

## In This Issue

[eNEWS Poll](#) — Results from December; New question

[Calendar](#) — Upcoming conferences and webcast opportunities!

[Education & Examinations](#) — *The ERISA Outline Book* offer, DC-2 webcourse, and upcoming exams

[The ASPPA 401\(k\) SUMMIT](#) — "Early bird" discount ends next Friday, January 22

[The Morningstar-ASPPA 401\(k\) Advisor Leadership Award](#) — Nominate a deserving colleague (or yourself)

[EFAST2 Petition](#) — More than 700 firms have already signed. Has yours?

[APAPA](#) — Business owners unite!

[NTSAA](#) — Enjoy lifetime NTSAA member benefits for a one-time payment of \$50!

Stay warm out there!



### eNEWS Poll

Results of the December Question:

"Scotttrade says 47% of registered investment advisers (RIAs) reported gaining clients and improving client satisfaction during the downturn last year. Is the economy picking up — did your business grow in 2009?"

- Yes — 36% (27 votes)
- No — 64% (47 votes)

January's Question:

"With Baby Boomers reaching 65 over the next 15 years, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reports 'actuary' is the number one career to have in 2010 and [Investment News](#) says 'retirement planning' is the number two career track of the new decade.

Do you agree?

## ASPPA Quick Links

[News Room](#)

[ASPPA asaps](#)

[ASPPA eNEWS Archive](#)

[Conference Calendar](#)

[Education Calendar](#)

[The ASPPA Journal](#)

## Get Connected!



- Yes
- No

**VOTE HERE**

### Conferences

Jan 20-22	<a href="#">Los Angeles Benefits Conference</a> , Los Angeles, CA
Jan 27-30	<a href="#">NTSAA National Conference</a> , Indian Wells, CA
Mar 14-16	<a href="#">The ASPPA 401(k) SUMMIT</a> , Orlando, FL
May 13-14	<a href="#">Benefits Conference of the South</a> , Atlanta, GA
May 24-25	<a href="#">Mid-Atlantic Benefits Conference</a> , Philadelphia, PA
Jun 2-4	<a href="#">Women Business Leaders Forum</a> , San Antonio, TX

### Webcasts

Jan 19	<a href="#">Creative 401(k) Testing Techniques</a>
Jan 28	<a href="#">Fundamental ADP/ACP Testing</a>
Feb 23	<a href="#">We are Paid Tax-Preparers – Heightened Tax Preparer Liability</a>
Mar 2	Overview of the QPFC program and course materials ( <b>Save the date!</b> )
Mar 9	ASPPA PAC Contributors Only: Washington Update ( <b>Save the date!</b> )
Mar 18	<a href="#">Dealing with Divorce in the Qualified Plan</a>

### Education & Examinations (E&E)

Special Offer: With a pre-order of any product of the 2010 Edition of *The ERISA Outline Book*, you can purchase the 2009 Online Edition for only \$200! Special offer expires March 31, 2010. [Pre-order the 2010 edition of \*The ERISA Outline Book\* today.](#)

Start your education early this year by brushing up on basic topics or prepare yourself for an ASPPA examination this spring. ASPPA webcourses through IPFW allow you to refresh your learning at your convenience while earning CE credit. [New DC-2 webcourse now available](#). DC-1 and DC-3 are coming soon.

Attention CRPS designees: Your CRPS designation now satisfies the requirements for the first two QPFC examinations (RPF-1 and RPF-2)! Now purchase [study materials](#) and register for Spring [Plan Financial Consulting 1 examination](#) this spring. Successfully complete and pass [Plan Financial Consulting 2 examination](#) this fall to obtain your [Qualified Plan Financial Consultant](#) credential.

Thinking about taking an ASPPA exam this spring? Register early and save on registration fees for an ASPPA exam. Spring exam window is May 13-June 25 and the early registration deadline is April 19. [Take advantage of the discounted price and register today!](#)

## The ASPPA 401(k) SUMMIT



The ASPPA 401(k) SUMMIT is bigger and better than ever in 2010 and the "early bird" discount ends **next Friday, January 22!**

Expect hundreds of attendees from throughout the retirement plan industry, 140 exciting exhibitors in the hall, dozens of top-notch workshop sessions and the presentation of the prestigious *Morningstar-ASPPA 401(k) Advisor Leadership Award*. The SUMMIT offers 14 hours of ASPPA Continuing Education (CE) credit and is designed to comply with various CE programs, including ERPA CPE.

**What:** *The ASPPA 401(k) SUMMIT*

**When:** March 14 – 16, 2010

**Where:** [Orlando World Center Marriott Resort](#)

For more information and to register, click [\[here\]](#).



### The Morningstar-ASPPA 401(k) Advisor Leadership Award

There's still time to give your peers the ultimate recognition for their industry contributions by nominating an advisor for the prestigious *Morningstar-ASPPA 401(k) Advisor Leadership Award*.

How do I nominate myself or a colleague? Use the [Online Nomination Form](#) or submit a [hard copy](#) via USPS or fax to 703.516.9308. Complete and submit all nominations by **next Friday, January 22, 2010**. Some Terms & Conditions may apply.

*The Morningstar-ASPPA 401(k) Advisor Leadership Award* will be presented at The ASPPA 401(k) SUMMIT 2010 in Orlando, FL at the Orlando World Marriott Center on Monday, March 15, 2010. Register for the SUMMIT [\[here\]](#).

## Sign the EFAST2 Petition!

The ASPPA Government Affairs Committee is soliciting your support in asking the Department of Labor to modify its position with regard to the sharing of EFAST2 credentials. Many practitioners have expressed concern that the DOL's current position — as expressed in [FAQ #33](#) — will hamper their efforts to assist clients with timely filing of Form 5500. The IRS and PBGC have developed systems that recognize the key role played by service providers in achieving compliance. ASPPA proposes that the DOL implement similar rules so that filing signers could, at their option, choose to share their credentials with their service providers to facilitate electronic filing.

Read the entire letter [\[here\]](#).

If your firm wishes to endorse our efforts, please click [\[here\]](#) and you can provide the necessary information to have your firm's name added to the list of signatories on the above letter. Be sure you are authorized to sign on your firm's behalf and only one member of your firm completes the form.

You do not have to be a member of ASPPA to support this effort. ASPPA believes there is strength in numbers and hopes you will take this opportunity to let the DOL know your firm is committed to compliance.

## Business Owners Unite!



As ASPPA founders and core members, you're responsible for our influence and prominence in the retirement plan industry today. As ASPPA has grown, so has the need for TPA firms to organize, share common concerns and become more politically involved. In response, ASPPA has formed a new membership division exclusively for TPA firms—the *ASPPA Plan Administrators Policy Alliance (APAPA)*.

Click [\[here\]](#) for more info or to join.

## ASPPA Members and NTSAA Resources

As a result of ASPPA's new partnership with the National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association (NTSAA), ASPPA members can now access NTSAA's newsletter, online bulletin board, publication, Web site and NTSAA member discounts for a one-time (non-annual) fee of only \$50! Learn more [\[here\]](#)!

Put your new access to work and order your copy of *The Source* by M. Kristi Cook and Ellie Lowder, NTSAA's authoritative resource for any professional involved in the 403(b) and 457(b) marketplace. *The Source* addresses technical issues and covers 403(b) and 457(b) plans globally, offering information on compliance, administration, marketing and plan coordination issues, plus a comprehensive range of forms, tools, checklists, communication pieces and other items needed to effectively operate a 403(b) program for both ERISA and non-ERISA.

*The Source, Second Edition* includes the final 403(b) regs, explanations of the Code and examples of practical applications. [Order your copy today!](#)

**American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA)**

4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 750, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1648

Click [\[here\]](#) to unsubscribe.