

FINANCIAL REPORT

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR IRA?

By Fred T. Snyder

Do you remember the last time you thought about your IRA? Can you even recall how much it's worth today?

For many of us, our IRAs are the last things on our minds. Yet by forgetting to manage them, we neglect an important part of our retirement plan. In spite of tax law changes a few years ago that, for many of us, eliminated the deductibility of IRA contributions, IRAs continue to offer a significant opportunity in any retirement strategy. Nearly 75 percent of all American wage earners still qualify for full or partial deductions. And even without the deduction, an IRA's ability to grow tax-free until distributions are made makes it a powerful investment vehicle.

Tax-deferred compounding is as important as the tax deduction.

Whether you qualify for a deduction or not, when you contribute to an IRA, you enjoy an important benefit of IRA investing: tax-deferred compounding of earnings. No matter what your age or income level, this can make a dramatic difference in the savings you'll have available at retirement.

If you're not sure if you qualify for a full or partial tax deduction, check with your financial advisor or tax accountant. They can answer your questions about current guidelines and criteria.

Pensions and Social Security may not be enough.

The average life expectancy in the U.S. is now nearly 80 years, with many Americans spending up to one-third of their lives in retirement. Most will need 80 percent of their pre-retirement income to maintain a comfortable lifestyle.

But for the vast majority of us, retirement might not be fully financed by employer-provided pensions or Social Security benefits. Many company retirement plans are now less generous than they once were. And in the next century there may not be enough people in the work force to fund Social Security benefits to today's levels. Clearly, when it comes to a comfortable retirement, we all need to take charge and actively manage our investments.

It's never too early to start contributing to an IRA. And, though you can never make up for lost time or opportunity, the sooner you start, the more you may be able to accumulate.

The Keys to Successful IRA Management

Follow the IRA calendar. IRA contributions can be made as early as January 1 of each tax-year, up until April 15 of the following year. The earlier you contribute, the sooner you begin enjoying the tax-deferred advantage on amounts earned on your contributions.

Take advantage of the benefits of consolidation.

If you have IRAs scattered among several financial institutions, it may help to consolidate them with one trustee. You may have fewer annual fees to pay and recordkeeping will be much easier.

Consolidation also makes it much simpler for you to keep

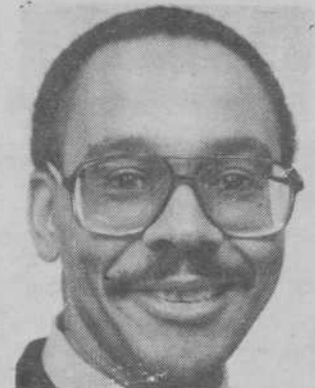
track of your investments and the status of your retirement fund. Transferring IRAs from one custodian to another can be very easy.

Take an active role in managing your account.

Use tax season as the time for an annual review of your IRA investments. Your financial advisor can help determine

whether your IRAs are meeting your retirement goals and decide if a change in investment strategy is in order. Remember, you can switch IRA investments without affecting the tax-deferred status of your accounts, if you follow the rollover or trustee transfer rules.

April 15 is coming up fast. Call my office and make your



FRED T. SNYDER

IRAs work harder for you. Fred Snyder is an investment advisor for Union Equity Partners.

BUSINESS

MINORITY PURCHASING SEMINAR HELPS COORDINATORS ENHANCE LOCAL EFFORTS

Minority business coordinators from Centel and Nevada Power Company recently attended an intensive two-day minority purchasing seminar at San Diego.

Dawn Davidson of Centel and Carol Ignatowski of Nevada Power attended the seminar, sponsored by TRY US Resources, Inc. and the National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM).

"The seminar focused on providing a rationale and practical applications for establishing or enhancing minority purchasing programs," said Davidson.

Topics covered included developing minority purchasing programs, sources and team-

work. The seminar was conducted by Joseph R. Hudson, former president and chief executive officer of a small construction firm and a presidential appointee to the White House program for Executive Exchange.

"Mr. Hudson is a dynamic speaker and his list of success stories include a wealth of ideas and proven methods for a total quality minority business program that allows everyone to win," said Ignatowski.

"This is definitely a program that calls for shared ideas," added Davidson. "I loved the opportunity to network with other purchasing professionals from across the country."

The 25 seminar attendees included representatives from Southern California Edison, Bell Canada, Moore Business



DAWN DAVIDSON
CENTEL

Minority Business Coordinator Forms, Allied Signal, Ohio Community College, the City of Denver and the Walt Disney Company.

All southern Nevada utility companies, including Southwest Gas and Centel Cellular, are making a joint effort to establish



CAROL IGNATOWSKI
NEVADA POWER

Minority Business Coordinator and maintain strong business relationships with minority and women-owned businesses.

To register interest in doing business with either company, contact Davidson at Centel, 877-7598 and Ignatowski at Nevada Power, 367-5168.

MONEY MANAGEMENT DEDUCTING COMMUTING & TRAVEL COSTS

Whether you're an employee of self-employed, the Nevada Society of CPAs points out that many business-related travel expenses are tax-deductible.

• Limit on Employee Travel Expenses

If you're an employee, unreimbursed travel and transportation expenses are deductible as

miscellaneous expenses. However, only the amount of miscellaneous expenses in excess of 2 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) is tax-deductible.

Additionally, itemized deductions are reduced by 3 percent of AGI above \$105,250 (\$52,625 if you are married filing separately). The travel expenses of

self-employed individuals are not subject to these limitations.

• Commuting Locally

Generally, you may not deduct the cost of commuting between your home and workplace. However, if you work two jobs, you are eligible to claim a deduction for the transportation expenses incurred in getting from one job to another in the same working day. The deduction is disallowed if you stop at your home between jobs.

Keep in mind that in the eyes of the IRS, business driving generally consists of the miles you drive between two business locations — for example, your office and the offices of a client. If you have no regular office and

(See Money Mgt, Page 7)

FIND YOUR FUTURE AT

ACI AMERICAN COMPUTER INSTITUTE

Quality Career Training

Since 1983

IN

- COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING
- INFORMATION PROCESSING
- MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE
- PROGRAMMING
- BUSINESS APPLICATIONS
- SECRETARIAL
- OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Day and Evening Classes

Career Placement Assistance

Financial Aid for Qualified Applicants

Customized Training Programs



798-4455

ACCET

ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING

AMERICAN COMPUTER INSTITUTE
2389 RENAISSANCE DRIVE • SUITE A

ULMAR'S TAX SERVICE

Tax Expert
Bookkeeping Services
For Small Businesses

4449 Cloverdale Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89121

ULMAR J. PALROSE, SR.
(702) 458-7919