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Registered Investment Advisor

[www.VintageFS.com](http://www.VintageFS.com)

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## *From the Grapevine...*

We're excited to announce that we've won the *Investment News* Best Practices award—again! The national award has been given annually since 2013 and this year was given to just seventeen firms. The award recognizes the top-performing and most innovative firms in the financial advice industry. Vintage was also a winner in the inaugural year when six firms received the honor.

We've added two more Senior Advisors to our team at Vintage. Tammy Wakevainen, a CPA with over 25 year's experience in taxes, joined us in September. Set Carpintero, a CFP with eight year's industry experience, moved to Ann Arbor from St. Petersburg, FL to join us last month. Both are supported by our growing team which now numbers fifteen.

See more about Tammy and Set on page three and the rest of the team on our website at [www.vintagefs.com](http://www.vintagefs.com).

## SHOULD YOU PAY MORE TAXES THIS YEAR?

Tax planning typically is focused on reducing your tax bill each year and accountants will often recommend strategies to cut your tax bill in the current or prior tax year. And many financial advisors will work to take tax losses at year-end to reduce your taxable income for the year. But that's not always the best strategy.

Under current tax laws, taxpayers in the 12% federal tax bracket or below (\$78,950 in taxable income for joint filers or \$39,475 for single) can pay no federal taxes on long term capital gains and qualified dividends. This presents a great opportunity for people to sell positions and increase their cost basis to avoid ever paying tax on a gain.

There can also be times when it makes sense to convert some of a Traditional IRA account to a Roth and pay more in taxes this year in order to avoid paying taxes at a higher rate in the future. Effective tax planning needs to consider taxable income and rates, not just in the current year, but over the next decade or more, especially with federal tax brackets scheduled to increase in a few years.

For most of our clients, income taxes are their biggest expense. With our proactive tax planning and extensive expertise, we can add substantial value on the tax side in addition to the investment and financial planning areas. To see how we can help you, contact our office.

## SAVINGS BONDS A POTENTIAL ESTATE PROBLEM

While the odds of holding a stock certificate in your drawer or safe nowadays is low, many clients still have paper savings bonds. They purchased them with their tax refund, through a payroll deduction, or received them as gifts over the years. What they don't realize is that savings bonds present a potential estate planning surprise – and could go through probate if they don't feature a joint owner or beneficiary.

There's also the issue of organization: Do your loved ones know where to find them if something were to happen?

A little bit of work can save you and your loved ones some headaches and ensure these investments don't get lost in the shuffle. The US Treasury, through their website [TreasuryDirect.gov](https://www.treasurydirect.gov), allows you to create an account and convert your paper E and EE savings bonds to electronic form.

Creating an account is simple and only takes a few minutes. To make the process go smoothly, be sure to have your Driver's License, Social Security number, and a voided check on hand.

Once you submit your information, you'll be required to set up a password and some security questions – comparable to opening an online account with Schwab or Raymond James. They'll send you an email with your account number, which you'll use to login.

Now that you're set up, you can establish a "Conversion Linked Account" to convert existing paper bonds to electronic form. The process takes a few steps – adding the registrations, listing out the bond serial numbers, and ultimately mailing them to the Treasury to finalize the conversion.

The Treasury will convert them to electronic form, and you'll be able to add a secondary owner or beneficiary after they move to your regular account from the Conversion Linked Account.

Be sure to let your loved ones know about the account and what they need to do to access it if something were to happen to you.

A little effort now can save time and probate costs in the long run – and make it easier to keep track of your savings bonds and what they are worth.

## TRUSTED CONTACTS

Many financial custodians are now encouraging clients to name a trusted contact for their accounts. A trusted contact is someone that Raymond James or Schwab can reach out to in a situation where they are unable to contact you about your accounts. A custodian might reach out to a trusted contact when they are concerned about your health or welfare, or have reason to suspect financial exploitation, but a trusted contact does not have access to transact on your accounts.

Just as a trusted contact is important for Raymond James and Schwab to have, Vintage likes to have a person on file as well. Providing us with a name, e-mail and phone number of someone to contact if we are unable to reach you can be immensely important. Your trusted contact will not be given any of your financial data.

Clearly, a trusted contact is very valuable to the security of your financial life. That person can provide peace of mind that if something does happen to you, we will be able to reach the right person to resolve it.

## MEET TAMMY WAKEVAINEN

We're excited to announce the addition of Tammy Wakevainen to our team at Vintage. Tammy is a CPA with over 25 year's experience in accounting and taxes. She joined us in early September after working the last 18 years with a local accounting firm.

Her educational background includes a BS degree in Accounting from Shepherd University, outside of Washington, D.C. She first earned the CPA designation in 1997 in Maryland.

Tammy's move to Vintage was driven by her desire to do more for her clients than just taxes. While she was able to do some tax planning at the accounting firm, she saw the need with many of her clients for more comprehensive financial planning. She's working now toward earning the Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) designation in addition to the CPA.

Tammy is a Senior Financial Planner at Vintage and enhances our tax expertise while getting support in other areas from other advisors on our team. She'll take on the primary advisor role with many of our clients in the coming months.

Tammy serves as Treasurer of the Children's Literacy Network as well as Treasurer of the Mission Committee at her church. She's also a volunteer coordinator at Interfaith Hospitality Network at Alpha House, an organization that provides shelter and support to local children and families experiencing homelessness.

She has two grown daughters and lives in Manchester with her husband. See more about Tammy at the Team page of our website at [www.VintageFS.com](http://www.VintageFS.com).

## MEET SET CARPINTERO

Set Carpintero recently moved from St. Petersburg, Florida to join us in Ann Arbor. Set decided that braving Michigan winters was worth the opportunity to join the Vintage team and provide our proactive investment, tax, and financial planning services.

Set has eight years in the industry, with five years working with an investment management firm in St. Pete. For the past few years he has been a Wealth Advisor providing financial planning for the firm's clients.

Set earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting from Stetson University in Florida. He's a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) and is working toward earning the Enrolled Agent (EA) tax designation.

Set has joined our tax team and serves as a Senior Financial Planner at Vintage. He'll act as a primary contact for many of our clients.

## NEW NUMBERS FOR 2020

Government agencies have recently released new numbers for next year. The Social Security Administration announced that retirement benefits will increase by 1.6% in the New Year. Unfortunately, they are also increasing the Part B Medicare premium, typically deducted from the monthly deposits, by 6.5% to \$144.30 per person per month. Higher income (over \$170,000 joint/\$85,000 single) taxpayers will pay higher premiums ranging up to almost \$500 per person per month.

Meanwhile, the IRS announced that 401(k) contribution limits will increase to \$19,500 next year, but the regular IRA limit stays at \$6,000 or \$7,000 for those over age 50.

## VINTAGE FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFERS

Fee only investment management, financial planning,  
and tax preparation.

Minimum portfolio \$500,000  
(401(k) balance may count toward minimum).

For a no charge, no obligation initial interview please call our office  
at (734) 668-4040 or (800) 666-9237 or e-mail:

[Succeed@VintageFS.com](mailto:Succeed@VintageFS.com)

Or visit our website at [www.VintageFS.com](http://www.VintageFS.com)

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*On the*

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