

Carole Smith, Senior Stakeholder Liaison Communications and Stakeholder Outreach at the Internal Revenue Service, provided the information below on May 6, 2013 regarding enhancements made by the IRS to tax return preparers' online PTIN Accounts to expand its functions:

- "Manage My Account" is fully functional allowing you to self-correct almost any field at any time (including professional credentials.) Previously, users could only make most changes during renewal. A phone call was required to make changes during the rest of the year. However, for security reasons, name changes will still require written documentation.
- You can now view completed continuing education programs reported by IRS-approved providers beginning with 2013 courses. Providers report completed CE programs to the IRS based on your PTIN number every quarter. Enrolled agents must have a minimum of 16 CE hours annually and a total of 72 hours over 3 years. Others can also view voluntary programs completed. If something is missing, contact your provider directly as the IRS we displays what providers send to the IRS.
- Planning to take a year off for any reason? A new function allows you to inactivate your PTIN voluntarily and then reactivate the same number when you return to work. This is only for those of you who plan to take a full year off. If you are paid to prepare tax returns during any part of a year, you must have a valid PTIN.
- Finally, the IRS is enhancing its messaging ability. PTIN holders will receive more secure email messages in the future coming directly from TaxPro_PTIN@irs.gov.

The IRS has advised tax return preparers to stay tuned for more enhancements in the future.