



The Accountant

Official Publication

of the North Carolina Society of Accountants

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December 2018



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December
2018

A Message From The President

Jense H. Creighton



Jense H. Creighton

I hope as you are reading this edition of *The Accountant* you have enjoyed your Holiday festivities, traditions and making new memories with family and friends. We all know as soon as January 1 arrives our lives change quite a bit and sometimes, we forget to have time for ourselves and the important people in our lives.

As of now we are all educated on the new tax laws and should be ready to tackle the 2018 "tax season". One of the advantages of being a member of the North Carolina Society of Accountants is the excellent CPE offered or sponsored by our society. We are lucky as some of our members are some of the best speakers available. PTI has Paul Bumgarner and Ron Powell while NC State Tax School has Jim Holmes and Curt Lee. Hope you were able to attend one or more of these CPE meetings as the knowledge obtained was very valuable. This year I definitely needed each class that I attended.

One of the other advantages of being a member of this society is the networking with other members. When I first started in this business, many years ago I counted on members of NCSA to help me when I had a question. Forty plus years later I still count on our members for assistance when I am uncertain of how to handle an issue. Please know you can call me, any Officers, Past Presidents and most members when you just need a little help. Chapter meetings are also a very good source of knowledge from other Accountants and Tax Preparers. We are all in this together.

Make plans after tax season to attend our 73rd Annual Convention at Embassy Suites Myrtle Beach, SC. The dates are June 3 -6, 2019. Oceanfront Suites and Standard Suites are \$ 159.00 per night. This rate will also be honored if you and your family want to go down early, but not after the convention as summer rates will be in effect. This is the reason the convention is earlier this year, so we can take advantage of the better room rates. Curt Lee and Denise McBride Rollins are working to make this a very enjoyable time of business and fellowship. If you have never attended a convention, this one would be a good one to attend.

Good luck with all the new requirements for filing North Carolina W-2's and 1099's. Our office is still trying to get all this in place for January. If you are not familiar with these, please check out www.ncdor.gov for guidance. The telephone number for NCDOR Practitioner Priority Service is 919-754-2500. This number is for tax preparers only, not the general public.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as the President of this great organization and being able to call so many of you my friends. May 2019 be our best year yet.

Chapter News

Burlington

The Burlington chapter did not meet in November or December for members to enjoy the holidays and to attend tax schools the next meeting will be January 24th at Kimbers in Gibsonville. In member news Bonnie Murrell was in an automobile accident and had related surgery recently. Please keep Bonnie in your thoughts. For more information about the Burlington chapter contact Jim Holmes at jholmes.acct@yahoo.com

Cape Fear

The Cape Fear Chapter held its annual Christmas Outing on Friday, December 7th at The Rudy Theater in Smithfield. It was an event enjoyed by all who attended. Cape Fear Chapter meets on the 1st Monday after the 15th of each month. For more information contact Marsha Wheeler at mwheeler14@nc.rr.com

Central

The Central Chapter did not meet in December due to snow. The chapter had planned a meeting at CJ's Old Towne with entertainment by The Pilson Family. In lieu of the chapter event members were encouraged reach out to each other with best wishes of the season. The chapter will meet at Sagebrush in Asheboro on January 28th. Central Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month. For more information contact James Upton at jamesupton@rtmc.net

Charlotte

The Charlotte Chapter met on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at Asian Buffet and Grill on Independence Blvd (US 74) in Matthews. This was the chapter holiday party and included a gift game which was a big hit with the attendees. The Charlotte Chapter meets the 4th Thursday each month. For more information contact Ashlyn Miles at ashlyn@jensehaynes.com

Eastern

The Eastern Chapter met on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at Rouse's Restaurant in Snow Hill. Ethel Barnes of the Social Security Administration gave an informative presentation geared to Tax Preparers. The Eastern Chapter meets the 4th Tuesday each month. For more information contact Karen Spruill at kspruill@downsouthtax.com

Hickory

The Hickory Chapter will meet on Thursday, September 24, 2018 at 6:00pm... Hickory Chapter meets the last Monday of each month. For more information contact Susan Dale Moore at susan@dalesaccounting.com

Piedmont

The Piedmont Chapter meeting on December 27th was cancelled due to a prior engagement of Nina Livengood, Nina is always the host of the Piedmont Christmas party and she was unable to host at her home this year. David Hooker remarked that Christmas not at Nina's is no Christmas at all, so the meeting was cancelled. This goes to show what a wonderful hostess Nina is. The chapter will meet January 31st at Clarks BBQ for a roundtable discussion. Piedmont Chapter meets on the last Thursday of each month. For more information contact David Hooker at dlhacct@triad.rr.com

Raleigh

The Raleigh Chapter normally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Stephen Metelits at metelits@usa.net

Sandhills/Sanford

The Sandhills Chapter met Friday, December 14 at Quail Ridge Club in Sanford. The meeting included a Christmas party and Prime Rib Dinner. The chapter will meet in January time TBD. For more information contact April Nayman at angelicape@aol.com

Western

The Western Chapter met on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 with Past President James Upton speaking on QAR & Rental Income Overview. The chapter also held its Annual Christmas Dinner at the Gondolier on Tunnel Rd in Asheville December 11th with the ever popular Chinese Gift exchange. The Western Chapter meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Jan Allison at helgreenanddalton@yahoo.com.

TELL THE ACCOUNTANT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTER. E-MAIL NEWS TO: jawmneill@gmail.com OR FAX TO [336-873-7650](tel:336-873-7650).

URGENT: Hardship Exemptions and Update on Bare Counties

Quote from <https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/hardship-exemptions/>

“Starting with plan year 2018 (for which you’ll file taxes in April 2019), you don’t have to fill out an application to get a hardship exemption. You can claim the exemption, without having to submit documentation about the hardship, on your 2018 federal tax return.”

We have been told that some chain tax prep firms began contacting some tax return filers and letting them know that they needed to file amended returns because they were in so-called bare counties. ACA Marketplace coverage was only offered by one provider in these counties. In order to claim a bare county exemption for 2016 or 2017 the taxpayer would have needed to contact the Marketplace and apply for an exemption. For 2018 you can claim the exemption directly on your Form 8965 or you can still apply to the Marketplace if you prefer or you can request an exemption for 2016 or 2017 from the Marketplace if you are eligible and file an amended return (by the applicable due date) to claim a refund of any ACA penalty paid.

Following are all hardship exemptions, with links to details, forms, and instructions.

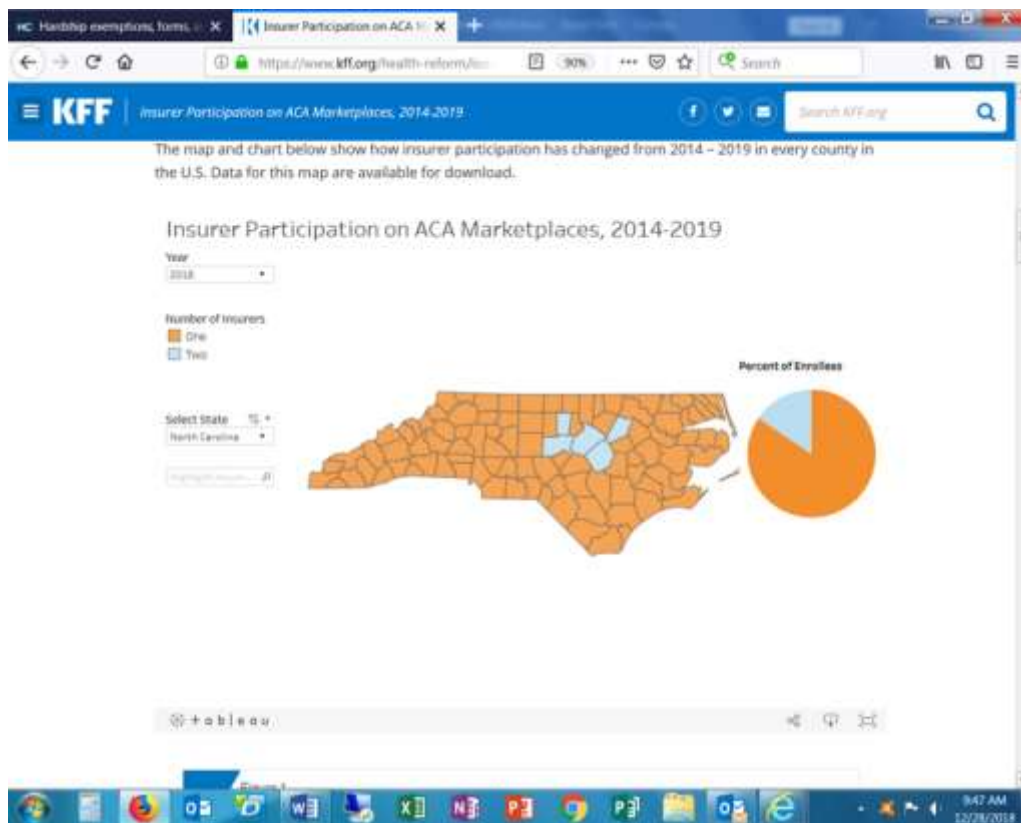
1. You were [homeless](#)
2. You were evicted or [were facing eviction or foreclosure](#)
3. You [received a shut-off notice from a utility company](#)
4. You [experienced domestic violence](#)
5. You [experienced the death of a family member](#)
6. You [experienced a fire, flood, or other natural or human-caused disaster](#) that caused substantial damage to your property
7. You [filed for bankruptcy](#)
8. You had [medical expenses you couldn’t pay](#) that resulted in substantial debt
9. You experienced [unexpected increases in necessary expenses due to caring for an ill, disabled, or aging family member](#)
10. You [claim a child as a tax dependent who’s been denied coverage for Medicaid and CHIP](#) for 2017, and another person is required by court order to give medical support to the child. In this case you don’t have to pay the penalty for the child.
11. As a [result of an eligibility appeals decision](#), you’re eligible for enrollment in a qualified health plan (QHP) through the Marketplace, lower costs on your monthly premiums, or cost-sharing reductions for a time period when you weren’t enrolled in a QHP through the Marketplace in 2017
12. You were determined [ineligible for Medicaid because your state didn’t expand eligibility for Medicaid in 2018](#) under the Affordable Care Act
13. The exemption for "grandfathered" individual insurance plans is no longer available for 2017 and later
14. You had another hardship. If you experienced another hardship obtaining health insurance, [use this form to describe your hardship and apply for an exemption](#).

Form 2106 (Not completely gone)

Reminder: Form 2106 will still be used by Armed Forces reservists, qualified performing artists, fee-basis state or local government officials, and employees with impairment-related work expenses. Due to the suspension of miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2% floor under section 67(a), employees who do not fit into one of the listed categories may not use Form 2106 and their expenses are not tax deductible. Also keep in mind Clergy taxpayers may also claim unreimbursed expenses not under an accountable plan as an adjustment to their Schedule SE, see Publication 517.

Details about Bare Counties in North Carolina (2018)

For 2018 most NC Counties except those in the Triangle area (except Durham Co) had only one insurer and would meet the definition of a bare county. To see the map for prior years visit <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/insurer-participation-on-aca-marketplaces-2014-2019/>



2019 Mileage Rates

Beginning on January 1, 2019, [Notice 2019-2](#) provides that the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- (1) 58 cents per mile driven for business purposes;
- (2) 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- (3) 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business rate increased 3.5 cents from the rate in 2018 and the medical and moving expense rate increased 2 cents from the 2018 rates. The charitable mileage rate is set by statute.

NCDOR Publishes NC Tax Changes Booklet

NC Dept. of Revenue has issued a 2018 Tax Changes Booklet, if you would like to download a copy visit https://files.nc.gov/ncdor/press-release/files/2018_law_change_changes_final.pdf

This publication covers all NC tax changes, including income, corporate and sales & use.

NSA Partners with VeriFyle

Many of you are members of the National Society of Accountants, and as a member one of your new benefits is VeriFyle. VeriFyle is a secure email program that allows you to send tax returns and other secure documents in an encrypted transmission. Your editor has tried this program and has been pleasantly surprised with how easy it works and the end users such as clients and bankers have remarked how well the system works as opposed to some others we have used.

In any case this is a free member benefit to NSA members and you should consider trying it out, to learn more visit www.nsacct.org and login to your membership and benefits page for a download, it is absolutely free to you!

Learn more here: <https://www.nsacct.org/nsacctwww/membership/verifyle>

NCSA Schedule of Events

2019

June 4—**Bob Jennings, Practice Management Seminar**
Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC,

June 4-5—**NCSA Convention**—
Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC

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