



# Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee Meeting Minutes June 23, 2011

## Designated Federal Official

**Shawn Collins** TAP Director

## Members Present

Thomas (Tom) Walker	TAP Chair
John Kim	TAP Vice Chair
Gerald (Jerry) Stepner	Chair, Area 1
Susan Lynn	Chair, Area 3
Mary Jo Werner	Chair, Area 4
Anne Rasmussen	Chair, Area 6
Patricia (Patti) O'Neill	Chair, Area 7
Harlan Barnett	Chair, SBSE-Toll Free
Herb Bohrer	Chair, TAC
Ernest Miller	Chair, Notices
Mary Jean Potenzzone	Chair, SBSE-Practitioners Experience
David Cain	Chair, Area 2
Donald Thomas	Chair, Forms and Pubs
Erica Webber	Chair, EITC
Stephen Vanderver	Chair, VITA

## Members Absent

Susan DaCorte	Chair, Communications
Ken Donnelly	Chair, Area 5

## Staff Present

Shawn Collins	TAP Director
Susan Gilbert	Senior Program Analyst
Steve Berkey	Senior Program Analyst
Linda Rivera	Senior Program Analyst
Russ Pool	Database Analyst
Otis Simpson	Budget Analyst
Judi Nicholas	Program Manager
Nancy Ferree	Program Manager
Roy Block	Program Manager
Audrey Jenkins	Program Analyst
Marisa Knispel	Program Analyst
Lisa Gabriel	Program Analyst
Ellen Smiley	Program Analyst
Marianne Ayala	Program Analyst



Donna Powers	Program Analyst
Anita Fields	Program Analyst
Patti Robb	Program Analyst
Tim Shepard	Program Analyst
Leasia Brooks	Secretary
Annie Haywood	Secretary

**Guests**

Felicia Garant	Area 1
Bob Hayden	Area 4
Eileen Kelly	Area 4
Jackie Rollins	Vice Chair, Area 5
John Rodgers	Area 7
Colleen Hitchcock	Area 6

**Members of the Public**

None

**Welcome/Announcements/Review Agenda**

Tom Walker opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Roll Call**

Leasia Brooks took roll call and quorum was met.

**Approval May Joint Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were approved by consensus.

**Review of Action Items—Tom Walker**

Tom Walker reviewed the action items from the May call and reported all have been completed.

**National Office Report—Shawn Collins**

Collins thanked the Joint Committee members for their faithful participation.

Collins stated TAP received verification that rooms are available for Wednesday night. She requested that the panel members contact Leasia Brooks to request an extended stay. Walker requested that the members adjust their schedule to remain in Seattle through noon on Wednesday. Collins also requested members consider leaving Thursday morning if same-day travel presents a problem.

### **TAP Chair Report—Tom Walker**

Walker stated three Joint Committee members are needed to volunteer to assist with the election process for this year's election. Gerald Stepner, Susan Lynn, and Anne Rasmussen volunteered to assist. Berkey volunteered to coordinate the process.

### **Area Issues for Review**

#### **Area 1**

**Issue #18548 Explanation of Reporting Mutual Funds Dist. Of Short-Term Cap Gains**—Gerald Stepner provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is that the IRS clarify instructions for taxpayers to report their short-term capital gains from Form 1099 DIV to Form 1040, Line 9 instead of erroneously reporting them on the Schedule D, and Line 13.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS.

**Issue #19705 E-Services Password**—Gerald Stepner provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is that the IRS either correct the instructions that states password renewal to E-services allows for more than eight characters, or actually allow more than eight characters to be used as stated in the current instruction.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS with minor corrections.

**Issue #19957 Status of Certain Grandchildren**—Gerald Stepner provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is that the IRS clarify whether step-grandchildren are legally eligible to be considered a qualifying child.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS provided the issue has not been previously addressed and is not statute driven.

**Action Item:** Walker requested the committee ensure emphasis added to the technical consideration be bolded prior to submitting to the IRS.

**Issue #20971 Enhance Form 13614-C**—Gerald Stepner provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is to add a question on Form 13614-C, Part III that asks the taxpayer "Do you have any capital loss carryovers from prior years?" This will allow taxpayers unfamiliar with this provision of the law to account for prior year losses.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS with a minor adjustment.

## Area 2

**Issue #19605 Access to Identity Theft Information**—Ernest Miller provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee’s suggestion is to establish a shortcut link on the main IRS webpage [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) which would direct the taxpayers to the resources available to deal with identity theft.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS with a minor adjustment.

**Issue #17854 Develop an Easier Process to Obtain Election Confirmations**—Donald Thomas provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee’s suggestion is that the IRS implement fax over internet protocol to allow IRS agents the ability to fax documents from their desktop computer and additional website functionality to allow taxpayers to request, complete, and receive a confirmation status related to election forms via the IRS web services application.

The Committee further suggests the IRS implement the use of overnight shipping options for taxpayers at the taxpayer’s expense.

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS with minor corrections.

## Area 4

**Issue #18611 Refund Delays on Electronically Filed Returns**—Bob Hayden provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee’s suggestion is to maximize the “Where’s My Refund” link on IRS.gov. Instead of using the terminology “Return Accepted” as the final communication from the IRS to a transmitter, use “Return in Processing” to indicate an active return. The Committee also suggests if processing is delayed and a refund delay is probable, that the IRS send a subsequent “Processing Delayed” message to the transmitter as well. Once processing is completed and a refund is issued, the final communication from the IRS to a transmitter would state “Return Completed”

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, returned the issue to Area 4 for resubmission next month.

**Issue #18851 E-Service Access to CP2000**— Eileen Kelly provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee’s suggestion is to allow e-services users who have filed a client’s Form 2848, *Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative*, to obtain a copy of the client’s CP2000 through e-services by initiating an inquiry through Electronic Account Resolution (EAR).

**Decision**—The Joint Committee, by consensus, returned the issue to Area 4 for additional research and resubmission next month.

**Action Items:** Timothy Shepard will provide further reference. Roy Block requested Jackie Rollins provide a Wage and Income transcript and a CP2000 from a client for panel review. Block will ensure the documents are prepared for disclosure to the Joint Committee.

**Issue #19138 Change Instructions for Form 720—** Bob Hayden provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is to add a disclaimer to the estimated time for completion of Form 720, page 17 to state "Estimated time for completion listed on page 17 may not be a reliable estimate for tanning bed operators".

**Decision—**The Joint Committee, by consensus, returned the issue for further review.

#### Area 6

**Issue #19286 Form 2290—** Colleen Hitchcock provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is that the IRS send out postcards and attach a removable name, address, and EIN number label if possible.

**Decision—**The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS with minor corrections.

#### Area 7

**Issue #17382 Retired on Disability—Unable to E-File (Resubmission)—**

John Rodgers provided a brief background on the issue, stating the committee's suggestion is that the IRS should remove the block presently in place preventing E-Filed income tax returns with zero adjusted gross income and/or zero tax liability.

**Decision—**The Joint Committee, by consensus, elevated the issue to the IRS.

#### Tax Forms & Pubs

**Issue #20225 Review of 2011 Schedule C**

**Issue #20226 Review of 2011 Schedule E**

**Issue #20227 Review of 2011 Schedule D and Form 8949**

Donald Thomas stated the committee completed reviews on Schedule C, Schedule, D, and Schedule E. In addition to the schedule D review, the committee reviewed Form 8949 which is intended to replace Schedule D1.

**Decision—**The Joint Committee, by consensus, approved the project to go final.

#### Notices

**Issue #21127 Pub 594 Review—** Ernest Miller stated the Committee was tasked with reviewing existing CP notices (CP30, CP63, CP20E, and CP15) and Frequently Asked Questions for clarity and to provide feedback on whether the taxpayer would clearly understand the reason a CP notice was received and what action would need to be taken. The committee also reviewed Publication 594. Miller stated the committee provided the program owners with draft copies and recommendations.

**Decision—**The Joint Committee, by consensus approved the project.

**TAP Refocus Update**—An e-mail update was sent to the full membership for review. Walker thanked the Area and Project Managers for reaching out to their committees.

Walker stated TAP is currently divided on the issue of assigning projects. However Tom stated, TAP is leaning more toward using the project committee assignment, but the role of the Area will be stressed in outreach, issue identification, and in issue bucket creation.

Tom asked everyone to provide feedback at the face-to-face Joint Committee.

**Annual Meeting** - Susan Gilbert stated the staff will meet June 30, 2011 to begin the Action Plan. The staff and members will meet July 7, 2011.

**Area/Project Committee Activities**

Gilbert requested the reports be sent in a timely manner. Walker also requested committees submit all available updates at the time reports are due. Walker stated there are nine active issues that have not been elevated to the Joint Committee. He requested issues be elevated for review no later than August.

**Public**

None

**Closing**

Meeting Adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Face-to-Face, July 25-27, 2011 in Seattle, WA**