

A Woman's Perspective

Building Strong Financial Foundations

Engage, Enrich, Enjoy

A *Woman's Perspective* is designed to engage, enrich, and educate you about the importance of proactively managing your financial life.

Having your personal finances in order can give you the peace of mind needed to focus your attention and energy on what is most important in your life—your family, friends, health, and varied life passions.

Author

Kathleen Burns Kingsbury,
LMHC, CPCC
KBK Connections

Women Take an Active Role in Tax Planning

November 19, 2009

Tax planning is an important part of a comprehensive financial plan and an area that some women leave to their husbands, business partners and/or accountants. In an effort to educate women and motivate them to be more involved in the planning process, Silver Bridge sponsored *A Woman's Perspective* luncheon entitled “Effective Tax Planning” on November 17, 2009. The event provided a forum for discussion about how women can, and should, take a more active role in tax planning and educating themselves in order to protect themselves and their families financially.

The luncheon began with a presentation on “The Drowning Dollar” by Michelle Knight, Director of Fixed Income at Silver Bridge. Knight highlighted how the recent decline in the dollar, though significant, needs to be put into context. She stated her belief that the U.S. dollar will likely remain dominant, despite rhetoric indicating otherwise. Knight shared her prediction that “there will be an orderly decline but not a collapse of the dollar” and highlighted the various dollar hedge investment possibilities for the women in attendance to consider in conjunction with their financial advisors.

Following Knight's presentation was a panel discussion on effective tax planning. The panel of experts included Renee C. Knilans, Partner at KPMG, LLP and Karen Lydon, CPA, from Raphael and Raphael, LLP. Dune Thorne, Client Advisor with Silver Bridge and creator of *A Woman's Perspective*, facilitated a dialogue about the many complicated and confusing aspects of tax preparation. Topics included how to read a 1040 Tax Form, when to take itemized deductions, the impact of the alternative minimum tax, recognizing capital gains and how to mitigate taxes associated with wealth transfers.

All participants received a comprehensive Tax Planning Calendar and Tax Preparation Checklist, both aimed at helping them stay on track throughout the year. The panel recommended collecting information and managing paperwork relative to federal and state taxes each fiscal quarter. By monitoring your tax situation throughout the year, you can reduce the stress related to year end tax time and more importantly, save money by mitigating your tax liability.

The bottom line message from the experts was to make time to understand your taxes even if you have someone else such as a CPA, spouse or partner prepare them. By educating yourself and actively engaging in pre-tax planning, you are taking an important step toward building a solid financial foundation—the core message of the Silver Bridge women's initiative.

This article was written by Kathleen Burns Kingsbury, LMHC, CPCC, a wealth coach, writer and professional speaker helping financial service professionals and their clients create wealth from the inside out. For more information about her work, visit www.kbkconnections.com.

This white paper is for informational and educational purposes only. Please consult with your tax advisor and estate planning attorney for more information and to determine the appropriate strategies to address your specific situation.