

Marino and Associates, Inc.

January 2019

Dear New Client:

Welcome.

New for 2018 tax year:

- Health insurance is required and you should have received form 1095 (or SSA-1099). Bring this form to your tax appointment.
- Bring your drivers' license or state ID to your tax appointment.
- If you are claiming a dependent on your tax return, IRS wants you to show us documentation to that fact. So, bring with you to your tax appointment, some documents showing your name, the dependent's name, your address and the 2018 date. This could be a doctor bill, school record, etc.
- If you have college tuition paid, bring your paper copy of form 1098-T issued to you from your college or university.
- If you are required to file a form W-2 for your employees or form 1099 for your subcontractors, the new due date is January 31st each year. We can help you with this.
- Deductions for mortgage interest and home equity interest will be allowed only if the funds were used to purchase or improve your residence. We will need your finance papers if part of the funds were used for other purposes.

With the rising home prices, some of our clients are thinking about selling their homes. Since this can be a taxable event, you should talk to us, first. And Oregon has a new First Time Home Purchase deduction. Talk to us first.

Please follow these steps:

- Complete the Tax Organizer and Engagement letter, first.
- Gather all your 2018 documents and information.
- When you have all your documents and information, call for an appointment. If you are missing one or two documents that you know come in late, like K-1's or stockbroker statements, you can still schedule an early appointment. We will add the missing documents when you drop them off at our office.

It is important to complete your tax appointment early rather than later. With all the new tax changes, we are planning on a very busy tax-filing season.

Avoid our "Tax Preparer Stress Fee" added to your invoice by having your tax return completed 30 days before the due date.

If you want to avoid the rush, we can file for an extension for you. As long as you do not owe any taxes or make an estimated tax payment with the extension, an extension gives you until October 15, 2019 to file your individual tax return. Actually, if you have a refund due, you have three years, until April 15, 2022 to claim it. There are generally no penalties for filing late when you are due a refund.

For our clients who cannot manage my stairs, you can call our office for help in avoiding our stairs.

I have enclosed a copy of my “2018 Tax Organizer and Deduction Finder”. I hope you find this a valuable tool. Please bring this completed organizer and the enclosed “Engagement Letter”, signed by you and your spouse (if applicable) to your appointment.

When completing the “2018 Tax Organizer and Deduction Finder”, read the whole line. Some lines have more than one item. If anything in the statement pertains to you, check the box. If you are not sure, put a “?” in the box and your tax preparer will better explain it to you.

When we telephone that your tax return is complete and ready, you can always schedule an appointment with your tax preparer to review your tax return.

Beware of scammers and swindlers. Do not respond to any telephone calls, emails or letters that you suspect may not be legitimate from the IRS or other taxing authority. Call our office, first. See - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0y5z0kWgBcM>

Daily, we receive suspicious emails. If we do not respond to an email from you, call our office.

Do not attach documents to emails sent to us. We do not accept these documents. Instead ask us for an invitation to our secure portal and sent us documents and messages securely to us.

The tax reform (Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017) has some savings for some taxpayers while adding a lot of complexity to the tax laws. This complexity will result in a tax preparation fee increase, depending on your situation.

Make sure to bring your copy of your last 3 years of filed tax returns (paper copies, only).

Please feel free to call me at 503-239-4716, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Dale Marino EA LTC

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