



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

On Friday, January 19, Craig Talsma, NWSRA Board Chair, Steve Adams, NWSRA Legal Counsel and I attended the IRS meeting with Revenue Officer, M. Bell in the hopes of negotiating a settlement regarding the outstanding tax penalties and interest payments charged to NWSRA for the late filing of the 941 tax payments in FY2022 and Quarter one of FY2023. The total amount owed at the time of the visit was \$164,929.87. NWSRA staff filed an abatement request with the IRS in December of 2023 which resulted in the meeting on January 19, 2024. As you may recall, this meeting resulted in NWSRA paying the outstanding interest penalties in the amount of \$22,759.61, during our visit with the IRS.

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**CALL TO ACTION!**



As you may recall, this meeting resulted in NWSRA paying the outstanding interest penalties in the amount of \$22,759.61, during our visit with the IRS. Mr. Bell assured us that we would receive communication regarding our case at the end of February.

On Friday, February 23, we received The Certificate of Release of Federal Tax Lien letter from the IRS. This correspondence officially released NWRA from the federal tax lean placed on the Association. This lien occurred while we were literally in the midst of negotiating the settlement for the outstanding tax penalties and interest payments. Not only did we receive the release of the federal tax lien notice, but we also received several letters indicating overpayments for all of the quarters in FY2022 and the first quarter in FY2023, resulting in four refund checks totaling \$8,793.73 from the IRS.

We believe that these refunds were based on the penalty decreases (failure to make proper tax deposits, failure to file, and late penalties removed), reduction of interest previously charged, and credit interests allowed for all five quarters. We hope that the correspondence represents our case with the IRS being officially closed. However, this is the IRS and we certainly do not want to assume that the case is officially closed, until we have confirmation from our assigned Revenue Officer M. Bell. As of today, we have left him two voicemail messages to clarify the correspondence with us.



## **FEBRUARY/MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **SLSF/ROLLING MEADOWS PARK DISTRICT'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER: 3/9/24**
- **NWSRA BOARD MTG. : 3/27/24**

## **Updates on NWSRA Financial Team Hiring**

We have received three very promising applications for the Superintendent of Finance position. We have booked two dates next week for interviews and have secured our two outside interview panelists, John Short, Director of Business Services and Human Resources at the Buffalo Grove Park District and Kevin Romejko, Executive Director of the Rolling Meadows Park District.

As you are all aware, we also had an Accounting Clerk opening due to the departure of our previous Accounting Clerk Joe Dalmaso on Monday, February 12, 2024. However, we are happy to announce that we have filled the position and he will start on March 11, 2024. Please help us in welcoming Nick Eckelberry to our financial team. Nick is a graduate of the University of Missouri- Columbia with a degree in Business Administration with a Finance concentration. He will be leaving the Bob Loquercio Auto Group, where he worked in the finance division.



On Saturday, February 24, 2024, NWSRA staff attended the Annual IAPD Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Schaumburg Park District at Chandler's Chophouse. Tom Draper, Superintendent of Communication and Marketing and I were in attendance for NWSRA. Senator Laura Murphy, Senator Anne Gillespie, and Representative Michelle Mussman each spoke about the issues that they would focus on during this year.

Representative Mussman will be focusing on early childhood education and the formation of one state agency to address all early childhood needs for the state. Senator Gillespie is on the State Budget Appropriations Team and emphasized that the Governor's proposed budget is very tight leaving little to no money allocated for additional projects this year. She also recognized NWSRA's expansion of SRA programming and congratulated us on these efforts. Senator Laura Murphy is the Assistant Majority Leader and explained that the current budget constraints are due to the lack of federal funding and the lack of new money coming in to the state budget. One of her main focuses will be on getting an exemption for the SRA's that are currently required to abide by the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. She stated that the state believes that SRA's are an extension of the Park Districts and therefore should be exempt from this law.