



**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
Get to know our Staff!



William "Bill"  
Morrissey, CFP®  
President

## Firm Update

We are quite excited about some of the changes that have been happening at Sound Financial Planning Inc. As many of you know already, we have been investing more of our client portfolios in Dimensional Fund Advisors. They have identified compelling academic research and applied it to practical investing. Their goal has been to add value over benchmarks through an integrated and robust investment process.

We have decided to move our client accounts from Shareholders Service Group to TD Ameritrade Institutional. After careful consideration we have concluded that TD Ameritrade offers the best value for our clients. TD Ameritrade is a leader as a custodian for Investment Advisors and their clients. They are also a leader in voicing their

support for Investment Advisors.

We have transitioned our entire technology solution to External IT which is a nationally renowned cloud based firm that works primarily with financial advisors. Their security is far more robust than what is available locally. It has been really nice to not worry about this anymore since they do a great job.

We have been using interns as well from some of the top financial planning undergraduate and graduate programs in the country. Eventually we plan to hire one of them. They bring a lot of energy to our firm and have been great to work with.

Please let us know anything we can do to make your client experience exceptional. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you!

## “ Sound Financial Planning Was featured in the Seattle Times ”

**Tamera "Tammy" Prouty**, vice president of **Sound Financial Planning**, helps Michelle and Jack Ireton, of Seattle, with a free financial makeover through the Puget Sound Chapter of the Financial Planning Association. To read the article go to [seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com).

## Which Financial Documents Should You Keep On File? ... and for how long?

You might be surprised how many people have financial documents scattered all over the house – on the kitchen table, underneath old newspapers, in the hall closet, in the basement. If this describes your financial “filing system”, you may have a tough time keeping tabs on your financial life.

**Organization will help you, your advisors ... and even your heirs.** If you've got a meeting scheduled with an accountant, financial consultant, mortgage lender or insurance agent, spare yourself a last-minute scavenger hunt. Take an hour or two to put things in good order. If nothing else, do it for your heirs. When you pass,

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your earnings record from the day you started working. Please note, however: if you see an error, you will want to have your W-2 or tax return for the particular year on hand to help Social Security correct it.<sup>2</sup>

### **Federal and state tax returns.**

The IRS wants you to hang onto your returns until the period of limitations runs out – that is, the time frame in which you can claim a credit or refund. The standard IRS audit looks at your past three years of federal tax records. So you need to keep three years of federal (and state) tax records on hand, and up to seven years to be really safe. Tax records pertaining to real property or “real assets” should be kept for as long as you own the asset (and for at least seven years after you sell, exchange or liquidate it).<sup>3</sup>

### **Payroll statements.**

What if you own a business or are self-employed? Retain your payroll statements for seven years or longer, just in case the IRS comes knocking.

### **Employee benefits statements.**

Keep at least the most recent year-end statement on file.

### **Insurances.**

Life, disability, health, auto, home ... you want the policies on file, and you want policy information on hand for the life of the policy plus three years.

### **Medical records and health insurance.**

The consensus says you should keep these documents around for five years after the surgery or the end of treatment. If you think you can claim

When they expire, toss them.

### **Utility bills.**

Do you need to keep these around for more than a month? No, you really don't.

Check last month's statement against this month's, then get rid of last month's bill.

**If this seems like too much paper to file, buy a sheet-fed scanner.** If you want to get really sophisticated, you can buy one of these and use it to put financial records on your computer.

You might want to have the hard copies on file just in case your hard drive and/or your flash drive go awry.

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### **Citations.**

1 - [blog.oregonlive.com/finance/2011/05/why\\_you\\_might\\_want\\_to\\_save\\_for.html](http://blog.oregonlive.com/finance/2011/05/why_you_might_want_to_save_for.html) [5/21/11]

2 - [ssa.gov/pubs/10081.html](http://ssa.gov/pubs/10081.html) [10/12/12]

3 - [irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed](http://irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed)

**(DFA) Conference in Santa Monica.**

**In February 2015, Tammy and Bill attended the Puget Sound Chapter of the Financial Planning Association's Annual Symposium in Seattle.**

## **CONGRATULATIONS to the United Way of San Juan County where our very own, Bill Morrissey, is President!**

They just completed their annual grant allocations of \$108,156 to 31 screened local agencies that primarily serve families and children. These nonprofits provide a community safety net that is vital to the community.

## **GET TO KNOW US: Where is your favorite place?**



**Bill Morrissey**

My favorite place to vacation in the summer is where I live on San Juan Island. The San Juan Islands are a beautiful piece of paradise with spectacular views, Orca whales, pristine environment, and great places to hike and kayak. In the winter my favorite is the Caribbean



**Tammy Prouty**

Hawaiian Paradise of course! My favorite adventures include Kayaking up the Wailua River then hiking a mile to the "Secret waterfall" in Kauai. Golfing at Kapalua and Wailea, Blue Water rafting into Kanaio Sea Caves and snorkeling off the backside of Molokini is like looking down into

Tammy Prouty teaching at Mount Vernon High School for Junior Achievement.





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**Over 30 Years of Financial  
Planning and Investment  
Advisory Service**

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## CONNECT WITH US



*Harmonizing your money with your life.*

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