 I was really shocked, since the last time I saw him he looked healthy, except his knees which gave him problems in the past, but since had surgery to correct the problem. Ron was a member of LSIA. The Officers and Board members and I all send our condolences to his family.

By: Larry J. Mouton – Executive Secretary LSIA

If you know of anyone who attends the LSIA seminars who has died and would like to mention it in our newsletter feel free to send in the necessary information.



Did You Know?

**COME CELEBRATE THE
60th ANNIVERSARY
OF LSIA
AT THE CONVENTION
TO BE HELD IN
LAFAYETTE, LA.
THIS YEAR!**

**THE CONVENTION IS
JUNE 26th TO
THE 28th.**

**SEE DETAILS FOR
INFORMATION IN THIS
NEWSLETTER**



LSIA CONVENTION FOR 2011 –

COME CELEBRATE 60 YEARS AS AN ORGANIZATION

The convention for 2011 which marks 60 years LSIA has been in existence. We can look back and thank those who had the foresight to see a future in an organization that would help a profession such as Accountants and Tax Preparers grow because of the knowledge needed each year to keep up with the ever changing laws. There are many names to mention so we can just thank those who started this organization and thank those who keep it going year after year. Thanks!

We would like for you to join the Officers and Board Members and members and non-members of LSIA who attend the convention each year. Some have been going for so many years and are dedicated convention attendees that they could be named, because of their attendance record. We would like for you to become one of those attendees. The convention will be in Lafayette, La. at the Holidome Hotel on Evangeline Thruway. The telephone number is 337-233-6815. The dates are June 26, 27 and 28. Sun., Mon. & Tue. We always have good entertainment, food, and most of all CPE where you can learn something new. We had planned on having something about the test the IRS plans, but no plans are out as to what will be taught so we had to concentrate on something else.

We all need information on the elderly. What are some of the things we should mention to our elderly clients. We are planning on having a lawyer from Baton Rouge, La. who has done seminars for NSA in the past on the Monday. On the Tuesday we have scheduled a representative from the Social Security Office, and have plans for other speakers on that day. Someone from LEDA (Lafayette Economic Development Association) will give a presentation on things we should be informing our clients and are not.

An email will be sent out with an agenda for the CPE to be offered at the convention. The lawyer who is presenting the material will give us a list of topics to choose and the committee will decide on the choices.

You can register on line at www.lsia.com click on the convention 2011 in the task bar.

Come join us in Lafayette. Learn and have a good time.

If you have any questions you can email me at larrym@lsia.com

or

Call 337-993-9707 or 1-800-847-6276

Hope to see you there.

*Larry J. Mouton, EA, ABA, Notary
Executive Secretary LSIA*

SURVIVE A COMPUTER CRASH DURING TAX SEASON

My computer was running a little slow during the week of March 14, I did the usual whenever my computer is running slow. I check my Task Manager to see which software is running in the background. I have a software that backups my information daily so I thought it was probably the backup software slowing my computer.

I called my tax software technical dept. to ask if for any reason their software was running a little slower this year. The answer was there didn't seem to be any problems.

After looking at a few more things on my computer and deleting a few items I didn't need there still was a problem of it running awfully slow. My next step which is always the last resort I called the computer store where I get technical help when needed. The company name is simple "Doghouse Computers, LLC". The owner, Woody, came over to check out my computer and found a few items that could be changed, but mainly recommended deleting some software from my computer that I wasn't using. He also did a defragmentation of my computer which I do run ever so often. I did read in a computer magazine that doesn't recommend defragging your computer. Who is right?

My problem started the evening of March 18, 2011. I left to go to dinner and had plans on working some after dinner. I let the defrag. software run while I was gone. When I returned my computer had a sort of light green screen. Nothing would happen when I pressed a key. The first thing I did was re-boot the system. It then gave me information that a Microsoft file was missing. I have the windows boot-up system so I followed the instructions on the screen to try and get it running again. Nothing happened.

One rule you should always follow. Always have the cell number of the technician or the owner of the computer store in a safe place and you know where it is when needed.

I called Woody at 7:00 PM. I had no answer on the first call. I called again within the hour and still no answer. In the meantime I was still trying to get my computer running. The instructions mentioned that sometimes you have to try more than once to get it re-booted. I didn't give up. I finally got a call from Woody. The next day was Saturday and the store was closed. He said he would call one of his technicians and try to get them to come in on Saturday for me. He did get one who couldn't come in until 5:00 PM on

Saturday.

A whole afternoon of Friday was loss without being able to complete any tax returns. Saturday was a wasted day, since I couldn't do anything either. Finally at 5:15 PM this young guy shows up. Here I am thinking that he has some wise trick up his sleeve and will get my computer running in no time flat. Guess what? It didn't happen that way. He did the same things I did, and accomplished the same thing I did. Nothing! He recommended re-booting my system with the software, but this would wipe out what was on my computer. First of all another rule to have is **BACK UP** which I had.

We went through the files and backed up to another hard drive that I had available. I have an external drive and an extra internal drive handy as back-ups. If I had used a Flash drive it would have taken forever, but using another hard drive didn't take long to copy by files. I didn't lose any data files. I lost a lot of unnecessary software I had on my computer. What the young technician did is something I could have done on the Friday and saved myself a lot of time and money. He formatted my hard drive and started fresh by reinstalling the Windows Software.

My computer is running so much faster. It is like a new computer. I added more RAM and hard drive space. My computer was bought in 2002 and besides a little old crash and purchase of some more RAM and another hard drive I have a computer that is running like new. So what if is old?

The Sunday I downloaded my tax software. I use TaxSlayer Pro out of Georgia. I could never be more satisfied with this company. This company has something they call Paper Cut which I pay about \$170.00 extra each year. What this does is back up all my files to their computer. If I have a disaster like a hurricane, etc. my data is on their computer for retrieval anytime. I was able to prepare tax returns on the Sunday. The way I play catch up is prepare a whole bunch of returns and print them out, but don't check them until the next day. The Monday I found my printer wasn't printing a certain report I needed for each return. I didn't waste anytime looking for what was wrong, since I wasn't in the "search for problems" mood. I called my software company. The man on the other end got into my computer and checked for the reason it wasn't working. I just sat there and watched him do the work. He found the problem in no time. There was no charge. All I did was thank him.

A day later I found that the Paper Cut system works. I called my software company again. Because of the crash there seemed to be another problem. I talked to a young lady this time. She got into my computer like the man did a day before and in no time had downloaded all my files to the correct file. I had backup, but sometimes trying to find the right back up when you may have quite a few years of back up on your system can be a little time consuming. She went right to the correct data files. I did have back ups, but some were in one file and another was in another file. I had changed the location of files for some reason or other so all of my data wasn't in the same place. She recommended I download all my files from their computer to one file on my computer which she did. Here was another thank you with no charge. I could not have been more grateful.

I hear of paperless offices. I believe in a paperless office to an extent. My extent is that the person who has a paperless office had better know what he/she is doing. Software is lost in a computer crash. Data generally is not lost. If your software is lost make sure you have the software to load back into your hard drive. Make sure you have the Codes that are necessary to load most software. Without a code you cannot load Windows. Without a code you cannot load Microsoft Word. These are just a few. Most have codes (I.D's). When you buy a new computer you are sometimes given free software. Make sure you have a copy of this software and the I.D's to enter it into your computer. Without it you are stuck with no software.

Back in the middle sixties my career brought me into the world of computers. I first was introduced to

computers when I was in the Air Force. I would never have imagined I would spend 12 years working with computers after getting out of the Air Force.

Over the close to fifty years I have been around computers I have seen so many changes. If you think you know computers you are wrong, because it changes daily. The operating systems change. Remember DOS?

I chuckle when I hear all these people talk about a paperless office like it is something that will keep data safe forever. Hopefully you have a portable hard drive that you bring home with you every night that has this paperless office on it? A fire, water damage, hurricane, lightning, a power surge, etc. will damage your computer and believe me there goes your paperless office. Back up – Back up can't be stressed enough.

Always expect the unexpected when dealing with computers.

I don't wish a computer crash on anyone, but always be prepared for it to happen. I managed to finish all my returns by April 14 and was closed on April 15 for business. I came in the office to answer calls for those who wanted extensions which I e-filed, because I don't do tax returns on the 15th.

*By: Larry J. Mouton, EA, ABA, Notary
Executive Secretary LSIA*

Small Business Employee Training Program (SBET)

- The Louisiana Society of Independent Accountants (LSIA) is an approved qualified seminar & training provider by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Small Business Employee Training Program (SBET).
- **What does this mean for LSIA Members?** --- You should be able to get the seminar fees reimbursed 100% for you and/or your employees who attend LSIA seminars.
- During the 2009-2010 seminar season, less than 10% of the 575 attending our seminars applied for the SBET reimbursement program.
- Information on this program and procedures to follow is available on the LSIA website.
- **Please read the procedures carefully, as the application process is time sensitive.** The online SBET application must be completed and necessary information submitted at least 31 days prior to the CPE seminar you want to attend.

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