

WZ New?

January 31, 2012

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Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations

The Heart of the Florida Nonprofit Community

POSTAL REFORM Tax-exempt discount

Two postal reform bills are pending in congress (H.R. 2309 / S. 1625). The Senate version maintains the nonprofit postal discount rate. The house committee plans to file its report on H.R. 2309. Senate Majority Leader Reid said he is eager to take action on the Senate version early in the 2012 legislative calendar. Senator Lieberman has also mentioned that the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs and House Oversight and Government Reform committees are likely to work to find an agreement between the two different bills. FANO through IS has reached out to Congressman Davis' (D -IL) office to offer our support in ensuring that legislation maintains the nonprofit postal rate. He sponsored two amendments to preserve the nonprofit postal discount rate. *

How can FANO better serve you?

Contact us today to let us know:
members.fano@gmail.com
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7480 Fairway Drive, Suite 205,
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT AARP Investigation Continues...

A letter outlining concerns about the licensing of AARP's name by third party businesses was sent to IRS Commissioner Shulman in December from House Ways and Means subcommittee members Boustany (R-LA), Herger (R-CA), and Reichert (R-WA). The question of whether or not a pattern of business partnerships and activities are permitting AARP "to engage in for-profit businesses under the cover of its tax-exempt status" is being questioned. This is the second request by Ways and Means members for IRS review. An April committee hearing looked into activities undertaken by AARP. IS has informed FANO that nonprofit hospitals may become the subject of further committee inquiries this spring. *

FUTURE OF .ORG?

On Jan. 12, the ICANN (Internet Corporation Assigned Names and Numbers) opened a new program to expand the list of permitted top-level domain designations, i.e.: .com, .org, .net. (22 total) The registration period allows applicants to claim virtually any word, generic or branded, as an internet top-level domain. ICANN estimates growth by the hundreds before the 2013 launch. The broader public, the business community, members of Congress and key officials have concerns. A path toward resolution or the federal government's ability to directly intervene is unclear. However, it has been suggested that there may be an avenue of inquiry under the jurisdiction of the CA Attorney General's office, the state where ICANN was created as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As the registration period begins, Public Interest Registry (PIR), which controls the .ORG top level domain name, claims that .ORG has now become too susceptible to fraud, and a new domain space exclusively for nonprofits is needed. But a bidding war is a likely outcome. Also in question is the Nonprofit qualifying process and cost. *

PAYROLL INCENTIVES

Prior to wrapping up 2011 legislative business, Congress passed a short-term payroll tax cut extension including unemployment benefits, and a decrease for Medicare doctor reimbursements until 2/29/12. The 20-member conference committee has convened to begin reconciling differences between House and Senate bills extending the provisions and find a way to pay through the end of 2012. The conference committee includes Senate Finance Committee Chair Baucus (D-MT) and House Ways and Means Committee Chair Camp (R-MI). *

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

In December the Department of the Treasury released a long-awaited mandated report on the organization and operation of supporting organizations and donor-advised funds (Pension Protection Act of 2006). The study concluded that aggregate payout rates for donor-advised funds are high and do not need mandatory distribution requirements. Former Senate Finance Committee Chair Charles Grassley (R-IA), criticized the report for using old data, aggregate payout numbers and not addressing fundamental control by "individual over the fund" issues. Senator Grassley's staff has informed FANO that he will be active on this issue in the coming months. *

* Source: *Independent Sector* www.is.org

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