

# AVON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS DECEMBER 19, 2017- MINUTES

## Introductions

**HOST: Cheryl Case & KT "Suli" Sullivan, Sharing the Light Wholistic Center**

**30-Second Intros:** 22 members attended!

## About Sharing the Light Wholistic Center

Cheryl and Suli reviewed the services offered including:

- Reiki – both are Reiki masters
- Crystal Dreaming – this originated in Australia. The different properties of crystals help you connect with yourself, God, the universe. Crystal Healing Bed – Sessions will be available January 20 and February 17
- Yoga
- Tai Chi
- Movie Nite with popcorn and discussion of the movie
- Readers/Book Discussions
- Wholistic Practitioner group meetings monthly
- Grief groups
- Reflexology
- Drumming and drum building
- Pet Reiki

They have a website, [www.sharingthelightwc.com](http://www.sharingthelightwc.com), and a Facebook page. You can sign up to receive weekly emails.

## Speakers: Tim McCarthy CPA/US Wealth Farmington Valley

**Margaret McCarthy**, Director of Marketing, introduced each member of the firm and gave a brief background of their educations and work histories.

**Sue Davies**, Director of Operations for both companies, indicate they have 9 employees, and Tim McCarthy is the only male. She described her role as client advocate. They attempt to touch their clients 4 times a year as needed. They support multi-state taxes and Schedule C preparation. The tx process starts in October with an engagement letter and retainer. After April 15<sup>th</sup>, they "reintroduce" themselves in May to start the planning process for the next April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Nancy Meunch, CPA**, is the senior member of the firm having 22 years of service with them. She is responsible for training. Nancy indicated she is not a personal proponent of the new tax bill because it has been rushed through the House and Senate. She contacted the 10 Republican Senators who were on the fence, but their response was, not surprisingly, that they were listening to their constituents.

Nancy reviewed what they think will happen with the new tax bill:

1. You may be hurt if you don't itemize because of the elimination of personal exemptions. For example, if you are married with 2 children under the current tax law, you would get a standard deduction of \$12,900 plus \$16,000 in personal exemptions. The new \$24,000 standard deduction will effectively mean your taxable income is increased by \$4,900.
2. Loss of SALT (State and Local Taxes) – The new law limits SALT deductions to \$10,000 which is not hard to reach in Avon, CT. This will hurt taxpayers in high tax states like CA, NY, NJ, CT. While there has been discussion that this will drive people out of these states to places like TX and FL, the fact is that very high-income people were not benefitting from SALT deductions due to the phase out of deductions in the current law. She touched on considering paying what you estimate you owe for state income taxes before the end of 2017 and also property taxes due in January.
3. Mortgage interest will be deductible on existing mortgages of up to \$1 million but only up to \$750,000 on new mortgages.
4. Under the current law, charitable deductions are limited to 50% of your AGI (adjusted gross income) and this is being increased to 60% under the new law. This benefits very few. However, since charitable deductions are not affected by the phase out of deductions, you may want to make them this year. Nancy also reminded everyone that you need to document what you donate and not just hand your tax preparer a receipt.

## **AVON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS DECEMBER 19, 2017- MINUTES**

5. Medical deductions will be limited to expenses exceeding 7.5% of your income versus exceeding 10% in the current law.
6. Unreimbursed Casualty Losses will only be deductible in areas designated as federal disaster areas compared to their treatment now. Nancy mentioned that this could hurt the CT residents with crumbling foundations that have been in the news.
7. 529 Plans, currently usable only for funding post-secondary education, will now be available to pay for private elementary and secondary education up to \$10,000 per year.
8. AMT (alternative minimum tax) is expected to only apply to very high-income taxpayers.
9. The passthrough deduction will allow a 20% business deduction for sole proprietors and owners in partnerships and other non-corporate entities.
10. The estate tax will apply to estates over \$11 million.

Nancy feels the middle class is likely to be adversely affected by this new law will create.

**Manuela Hanshaw, CPA**, gave AWE members a packet of information including a tax calendar, a business tax organizer and a personal tax organizer. She also included an article about SCAMS. She emphasized that the IRS **never** calls you on the phone or emails you. They **always** communicate by letter sent through the US Mail.

Manuela provided Tips for Organizing:

1. Your CPA doesn't want your receipts but you need to keep them – give your CPA a summary
2. Businesses – breakdown your expenses by category using a spreadsheet or a program like QuickBooks.
3. Travel & Entertainment – meals are 50% deductible only if there was a business purpose – document in and the date, amount spent and where you had the meal.
4. Use of a Vehicle – You can either deduct actual costs or use the standard mileage allowance—see which will work for you the first year but be aware that you will have to use the same method in all years thereafter. You can only deduct the amount in excess of any reimbursement you receive. Tolls, parking and taxes are deductible in addition to the standard mileage allowance. Keep good records (e.g., a mileage log). It doesn't need to be fancy. Commuting expense/mileage is not deductible.
5. Home Office – If you have space used exclusively for business, you can deduct it based on the percentage of total square footage of your home. But you need to flip it back to personal use before selling your home or the accumulated depreciation will hurt you

### **Member Announcements:**

- **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:45pm, Whole Health Wellness Center** will be introducing multiple nutrition plans to meet differing needs
- **Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 7:30pm, Super Cellar Warehouse Liquors** will be holding a sparkling wine pop-in event.
- **Susan Lederman, P'zazz** invited members to drop in for last minute gifts. Charmaine Seavy, **CV Media**, gave a recommendation and showed the new insulated cups she ordered with her logo on them.
- **Carol Tsacoyeanes, Ruby Ribbon**, will be holding a big sale between the holidays.

### **Upcoming 2018 Meetings:**

- **January 16 – Host and Presenter PAFY at Residence at Brookside**
- **February 20 – Host and Presenter Hands on Therapy**
- **March 20 – Host Apple Rehab (on Scoville Road), Presenter Ruby Ribbon**
- **April 17 – Host and Presenter Rushford**