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# Step Up IRS? IRS Dance Video Even Worse Than Star Trek

Remember the IRS [video parody of Star Trek](#)? Now the beleaguered taxing agency faces new no-so-hot reviews of its latest release: [NEW IRS VIDEO: IRS DANCE PARTY!](#) It depicts IRS employees line dancing for about three minutes. IRS officials say it was a team building exercise. This is a far cry from *Dancing With The Stars*, let alone *Step Up*.



Image from video of IRS workers doing a line dance

For the IRS, the hits just keep on coming. The Tea Party tax exemption scandal won't quit. It was helped along by less than stellar—and less than contrite—testimony. President Obama knew nothing, but axed the IRS Chief. Then the Head of the Exempt Organization Division took the Fifth. See [IRS Takes The Fifth, But You Can't](#). As that devolves into Act Two, we can fire up the IRS dance video for some comic relief.

IRS Dance Party cost about \$1,600, and was made for a 2010 training and leadership conference in Anaheim. (By comparison, the *Trekkie* movie was more like a David Cameron picture, costing taxpayers around \$60,000.) Still, silly videos and conference expenses are a new embarrassment.

In fact, soon a new report from the IRS watchdog called the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration ([TIGTA](#)) is expected to give Dance Party a thumbs down. The report, “Collected and Wasted: The IRS Spending Culture and Conference Abuses,” is to be the subject of a hearing the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Rep. Charles Boustany, R-La., who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, has been vocal: “Clearly this is an agency where abuse and waste is the norm and not the exception.” said Mr. Boustany. The Star Trek movie and the IRS version of Gilligan’s Island prompted Mr. Boustany to demand copies. See [Republican demands copy of IRS’s ‘Star Trek’ parody](#).

And after this [March 20, 2013 letter to Acting IRS Commissioner Miller](#), he eventually got them. [IRS videos](#) are usually boring, but with the Star Trek and Gilligan’s Island movies, the IRS defended them as needed for effective employee training. IRS filmography is good for all audiences, including the public. Besides, movies reduce travel and other costs, said the IRS.

This time, the response was different. New Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel said the IRS conference that took place in 2010 was an “unfortunate vestige from a prior era. While there were legitimate reasons for holding the meeting,” he continued, “many of the expenses associated with it were inappropriate and should not have occurred.”

Mr. Werfel noted that new rules have been put in place and such a conference will not happen under his watch. That’s good, since in the dance video one of the IRS employees says, “And I thought doing the Star Trek video was humiliating.” Sadly, no one in the video takes the [Fifth](#).

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