



CAPITOL TOPICS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Greetings AGA Austin. I can't believe it is November already. I guess time does fly when you are having fun. November is always an eventful and exiting month with Election Day, Veteran's Day and most importantly Thanksgiving. This year Texas elected a new Governor after 14 years, I would say that is pretty eventful and exciting to see what the future holds for Texas Government.

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, however, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of World War I. In the spirit of Thanksgiving and in support of Veterans Day, I would like to thank all of the Veteran's for your service. We honor and appreciate the sacrifices you have made for our country. Keeping with the spirit of Thanksgiving, there are still some really good community service events available to attend this month to include a 5K run to raise money for Austin Habitat for Humanity on 11/8/14, Race for the Cure 2014 on 11/16/14 and the Turkey Trot on 11/22/14 – 11/27/2015.

Lastly don't forget to come out to our monthly CPE luncheon on 11/13/2014. Tom Tull, Chief Investments Officer at the Employees Retirement System, will give a presentation on Investments: Past, Present, and Future. This should be a good one! I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Tennyle Walker
President, Austin Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS

ERS Investments - Past, Present and Future

In November Tom Tull, Chief Investment Officer at the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) will present ERS Investments, Past, Present & Future. Attendees will receive an overview of ERS investments and have an opportunity for Q and A with Mr. Tull.

Tom is a graduate of the Ohio State University and Xavier University. He began his investment career in 1971. Please join us for an hour of investment insight as Tom shares his views.

Date/Time: Thursday, November 13, 2014 - 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: Flying Saucer in the Triangle 815 W 47th St #100, Austin, TX 78705
CPE Credit: 1 Hour
Registration: <http://www.agaaustin.org/cpe-events/event3.html>

Historian Report



Membership News!

Congratulations to the follow members who reached their anniversary milestone in October and November, 2014:

5 Years

Patricia Aguilera, CPA
Sheila Hammond, CGFM
Tanya Netzley

10 Years

Mari Queller

15 Years

John Amidon

22 Years

Helen Young,

32 Years

Pete Rose, CGFM

If we missed your anniversary please send an email to communication@agaustin.org so we can recognize your commitment to the chapter—thanks!!

Community Service Opportunities

The Austin Chapter is excited to list opportunities for community service—we hope you'll find time to represent the chapter. If you do, please send an email to let Priscilla know how many hours you worked representing the Austin Chapter.

community-service@agaustin.org

Event: Karaoke 5k

Running and Singing to Help Raise Money for Austin Habitat for Humanity!

When: Saturday, Nov 8, 2014 from 8:30am to 12:00pm

What: Not much of a runner? Boom. Can't really sing? Even better! This is Karaoke 5k! This untimed run is exactly what you hope it will be. Grab your friends, grab a mic, and get up and make some noise!! We're lining all kinds of fun Austin schwag for a great day around Austin after the race AND you'll be helping raise money for Habitat for Humanity!

Sign-Up: <http://karaoke5k.com/info.html>

Event: Race for the Cure 2014!

Susan G. Komen Austin

When: Sat. November 16, 2014

What: Race for the Cure 2014 in Austin, TX will be held on November 16 and is Komen Austin's largest

fundraiser to fund breast cancer education, direct patient care, and research. There are volunteer opportunities for all events relating to Race day- before, during, and after. To see the shifts we have available, see: http://austin.info-komen.org/site/VolunteerMgmtUser?user_view_type=BROWSE&event_id=521806&volunteermgmt.user=vm_event_details

Sign-Up: For any questions please e-mail volunteer@komenaustin.org.

Event: Turkey Trot 2014—Caritas of Austin

When: Sat. November 22nd, to Thurs, November 27th, 2014 (different shifts)

What: Join hundreds of volunteers to help support nearly 20,000 participants in the annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot, held Thanksgiving morning each year. The five-mile race encourages costumes and serves as a fun family-event before cutting into the turkey and stuffing. In addition, ThunderCloud Subs donates a portion of proceeds to a local charity. In 2013, the race raised more than \$325,000 for Caritas of Austin.

Sign-Up: http://www.caritasofaustin.org/http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/jobs-by-date.tcl?event_id=215164

Event: 2014 Trail of Lights Fun Run (2 mi run/walk)

When: December 6th, 2014; 7:00pm -10:00pm at Zilker Park

What: The Austin Trail of Lights Fun Run is the holiday run you won't want to miss! Get active and get a sneak peek at Austin's favorite holiday celebration.

The two mile run will start at the historic Zilker Tree and end within the Trail of Lights. This is a unique opportunity to see the Trail of Lights before it opens to the general public. Costumes are highly encouraged - grab your Santa hat and your sneakers and make tracks to the best holiday run in town!

Sign-Up: <http://austintrailoflights.org/fun-run>

Event: Austin Trail of Lights Volunteer Opportunity
Become a Trail of Lights Trail Guide

When: Sunday, Dec 7, 2014 from 5:30pm to 10:00pm

What: Trail of Lights Trail guides provide information to attendees, help with traffic flow and a range of other activities. Trail guides are the public face of the Trail of Lights and should bring lots of energy, a good sense of humor and willingness to interact with Trail attendees. Volunteers should expect to be outdoors for duration of shift and should wear weather-appropriate clothing (gloves, scarf etc.). Volunteers may bring a chair and flashlight if desired.

On the day of their service, volunteers will receive a free Trail Guide T-shirt and access to a volunteer tent with refreshments, where barbecue will be provided by Rudy's

Sign-Up: <http://austintrailoflights.org/>

Our Fall Networking Event...

Was held on Wednesday, September 24th, at The Market at 319 Colorado St. Look for info here on future networking events and please join us!

October 9 2014 Luncheon Minutes

AGA Austin Chapter
October 9, 2014 Luncheon

Jack Reagan discussed some of the new requirements in the Omni-Circular!

Super Circular - In effect on December 26, 2014

- Calendar year 2015 or fiscal year 2016 for audit applicability
- OMB has set a one year implementation time period
- There is a new sub-recipient definition in the Super Circular

Documentation is Key

- Must have a system of internal control over administering grants
- Being compliant is not an indicator of strong internal controls
- Document internal policies and procedures to reflect applicable Federal, State, Local laws
- Document the procurement process to include a cost comparison analysis and a clear description of technical requirements
- Clearly identify every sub-award, as it's an easy audit finding
- There is more flexibility in documentation for personnel costs if there are policies, procedures, and periodic reviews in place.

About the Speaker:

Jack Reagan has over 25 years of audit experience with KPMG and CLA, and is currently an audit partner at Grant Thornton. He also sits on the Board of Deans at the University of Richmond.

Luncheon Information:

Luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month at Flying Saucer Draught Emporium. AGA members and non-members are welcome to join us at luncheons and earn CPE credit. Lunch (and dessert) is provided with your registration.



September Networking Event!

Thank you to Weaver for sponsoring the networking event held in September. The event went well, and AGA is planning more networking events this year. This is a great way to get involved! Hope to see you at future events, and feel free to bring a friend.



You can register online at:

<http://www.agaustin.org>



Don't Forget ...

If you'd like to volunteer as Communications Committee Chair and work on our award-winning newsletter, please contact AGA Austin Chapter President Tennyale Walker at Tennyale.Walker@us.gt.com. Thanks for considering this opportunity to work with a great group of folks.

Research Article *Monica Motta, CPA*

Affordable Care Act Update: Employers Get First Look at Health Insurance Information Reporting

OCTOBER 22, 2014

(reprinted with permission)

Since passage of the Affordable Care Act, several key requirements for employers have been delayed, including reporting of health coverage offered to employees, known as Code Sec. 6056 reporting. However, as 2015 nears, and the prospects of further delay appear unlikely, employers and the IRS are preparing for the filing of these new information returns. While the reporting requirement is not mandatory until 2015, employers must start planning now for how the required information will be acquired and reported, and by whom it will be reported.

Three Related Provisions

The three provisions included in the Affordable Care Act that are closely related are:

1. The employer mandate for applicable large employers (ALEs)
2. 36B premium assistance tax credits
3. Code Section 6056 reporting

In order to administer the employer mandate and the Code Section 36B credit, the IRS must first receive information from the ALEs, such as the type of health coverage offered, if any, by the ALE, the number of employees and the cost of the coverage.

Does This Apply to your Business?

Not all employers must report under Code Section 6056.

- **Small Employers:** If, as an employer, you have fewer than 50 full-time employees, including full-time equivalent employees, you are exempt from this provision at all times under Code Section 6056 reporting and the employer mandate.
- **Transition Exemption:** For 2015, some ALEs are temporarily exempt from the employer mandate only. If, as an employer, you employ at least 50 full-time employees, including full-time equivalents, but fewer than 100 employees including full-time equivalents during 2014, you are considered a mid-sized employer. As such, you are exempt from the employer mandate only for 2015. However, mid-sized employers must still file Code Section 6056 information for 2015. All other ALEs are still subject to the employer mandate as well as Code Section 6056.

Additional Information Required

Code Section 6056 reporting forms have been issued in draft form dated October 1,



2014 on the IRS website. Based upon these draft forms, information will generally be reported by ALEs as follows:

- The employer's name, address and employer identification number
- Contact information for the individual responsible for answering questions
- A certification of eligibility (the response by the employer on Form 1094-C will control information required on Form 1095-C)
- A certification as to whether the employer offered the opportunity to enroll in minimum essential coverage under an employer-sponsored plan to its full-time employees and their dependents
- The number, address and Social Security/taxpayer identification number of all full-time employees
- The number of full-time employees eligible for coverage under the employer's plan
- The employee's share of the lowest cost monthly premium for self-only coverage providing minimum value offered to that full-time employee

To report the information above, we have attached a link to the IRS draft forms as follows:

- Draft Form 1094-C– Transmittal of Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage Information Returns
- Draft Form 1095-C– Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage

The draft instructions for these forms offer valuable insights that employers should understand to develop their recordkeeping and reporting systems after 2014. Under IRS regulations, Code Section 6056 reporting is optional for 2014; however, reporting for 2015 is required. Information returns must be filed no later than March 1, 2016 (since February 28, 2016 is Sunday), or March 31, 2016, if filed electronically. To view the draft instructions from the IRS, use the following links:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-dft/i109495c--dft.pdf>

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-dft/f1095c--dft.pdf>

Are you a Member of a Group?

If so, an Authoritative Transmittal is required. ALE Members that are subject to Section 6056 reporting may file more than one form 1094-C to transmit Forms 1095-C for certain employees separately. For example, an employer with two divisions may file Forms 1095-C for each division's employees separately. Each submission of forms 1095-C must have a Form 1094-C transmittal. However, one of the Forms 1094-C must be designated at the Authoritative Transmittal. This is a single Form 1094-C on which the employer reports aggregate employer-level data for all full-time employees of the employer, including all employees of both divisions for the above example.

Are You Self-Insured for Health Insurance?

The Affordable Care Act also requires every health insurance issuer, sponsor of a self-insured health plan, government agency that administers government-sponsored health insurance programs and other entities that provide minimum essential coverage to file information returns. This is known as Code Section 6055 reporting.

Simplified Methods

The IRS has provided ALEs with simplified methods of reporting. Under a certification of eligibility, an employer can get relief for reporting under the following methods:

1. Qualifying Offer Method
2. Qualifying Offer Method Transition Relief
3. Section 4980H Transition Relief
4. 98% Offer Method

Some of the methods of relief above do not simplify reporting on Form 1094-C, Employer Transmittal, but simplifies some of the information required on Form 1095-C. More information regarding the methods above will be furnished upon request.

As a partner and head of BlumShapiro's Rhode Island Healthcare Department, Monica works with both for-profit and non-profit healthcare organizations, including skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and long-term care facilities. BlumShapiro is the largest regional accounting, tax and business consulting firm based in New England, with offices in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In addition, BlumShapiro provides a variety of specialized consulting services such as succession and estate planning, business technology services, employee benefit plan audits, litigation support and valuation, and financial staffing. The firm serves a wide range of privately held companies, government and non-profit organizations and provides non-audit services for publicly traded companies.

You can read this article at <http://blumshapiro.com/kbarticle/affordable-care-act-update-employers-get-first-look-at-health-insurance-information-reporting>

For previous copies of our newsletter and other local information:

<http://www.agaustin.org/index.html>

For National Office Resources, please see

<https://www.agacgfm.org>



Webmaster Eddie Chan and September Speaker Mike Wheeler