



Mid-Willamette Chapter

<http://oatc-oregon.org/Mid-Willamette>

Volume 8: Issue 3

September 2007

Meetings

September Meeting will be 9/19 in Corvallis - at Tommy's 4th Street Bar and Grill (downstairs) 350 SW 4th St Corvallis

Now would be a great time to bring someone new to a meeting!

Our September Monthly meeting will be in Corvallis at Tommy's 4th Street Bar and Grill. Come early for a no-host dinner beginning at 5:45. Business meeting will follow at 6:30. Education will begin at 7:00.

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Newsletter Contact

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Deadline: Please submit information by the first week of the month

President's Corner *Message from the President*

WARNING!!! WARNING!!! WARNING!!!

The IRS has issued another warning about phishing e-mails. Go to www.irs.gov to read the warning. I have had a client bring me a copy of the original e-mail, it does look real. Tell your clients **do not open!** And forward the unopened e-mail to: phishing@irs.gov and follow the instructions. Failure to do this could cause identity theft as they will be asking for important information that you do not want to give out. Also IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail.



There is still time to sign up for BASICS AND BEYOND seminars near you. This is a very good seminar with a super speaker and a price that you cannot beat. Also if you want any information on s corps do not miss the SUPER STAR SEMINAR in October. Two days with the most knowledgeable speaker on s corps in the IRS. Also start planning attending the OATC Update seminars in December, all the latest in tax law just before tax season.

Also don't forget our own 6 hour educational seminar coming up -- good education great value. Adult foster care will be the subject and Debbie McKinney will be the instructor. The date will be Saturday October 6,2007 at Allied Waste in Albany. Fliers will be in the mail soon.

Our chapter meetings continue to have excellent educational topics each month thanks to Kari Lasswell's intense efforts. Please thank her when you see her and give her any ideas that you have for chapter education.

NEW MEETING LOCATION CORVALLIS FOR SEPTEMBER!!!

TOMMY'S 4TH ST BAR & GRILL--350 SW 4TH ST CORVALLIS, OR

For those of you who have been here longer than a few years you will know this as the Town House and we will be meeting downstairs. I hope to see everyone there.

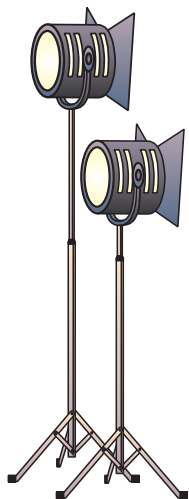
Ave



This month's education will be in Corvallis at Tommy's 4th Street Bar and Grill) Education will be presented by Thomas Gibson, CLTC, CSA, Certified LTC Planner. Thomas will be speaking on "HSAs, Fringe Benefits, and the IRC". He will examine the IRC sections that created HSAs and recent updates, how these interact with §125

Cafeteria Plans, different implementations of Cafeteria Plans, different types of fringe benefits and their deductibility, executive carve-outs, and what insurance plan design would look like-taking the same pool of money invested in 80/20 co-pay plan or HMO compared to an has qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with an expanded array of fringe benefits. See page 2 for more information on Thomas.

Next months speaker will be Bill McKinney and the topic with be AMT..



This Months Speaker: **Thomas Gibson, CLTC, CSA**

Thomas Gibson, CLTC, CSA is head of Senior Market Services, Inc. And is affiliated with "The Insurance Store". Thomas Gibson specializes in long term care and has earned the designation "Certified Senior Advisor or CLTC, after completing a rigorous multi disciplinary course focused on the profession of long-term care. His Certified Senior Advisor or CSA designation is based on a comprehensive education program aimed at helping advisors understand the key health, social and financial factors that are important to seniors -- and how these factors work together. Thomas believes that in today's world education and outreach are the most critical components in a business environment. Gibson is also a "Certified Employee Benefit Specialist" (CEBS) candidate which should be completed in 2008.

Gibson is a member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (IFEBP), the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Portland Human Resource Management Association (PHRMA), and the American Association for Long Term Care Insurance (AALTCI).

Financial advisors, attorneys and accountants refer their clients to Gibson to seek out the appropriate plan and carrier for the specific needs of their mutual clients. He is frequently asked to provide group presentations on long term care issues and how they affect retirement planning as well as family dynamics.

News From

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Taken From: <http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/PERTAX/kicker.shtml>

Kicker information

The "kicker" is paid when the amount of revenues the state receives during a biennium is at least 2 percent more than the amount of revenues to the general fund that were expected to be received for the biennium.

The Department of Revenue has until December 15, 2007, to mail the checks. But, if you filed your return late, your kicker check may be mailed after December 15.

The kicker law was changed during the 2007 legislative session. The changes made to the kicker include:

- The refund checks will be mailed by December 15, 2007.
- The kicker will be based on the tax before credits. You can find this amount on your 2006 Oregon return, Form 40, line 29; Form 40S, line 13; Form 40N, line 51; Form 40P, line 50. This is different from prior years when it was based on tax after credits. This means more people will receive refunds than would have received refunds under the old kicker law.

On August 31, the Office of Economic Analysis announced that the kicker will be 18.60 percent.

Who won't get one?

Taxpayers who don't file a 2006 individual income tax return won't get a kicker check. Those who do file 2006 individual income tax returns but had no tax before credits also won't get kickers.

And one last tidbit:

How much is the total amount of the personal income tax kicker this biennium?

As of the August 31 forecast by the state economist, the amount of the personal income tax kicker is \$1.071 billion.

We will be including a copy of the previous month's General Business Meeting Minutes in the newsletter so that those of you who can't make it to the meetings have the opportunity to keep yourselves informed.

Mid-Willamette Chapter
Oregon Association of Tax Consultants
General Business Meeting
Wednesday August 15, 2007
Location: Bings Restaurant, Lebanon, OR

The meeting was called to order by President Ave Giddings at 6:25 PM

It was announced the our member Irene Gresick had passed all three parts of the federal EA exam. Congratulations were extended by everyone present for this achievement.

Cathy Baker was introduced as a new member by Jo Anne Vetter who signed her up adding to our membership.

The following corrections were made to the July minutes:

September meeting- Aflac and HSP

October meeting- Speaker :Bill McKinney on AMT

November meeting- ODR on employer vs subcontractor OR regulations

Made correction to Kari Lasswell's misspelled name under unfinished business

Made correction to Jo Anne Vetter's name under unfinished business

Bill McKinney made motion to accept the minutes as corrected. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurers report: Given by Kari Lasswell: Net income for July \$1,447.00 CD #11,223.60.

Bev Diercks reported that she was passing out three cards for signing to be sent:

Carole Moore--She had surgery

Giesela Zerkel--she fell and broke her hip

Gail Scheer-- a sympathy card her husband Larry passed away

It was announced that the fall seminar would be October 6,2007, on Adult Foster Care, and that Debbie McKinney would be the speaker. There will be more information coming about this seminar.

There was no unfinished business.

New Business: Budget needed Ave will get with Tom Dundas our treasurer and prepare a new budget for this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Clark- Secretary Pro term



News From the Editor

Have you signed up for the e-mail version of the newsletter yet? If not please do so this month and help your club save the cost of postage!

If you have anything you would like to have published in the newsletter please email it to me -- if it is of interest to you it most likely will be of interest to the rest of the membership.

My e-mail address is:

joanne@libertytax.com.

FYI - OTR Truck Driver Info

There are a lot of things an Over The Road truck driver can deduct ***if he/she uses them as a function in (of) their job.*** Be sure to advise them to keep receipts.

They need to keep their log books for a minimum of three years after the due date of the return, or the date they file, whichever is later.

Here is a list of more commonly deductible items for OTR truck drivers:

- Airfare
- Cab curtains
- Driver's license fees
- Bunjee cords
- Phone
- Tarp straps
- Air freshener
- Calculator
- Electrical tape
- Laundry bag
- Physical
- Thermals
- Armor all
- Camera
- Ether
- Laundry detergent
- Pillow
- Tissues
- Alarm clock
- CB Radio
- Fan clamps
- Load locks
- Power cord(s)
- Toiletries

From "Driver's ABCs - Surviving the First Year" -

For more interesting information on OTR truck drivers check out the following website:

www.newbiedriver.com

It has a lot of information that would be helpful to you and your OTR truck driver clients.

THE BOARD OF TAX PRACTITIONERS

Taken from: http://www.oregon.gov/OTPB/Meet_Contact_Board_Members.shtml

Frequent Areas of Violation:

Return of Records

Did you know that a frequent complaint made to the Board is for failure of a licensee to return source documents to his or her client? When the Board steps in to investigate these complaints, the violation is often worsened by the licensee's failure to respond to the Board's communications.

Source documents are viewed to be the property of the client. Failure to return that property could result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per day that the records are held.

If the licensee has a complaint filed against him/her of this nature, the Board will generally attempt to resolve the issue between the two parties. The licensee can return the records and notify the Board that this has been done. This results in the complaint being immediately closed.

If a licensee chooses to continue holding the documents, the complaint will be pursued in the same manner as all other matters before the Board. The licensee who fails to respond to the Board in its attempt to mediate the problem may result in a fine of \$1,000 per violation.

For more information, see Oregon Administrative Rule, 800-10-0025(6).

Click on the links provided to obtain a copy of the Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners [Oregon Revised Statutes](#) or [Oregon Administrative Rules](#) concerning tax consultants and preparers.

News From The
IRS



Back-to-School Tax Breaks Help Teachers Pay Classroom Costs; Aid Parents, Students With College Tuition

IR-2007-158, Sept. 11, 2007

WASHINGTON — With the new school year now under way, the Internal Revenue Service today reminded teachers, parents and students that saving receipts and keeping good records can help them take advantage of various education-related deductions and credits on their 2007 federal income tax return.

“The start of the school year is a good time to remind parents, students and teachers to save all receipts related to tax-advantaged education expenses,” said IRS Acting Commissioner Linda Stiff. “Good recordkeeping makes sense because it can help avoid missing a deduction or credit at tax time.”

Deductions reduce the income on which tax is figured. Credits reduce the overall tax. Though both can lower a person's year-end tax bill or increase their refund, credits normally result in greater tax savings.

The educator expense deduction allows teachers and other educators to deduct the cost of books, supplies, equipment and software used in the classroom. Eligible educators include those who work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide in a public or private elementary or secondary school.

Worth up to \$250, the educator expense deduction is available, whether or not the educator itemizes their deductions on Schedule A. In tax-year 2005, teachers and educators deducted just over \$893 million of these out-of-pocket classroom expenses. Under current law, this deduction is scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

Three key tax breaks — the tuition and fees deduction, the Hope credit and the lifetime learning credit — help



parents and students pay for the cost of post-secondary education. All three are available, regardless of whether an eligible taxpayer itemizes their deductions. Under current law, the tuition and fees deduction is scheduled to expire at the end of this year, but the two credits remain in effect. In tax-year 2005, taxpayers claimed tuition and fees deductions totaling nearly \$11 billion and education credits of almost \$6.2 billion.

Normally, a taxpayer can claim tuition and required enrollment fees paid for their own and their dependent's college education. A taxpayer cannot take both an education credit and the tuition and fees deduction for the same student in the same year. Income limits and other special rules apply to each of these provisions. Education credits are claimed on [Form 8863](#), and the tuition and fees deduction for 2007 will be claimed on new Form 8917.

IRS [Publication 970](#), Tax Benefits for Education, can help eligible parents and students understand the special rules that apply and decide which tax break to claim. The publication also describes other education-related tax benefits, including qualified tuition programs (also known as 529 plans), the student loan interest deduction, Coverdell education savings accounts and the education savings bond program.

Publication 970 can be obtained on this Web site or, without charge, by calling the IRS toll-free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (829-3676).

6 Hours CPE

Saturday

October 6, 2007

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Allied Waste

1214 Montgomery St SE
Albany

FALL SEMINAR

Sponsored By
Mid-Willamette
Chapter OATC

**“ADULT
FOSTER CARE”**

Fees if paid before Oct 1st:

Mid Willamette Chapter Members:	\$45
Other OATC Chapter Members:	\$50
OSTC and OAIA Members:	\$60
Non-Members:	\$75

About Our Speaker

Debbie McKinney, LTC

Debbie is a Licensed Tax Consultant and has taught Basic Income Tax for several years. Two of those years her pass ratio was 100% and another year it was 80%. (The state average is 68%). She has also been teaching at the OATC and OSTC Chapter levels for continuing education, as well as at OSTC 2005 Convention. Several years she has taught an LTC Prep Class . This year she taught the Back to Basics Seminars around the state sponsored by State OATC. Her love is teaching and hopes to expand into more teaching opportunities around the state.

She served as 2nd VP of the Mid-Willamette Chapter of OATC for four years, and was 1st VP for two years. She just completed serving 4 years as **State Education Chair for OATC**.

Debbie owns her own tax preparation business in Corvallis. She was awarded the **Exemplary ERO** for Oregon for 2000 by the IRS, which resulted in a trip to the Las Vegas Tax Forum that year all expenses paid by IRS! She has also been asked by IRS to sit on a Panel of Experts at one of their seminars. At the OATC convention in 2007, she was honored with the Margaret Sills Award...a very special award to people who have given of themselves to the organization.

Registration will start at 8:30 am. There will be a limited catered lunch menu available -- cost of lunch (\$5.00) is not included in registration fee - you are welcome to bring a sack lunch. This location is not convenient to local restaurants . **Mail Checks Payable to: Mid-Willamette Chapter OATC and mail checks to: Sharon Starr, PO Box 2277' Lebanon, OR 97355. Please Note a \$10 LATE FEE will apply if postmarked after Sept 27th.**



Mid-Willamette Valley Chapter
C/O 31551 Oak Plain Drive
Halsey OR 97348

Return Service Requested

***Contains Dated
Material***

DISCLAIMER: *All material enclosed in this newsletter is as accurate and reliable as we can provide, but the possibility of human or mechanical error does exist. All persons using this information are cautioned to use all sources of information to arrive at a decision of tax law.*

Association Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>NATC</u>	<u>OATC</u>	<u>MW Valley Chapter</u>
<i>President:</i>	Jayne Williams 541-343-5336	Susan High 503-655-3737	Ave Giddings 541-926-7382
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<i>2nd VP:</i>		Beverley Diercks 503-394-3510	Kari Lasswell 541760-0124
<i>3rd VP:</i>		Eric Arnoldus 541-963-8304	
<i>Secretary:</i>	Barbara Culver 253-859-8567	Cheryl Brown 541-975-1850	Brandie Stucky 541-541-8299
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Michael Graves 360-588-8077	Donna Gilmour 503-581-9718	Tom Dundas 541-258-5600
<i>Board Members:</i>			Linda Harding Bill McKinney Dennis
<i>Past President:</i>	Linda Mussen 503-292-6252	Denny Purkey 503-620-3061	Cynthia Clark 541-466-3144