



# GENESIS TAX SERVICE, LLC

## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

October 2014

### HI EVERYBODY!!

It's been such a long time since I've done a newsletter that I thought I should bang one out while I have new information to share.

#### E-FILING FEE

For many years electronically filing your tax returns has been free to you as well as to me. However, beginning with the 2014/2015 tax season, my long time tax software provider, Taxwise, will begin charging me a fee of \$10 for each return I e-file. Unfortunately, I will have to pass that cost on to my clients. I will not be making any profit off this new fee. It will all go directly to Taxwise.

#### PAYMENT OF TAX PREP FEES

As many of you know and have experienced, I am *very* liberal when it comes to payment of your tax preparation fees. I take MasterCard, Visa, personal checks, and of course cash. I even take PayPal now! And for those who would prefer to have their fees come out of their refund with no out-of-pocket costs, Fee Collect is available as well. (See below for more info on Fee Collect.) I've even let folks give me post-dated checks or pay in installments.

Beginning this year, I will have to collect payment **BEFORE** I submit your return to the IRS/state. Unfortunately I have been left to chase down too many folks (some of whom I don't catch!) in order to be compensated for a return that has already been completed and filed, and in many instances, refunds issued. For those of you who email, mail, or drop off your returns to me, I will call you when the return is complete to let you know the cost. At that point you can either give me your bank/credit card info over the phone, make arrangements to drop a

check or cash off, or you can pay by PayPal (see below). If you're using Fee Collect, this will not be a concern for you. Returns will **NOT** be submitted until I have been paid.

#### PAYPAL & FEE COLLECT

That's right! Thanks to suggestions from several of you, I am now accepting payments through PayPal! Use my personal email address: [michietbrown@comcast.net](mailto:michietbrown@comcast.net) and click "Payment to Family or Friends."

I am continuing to offer ***FEE COLLECT*** to those who would prefer no out-of-pocket costs. It's a ***FLAT FEE of \$50***. This \$50 fee is ***in addition*** to any tax preparation fees. You will still get your refund in 8-15 days by direct deposit or check. It's quick, easy and available to anyone receiving a refund.

#### ADDITIONAL COPIES OF TAX RETURNS

With so many clients refinancing their homes or preparing children for college, I continue to get a lot of requests for copies of previously filed tax returns. I'm amending my additional copies policies just a bit. ***Additional PAPER copies of your previous years tax returns will continue to be provided at a cost of \$20 per year. If you want the copy scanned and emailed, there will be NO additional charge.*** As always, and to avoid any charge or delay, please keep the hard copy that I provide you in a safe and accessible place.

## WITHHOLDING CALCULATOR

Too many people use the hit-or-miss method of figuring out how much income tax to have withheld from their wages. Well there's a better way. It's called the IRS Withholding Calculator. In a few simple steps you can calculate the accurate amount to have withheld so that you don't have too much or too little taken out (both of which can be a problem). For more information, check the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96196,00.html?portlet=7> (you may have to cut and paste into your browser).

## IDENTITY THEFT AND SCAMS

A number of clients have had the Social Security number of themselves or a family member compromised by someone who has used the SSN to file a fraudulent return. This usually doesn't get discovered until you're attempting to e-file your tax return and finding out that the SSN has already been used by someone else. This is a nationwide problem. The IRS is aware of it and once it is detected there is a process to mitigate it. This is not the same as a situation where a child's absent parent uses the child's SSN before the custodial parent files his/her return (although this happens quite often and there's a process to mitigate that as well), or when your college-age child files their own return without telling you and you go to use them on your return, to find a return has already been filed for them. I'm referring to people who do this kind of fraud on a regular basis. In light of all the data hacking reports in the last year or so, common sense prevails in that you keep your tax returns, SS cards and personal financial information in a secure place.

Another reminder from the IRS: The IRS will **NEVER** contact you by phone about a debt you owe. They will **ALWAYS** contact you by letter first. If you get a call from someone saying they're from the IRS threatening you with arrest or some other foolishness (as my husband recently did, and he doesn't even owe any taxes!), get as much info as you can -- phone number, name, date and time of call -- and report it to the IRS and the FTC. There's a form on the [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) website for reporting such contacts.

## HELPFUL TOOLS

On my website, [www.genesistaxsavings.com](http://www.genesistaxsavings.com), there are several tools at your disposal to help you organize your tax documents. Under the **Resources** tab, there is a [Tax Appointment Checklist](#), which lists most of the things that you'll need when gathering your documents. For my police officers and security guards, there is also a [Police Officer Employee Business Expense](#) form. According to this form, there are probably a lot of expenses that are being overlooked, and we can't have that now can we?

## REFER-A-FRIEND PROGRAM

There are folks out there who haven't cashed their *Refer-a-Friend Program* checks from May! What's up with that? You guys have blessed me with your referrals and I appreciate it more than you know! I've been blessed with many new clients thanks to you, so CASH YOUR CHECK! ☺ For those of you unfamiliar with the *Refer-a-Friend Program*, for every person you refer to GTS who gets their taxes prepared, you get \$10. The new client will get 10% (or more) off their tax preparation fees. Everybody wins, right? So if you have been happy with GTS, please continue to mention me to your family, friends, and co-workers. If you HAVEN'T been happy with my service, please mention it to ME so that I can address your concerns. For those of you who have ignored an envelope from me, *please* open it and cash the check -- it's real money! ☺

## THANKS AND GOD BLESS TO THE GREATEST CLIENTS ON THE PLANET!

I am available all year long for questions and tax preparation services. Feel free to contact me at [mbrown@genesistaxsavings.com](mailto:mbrown@genesistaxsavings.com). I am able to respond the fastest via email. Or you can call the **home office** at **301/283-3372** and I will try to return your call within 24 hours. The office **fax** number changed earlier this year to: **301/283-3532**. Please visit my website at [www.genesistaxsavings.com](http://www.genesistaxsavings.com) for additional information and updates. Have a safe, enjoyable, and blessed holiday season and I look forward to seeing all of you next year!