



**Special Projects Committee
Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP)
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020**

Designated Federal Officer

- Cedric Jeans Designated Federal Officer

Members Present

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| • Michael Avery | San Juan, PR | Member |
| • Dorothy Havey | Belfast, ME | Member |
| • John Hughes | Memphis, TN | Vice Chair |
| • Phillip "Phil" Kleiber | Roswell, GA | TAP Chair |
| • Robert "Bob" Moretti | Great Falls, MT | Member |
| • Richard Russell | Owens Crossroads, AL | Member |
| • Laura Snyder | Paris, France | Member |
| • Cheryl Williams | Shelton, WA | Chair |
| • Gina Gray | Nichols Hills, OK | Member |

Members Absent

- Brandon Ruest N. Providence, RI Member

Staff

- Antoinette "Toni" Ross, TAP Program Analyst
- Conchata Holloway, TAP Program Analyst
- Fred Smith, TAP Program Analyst
- Michael Odom, Wage & Investment (W&I) Program Analyst
- Kevin Brown, Administrative Assistant
- Debra "Debbie" Awalt W&I Program Analyst

Chair Comments

Cheryl Williams welcomed everyone to the call.

Members of the Public

None

Quorum

Quorum was met.

Welcome Announcements/Acknowledgements

Cedric Jeans welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting.

National Office Report

English reported COVID-19 issues in some areas of the IRS and it being a slow process getting through this pandemic. English indicated that TAS is looking into



ways to have videoconferencing but a decision on this will come soon. English spoke about Ad Hoc programs that will be happening for the TAP very soon. There was a question about the deferment of payroll taxes to which English indicated guidance is not available for this yet. English will gather the news releases that are available and send it to the TAP very soon.

DFO Report

Jeans reported that we are currently updating the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database. This includes program information such as recommendations, finances for the program and meeting information for TAP.

Jean mentioned that in preparation for the new member orientation training, we are accepting assistance from any returning members who want to be a part of this process.

Jeans reminded the committee that the TAP National Chair and Vice-Chair elections are coming up for next year's leadership. Moretti explained some of the duties that you have when being in TAP leadership and encouraged returning members to take these responsibilities on. Jeans reminded the committee to reflect on the upcoming September 11, 2001 day of remembrance tomorrow.

Minutes Approval

August 13, 2020. Havey motioned; Russell seconded.

Action: Minutes approved as submitted.

Outreach Report

John Hughes shared the following updates for outreach:

- Special Projects had 100 percent submittal of activity reports for the third month in row.
- This committee is working on a lot of virtual outreach around the country.

Subcommittee 1

Havey reported:

- Issue 41749-Difficulties in Filing US Taxes from Outside the US
Mail is a huge issue due to time delays for international taxpayers going to and from the IRS. This referral seeks to resolve the problem of considerable delays in the mail delivery process for international taxpayers. The IRS should establish a way to track this mail that is sent to international taxpayers. A suggestion is to change the 120-day guideline for non-statutory deadlines. In addition, we are seeking to suspend the accrual of interest allowing time to deal with delays in the mail. Mail takes too long to get to overseas taxpayer is a huge issue. Havey motioned; Hughes seconded.

Action: Issue elevated to the JC for consideration.

Subcommittee 2

Hughes reported:



- Project Referral Issue 42213-IRS Online Account Forms Availability (**Committee agreed to drop issue and refer to Systemic Advocacy**)
- Project Referral Issue 43137-Verification/Validation During Interaction with the IRS (Questions being sent to Subject Matter Expert (SME)). Issue being worked.

Screening Committee

Snyder reported no issues referred out of 22 submissions. Issue **43462** is being reviewed as a possible issue for subcommittee 1.

Internal Communications Committee (ICC)

Moretti reported enhancing and adding to social media using an online media guide. In coordination with Outreach committee, we are making new member check list currently. They are also working on the TAP Annual Report.

- TAP Newsletter article submission is due September 25, 2020
- The August TAP Newsletter was release on September 3, 2020

Ice Breakers

Q1. Would you rather ski on a mountain or vacation on the beach?

Q2. Would you rather be rich or famous?

Williams- Ski Famous
Kleiber- Beach Rich
Havey- Beach Rich
Hughes- Beach Rich
Moretti- Beach Rich

Russell- Beach Rich
Snyder- Beach Rich
Jeans- Beach rich
Awalt- Beach Rich
Odom- Beach Rich

Ross- Beach Rich
Brown- Beach Rich
Holloway- Beach Rich
English- Beach Rich

Action Items

Antoinette Ross will do the following:

- Send minutes to be posted
- Issue 41749 for elevation

Awalt reported there is not a hotline number for social security withholding issue. They can call the regular 1040 line.

Chair or Vice Chair of SP Committee Closing Comment

Williams suggested considering the issues listed below as issues that can be worked and carried over into TAP Year 2021:

- Issue 42967 Simplify reporting taxpayer's fraud
- Issue 42978 Unfair filing tax cost fraud
- Issue 42996 IRS disregarding registered mail
- Issue 43054 Accounts are dysfunctional for nonresidents
- Consider the names of the subcommittees, as they can be changed

Closing

Jeans thanked everyone for attending, reminded members of the next JC meeting is on September 24, 2020, then closed the call.



**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 2020,
11:00 a.m. ET, 10:00 a.m. CT, 9:00 a.m. MT, 8:00 a.m. PT**

These minutes have been approved and certified by the committee chairperson.