



Mid-Willamette Valley Chapter

Volume 3: Issue 10

December 2005

Upcoming Events

- December Meeting – 12/14
- January Meeting – 1/18

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President's Corner — Message from the 1st VP

Tis the busy holiday season, you know -Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Years- IRS & ODR Updates- and getting ready for the new tax season.

Now that the turkey has been finished (leftovers and all) and our bodies stuffed, and everyone has realized how much we have to be thankful for we get ready for Christmas. But I hope that you didn't forget about updates, they started on 12-01-05 in Salem and finish with Metro East and Medford on 12-10-05. While the major changes are not earth shattering, there are some and they will affect some of your clients, and we all need to be aware of them.

Don't forget that this month's meeting is one week early, and I hope to see everyone there. January's meeting will be at a new lo-

cation check the newsletter for location and time.

If I and your other officers don't see you personally before then, WE want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

AVE GIDDINGS
1st Vice President



Happy Holidays

Job Bank

Are you looking for a job, or maybe you are looking for some new employees for this upcoming tax season? If so, please contact Monica Banks-Figueroa. She can put you on a referral list for those needing employees or employers. Monica can be reached at 928-9628 (home) or 928-9265 (work).

Call her today, it's not too early to begin thinking about the upcoming tax season – it will be here before you know it!



Upcoming Education

December 2005

Please Note: We are meeting ONE WEEK EARLY – Wednesday December 14th.

You are invited to come early for a no-host dinner beginning at 5:45. The business meeting will follow at 6:30. Education will begin at 7:00.

This meeting will be at Burton's Sunnybrook Restaurant(119 SW 3rd St.) in Corvallis.

January's Meeting will be held at Elmer's Restaurant in Albany.

Burton's does charge a min. for anyone who orders. If someone gets charged for more than they ordered they can bring it to Robin and Mid-Willamette



Chapter will see that the difference is paid.

Upcoming Topics & Speakers

December 14th: Speaker TBA – Burton's Restaurant in Corvallis

January 18th: Speaker TBA – Elmer's Restaurant in Albany

IRS Issues Proposed Regulations to Safeguard Taxpayer

12/7/05 – The Internal Revenue Service today issued proposed guidance on the disclosure or use of tax return information by tax return preparers. A key principle underlying the proposed guidance is that tax return preparers may not disclose or use tax return information for purposes other than tax return preparation without the knowing, informed and voluntary consent of the taxpayer.

The pre-existing regulations under Internal Revenue Code section 7216 were drafted in the early 1970s, prior to the advent of many of the business practices and technology uses that define the electronic preparation and transmis-

sion of tax returns by preparers.

The proposed regulations broaden the definitions of tax return preparer and tax return information, revise the manner and form of obtaining taxpayer consent to use or disclose tax return information and add a requirement to obtain taxpayer consent before preparers send tax return information offshore.

The proposed regulations are open to public comment for 90 days after their date of publication. A public hearing on the proposed regulations has been scheduled for April 4, 2006 at 10 a.m.

IRS Releases Scam Warning

The Internal Revenue Service today issued a consumer alert about an Internet scam in which consumers receive an e-mail informing them of a tax refund. The e-mail, which claims to be from the IRS, directs the consumer to a link that requests personal information, such as Social Security number and credit card information.

This scheme is an attempt to trick the e-mail recipients into disclosing their personal and financial data. The practice is called "phishing" for information.

The information fraudulently obtained is then used to steal the taxpayer's identity and financial assets. Generally, identity thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns.

The bogus e-mail, which claims to come from xnds@irs.gov tells the recipient that he or she is eli-

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Standard Mileage Rates for 2006

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2006 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 44.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, other than activities related to Hurricane Katrina relief.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 40.5 cents per mile for the first eight months of 2005. In September, the IRS made a special one-

time adjustment for the last four months of 2005, raising the rate for business miles to 48.5 cents per mile in response to a sharp increase in gas prices, which topped \$3 a gallon.

For the first eight months of 2005, the standard rate for miles driven for medical or moving purposes was 15 cents per mile, and, except for special Hurricane Katrina rates, the standard rate for miles driven in service of a charitable organization was 14 cents per mile.

For the last four months of 2005, the agency raised the standard rate for miles driven for medical or moving purposes to 22 cents per mile. The standard rate for charitable miles remained at 14 cents per mile—except for charitable miles relating to Hurricane Katrina.

Scam Warning – Continued

refunds@irs.gov" tells the recipient that he or she is eligible to receive a tax refund for a given amount. It then says that, to access a form for the tax refund, the recipient must use a link contained in the e-mail. The link then asks for the personal and financial information.

The IRS does not ask for personal identifying or financial information via unsolicited e-mail.

Additionally, taxpayers do not have to complete a special form to obtain a refund.

If you receive an unsolicited e-mail purporting to be from the IRS, take the following steps:

- g • Do not open any attachments to the e-mail, in case they contain malicious code that will infect your computer.
- Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to determine whether the IRS is trying to contact you about a tax refund.

The IRS has seen numerous attempts over the years to defraud the public and the federal government through a variety of schemes, including abusive tax avoidance transactions, identity theft, claims for slavery reparations, frivolous arguments and more.

More information on these schemes may be found on the criminal enforcement page at IRS.gov.

Do you have any info for the newsletter? If so, please contact Mandy Jansen during the 1st week of the month. She can be reached at 791-2357.





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*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

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