

**To: TTARA Members and Friends**  
**From: Dale Craymer, President**  
**Subject: 2011 TTARA Annual Meeting – November 7 - 8 in Austin**  
**Date: September 19, 2011**

I would like to invite you to the 2011 annual meeting of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (TTARA). Our two-day meeting on November 7-8 in Austin will offer an excellent preview of issues that will be the focus of lawmakers and taxpayers during 2012 in preparation for the 83<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the Texas Legislature which will convene in January 2013.

Our Monday program will begin with a comprehensive review by representatives from the Comptroller's office of tax administration issues they are dealing with as a result of legislation passed by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature. We will also receive an update on the economic recovery in Texas as well as recent developments on the tax front in other states. We have experts on the program that will update us on recent developments regarding franchise and property taxes. You are also invited to join us at our traditional Chairman's Reception that evening.

On Tuesday, we have a full agenda. Comptroller **Susan Combs** will update us on the state's fiscal condition. Senate Transportation Chair **Tommy Williams** will offer his perspectives on the state's challenges. House Appropriations Chair **Jim Pitts** will talk about the very hard decisions going into the state budget. House Ways and Means Vice Chair **John Otto** will review possible changes to our tax system, especially the franchise tax. Senate Finance Chair **Steve Ogden** will give his thoughts on state fiscal issues. We'll also have our traditional "George Christian" press panel with the experienced eyes (and mouths) of some of the brightest stars of the Capitol press corps. House Ways and Means Chair **Harvey Hilderbran** will be our luncheon speaker.

Our meeting this year is at the Hyatt Regency Austin, located at 208 Barton Springs Road in Austin. TTARA has reserved a block of rooms at the conference rate of \$159. **Reservations are required by October 17, so we encourage you to book your room as soon as possible.** You can book your room online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ktax> or call 888-421-1442 to reserve a room.

As usual, we will offer continuing education credit for qualifying sessions. We hope you are able to join us at what will most certainly be two days of insightful public policy discussions as well as time to visit with old friends.

You can register for the meeting at the TTARA website or use the enclosed materials.

Chairman  
Gary Hockstra  
The Dow Chemical Company

President  
Dale Craymer

Immediate Past Chairman  
Del R. Threadgill  
JC Penney Company, Inc.

**Texas Taxpayers and Research Association**  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Hyatt Regency Austin**  
**208 Barton Springs Road**  
**Austin, TX**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONALS IN TAXATION**

**Monday, November 7, 2011**

**9:30-10:00 am**    **Registration** (*Texas Ballroom 4-7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)

**10:00-12:00 am**    **Comptroller's Tax Administration Update**  
*Teresa Bostick, Tax Policy*  
*Debbie Cartwright, Director, Property Tax Assistance Division*  
*Robin Corrigan, Tax Policy*  
*Bryant Lomax, Tax Policy*  
*Don Neal, General Counsel*

**12:00-1:00 pm**    **Lunch** (*Texas Ballroom 2-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)

**1:00-2:00 pm**    **The Economy Ahead: The Winding Road to Recovery**  
*Keith Phillips, Sr. Economist and Policy Advisor, Federal Reserve*  
*Bank of Dallas*

**2:00-3:00 pm**    **Tax Developments in Other States**  
*Douglas Lindholm, President & Executive Director, Council on State Taxation*  
*(COST)*

**3:00-3:15 pm**    **Break**

**3:15-4:00 pm**    **Administrative Issues and the Franchise Tax**  
*Dale Craymer, TTARA, Moderator*  
*Scott Fischer, PriceWaterhouseCoopers*  
*Jennifer Patterson Rabb, Winstead P.C.*

**4:00-5:00 pm**    **Current Events on the Property Tax Front**  
*George Christian, TTARA, Moderator*  
*John Brusniak, Brusniak, Blackwell P.C.*  
*Edward H. Trigg, Wichita Appraisal District*

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**5:00-6:00 pm**    **Board of Directors Meeting** (*Texas Ballroom 2-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)  
*[Board members only]*

**6:00-7:30 pm**    **Chairman's Reception** (*Foothills Ballroom II, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor*)  
*[All attendees invited]*

*(See Reverse Side for November 8 Agenda)*

**Texas Taxpayers and Research Association  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Hyatt Regency Austin  
208 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

- 8:00-8:30 am**    **Registration** (*Texas Ballroom 4-7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)
- 8:30-9:00 am**    **Business Meeting**
- 9:00-9:25 am**    **The Current State of Texas Finances**  
*Honorable Susan Combs, Comptroller of Public Accounts*
- 9:25-9:50 am**    **Difficult Choices in Difficult Times**  
*Honorable Tommy Williams, Chair, Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee*
- 9:50-10:15 am**    **Assessing the Margins Tax**  
*Honorable John Otto, Vice Chair, House Ways and Means Committee*
- 10:15-10:40 am**    **The Fiscal Realities Ahead**  
*Honorable Steve Ogden, Chair, Senate Finance Committee*
- 10:40-11:05 am**    **Budget Challenges Facing Our State**  
*Honorable Jim Pitts, Chair, House Appropriations Committee*
- 11:05-12:00 pm**    **Political Banter and More**  
*George Christian, TTARA, Moderator*  
*Ken Herman, Austin American Statesman*  
*Harvey Kronberg, Quorum Report*  
*Ross Ramsey, Texas Tribune*  
*Wayne Slater, Dallas Morning News*
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- 12:00-1:00 pm**    **Luncheon** (*Texas Ballroom 2-3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)  
*Honorable Harvey Hilderbran, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee*

(See Reverse Side for November 7 Agenda)