



# The Accountant

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## A Message From The President

James L. Holmes



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Well today is Groundhogs Day, and Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and predicts 6 more weeks of winter. Here in Piedmont North Carolina winter is something. It can be 5 degrees on Monday and on Friday 70 degrees. I kinda like that kind of winter. Today being February 2<sup>nd</sup> means that all of the W-2s and 1099s were done and mailed by January 31<sup>st</sup> and now we can concentrate on preparing income tax returns.

The tax preparation companies have beefed up security and have inserted into our programs a new security feature. The 30 minute lock out. If we do not have a key stroke in 30 minutes in our tax program it will shut down and we will have to log in again in order to continue working on a tax return. We also have to have longer and more complicated passwords. Be sure to write them down and put them in a secure place.

Returns claiming EITC will be held until late February in order to cut down on fraud in this area. Returns claiming the American Opportunity Credit that have been flagged for suspected fraud will be held until August to give the IRS time to compare information from the education institutions.

There is a 16 digit security code on many of the W-2s this year that needs to be entered into the tax program on the W-2 screen. The IRS has the key to open this code and verify that it is or is not a fraudulent return.

Security is being brought to the forefront of tax preparation this year, and we all need to be vigilant and diligent in preparing returns this year.

On a personal note, I had back surgery on January 12<sup>th</sup> and am doing very well. I am walking with a cane and have very little pain. Needless to say that the surgery was a great success.

I wish all of you a great tax season, and remember we the members of the North Carolina Society of Accountants are here to help each other. If you have a question call someone in NCSA and work out the answer.

And remember, "There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing and be nothing." - Aristotle



## Chapter News

It is February although the weather outside feels like the end of March. With all the excitement don't forget your chapter meetings. They provide a great outlet for information sharing and general commiseration when the tax season load gets heavy. Here we go again, hang on for the ride!

### Burlington

The Burlington Chapter met at Kimbers in Gibsonville on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Members participated in a roundtable discussion about getting the Tax Season started. The Burlington chapter normally meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. For more information about the Burlington chapter contact Jim Holmes at [jholmes.acct@yahoo.com](mailto:jholmes.acct@yahoo.com)

### Cape Fear

The Cape Fear chapter met at The Brass Lantern in Dunn on January 16<sup>th</sup>. John Maron, Director, from the Investor Protection & Education Services with the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, Securities Division led a program on Securities and Fraud. The chapter meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after the 15<sup>th</sup> each month. For more information contact Marsha Wheeler at [mwheeler14@nc.rr.com](mailto:mwheeler14@nc.rr.com)

### Central

The Central Chapter met on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sagebrush Restaurant in Asheboro. Central Chapter Bylaws were discussed and reviewed. Louise Pistole, NCSA State Director, was at the meeting to answer any questions during the bylaws discussion. In addition to the discussion of the proposed by-laws, Ron Powell addressed the new requirements for form 8867-Due Diligence Checklist for EIC,CTC/ACTC and AOTC. Central Chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. For more information contact Kevin Robinson at [kevrob@triad.rr.com](mailto:kevrob@triad.rr.com)

### Charlotte

The Charlotte Chapter met at Golden Corral in Matthews on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. The program was presented by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. The topic was the new sales tax laws that have already gone into effect. The Charlotte Chapter normally meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. For more information contact Louise Pistole at [pistole9@windstream.net](mailto:pistole9@windstream.net)

### Eastern

The Eastern chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month at H&R Block in Greenville. For more information contact Ronald Powell at [karen.spruill@hrblock.com](mailto:karen.spruill@hrblock.com)

### Hickory

The Hickory Chapter met at Zorba's in Conover on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Janice W. Davidson, Assistant Director Sales and Use Tax Division, NC Department of Revenue was the presenter. The Hickory Chapter normally meets the last Monday of each month. For more information contact Susan Dale Moore at [susan@dalesaccounting.com](mailto:susan@dalesaccounting.com)

### Piedmont

The Piedmont Chapter met at Amalfi's Italian Restaurant in Kernersville on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Piedmont Chapter normally meets on the last Thursday of each month. For more information contact David Hooker at [dlhacct@triad.rr.com](mailto:dlhacct@triad.rr.com)

### Raleigh

The Raleigh Chapter met at Manchesters on Leesville Road in Raleigh on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Metelits presented a program on Gift Tax. In February we will be holding a round table discussion on tax issues. Bring your questions to receive the groups' wisdom. The Raleigh Chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Stephen Metelits at [metelits@usa.net](mailto:metelits@usa.net)

### Sandhills-Sanford

The Sandhills-Sanford Chapter met at Mark Bouchier's office on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The program was "Going Paperless". For more information contact April Eads at [angelicape@aol.com](mailto:angelicape@aol.com)

### Western

Western Chapter normally meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Beth Evans at [precisionacct@mindspring.com](mailto:precisionacct@mindspring.com)

### Wilmington

The Wilmington Chapter normally meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. Contact Chapter President Susan Corliss Bland for more information at [susan@intrstar.net](mailto:susan@intrstar.net)

**We cannot compile this report without your information. If you have news of your chapter or its members including photos or interesting things that happened at your chapter meeting please email James Upton at [jamesup-ton@rtmc.net](mailto:jamesup-ton@rtmc.net) or call (336) 873-7690. Looking for help: If you would love to be a part of Chapter News let Stephen Metelits know; the job starts July 1, 2017, train now!**

# IRS



## News Release

Media Relations Office

Washington, D.C.

Media Contact: 202.317.4000

[www.IRS.gov/newsroom](http://www.IRS.gov/newsroom)

Public Contact: 800.829.1040

### **[IRS, States and Tax Industry Renew Alert about Form W-2 Scam Targeting Payroll, Human Resource Departments](#)**

IR-2017-10, Jan. 25, 2017

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the tax industry today renewed their warning about an email scam that uses a corporate officer’s name to request employee Forms W-2 from company payroll or human resources departments.

This week, the IRS already has received new notifications that the email scam is making its way across the nation for a second time. The IRS urges company payroll officials to double check any executive-level or unusual requests for lists of Forms W-2 or Social Security number.

The W-2 scam first appeared last year. Cybercriminals tricked payroll and human resource officials into disclosing employee names, SSNs and income information. The thieves then attempted to file fraudulent tax returns for tax refunds.

This phishing variation is known as a “spoofing” e-mail. It will contain, for example, the actual name of the company chief executive officer. In this variation, the “CEO” sends an email to a company payroll office or human resource employee and requests a list of employees and information including SSNs.

The following are some of the details that may be contained in the emails:

Kindly send me the individual 2016 W-2 (PDF) and earnings summary of all W-2 of our company staff for a quick review.

Can you send me the updated list of employees with full details (Name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Home Address, Salary).

I want you to send me the list of W-2 copy of employees wage and tax statement for 2016, I need them in PDF file type, you can send it as an attachment. Kindly prepare the lists and email them to me asap.

Working together in the Security Summit, the IRS, states and tax industry have made progress in their fight against tax-related identity theft, cybercriminals are using more sophisticated tactics to try to steal even more data that will allow them to impersonate taxpayers.

The Security Summit supports a national taxpayer awareness campaign called [“Taxes. Security. Together.”](#) and a national tax professional awareness effort called [“Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself.”](#) These campaigns offer simple tips that can help make data more secure.

## National Tax Forum

The IRS National Tax Forum dates and places are:

- July 11-13, Orlando, FL, Hilton Orlando Resort
- July 26-27, Dallas, TX, Hilton Anatole
- August 22-24, National Harbor, MD, Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center
- August 29-31, Las Vegas, NV, Rio All-Suite Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
- September 12-14, San Diego, CA, Town & Country Resort and Convention Center

## mySocialSecurity

Lisa Wallace, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist, reports that a lot of information is available on mySocialSecurity at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). For example, you can apply for Social Security, disability, Medicare, and extra help. You can estimate future benefits by checking your earnings records, getting a retirement benefit estimate, or using the benefits planner. You can change your personal information, start or change direct deposit, and get a replacement Medicare card. To create your mySocialSecurity account, go to the e-mail address above. If you have a letter with an activation code, select “enter activation code” and follow the instructions. Otherwise, select “create an account,” enter a valid e-mail address, a Social Security Number, and a US mailing address.

## NCSA Schedule of Events

### 2017

June 21-23–**Convention**,  
Grandover, Greensboro

### 2018

June 20-23–**Convention**,  
Pine Needles, Southern Pines

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