

Powers & Company

PO Box 882 854
Mahopac, NY 10541
Tel: (845) 803-8753
www.tax-power.com

January 13, 2017

Although some of you may have already received our letter mailed January 1, I would like to remind those who stop by that we are now in a new office located less than 5 miles away at a much nicer location, 854 Route 6 (Front Office #), Mahopac, N.Y. Note that we have retained our phone number above (the information found on the internet is incorrect). Also we are leaving for vacation after April 17 and will be closed between April 18 and April 24, 2017 so please send your tax information early, by April 1 if possible.

I would also like to bring to your attention that although there was no major tax legislation reform for 2016, there ARE MANY administrative changes that you need to be aware of prior to sending us your information to prepare your tax returns. Although there are too many to list all in this letter, they are available on the Tax Power website (address above), some are listed below:

- **IDENTIFICATION:** NY and many other states now require a driver's license or other identification number to process your tax returns. Please provide us a copy of your driver's license with your other tax information.
 - **Earned Income and Additional Child Care Credits:**
 - IRS will be delaying issuance of entire tax refunds that include either or both of these refundable tax credits by 5 weeks throughout the entire tax season with the first refunds scheduled for the week of February 27. So be sure if you qualify for these credits to provide us with your tax information as early as possible to expedite your refunds.
 - We are now required to expand our "due diligence" verification before preparing and efilng any tax returns that claim these credits. This involves obtaining a copy of a child dependent's social security card, birth certificate and a letter from a school or physician that shows the child's name with the same physical home address as the person filing the tax return.
 - The American Opportunity Credit for eligible educational costs may be denied if information is incomplete or erroneous. Be sure to provide a copy of any Form 1098-T that you receive and verify that the information in Box 1 (Actual amounts paid for tuition, books and lab fees) is correct. Only qualified expenses ACTUALLY Paid (may be through student or other loans, credit cards or cash) qualify for the credit.
 - Should the IRS deny the American Opportunity Credit for any tax return they will NOT honor that credit for 10 YEARS!
 - Be sure to check the "Tax Power" website for all other important tax information.
- Sincerely,



Powers & Company

2016 Income Tax Organizer

*Powers & Company
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Powers & Company 2016 General Tax Organizer

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December 29, 2016

Although our Mailing Address remains PO Box 882 as above. our office location has moved to the FORD Building located at 854 Route 6 in Mahopac, NY. Enter the front of the building on Route 6 and one flight up enter the waiting room on the left. We are Office # 1 on the left. Although we don't have our name outside the building yet, our name is on the front of the office door.

Our web site remains the same which is where you can download our tax preparation checklist. Below are some important IRS changes that you will need to be aware of:

1. **Health Care**-Be sure to confirm that everyone in the family has health care and if not tell us who was not covered and for what months as the IRS will be cross checking with the insurance carriers and penalizing those without coverage. Be sure to provide your Forms 1095 that you get in the mail, be it from your employer, the Exchange or private carrier, as without this information the IRS will not let us prepare your tax return.
2. **Earned Income, Child Care and Educational Credits:** Be sure to provide not only forms that you receive in the mail, but the details of tuition and books actually paid during the year for educational credits as well as details of expenses paid for qualifying dependents to enable you to go to work. IRS now insists that we see some proof that the dependent lives with you, like a letter from the school or doctor that has the dependent's address on it. Although you are ultimately responsible for information provided to us, IRS will not allow us to claim these credits without due diligence and can revoke our license.
3. **Foreign Pensions, Investments and Bank Accounts:** IRS is now cross checking information with foreign financial institutions and looking for U.S. information returns that match third party information. What is new this year is that if you have a foreign pension or retirement plan that is not a foreign EMPLOYER plan (or rollover into a plan within the same country from an old job), most private retirement plans will be treated as trusts and require that we prepare and file special Forms 3520. IRS is giving the opportunity to voluntarily catch up on prior years without penalty provided that it is done now before they discover non compliance and contact taxpayers.

We will do our best to update our website as new information becomes available regarding IRS notices, audits and changes in the tax law which are going to be drastic with the new administration.

Warm regards,



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- The tax organizer is intended as a general guide to assembling your income tax documents that are needed to prepare your income tax returns (s). Please complete the general section and provide original documents whenever possible to support your income, deductions and credits. We may need to contact you for additional information with any questions. Please provide both email addresses and telephone numbers where we can contact you. We will also need your email address to send you the Form 8879 authorizing us to file your income tax return when it is completed if you are unable to visit the office. *We also need a copy of Form 1095 that you receive from your health plan(s).*

Please read the information published on our website to ensure that you are in compliance with all tax laws. One of the most significant changes for certain domestic tax filers are the rules regarding our due diligence and IRS reporting requirements as they relate to those who claim the Earned Income Credit (“EIC”) subsidy. These changes went into effect in 2012 but are now being strictly enforced by the IRS. Although this only pertains to lower income taxpayers, if you claim the additional earned income tax credit subsidy, you **MUST** provide us with copies of documents from schools or doctors showing that your dependent lived with you and must provide us with a signed statement that the person lives with you and that you provide more than 50% of the support.

The IRS and most states also require that we receive a signed copy of Form 8879 AND the state efile authorization form prior to us electronically filing your tax return. Please be sure to provide us with a valid email address so we can send this form to you that it may be signed and returned to us with the fee before electronic filing. To expedite the filing of your return and the time it takes to obtain your refund (the IRS announced EIC refunds be delayed again this year) our organizer will also include your authorization for tax refunds and payments to be processed by your bank as well as our fees to be paid for which we will need your authorization and valid bank routing and account numbers. When we send you the Form 8879 efile authorization we will also provide a copy of our invoice for you to indicate the date that we are authorized to debit your account for the fee. Any taxes owed with the return will be scheduled for April 15, 2017 unless we are instructed by you that they should be paid sooner.

Remember to include all income from all GLOBAL sources (including gambling income and losses, interest, dividends, pensions, foreign employer contributions and any cross country transfers to foreign pension accounts and income from foreign pensions (unless exempted by treaty foreign pension fund earnings are taxable), etc. as well as taxes paid to foreign jurisdictions for deductions and credits to lower the tax on foreign income.

- **PLEASE BE SURE TO PROVIDE US WITH YOUR CURRENT BANKING INFORMATION INCLUDING THE BANK NAME AND ROUTING NUMBER AND THE ACCOUNT NUMBER THAT YOU WANT TO USE FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT OF REFUNDS OR PAYMENT OF TAX DUE. ALSO, PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH ANY OTHER TAX INFORMATION EVEN IF NOT LISTED ON THE TAX ORGANIZER (ON COLUMN 1 THE WEBSITE).**

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Part I-Identifying Information (Please Print)

Taxpayer _____

First Name	Mid. Init.	Last Name	Social Sec. Number	Date of Birth
Occupation		Work Phone (Ext)	Best Time to Call	

Spouse _____

First Name	Mid. Init.	Last Name	Social Sec. Number	Date of Birth
Occupation		Work Phone (Ext)	Best Time to Call	

Residence _____

Street Address	Apt. No.	City	State	Zip Code
Home Phone	Best time to call	e-mail address		

How many months during the year did you reside at this address?

If less than an entire year, provide former address and dates of residence

Name of the State and City in which you worked and dates worked

Part II-Federal Filing Status (Please check your filing status)

- Single
 Married Filing Jointly
 Married Filing separately
 Check this box if you did not live with your spouse any time during the year.
 Check this box if you are able to claim your spouse's exemption
 UNMARRIED Head of Household
 If the "qualifying child" is not your dependent enter child's:
 Name : _____
 Social security number _____
 Qualifying widow(er) Enter the year your spouse died: _____

Part III-Dependent Information (List your dependent's information)

First Name	MI	Last Name	Not a US Res	Date of Birth	Social Security Number	Relationship to taxpayer	No. Months Lived Home

PLEASE PROVIDE UPDATED BANKING INFORMATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT OF REFUNDS OR PAYMENT OF TAX DUE, INCLUDING BANK NAME, ROUTING AND ACCOUNT NUMBERS.

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- ***We need a copy of Form 1095 that you receive from ALL health plan(s).***
- IF YOU CLAIM THE EARNED INCOME and/or CHILD/DEPENDENT CREDIT WE NEED TO SEE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS SUBSTANTIATING THE DEPENDENCY EXEMPTION CLAIMED FOR THE QUALIFYING PERSON. IF SELF EMPLOYED WE NEED COPIES OF BANK STATEMENT TO EVIDENCE YOUR INCOME and CHILD AND/OR DEPENDENT'S ADDRESS. WE CAN'T PREPARE THE RETURN WITHOUT IT
- Presidential Election Campaign Fund: Do you want \$3 to go to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund? Taxpayer.....Yes___ No___ Spouse.....Yes___ No___
- Were you in a Combat Zone in 2016? Taxpayer.....Yes___ No___
- Disability: Are you permanently and totally disabled?
Taxpayer Yes___ No___ Spouse Yes___ No___
- Blindness: Is either taxpayer legally blind? Please indicate: Taxpayer___ Spouse___
- Dependent Filer If someone (such as your parent) can claim you as a dependent, please check the appropriate box: Taxpayer ___ Spouse ___
- Decedent: Taxpayer: Date of death..._____ Spouse: Date of Death.....
- Did you incur expenses to care for a dependent while you worked? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, provide details of all expenses, including the name, address, tax ID number and the amount paid each care provider during the tax year.
- Amount you incurred for adoption expense. Provide details.
- Dependents under 23 years of age: Special rules apply regarding tax rates, dependency exemption deduction and tuition credits. To accurately calculate the lowest family tax and avoid problems all tax returns for all family members should be prepared together.
- Low income NY State Renters' credit: If you rent your NY residence what was your rent for 2016? \$_____
- Certain energy saving home improvements or appliances? See web site and provide details.
- Were you a volunteer EMS, USCG Auxiliarist or firefighter? Provide details.

Tax Payment Information:

Provide information regarding all tax payments made for estimated tax, tax assessment notices, etc.

Foreign Employment/Residence and Non U.S. Taxpayers:

If you are an American taxpayer who worked or resided any portion of the year outside the U.S., or a foreign citizen who worked in the U.S., please provide details. Special rules apply. Please provide us with the following information for both spouses (if married):

- Countries of citizenship and residence
- All travel information within and without the U.S. for the year
- Visa and immigration information (copies of all documents)
- Green card status
- Employment information and earnings within and without the U.S.
- Details of all U.S. source and global income for the year.
- Copies of all tax returns filed in countries OTHER than the U.S. for the year.
- Your U.S. filing status depends on several factors based on complex U.S. rules that pertain to non-resident and resident aliens of the U.S. Based on the information that you provide we will determine the appropriate filing status and make appropriate filing status elections should they be beneficial to you.

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Foreign Bank Accounts: NEW DUE DATE APRIL 15 If you have foreign bank accounts or other foreign assets please read our website regards your filing responsibilities. If you own, or have signing authority over any foreign bank accounts you need to inform us. If the aggregate of the foreign account balances is greater than \$10,000 we need to file a separate Form 114, by **APRIL 15!** If the aggregate balance of all foreign financial assets is over \$50,000 at year end or \$75,000 at any time during the year we may need the details to report on your tax return. Contact us regarding questions or information that we require. The penalty for not filing these forms is \$10,000 per form for each year they are not filed.

GIFTS or INHERITENCE FROM FOREIGN PERSONS, ESTATES OR TRUSTS of \$100,000 or more must be reported to the IRS on Form 3520. Failure to file this report is \$10,000.

Owners of foreign businesses need to file tax reports Form 5471 each year and the penalty for not filing is \$10,000 per form/per year.

OWNERS OF FOREIGN GRANTOR TRUSTS must file form 3520 annually reporting information between the foreign trust and the U.S. beneficiary or administrator. The penalty for failure to file is \$10,000. Most non-employee foreign pensions are foreign trusts!

FOREIGN MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS must also be reported on Form 3520 and may be subject to certain tax penalties. Contact us if this applies to you.

COPIES OF YOUR 2015 TAX RETURNS: **If you are a new client,** please send us copies of your 2015 personal income tax returns. *Existing client's copies are on file*

The following is a checklist to ensure that you provide us with all the information that we need. If an area does not apply to you simply write N/A.

INCOME :

- Wages:** Enclose copies of ALL your Forms W-2 which you received from your employer(s) plus information for other compensation received.
- Self Employment and Misc. Income:** Enclose copies of ALL your Forms 1099 MISC which you received from work performed as an independent contractor as well as other income such as prizes, lottery, etc.
- Interest & Dividends:** Enclose copies of ALL Forms 1099 INT and 1099 DIV which you received from banks and financial institutions from your savings and investments plus foreign income.
- Income from U.S. Series EE and Series I Savings bonds.**
- State Income Tax Refunds:** Please send a copy of your notice of state income tax refund that confirms the amount of state and local tax refund you received. If you do not have this, kindly verify that the amount that you received was the same as the amount claimed on last year's state tax return.
- Alimony Received:** If you received alimony pursuant to a divorce or legal separation agreement, this amount is subject to tax. Amounts specified as child support are NOT taxable. Please provide the following information:

_____	_____	\$ _____
Name of former spouse (payer)	Payer's Soc Sec #	Amount Received

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- ❑ Pension and Annuity Income: If you received income or distributions from pension, annuity, IRAs or 401(k) Plans, etc. provide a copy of any Forms 1099R you received. Foreign pensions are taxable as well.
- ❑ IRA withdrawals: If you were under age 59 ½, indicate the reason for each withdrawal.
- ❑ Unemployment Compensation: Provide a copy of any Unemployment Form 1099.
- ❑ Social Security Benefits: Provide copies of statements received from the Social Security.
- ❑ Capital Gains from Investments: Sent copies Form(s) 1099B.
- ❑ Other Gains and Other Income: If you sold other properties during the year, please provide copies of all documents or other information which substantiate both the purchase price and the selling price of each property. Also provide a listing of (type and amount) and any other documentation relating to any other income which you received during the year (including income from estates and trusts. Gains of up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly) from the sale of your home are excluded provided that you used the house as your primary residence for 2 of the last 5 years before the sale. Different rules apply to Combat Zone Veterans or if you acquired the home in a tax free Sec. 1035 exchange. **The exclusion from gain of vacation property converted to personal residence is now restricted.**
- ❑ Employee Stock Options and Awards: Provide details and all supporting documentation
- ❑ GAMBLING INCOME-Please provide BOTH all Forms W-2G for each gambling winnings from casinos and the lottery in addition to the year-end summary that is available from each casino showing your net gambling winnings and losses. Also inform us of the total gambling winnings for which a W2-G was not provided as well as lottery or other gambling losses not reported on the casino summary.

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Self Employment, Income :

- Partnerships or Sub S Corps: Provide copies of any Form(s) K-1 which you received
- Self Employment from sole proprietorships or Single Member LLCs:
INCOME: Provide copies of all Form(s) 1099 MISC you received. Also please provide a list of your Self Employment income received from self employment activities which are not included in Form(s) 1099 MISC or K-1s. List this income by type (services, merchandise sales, commissions, sales tax collected, etc) and amount.

Expenses: Provide a list of all expenses connected with your self employment earnings. List the expenses by type including sub categories (Taxes/ Sales Tax, Property Tax, etc) and amount for each category or sub-category. Include all cost details for major asset purchases.

AUTO & TRUCK Expenses. Provide all mileage details including 1) Total miles driven for the year, 2) Business Miles for the year, 3) Miles spent **COMMUTING** to your business office for the year for each vehicle used and the details (year, make, model) for each vehicle. Also provide odometer reading at beginning and end of year.

Also provide summary of auto expenses by category, fuel, maintenance, repairs, insurance, etc. We will compute the greatest deduction permitted.

List other **BUSINESS** expenses such as overnight travel and lodging (details), insurance, office supplies, telephone, internet, etc.

Retirement and Medial Savings/Insurance Deduction. Self employed individuals can take above the line **INCOME TAX** deduction for health insurance and contributions made to **Keogh/SEP/SIMPLE** plans: Enter the type of plan and contributions made for the tax year. Please provide details.

NOTE! Contributions made to retirement plans and medical insurance premiums paid by sole proprietors or owners of Subchapter S Corporations are **NOT** deductible when computing Self Employment (Social Security) taxes.

Rent and Royalty Income:

- Royalty Income:** Provide copies of all Form(s) 1099 MISC for royalties received. Please also list any expenses you incurred in connection with earning royalties received.
- Rental Income Property:**
 - Property Information:** Provide a detailed list of all rental properties acquired and improvements made. Indicate the dates, description of property or improvement, cost and depreciation information to ensure that proper depreciation deductions are claimed. We cannot prepare your return without this information.
 - For each property listed please indicate if you or your family used the property for t more than 14 days or 10% rented at the fair market value during the year. _____YES
_____NO
 - Did you materially participate in the collection of rents and management of the property?
_____YES _____NO

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RENTAL INCOME EXPENSES:

- INCOME:** For each property list all rents received and provide copies of any Form(s) 1099.
- INTEREST-**Provide copies of all Form(s) 1098 for interest paid on mortgages.
- REAL ESTATE TAX-** Provide copies of documents.
- ALL OTHER RENTAL EXPENSES:** For each property list all expenses including advertising, travel to and from the property, cleaning and maintenance, commissions, property insurance, professional and property management fees, mortgage interest, repairs (describe each repair and cost), maintenance, RE taxes, utility costs (telephone, electric, gas-list separately), heating, property owner dues, telephone expenses, any other expenses connected with the property.

ADJUSTMENTS TO GROSS INCOME

- IRA Deduction and Information-**Provide all Forms 5498 and 1099-R received. Deposits for the year may be made at any time during the tax year and up through April 15. **NOTE: ROTH IRA contributions are NOT deductible.**

Traditional IRA deposits: Taxpayer \$ _____ Spouse \$ _____

If you contributed to a deductible IRA please send me your tax information before March 10 so you have time to withdraw any excess contributions by April 15.

- Qualified Higher Education expenses** (including vocational schools). Provide details concerning the name and social security number of the student and relationship to the taxpayer, amount of enrollment tuition and fees paid to the institutions and the name and address of the school.
- Student Loan Interest** (provide documentation) paid \$ _____
- Teachers and teacher's aids:** What did you spend for teaching material during the year that was not reimbursed? \$ _____
- Certain energy saving devices and home improvements** qualify for tax credits. See web site for details.
- Moving Expense Connected with Employment** or self employment may deductible. Provide an itemized list of all moving expenses paid by you or your employer and all employer reimbursements received. Provide copies of all documents received from your employer.
- Alimony paid:** Enter amount paid \$ _____ Recipient's Soc Sec No. _____
- Medical Savings and Health Savings Account** (Provide information). Note that the tax on distributions NOT used for qualifying medical expenses is now increased to 20%. See web site for changes.

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ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

Medical Expenses: Provide a complete listing of your medical expenses, by category, which were not reimbursed by medical insurance benefits. Include auto mileage and other transportation costs seeking medical treatment and therapy (including meetings). INCLUDE long term care premiums.

Taxes: Real Estate \$ _____ (provide copies of receipts)
State & Local Income Tax \$ _____ (in ADDITION to withholding)

Personal Property Tax (important for CT residents) \$ _____

Sales Tax: You can deduct the greater of STATE income tax paid or State Sales Tax Paid-not both.

If your sales tax paid is greater than income tax withheld enter this amount , You are responsible for

keeping receipts to verify this on audit. \$ _____ (do not provide us with receipts)

Foreign income taxes: \$ _____

Mortgage Interest:

Interest paid to financial institutions and private lenders for mortgages on:
Primary Residence \$ _____

Second Home \$ _____ NOTE: A second home is defined as any facility that provides sleeping, cooking and toilet accommodations, including boats, mobile homes or RV's that provide the required accommodations.

Other Real Property and second mortgages: Provide details and documents:

Description/Explanation	Interest Paid
Investment interest (i.e. Margin Account Interest)	\$ _____

■ Mortgage Life Insurance Premiums are deductible (mortgage company must be beneficiary! If you had MLI what were your premiums? \$ _____

■ Charitable Contributions:

Cash: List the names and amounts donated in cash.

Property: List the name of the charity, description and the fair market value of each property donated. Provide signed receipts for property valued for more than \$500 showing the tax ID number and address of the charity. Gifts over \$5,000-Attach Form 8283 signed by an appraiser. NOTE! The Congress has instructed the IRS to closely scrutinize donations of cars and boats for excessive deductions and you will no longer get a full deduction for the Kelley Blue Book Retail FMV! Instead you can now only deduct the amount of cash received by the charity when the car was sold. Form 1098-C must be obtained from the donee if you donated a car or boat or no deduction is allowed!

Carryover deductions from prior years (provide schedule)

Personal mileage for charitable purposes: _____ miles

Volunteer/Auxiliary Fire, SAR, Police, Coast Guard, etc.: Uniforms, equipment, training, phone and other UNREIMBURSED expenses are deductible. Provide details in order to claim any state benefits available.

MAJOR Casualty or Theft Losses: If you incurred any major losses during the year relating to property thefts or other casualty losses, please provide a complete description of each event and a detailed list of all properties lost or damaged.

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Other Expenses:

Tax preparation fees \$ _____
Investment expenses (describe) \$ _____
Safe Deposit Boxes to hold investment property \$ _____
Business and Investment Publications \$ _____
Other Expenses: (Continued)

Unreimbursed business expenses:

Please provide a descriptive list of all business related expenses (job travel expenses, union dues, protective clothing, uniforms and equipment, job education, etc.) for which you received no reimbursement from your employer (or for which reimbursement was included in your W-2).

Note: If you deduct business expenses you are required to maintain a detailed journal of all expenses which include the who, what, where, when and why pertaining to each day's business activities. You are also required to maintain receipts for your expenses.

- Other expenses connected with the production of income \$ _____
 Adoption expenses. If you incurred expenses adopting a child under the age of 18 or a disabled person unable to care for him or her self please provide all details and an itemized list of related expenses paid during the year.

OTHER: NY, CT and NJ residents may be entitled to low income property tax rebates. Send us your tax bills! If you rent tell us your monthly rent expense.

Taxpayer's Declaration (If married BOTH spouses must sign)

To the best of my knowledge, the information included in this tax organizer, which is used for the preparation of my income tax return(s), is true, accurate and correct, and that I have the necessary documentation to substantiate the deductions claimed on my return. I also hereby authorize Andrew Powers to electronically file my return and agree to sign and return the IRS authorization file promptly once the return has been prepared if it has not already been provided to the authorized efile provider.

Taxpayer's Signature

Date

Spouse's Signature

Date

Note that this page MUST be signed and returned to us.