

RHODE ISLAND TAX COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Meeting of Wednesday, September 17, 2008

A meeting of RITCA was held at George's of Galilee, 250 Sand Hill Cove Road, Narragansett, RI 02882. Registration was at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast following. David Dolce, President, opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

John Ward was presented a George's of Galilee T-shirt for driving the farthest.

Secretary report- Jane Steere passed out the minutes from May 21, 2008. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed, seconded and so voted.

Treasurer's report- John Ward reported the balance of May 21, 2008 was \$1838.23, dues and meeting fee receipts Deposited \$325.00 for a balance of \$2163.23. Expenses were meeting payment of \$718.55 and supplies of \$41.00 for a total expense of \$759.55. The balance today is \$1403.68. Motion was made by Dee Danusis-Richmond to accept the treasurer's report as stated, seconded by Pam Fontaine-Foster, and so voted.

Communications- Lynette Lussier, Tax Collector from Exeter and newly elected President of North East Regional Tax Collectors Association, spoke to "HR 1865 to amend title 31 United States Code that would allow certain local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds." She handed out packets which included letters to our local Senators & Congressmen which can be signed and faxed in support of this federal amendment. Also included in the packet was The Passage, the Northeast Tax Collectors booklet.

Committee Reports-

Legislative Committee- John Ward reported that he had nothing at this time.

Education Committee- JoAnne Santos is welcome to any subjects for future meetings that anyone may want addressed. Also mentioned was to have an education day with speakers.

New Business- David Dolce addressed return mail, delayed mail, and stamps not cancelled with date processed. He spoke with Skip in the USPS Automated mail department. On the back of the envelope there would be an orange bar code showing when and where the mail had been processed, but no date. If we have any questions we can contact Skip or Dave in Automated Dept.

Survey of Town payment dates, grace periods, fiscal year is included on the membership list. It is not complete but when done will be placed on the website. Forward any information to Leslie Heaton or David Dolce.

Next meeting is scheduled for January with Wrights Farm as a possible meeting place. Dave mentioned that if anyone wanted to host at a restaurant or place in their town to contact him or Leslie.

Everyone received a letter which has been drafted to the General Assembly regarding Title 44-9 Tax Sales. "It now allows RI Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation to precede all others at Tax Sales. We feel their actions are dismissive of State Law, taxpayers or Citizens within the State. We fully support and encourage all laws offering assistance to persons aged sixty-five (65) and over or persons suffering from a disability. We are urging for the law to be amended to include only elderly and disabled taxpayers, which we believe was the intent for the law." This will be sent to every member of the General Assembly.

Guest speaker, Christopher Lefebvre, was then introduced by Dave. Mr. Lefebvre has been practicing for twenty years as a bankruptcy attorney. He spoke on the different ways to file bankruptcy. Some major changes in bankruptcy law occurred in October 2005 that made it mandatory for the client to take credit counseling and debtor education before filing a bankruptcy. This has proved to be very beneficial.

He stated that PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) system is used all over the United States and you can go on the website and sign up for an account and password. The RI Bankruptcy Court website is also very helpful and a must have. John Boyajian is the standing Chapter 13 Trustee and you can speak with Martha Hunt or Dana from that office at 273-9600. Nationally 60% of the Chapter 13 claims fail, and 99% that file are trying to save their homes. Of Chapter 7 cases filed-99% go through to discharge.

When filing a proof of claim it is helpful to note on the bottom of the claim or summary submitted what year tax it is, due date, and explain what type of tax it is. Real Estate tax is a secured claim and motor vehicle tax is unsecured priority claim. The tax must be incurred before the commencing of the case and last payable or at least one year and one day after the grace period, for it to be subject to discharge. He also mentioned that a taxpayer filing a bankruptcy and needing motor vehicle release can be given a conditional release based on whether the bankruptcy goes forward. If you have any questions please feel free to email Mr. Lefebvre at chris@lefebvrellaw.com.

There was no other new business or information mentioned.

Motion made to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Seconded and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Steere
Secretary, RITCA