

Greetings All,

Here are the latest IRS News Releases and Headliners to distribute to your members and clients. I hope that the information will be helpful, and we encourage publication in your association's magazines, newsletters, email distributions and/or website.

Below are summaries and links to the most recent headliners and news releases your members and clients might be interested in. The title and summary are designed to give you a brief overview of the article's content -- the link to the full article is included with each summary. I encourage you to use any or all of these in newsletters or emails to your members and clients, or on your web site. If you share this information or any part of it, could you please let me know how you distributed it?

If someone else in your organization is a more appropriate contact point for these types of emails, please let me know. And if you do not want to receive future emails like this one, please reply and request your name be removed.

John

*John Blakeman
Stakeholder Liaison NW Area
SB/SE - CSO/SL-F
Ph: (503) 265 - 3669
Fax: (503) 227-5675
Email: John.W.Blakeman@irs.gov*

Announcements & Upcoming Events:

Archived FREE IRS Webinar: **Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself From Data Theft**
<http://www.irsvideos.gov/ProtectYourClientsProtectYourselfFromDataTheft-Webinar20160817/>.

Information on the Security Summit initiatives for FY 2017, including enhancing tax professional awareness of client data safeguards, legal requirements and best practices to better protect taxpayer information.

Note: *Feel Free to Share this free webinar information **below** with clients who may have an interest in Employment Tax Changes for 2017:

***Racing Towards Year End: Employment Tax Reminders**

Thursday, November 17, 2016 - 2 hours 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time

Representatives from SSA and IRS will present information on the following topics:

Internal Revenue Service:

- 1099-MISC changes – due dates and penalties
- Electronic filing of 1099s – FIRE system
- TIN matching
- E-services authentication updates
- IRS employment tax & ACA updates
- Identity theft and data security breaches
- Navigating the IRS web site to find information payroll professionals need

Social Security Administration:

- Working Electronically with SSA
- Filing Forms W-2/W-3
- W-2/W-3 changes – due dates and penalties
- Reconciliation
- Verifying Names and Numbers
- SSNs for Foreign Workers
- Reconciliation between SSA and IRS -- W-2s and 941s
- Filing for benefits Online
- “my Social Security”

This webinar qualifies for up to 2 Federal Tax CE Credits through the IRS Approved CE Provider Program. Other payroll and tax professionals may qualify depending on the requirements of their organizations.

Offered with closed captioning. Closed captioning displays the words that describe the audio portion of the program for viewers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Captions are available in English only.

Before registering, be sure your spam filter is set to accept email from our webinar provider – confirmation and reminder emails will appear with the name “Internal Revenue Service SBSE Stakeholder Liaison Field” and will be from the email address no-reply@webcaster4.com. If you have any problems registering, contact us directly at SL.northwest@irs.gov.

To Register: Thursday, November 17 – 9:30 – 11:30 am (offered with closed captioning*)
<https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/1147/17651>.

Portland District Office of SBA Learning Center: <https://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/search/training>.

Affordable Care Act Information for Businesses. Michael Morter, Agent/Small Business Liaison, Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace is available for FREE presentations to small business organizations on the Affordable Care Act. Contact Mike at 503.428.4418 or michael.h.morter@oregon.gov.

FREE Retirements Seminars presented as a Lunch & Learn that Employers may wish to offer their employees provided by DCBS and SSA. Contact either Diane.M.Childs@state.or.us. Or Alan.Edwards@ssa.gov. Or kimberly.herrmann@ssa.gov.

Portland General Electric Energy Education Center: <https://www.energyeducationcenter.com/>.

IRS Updates & News Releases:

Did you know? One of the best ways to get information is by visiting the IRS Small Business Tax Center where you can learn everything from how to get an Employer Identification Number (EIN) online to how to best navigate an audit.

Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC) Issues Annual Report for 2016

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/information-reporting-program-advisory-committee-irpac-issues-annual-report-for-2016>.

The Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC) issued its annual report for 2016 to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen on new and continuing issues in tax administration. The report includes recommendations involving the penalty abatement process, the Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, and the use of Frequently Asked Questions on the IRS website.

IRS and Security Summit Partners Warn of Fake Tax Bills

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/irs-and-security-summit-partners-warn-of-fake-tax-bill-emails>.

The IRS and its Security Summit partners issued an alert to taxpayers and tax professionals to be on guard against fake emails purporting to contain an IRS tax bill related to the Affordable Care Act. The IRS has received numerous reports around the country of scammers sending a fraudulent version of CP2000 notices for tax year 2015. Generally, the scam involves an email that includes the fake CP2000 as an attachment.

Note: See also SETT-2016-13, Beware of Fake IRS Tax Bill Notices

New Private Debt Collection Program to Begin Next Spring; IRS to Contract with Four Agencies; Taxpayer Rights Protected

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/new-private-debt-collection-program-to-begin-next-spring-irs-to-contract-with-four-agencies-taxpayer-rights-protected>.

The Internal Revenue Service announced that it plans to begin private collection of certain overdue federal tax debts next spring and has selected four contractors to implement the new program. The new program, authorized under a federal law enacted by Congress last December, enables these designated contractors to collect, on the government's behalf, outstanding inactive tax receivables. As a condition of receiving a contract, these agencies must respect taxpayer rights including, among other things, abiding by the consumer protection provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

IRS Now Accepting ITIN Renewal Applications; Taxpayers Encouraged to Act Soon to Avoid Processing Delays in 2017

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-now-accepting-itin-renewal-applications-taxpayers-encouraged-to-act-soon-to-avoid-processing-delays-in-2017>.

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers affected by recent changes involving the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) program that they can now begin submitting their ITIN renewal applications to the IRS.

Under the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015 passed by Congress and signed into law last year, any ITIN not used on a federal tax return at least once in the last three years will no longer be valid for use on a tax return as of Jan. 1, 2017. If a taxpayer has an ITIN that is scheduled to expire

and needs to file a tax return, it's important not to delay. By submitting the application package in the next few weeks ITIN taxpayers may avoid unnecessary delays and allow for smoother and faster processing. As part of this effort, the IRS has embarked on a wider education effort to share information with ITIN holders. To help taxpayers, the IRS has prepared a variety of informational materials, including flyers and fact sheets, available in several languages on IRS.gov. In addition to English and Spanish, materials are available in Chinese, Korean, Haitian Creole, Russian and Vietnamese.

In 2017, Some Tax Benefits Increase Slightly Due to Inflation Adjustments, Others Are Unchanged
<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/in-2017-some-tax-benefits-increase-slightly-due-to-inflation-adjustments-others-are-unchanged>.

The Internal Revenue Service announced the tax year 2017 annual inflation adjustments for more than 50 tax provisions, including the tax rate schedules, and other tax changes. Revenue Procedure 2016-55 provides details about these annual adjustments. The tax year 2017 adjustments generally are used on tax returns filed in 2018.

IRS Advises Taxpayers to Prepare for Hurricanes, Floods and Other Natural Disasters
<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-advises-taxpayers-to-prepare-for-hurricanes-floods-and-other-natural-disasters>.

The Internal Revenue Service offers advice to taxpayers who may be affected by storms or other natural disasters. The IRS also reminded taxpayers that the agency is here to help including offering a special toll-free number to taxpayers in federally-declared disaster areas, staffed with IRS specialists trained to handle disaster-related issues.

IRS YouTube Videos - Preparing for Disasters: English | Spanish | ASL

Tax Tips

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/irs-tax-tips>.

Beware of Fake IRS Tax Bill Notices: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/beware-of-fake-irs-tax-bill-notice? ga=1.183943589.2042719532.1472491136>.

IRS Grants Tax Relief Extension to Drought-Stricken Farmers, Ranchers; 37 States and Puerto Rico Affected

Also Hurricane Matthew: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-gives-expanded-tax-relief-to-victims-of-hurricane-matthew-parts-of-four-states-eligible-extension-filers-have-until-march-15-to-file>.

Health Care Tax Tips

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Health-Care-Tax-Tips2>.

ACA and Employers: Terms to Know about Offers of Health Coverage

IRS.gov has Information You Need to Understand the Health Care Law's Effect on Your Taxes

Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace

<https://www.healthcare.gov/small-businesses/>.

The Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace helps small businesses provide health coverage to their employees. The SHOP Marketplace is open to employers with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). This includes non-profit organizations. You can enroll in SHOP any time of year - there's no restricted enrollment period. For more information, visit HealthCare.gov.

The Affordable Care Act and Employers

Information on Key Tax Provisions Affecting Employers