



ASPPA eNEWS QUICK READER POLL

This new feature in *ASPPA eNEWS* will offer one question for you to answer. We will report the results from reader responses in the next issue.

[The September Question](#)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Official Survey Asks How New Retirement Plan IRS Determination Letter Process is Working, How It Might Be Improved

An IRS advisory council, IRS Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities (TE/GE), is studying the retirement plan document determination letter process. A new online survey form asks for the views of employers, benefits attorneys, third-party administrators, consultants, providers of master & prototype documents, and other stakeholders. In 2005 the IRS radically changed the determination letter process by creating 5-year and 6-year cycles for amending and filing individually designed, volume submitter, and M&P retirement plan documents. Further changes were made in 2007. The advisory council wants to know how the process is working and how it might be improved, including the process for making required amendments or restatements. To learn more or take the survey now, click on the following address or copy and paste it into your Web browser:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EL2r2msS3KJI07X_2fq67w6w_3d_3d

CONFERENCES

To review the continuing education (CE) availability, follow the link to the event for CE and other information.

September 14-15

[DOL Speaks: The 2009 Employee Benefits Conference](#)

Washington, D.C.



Secretary Solis

ASPPA QUICK LINKS:

[News Room](#)

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[ASPPAeNEWS](#)

[Conference Calendar](#)

[Education Calendar](#)

[The ASPPA Journal](#)



Asst. Secretary Borzi

- What's next from the Obama administration?
- U.S. Secretary of Labor L. Hilda Solis and Asst. Secretary (EBSA) Phyllis Borzi will speak
- What's on the minds of the DOL and the IRS?
- How will YOU prepare for 2010?
- This conference qualifies for 15 ASPPA CE credit hours and up to 15 JBEA CPE credit hours.

November 1-4 – [ASPPA Annual Conference](#), National Harbor, MD

- Keynote Address by Stephen M. R. Covey, Author of *The SPEED of Trust...The One Thing That Changes Everything*
- More than 60 Interactive Workshops about Diverse, Educational Topics
- 25 Hours of ASPPA Continuing Education Credit and Core/Non-core JBEA Credit Hours for Enrolled Actuaries. Sessions that provide Professionalism and Ethics CE have been added to the extensive program.
- More than 80 Vendor Displays in the Exhibit Hall
- Intensive Review Sessions for ASPPA Courses and ERPA-SEE

November 16-17 – [The ASPPA Cincinnati Pension Conference](#)

WEBCASTS

ASPPA now is offering more Webcasts to help you meet your continuing education and professional development goals.

September 17 – [Will EFAST2 Affect Your Business?](#)

[Get Ready for Electronic Filing of Form 5500](#)

September 23 – [Compensation Consternation](#)

October 20 – [Determination Letter Process](#)

October 22 – [Meet EFAST2: I-REG, I-FILE and I-FAS](#)

October 27 FREE! – [Tax-Exempt & Governmental Plan Consultant \(TGPC\):](#)

[The Premier Credential for 403\(b\) and 457 Plan Professionals](#)

November 19– [Fees Reportable on Schedule C – Fee Basics for Preparers](#)

December 3– [Preparing the 2009 Schedule C](#)

December 10– [Forget about EFAST2! What's New on the Forms!](#)

ACOPA MEMBER HONORED AT SYMPOSIUM



At the **ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries Actuarial Symposium** (August 14-15, Chicago), Richard A. Block, MSPA, and Larry Deutsch, MSPA, (seated) presented the second annual **Edward E. Burrows Distinguished Achievement Award** to [Joan A. Gucciardi](#), MSPA, CPC. The annual award goes to a notable pension actuary in memory of Burrows, who championed pension and retirement issues, the actuarial profession, and volunteerism.

EDUCATION & EXAMINATION

Early registration deadline for fall 2009 exams is fast approaching. Register by September 28 and save with discounted prices. The fall exam window is November 2 - December 11.

ASPPA just released the new Certified Pension Consultant (CPC) module about [fiduciary topics](#)! "Distributions & Loans" and "Related Groups & Business Transactions" modules are also available. Expand your retirement plan skills, expertise, and grow your business by obtaining the professional CPC credential from ASPPA. These modules are a great value - only \$75 per module. [Register now!](#)

We need a volunteer. The ASPPA Education and Examination Committee seeks a subject matter expert (SME) for the topic "Ethics & Professional Responsibility." This work is a great way for credentialed members to earn continuing education credits while contributing to the ASPPA educational mission. [Apply online today.](#)

Last call! There are limited spots available for the ASPPA Enrolled Actuary EA-2A Live Review Course to be held October 2-5 in Chicago, IL. [Register now](#) or pass this information and opportunity along to someone in your office who is interested in pursuing the Enrolled Actuary designation.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

November 3 – Visits to the Hill! Join hundreds of your fellow ASPPA members as they visit Capitol Hill to speak to their congressional representatives. To learn more about why it's important to participate in the Hill Visits, read, "Why it Matters – Say 'Yes' to a Visit to Capitol Hill" by ASPPA member Cynthia S. Ellner. To participate in this exciting and rewarding event, make sure to register for the [2009 ASPPA Annual Conference](#) and [sign up for the Visits to Capitol Hill](#).

August 25 – ASPPA President Stephen Dobrow [responded to an editorial](#) by *The New York Times* that proposed how to change 401(k) plans.

August 17 – ASPPA submitted comments to the IRS with regard to proposed regulations that would permit sponsors of 401(k) plans to suspend or reduce safe harbor nonelective contributions during a plan year. The proposal responds to the [ASPPA comment letter](#) filed on February 20, 2009, asking for relief.

MEMBERSHIP

Continuing Education (CE) Requirement Changes – Effective January 1, 2009, the

ASPPA Board of Directors approved a CE requirement change to include two hours of ethics for each two-year CE cycle. The requirement is one hour of ethics for the current cycle, which ends December 31, 2010. ASPPA will offer a series of Webcasts and sessions at conferences so members can meet these requirements. Get more information in the fall issue of [The ASPPA Journal](#).

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