# **Appointment System**

# **User Manual**

Version 5.00, June 12, 2019

This appointment system was developed by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers from Colorado to replace various paper or spreadsheet type systems. It provides a convenient platform for managing appointments for individual sites, coordination of scheduling across multiple sites, or a central scheduling point for many sites. New sites and users can be added by any Appointment Manager and users can be assigned either viewing or scheduling permissions at their own or multiple sites as desired. Sites can optionally allow internet access to taxpayers for scheduling their own appointments or add themselves to a callback list for subsequent scheduling.

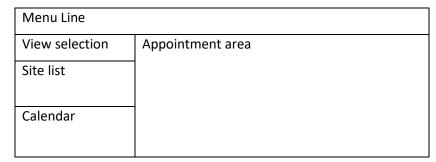
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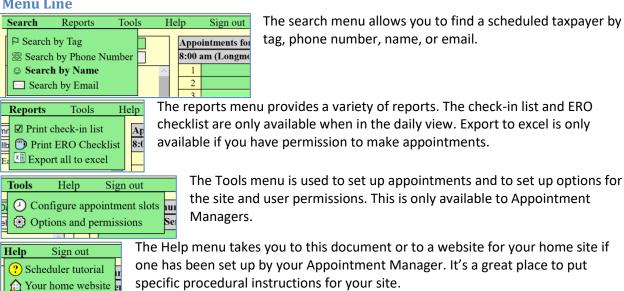
# **Scheduling**

# Views

Each view has a menu line, a view selection box, a site list, a calendar, and an appointment area.



### **Menu Line**



# **View Selection**

There are five different views that differ in the Appointment area. The desired view is selected by



buttons which indicate the current view with a green color, or views that are not accessible (perhaps when moving an appointment) with a red color. Additionally, the text in the

"Callback" or "Deleted" view buttons will have blue text if a taxpayer has added or removed their name via internet scheduling – you may want to follow up with them.

Boulder Golden West	^
☐ Boulder West Senior Center	
☐ Broomfield Senior Center	
☐ Colorado Springs Senior Center	
☐ Colorado Springs Westside	П
Community Center	
☐ Erie High Plains Library	
Firestone High Plains Library	
Gorham St Anne Church	
☐ Lafayette Public Library	~

### **Site List**

The site list section shows the sites available for scheduling. For each box checked, the appointments related to that site will be shown in the appointment area of the view. To check multiple boxes, hold the PC Ctrl key down as you click each box (check or uncheck). When you release the Ctrl key, the view will refresh to the new configuration. The list will only show sites that you have been given permission to access.



### Calendar

The calendar shows the availability of appointments for each date. The current date has a box around it. A green background indicates that appointments are available; red indicates all appointments are filled or is a date prior to the current date; orange indicates that all appointment times for that date have been reserved (more on that later). If the date number is shown in blue, an appointment on that date has been made by a taxpayer using internet access and you may

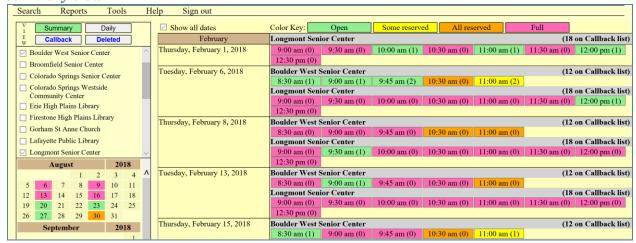
wish to follow up with a phone or email contact. Hover over the date to see how many appointments are available on that day and how many are reserved.

Click on the date and you will jump to the daily view for that date.

# Appointment area

The appointment area lists the times available for scheduling or names that are on the callback or deleted list. The details vary with the view.

# Summary view



The Summary view shows the status of all appointments, listed by date and time. For each date there are time boxes, the color of which indicates the availability of appointments and whether some appointment slots are reserved. The number in parentheses in the time box indicates the number of appointments available for scheduling and may or may not include reserved slots.

Normally, only dates starting with the current date are shown but there is a checkbox above the first date titled "Show all dates" that allows showing earlier dates to view the past history. Use the site checkboxes to indicate the appointment slots for which sites you wish to see.

Click on the time box to bring up the appointment registration form.

Click on the date box or the date on the calendar to move directly to the Daily view.

### Daily view

Search Reports Tools I	elp Sign out				
V Summary Daily	Appointments for Thursday, June 6, 2019:	Phone	Note	Info	Status
E Callback Deleted	8:00 am (Longmont Senior Center)				(0 on Callback list)
Boulder East Senior Center	1 Jane Doe	303-555-1234			06/06_02:25pm: Email sent to m
Boulder West Senior Center	2 Nancy Drew [Son John has POA]	1-202-555-5678			06/06_03:11pm: Added to 06/06
Broomfield Senior Center	3 Jack Spratt	303-555-2345	Z		06/07_10:02am: Email sent to ja
Canon City Library	4 R				
Colorado Springs Senior Center	5 R				
☐ Englewood Malley Recreation Center	6 R				
Erie High Plains Library	7 «RESERVED»				
Firestone High Plains Library	9:00 am (Longmont Senior Center) + (0 on Callback list)				
Florence Senior Community Center	1 Charlie Chaplain	421-555-2323 ext 12		$\triangle$	06/06_03:14pm: Moved to 06/06
June 2019 ^	2				
1	3 R				
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	4 R				
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	5 R				
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	6 R				
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	7 «RESERVED»				
30					
July 2019					
1 2 3 4 5 6 Click to add a new time group at: for the Longmont Senior Center					
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 \( \text{Y} \)					~

Clicking on the Daily view button will open to the date with the first available appointment slot.

The Daily view shows the details of the time slots available for the sites checked in the site list for that date, listed in time order. Available appointments are highlighted in green (either RESERVED or not). Clicking on an available appointment will allow assigning that appointment using a scheduling form (described later). Clicking on an assigned appointment will allow changes to the scheduling form or moving the appointment to a different location, time or date or deleting the appointment.

The name column is free-format. Whether you use first- or last-name first is a site procedure decision. Click on the circled "R" to make an idle slot reserved or unreserved.

The bolded text in brackets (see Nancy Drew) is a free-format field for entering information that you may wish to search for later. You could use specific "tag" words or longer text as shown. This information does not print on the check-in list or the ERO checklist.

The phone number is forced to be 7- or 10-digits with an optional 1- and is required. Alternate phone numbers could go in the Info column. The link shown in the example is a function of your browser. If the system you're using has the capability, clicking on that link will open a phone function and you can use that to call the taxpayer (not on most PCs, but possibly on a tablet or for sure, a cell phone).

If the Note column has a checked box in it (see Jack Spratt), there is a note in the scheduling form and hovering the mouse over the box will display that notes. The note will print out as a footnote on the check-in list.

If the Info column has a warning symbol (see Charlie Chaplain), there is information in the scheduling form and hovering the mouse over the box will display that information.

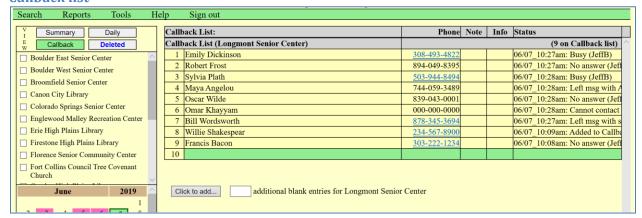
The Status column shows the most recent action taken on behalf of the taxpayer with date, time, action taken and who took that action — a good reason for each Scheduler to have their own personal login. To see the entire text of the latest action, hover the mouse over that cell in the table. If the Status cell has a blue background, it indicates that the taxpayer has made the entry via the internet and you may wish to follow up to verify their need to file or if they have any scope issues. Once such a contact or other action is made, the blue background goes away.

If you move a taxpayer to a new time and date (as with Jack Spratt above), the appointment number is highlighted in gold to make that move easy to identify to help you assure that the move was successful. When any action is made, that highlight goes away.

For Appointment Managers only, the red minus(-) and plus(+) boxes are quick ways to add or remove empty slots to that time period without using the Configurator. It will not remove a slot that is being

used nor one that has been RESERVED. Also, at the bottom of the list of appointments is an option to allow adding a time group to that date for any site for which you have Appointment Manager permissions.

# Callback list



The Callback list is similar to the Daily view and shows all taxpayers that are awaiting appointments after a phone (or personal or email) contact from a taxpayer requesting an appointment. Each site selected on the site list will have its callback list shown. As with the Daily view, blue highlighting in the Status column means that a taxpayer has entered their name on the Callback list via the internet.

If you are not in a position to make the appointment, add the new contact in the green line at the bottom of the list. A new green line will appear for the next new taxpayer.

When ready to make the appointment, clicking on an existing name will allow changes to the client information on the appointment form, moving the taxpayer to an assigned appointment or deleting then taxpayer's entry if you are only answering the taxpayer's questions.

The bottom "Click to add..." option is for the rare case when in using an answering machine that forces one to get the most recent messages first, you can explicitly add the number of expected messages as "Reserved for #1" through "Reserved for #n" entries and use them to enter the answering machine messages in reverse order. These can only be added to the scheduler's home site.

When a person is moved to or from an appointment or from the Deleted list, their number entry in the Callback list is highlighted in gold as described earlier so that they are easier to find if need be.

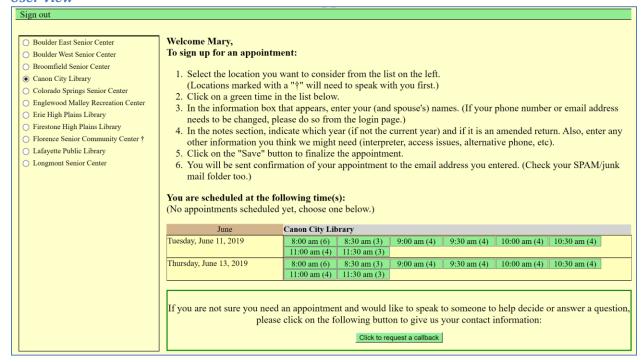
### **Deleted list**

The Deleted list is identical to the Callback list without the "Click to add..." option.

Names on the Deleted list cannot be removed until the Appointment Manager specifically removes them. This preserves the history of the site's handling of the taxpayer in the event of questions or the need to review actions taken by Schedulers for a particular taxpayer.

Taxpayers can always be moved back to the Callback list or to a scheduled appointment from the Deleted list.

### **User view**

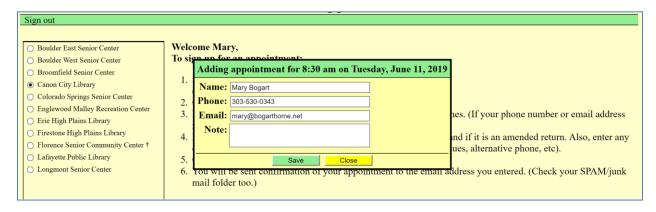


The User view is similar to the Summary view and lists all sites open for internet scheduling but only one site can be selected at a time. It only shows available schedule dates and times, and allows the taxpayer to add themselves to the callback list if they have questions.

This view is not available to the Scheduler and the taxpayer does not have access to other views.

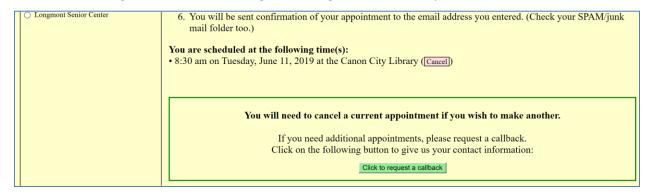
If the site name is followed by a dagger notation, no schedule is shown and the user can only add their name to the callback list (see Florence Senior Community Center above).

When a choice is made, the taxpayer will be presented with a box which auto-fills with their login information. They can modify this information and add to the notes section to provide additional information.



The screen will then show a list of appointments made by the taxpayer.

If the taxpayer is limited by the number of appointments they can make using the same email, the schedule is no longer shown and a message indicating the limitation is presented.



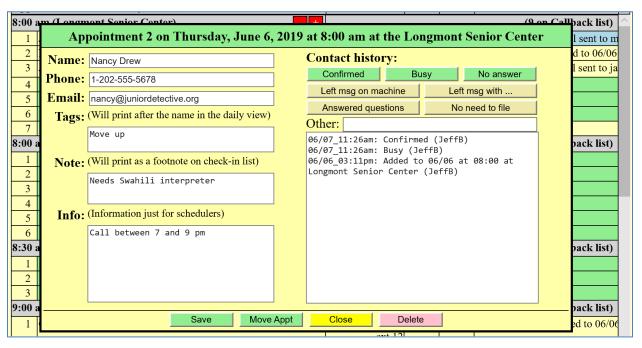
Appointment schedulers should always look for the blue highlighting that results from a taxpayer who has registered via the internet to be sure that there no questions to be answered or other follow-up needed. Click on one of the contact history buttons to clear the blue.

# How to...

# add an appointment:

<u>From the Summary View</u>, click on a green- or yellow-highlighted time box to bring up the appointment form. If the Appointment Manager allows the option to schedule RESERVED slots from this view, you can also click on the orange-highlighted time box. If not allowed in this view, you will have to go to the daily view by clicking on the date box or calendar day to use them. Empty, non-RESERVED, slots will always be chosen first.

<u>From the Daily View or the callback list</u>, click anywhere on any green line, RESERVED or not, and the appointment form will appear. Individual schedulers may or may not have permission to make reservations on the RESERVED slots.



As a minimum, enter the client name(s) and phone number in the pop-up box and click "Save". An entry will be automatically added to the Contact history section. Both are required. If there is no phone number, enter 000-000-0000.

If you enter an email address, an email will be sent to the taxpayer when you schedule or move the appointment if set up by the Appointment Manager to do so. If a taxpayer makes their own appointment from the internet, the email address is required and thus will also result in the confirmation email. A note that the email was sent will be added to the contact history list.

There are three boxes for adding additional information. Why 3? Experience has shown that many schedulers were adding additional "codes" after the taxpayer's name to be used for searching or to catch attention for a particular situation. While functional, it added clutter to the check-in and ERO reports. Thus the different ways to provide additional information...

<u>Tags</u>: If there reasons to search for the taxpayer other than by name, phone, or email, you can add a "tag" in the Tags box. For example if there are those who ask for earlier appointments should a cancellation occur, you might add "Move up" in the Tags box. The tag will appear after their name in the schedule screens enclosed in brackets, for example: **[Move up]**.

<u>Notes</u>: If the client has a special need, enter it in the Notes box. This is a good place to indicate any physical or mental challenges, interpreter needs, other tax year or amendment to be done. This information will print as a footnote on the check-in list.

<u>Info</u>: Other information such as questions the taxpayer may have or concerns that need to be addressed during scheduling can be be entered in the Info box. This is shared with the appointment schedulers and is not printed on the check-in list.

Name:	searchable	Prints with the name on all reports
Tags:	searchable	Displays with the name in appointment screens only
Notes:	not searchable	Prints as a footnote on the check-in list only
Info:	not searchable	Only displays in the appointment detail window

Whenever you contact the taxpayer, add a new entry in the "Status" area to indicate the action. The most common entries have their own button. If you need some other statement, just enter it in the "Other" box and it will be added when you exit the box – no need to add the time stamp or your name.

If you have done this from the Summary view, after you click "Save", you will automatically move to the daily view and the entry you made will have a highlighted number in the first row to help you find it to verify that it did what you expected.

If more than one person is making appointments at the same time, there is a chance that you both will choose the same time slot. If that happens, the first one to click "Save" will get the time slot and the other will get a message to try a different time. If significant time has passed, it's always a good idea to click on the date or summary view button to refresh your screen to show the most current status.

# move an appointment:

From the Daily view, click on the current appointment line and chose "Move Appt". This will open a box that indicates that you are moving an appointment:

# You are moving the appointment for Jeff Johnson Click on the calendar date you want the appointment moved to, or click on "Cancel" to leave this client where they are. Cancel

Click on the desired new calendar date, the Summary view button, Daily view button, or Callback list button, find a new empty slot and click on it. That's all there is to it. Again, the new entry will have the slot number highlighted so you can easily find it to verify that the move worked as expected.

If you have permission from other sites, you can even add or move appointments to other sites.

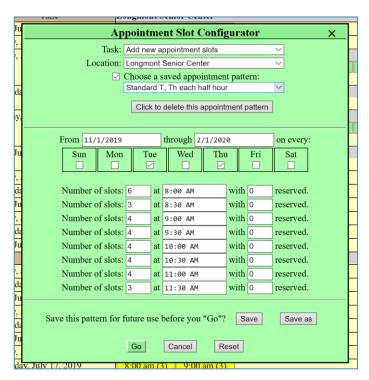
When you move the appointment, an entry will automatically be added to the History list and a new email will be sent to the taxpayer confirming the new appointment if they have an email address in their record and the Appointment Manager has opted to have emails sent.

# delete an appointment:

You can't actually delete an appointment entirely. To move an appointment to the Deleted list, simply click on the "Delete" button and it will make that change and record the action in the History list. That taxpayer can always be re-scheduled or added to the Callback list if needed.

# **Site Management**

# **Configuring appointments**



From the Tools menu, select "Configure appointment slots" to open the configurator window.

A number of options are available as Tasks and as each task is selected, the required data needed is displayed.

# Add new appointment slots

To configure your appointments, select "Add new appointment slots", your site Location name, the days of the week you will be working and the date range. Enter the number of slots at each time group and if any should be RESERVED.

Click "Go" and you're done!

The purpose of making some slots RESERVED can serve several purposes:

- They can never be selected by taxpayers who self-register from the internet.
- They can give some flexibility in scheduling to "see how things go" particularly at the beginning or end of the day or around lunch time.
- They can be used to assign times for taxpayers that have significant work remaining when they
  must return.

If different work days have different schedules, the Add option can be used multiple times and if duplicate times are encountered, it will add the specified number of slots to those already present.

You may wish to save your appointment pattern before you click the "Go" button. You can then recall that pattern to be used later.

- Perhaps one of the Mondays is a holiday but is one of your normal work days. Just recall your pattern and add for the dates prior to the holiday, and again for the dates after the holiday.
- If you have multiple sites using the same or similar schedule, recall a saved pattern, change the site name and then save it (or as modified) to the new site or simply click "Go".
- If you want to remove some unused appointments, recalling the saved pattern can save time inputting the original data. Just change the dates and the number of slots to be removed.

### Clear names from existing slots

If you use your real schedule for training, you can use the "Clear" option to remove names from you schedule so that you can start fresh with real taxpayers. You never want to use this option during the working season. It will not remove the deleted list – you will need to do that separately.

# Clear and remove the deleted list

This option is often used with the previous one when you wish to clear out your schedule. It's a good idea to not use this option during the working season because you will lose the historical information about taxpayers you have determined no longer require appointments.

# Remove unused appointment slots

If you mistakenly created too many time slots for a date or time, you can use the "Remove" option to remove them.

This option will not remove any slot with a name entry, including RESERVED. This makes it safe to use during the working season.

# <u>Start over – remove all appointment data</u>

The "Start over" option is the preferred way to totally clean out your appointment schedule and will also clear the Deleted list. With this option, the only entry presented will be the site name. You may wish to export your data to excel before using this option and you certainly will not want to use it during the working season.

If you have saved your appointment pattern(s), this is an easier way to restore your schedule than clearing the names and removing the deleted list.

# Clone schedule from previous year

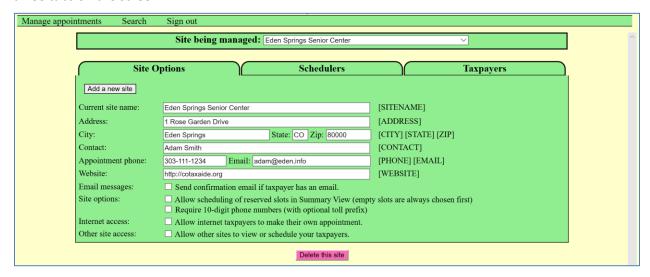
If you were completely happy with the previous year's schedule, put in the new year's date range and it will attempt to duplicate what was set up the previous year. Examine the first and last dates and holidays carefully because there may not have been an equivalent schedule for those days the previous year due to the way the calendar dates shift. RESERVED slots are not preserved as such but created as normal non-RESERVED slots since they will have likely changed during the previous year.

Adjustments can always be made from the Daily view.

This option will also clear the Deleted list and all data prior to your new starting date.

# **Site Options and Permissions**

Site options and user permissions use the Site and User Administration screen accessed from the Tools menu or from the login window. This is only available to the site's Appointment Manager. There are three tabs on the screen:



Menu items allow you to switch to the Manage appointments screen described earlier, to search for a person by name, phone or email, and to sign out. The search menu only locates persons who are able to log into the system – it will not find persons nor specific appointments from the appointments screen.

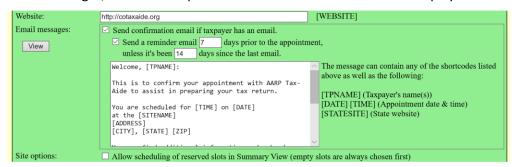
The top box below the menus indicates the Site being managed. If you have access to more than one site, this is where you choose which one for which you want to set options.

Besides your home site, there is a site called "unassigned" for which you cannot set any options nor change its name. This allows access to the list of Taxpayers who have logins but have not made an appointment at any particular site.

<u>The Site Options tab</u> lists all the options available to the site. All but the site name is optional but the other site information is important and an appointment Email contact is required if you will be sending emails to taxpayers as confirmation of their appointment.

Email messages option:

To enable email messages, click on the option box and additional fields will be displayed



The email message can be edited as desired and the [shortcodes] will be replaced with the corresponding real information when the email is sent. You may want to modify the message with additional specific information or instructions unique to your site or to delete some of the information in the default message.

To revert back to the default message, simply delete the entire message.

Emails are sent when an appointment has been made for a taxpayer or moved to a different appointment slot if the taxpayer has an email.

Click the view button on the left to see what the message will look like.

An additional option is to send reminder messages shortly before the taxpayer's appointment. The number of days prior to the appointment is set, and to prevent the reminder from seeming like a nag, set the "unless it's been" option to something larger.

# Site options:

Site options:	☑ Allow scheduling of reserved slots in Summary View (empty slots are always chosen first)
	☑ Require 10-digit phone numbers (with optional toll prefix)

The option to "Allow scheduling of reserved slots in Summary View" is checked if you want the system to use RESERVED slots when an appointment is made by selecting a time box from the Summary View. Empty non-RESERVED slots are always selected first but you may wish for your Schedulers to go to the daily view so that the use of the RESERVED slots is deliberate rather than just because all the non-RESERVED slots have been used.

The original intent of RESERVED slots is to limit the number of appointments that an internet taxpayer can schedule in any particular time period so that the RESERVED slots can be used by your own Schedulers.

The option to "Require 10-digit phone numbers" is becoming a necessity given the number of people who are retaining their cell phone numbers as they move about the country. It is set by default but can be unchecked if this is not an issue for your site.

# Internet access options:

Checking the "Internet access" box produces some additional options:

١		require 10-digit phone numbers (with optional ton prefix)			
	Internet access:	✓ Allow internet taxpayers to make their own appointment.			
		Limit a taxpayer's internet scheduling to 1 appointment(s), including at other sites.			
		Restrict to callback list if callback list is longer than available appointments (recommended).			
		Restrict to callback list always.			
		Internet access open: 1/21/2019			
		through: 4/12/2020			
	Other site access:	☐ Allow other sites to view or schedule your taxpayers.			

You can limit the number of appointments a taxpayer can make from the internet.

You can restrict internet users from only adding their name to the Callback list always, or only if the Callback list exceeds the number of available appointments, or no restriction at all. If you restrict the taxpayer to the callback list, a dagger will appear after your site's name in the taxpayer's User View.

You set the dates when internet access is open for scheduling. This causes your site to be listed on the sign-in window and if the current date is earlier than the opening date, the opening date will tell the taxpayer when to come back and try again.

# Other site access options:

If you are cooperating with other sites in the appointment process, check the "Other Site Access" box. A listing of all of the sites sharing the appointment system will be listed:



Click on the associated "Allow" box to give another site the ability to schedule appointments or to see the availability (Summary view only) of appointments at your site. This brings up the list of all schedulers in that site to be displayed in your Schedulers tab. Then, in your Schedulers tab, you can assign permissions to your site on an individual basis. This does not affect their permissions on their home site. More about that later.

### Add a new site

You can add a new site by clicking the "Add a new site" button on the top left corner of this tab. It will open a new version of this same tab into which you will enter the name of the new site and its respective information. Please always name the site beginning with the city name.

Why add a new site?

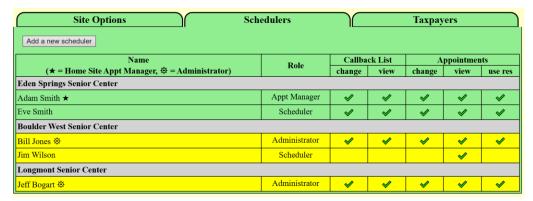
- You have one or more ad-hoc sites
- You want to set up a virtual site to schedule taxpayers who must return to finish their returns
- To add a new site in your State split or District who wants to use the system (yes, you can do that)
- You have a team that provides services to the homebound and would like a way to keep track of their scheduling
- Other reasons I haven't thought of yet.

When you add the new site, the "Schedule" box will automatically be checked next to the "Other site access" giving your home site permission to schedule on the new site and you become the Appointment Manager for that site as well as your own site.

The new site will also appear in the drop-down list above the tabs so that you can easily switch back and forth between your own site and the new one.

# Schedulers and permissions

The Schedulers tab assigns the permissions to each individual who will be working in the appointment system.



It lists the Schedulers who have a home at any site to which you have given access in the Site Options tab. Your own current site is shaded in green and other sites are in yellow to aid in knowing which site you are currently administering if there are several to choose from (like the new one added in the Site Options tab). All Administrators are also listed.

# **Change permissions**

The defined "Roles" are:

- Administrator only an Administrator can assign Administrator permissions. They have access
  to all sites and schedules and can modify everything including the messages on the login
  window.
- <u>Appt Manager</u> always has all permissions for the current site, can access the Tools menu and other configuration options in the appointment screens.
- <u>Scheduler</u> can be configured to only view appointments (access only to the Summary view) or make/change appointments. Can also be configured to only have access to view or modify the Callback list. The "use res" option allows a scheduler to use RESERVED slots or not – a local library scheduler, for example. Perhaps you want your District Coordinator or a neighboring site to be able to just view the state of your site (like Jim Wilson above). Click on the appropriate box to add or remove the check mark.
- <u>None</u> available for keeping a person on the list but disabling their permissions on a temporary basis.

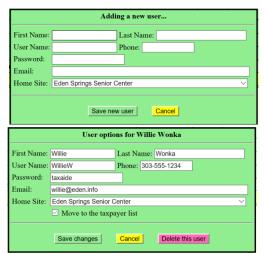
Change the "Role" by clicking on the person's Role box and then select the Role you wish them to have on your site.

You can change the Role and various permissions on your site for persons in other sites as well. It will not affect their home site permissions. You cannot change the Role or permissions for any Administrator.

Changing roles or permissions on this page is done without the need for a Save change button.

### Add a new scheduler

Click on the "Add a new scheduler" button on the top left of this tab. The scheduler information box will appear:



Enter the information requested and click Save new user.

You can assign a password if you wish or if you leave it blank, a random password will be generated and e-mailed to the new scheduler.

Once added, click on the scheduler's name to bring up a similar box which can then be edited as information changes.

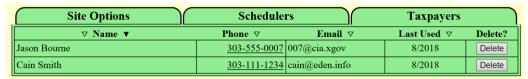
One new checkbox near the bottom is to Move to the taxpayer list (next tab to be discussed). Check this if the Scheduler will no longer be active but wishes to retain their login access to make their own appointment on the

internet. They will only, of course, be able to make a reservation for sites who have that option enabled.

You can also change a person's home site. You might do this if your ad-hoc site that you added spins off to be a full-status site and the person will be registered with them as part of that process.

# Taxpayers list

The Taxpayer tab lists all taxpayers who have logged in and made appointments at your site:



You can sort the list using the inverted triangles in the header of the table. In the Name column, the left triangle sorts by first name and the right triangle sorts by last name.

Click on the name to open their information box.



If you know that this taxpayer only came to your site because they couldn't get an appointment at another site, you can change their Home Site appropriately.

If you recruit this person to work at your site, you can move them to the scheduler list with the checkbox near the bottom. You will then have to go to the Scheduler tab and assign their Role and permissions.

As time goes on, this list may become quite lengthy so you may want to sort by "Last Used" date and delete those who haven't logged in for a couple of years.