March 2018 Newsletter

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR FIRM

Individual Tax Return Extensions: Are you a Candidate?

Having trouble getting all your tax documents to us or waiting for your tax return to be finished? Due to Congress' late law changes affecting 2017 returns, tax firms industry-wide are facing a back-log of returns. If you have experienced a slightly longer wait time than previous years, please know that our staff is working diligently to get through our backlog and don't foresee any problems in getting all returns prepared and filed by the April 17th deadline, as long as your tax documents have been provided to us by March 25th. If you are unable to get your documents to us before March 25th, or would like to elect to be placed on extension, here are answers to a few commonly asked questions:

When does an extension have to be filed?
IRS Form 4868 must be filed no later than April 17th, 2018 for the 2017 tax year and will extend your state and federal due date by 6 months to October 15, 2018. This form automatically extends Idaho and other state returns.

Is a return on extension more likely to be audited by the IRS?
Absolutely not! The IRS wants you to submit a complete, accurate return as much as you do. In some situations, an extension is absolutely necessary.

Is a payment required at the time of the extension?
While filing an extension gives you more time to file your return, it does not give you more time to pay the tax. Since the return has yet to be completed, an estimated amount must be determined. If the amount due isn't paid by April 17th, 2018, a nominal interest (3-4% APR) and late penalty expense (.5% monthly) will be incurred until the tax due is paid. If we have the majority of your tax documents by March 25th, we can help you determine how much your estimated payments should be. After that date, we will have very limited time available to help you estimate how much to pay, and you will need to review your prior year tax returns and come up with amounts you feel will be sufficient. If you know you'll need an extension, the more notice you can give us, the more we can help you determine how much to pay.

Is there a fee for the service of being put on extension?
Silver Bridge does not charge a fee for the service of being put on extension as long as we complete the ultimate filing of your tax returns. If you decide to prepare and file your own returns or have another firm complete your return, a $50 fee will be charged when picking up your documents.

Will Silver Bridge stop working on my return if it is placed on extension?
Absolutely not! As soon as all your documents have been received, your return is given top priority. We will continue working diligently on your return to have it submitted as soon as possible.

What information is needed to be placed on extension?

1. Name, address, and both social security numbers if married filing jointly
2. Amount for Federal you would like to pay, if any
3. Amount for State you would like to pay, if any
4. Only for extensions including a payment: an email address so we can send payment coupons via secure email that will accompany check(s).

TAX TIPS AND TRICKS

2018 W-2 Withholding
Our office has received numerous client questions regarding how much federal withholding should be withheld from their employee paychecks with some of the new tax legislation. To make any changes, employees should complete Form W-4 and give to their employer. Keep in mind that when deciding the number of personal allowances, the number of allowances on line 5 of Form W-4 is *inversely related* to the amount taken out of an employee's check. To say this another way: the higher the number on line 5, the less amount of withholding will be taken out of an employee check.

On deciding the amount of allowances, please use this calculator from the IRS.

If you are interested in learning more general information about how tax law changes will affect your individual tax liability, you can also join us **May 15th at 11:00 at the Silverstone Plaza** to hear Chandra Hisel, CPA and Partner at Silver Bridge CPAs address changes on Form 1040. Email amanda@silverbridgecpas.com to sign up today!

For additional questions, please contact the Eagle or Meridian office to make a personalized tax-planning appointment with your CPA after tax season!

Summer Speaker Series
Silver Bridge CPAs is hosting a six-part speaker series as a complimentary service to educate our clients on a variety of topics. Please join us for one or all the events at no cost to you!

When: Third Tuesday of every month, May - October
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Silverstone Plaza
3405 E. Overland Road
Meridian, ID 83642

R.S.V.P.: Seating is limited! Reserve your spot by signing up in the lobby before your tax appointment, or by emailing amanda@silverbridgecpas.com.

<u>Topics include:</u>
2018 Tax Reform: Individual Focus. Curious as to how the tax reform bill will affect your personal tax liability? Join Chandra Hisel, Partner at Silver Bridge CPAs for an overview of what has changed in the newly-passed tax reform legislation and strategies for how to best align your personal financial goals.

Status of Global Markets. John Thomas, Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley, will be offering an update on trading in global markets. He will be reviewing recent developments in several global markets and offer some thoughts on where they are likely to go from here.

Retirement Planning: Business Focus. Small businesses have several different options to increase retirement savings and reduce tax liability. Chris Eggleston of Allstate Financial Services will be advising business owners on tax-saving tools and investment choices for the pursuit of their business and personal retirement goals.

Social Security. Learn about topics including when to consider claiming benefits, how being married, divorced or widowed can impact benefits, how to potentially boost your Social Security check, and more! Ron Richards with Franklin Templeton Investments will be on site to discuss strategies for a variety of needs.

2018 Tax Reform: Business Focus. Should tax reform change your business strategy? While there are many exciting changes for business owners, Robyn Mick, Partner at Silver Bridge CPAs will focus on the new Qualified Business Income Deduction. Learn what it is, how qualifying pass-through entities may reduce their business income up to 20%, and whether your business qualifies.

Wills and Trusts. A familiar phrase to all of us is "life happens." The reverse to this phrase is also true: "death happens." Do you need an estate plan? Is a trust right for you? Learn about the elements of an estate plan, and get your basic questions answered during an informative presentation by Jon Bauer, Partner, Hawley Troxell.

REMINDERS

2017 Tax Return Deadlines

Individual	April 17, 2018	
Corporation	April 17, 2018	
Partnership	September 17, 2018	(Extension Deadline)
S Corporation	September 17, 2018	(Extension Deadline)
Exempt Organization	May 15, 2018	
FBAR	April 15, 2018	
Trust	April 17, 2018	

Office Hours
We are currently open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday until April 17th, 2018. Beginning April 18th, 2018, our office hours will change from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and we will be closed Fridays.