



NEWS RELEASE

American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries / National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2009

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ASPPA and NTSAA Look to Combine Operations

Arlington, Va. — The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) and the National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association (NTSAA) announced today their intent to combine operations in a way that will enhance benefits for their collective members. The two parties intend to build upon an existing partnership that was formed to create the recently launched Tax-Exempt and Governmental Plan Consultant (TGPC) credential, an NTSAA initiative under which ASPPA manages the education and examinations of candidates.

According to ASPPA President Stephen L. Dobrow, the proposed new structure will benefit the members of both organizations and was a natural progression of events. “The partnership to create the TGPC program was a direct result of significant regulatory changes that have recently affected the tax-exempt/governmental retirement marketplace. Because of this success, we recognized that by combining future resources with NTSAA, we have the opportunity to not only strengthen our industry position, but also to provide enhanced benefits that will keep our members at the top of their profession.”

The relationship with ASPPA also will provide NTSAA members with a strong voice on Capitol Hill. “Advocacy is one area in which NTSAA members will benefit significantly from this proposed new relationship,” said NTSAA President Christopher M. DeGrassi. “ASPPA is well known in Washington, so gaining representation through its advocacy program — while encouraging greater NTSAA member political involvement — is in the interests of both organizations.”

According to the proposed agreement, NTSAA would operate as a semi-autonomous division under ASPPA, yet ASPPA will maintain the “goodwill” and “brand identity” of NTSAA. “This is not a merger or acquisition,” emphasized ASPPA Executive Director/CEO Brian H. Graff. “Our intent is to bring together the best of both organizations and to use this synergy to create greater leadership for the retirement industry along with enhanced member value.”

Citing strength in numbers, Dobrow, DeGrassi, and Graff noted that the proposed combination would bring total membership of the two organizations to more than 7,500 professionals in the private pension, retirement plan, and non-profit retirement marketplace. The proposed new structure still requires approval by NTSAA membership, with the vote expected to take place this fall.

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The **American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA)** is a national organization of more than 6,500 retirement plan and benefits professionals that serves as the educator, voice, and advocate for the employer-based retirement system. ASPPA members are administrators, actuaries, advisors, attorneys, accountants, and other financial services professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans. ASPPA is based in Arlington, Va., with 17 regional ASPPA benefits councils (ABCs) providing local retirement plan employee benefit professionals with opportunities to participate in ASPPA activities in their local communities. Get more information at www.asppa.org.

The **National Tax Sheltered Accounts Association (NTSAA)**, based in St. Louis, Mo., is the only independent, non-profit association dedicated to the 403(b) and 457 marketplaces in the nation. NTSAA has grown to approximately 1,000 practitioners, agencies, corporate, and employer members. The NTSAA mission is to provide high quality related education, technical support, and information resources, as well as to offer a professional networking forum. Membership is open to anyone with a strong interest in the issues and opportunities in the 403(b) and 457(b) marketplace. For more information, visit www.ntsaa.org.

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