



Washington, D.C. Estate Planning Council

President's Message

May 2017



Dear Council Members,

It has been an honor and a joy for me to serve as your President this year. I want to thank all the officers, directors, committee chairs and committee members who volunteered so much time and made this a very successful 2016-2017.

We had a great year in programs, and increased attendance at our breakfast and dinner meetings. Thanks to Mike Savage and Scott Greenberg for leading the Program Committee, Brett Scola and Francisca Otero for heading the Arrangements Committee, and Ed Beckwith and Jeanne Newlon for the "Inside the Member's Head" series.

We wanted to increase our Council offering of professional information, so we gave every member access to Leimberg Information Services. We added a professional developments segment at our dinners led by Melinda Merk and Michelle Chapin.

All of our meetings and activities are coordinated by our excellent executive director, Dina Land. We also thank her for choosing the superb food at the meetings. We are lucky to have her and appreciate all she does for our Council.

Among our goals for this year was increasing our organization's benefits through better use of the internet and social media. We have achieved that in several ways:

- We boosted our private [WDCEPC LinkedIn group](#), which now has 150 members. Participating members are posting interesting tax and local law developments and job opportunities. Carolyn Rogers and Matt Radford headed the Technology Committee. They led this effort and we thank them for it. If you are not a member of our private LinkedIn group, you are missing out, so please join. And if you want to get better known in the Council, posting to our LinkedIn group is an easy way to do that.
- The [Membership Directory](#) on our website was updated to allow each member to add a photo and link to his or her LinkedIn profile.
- Our [public Facebook page](#) features Council publicity and soon will offer video posts. We started a members-only private Facebook page that garnered 17 members in its first month. This private page allows us to share photos of our families and travels. Karen Wawrzaszek is heading that effort. If you haven't joined yet, please do so by contacting Karen or Dina.

As you've heard throughout the year, our Council is in membership growth mode. That focus has led to our addition of 18 new members this year. We ask each member to help us meet our goal of having an even larger membership class next year. Thanks to all the sponsors of new members, to our membership committee headed by Julia O'Brien and Joe Estabrook, and to our membership recruitment committee headed by Logan Winn and Zac Cohen.

Our finances are in great shape. We raised substantial money through our golf outing and through corporate sponsorship of meetings. Thanks to our golf committee led by Vernon Holleman, Melinda Merk and Larry Frazier, and our development committee, led by Kim Natovitz and Chris Rosenthal. Because of all the great work, there will be no dues increase for 2017-2018!

This year, as testimony to all we have accomplished through our volunteers' efforts, we have applied for the Walter Lee Davis, Jr. and Leonard H. Neiman Council of Excellence Award from the National Association of Estate Planning Councils. This award, given for outstanding Council achievement, is presented at the NAEPC annual meeting in November.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our annual dinner on June 1. Each of you will receive a blue baseball cap with our Council logo, with our gratitude for all you do. Member Alexandra Armstrong is our sponsor at the Cosmos Club. JP Morgan is our corporate sponsor for the evening.

Jason Williams will be installed as our next President that night. I know he will make a great President, and, of course, the other officers and members of the Board of Directors will serve you very well. Thanks to Pam Shortal, our immediate Past President, for her many years of service, and Logan Winn, both of whom are rotating off the Board.

Even though I will no longer be your President, I intend to remain an active member for many years to come. So, save a seat for me at the meetings and I'll see you at the 100th Anniversary dinner in 2040!

Sincerely,

Alby Salaman, Esq.