# The Practitioner's Advisory Summit

Sponsored by:





Green & Sklarz iic



1

#### Housekeeping: Agenda

11:05 – 12:15 pm: What Are "Tax Advisory" Services?

12:15 – 12:45 pm: Worst Tax Season EVER: Maintaining Your Mental Health

12:45 - 1:30 pm: Leveraging Technology: The Tech Tools to Use

1:30 - 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

2:00 – 2:45 pm: Action Steps – What is Next?

2:45 - 3:00 pm: Break

3:00 – 3:45 pm: Pricing: How to Go from Hourly / Product Billing to "Relationship Pricing"

3:45 – 4:30 pm: Converting Existing Clients and Attracting New Clients







#### Need Help?

Do NOT call Green & Sklarz!

**Contact BeaconLive Support:** 

▶ Phone: 877-297-2901

Email: helpdesk@beaconlive.com







3

3

#### **CPE** credit

- ► There will be attendance checks popping up on the screen
- ► They look like this
- ➤ You must do at least 18 of the 24 attendance checks to get full credit









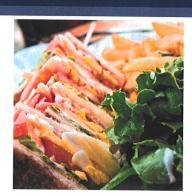
#### Our breaks

Stick to our schedule (EST times):

1:30 – 2:00 pm: Lunch Break

2:45 – 3:00 pm: Break











\_



Thank you to our sponsor!

# NTUIT







7

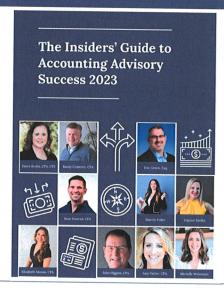
7

#### Coming This Summer...Watch for Pre-Order Information

Get the best advice on building an advisory firm from your peers who have done it!

The book will be available from TG Publishing this summer.

Watch your email for pre-order information.









.

9

# What are "Tax Advisory" Services?

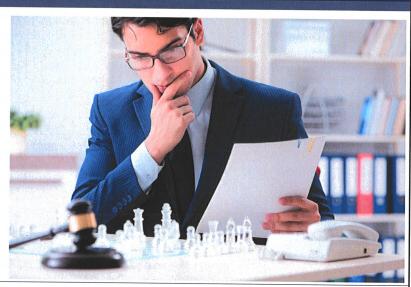






#### Advisory Is Wide and Varied

- ► Tax Consulting & Planning
- Management Consulting
- Compensation Planning
- ► IRS Representation
- State & Local Tax Planning
- ► International Tax Planning









11

11

#### Tax Planning & Consulting

- Strategies to minimize a taxpayer's liabilities
- Maximize their returns
- Advice and guidance to taxpayers on transactions
- Can include entity selection, benefits and retirement planning, cash flow and timing of expenses







#### Management Consulting

- Think CFO or COO
- Best practices
- Automation
- Scalable and saleable





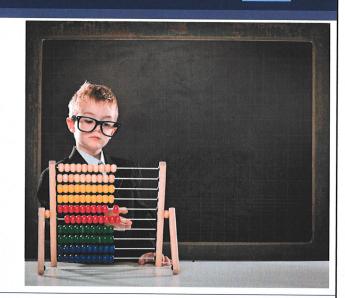


13

13

#### **Compensation Planning**

- S Corp and C Corp reasonable comp
- Structing key employee comp
- ► Combined with entity selection can be extremely powerful (i.e. less than 50% similar ownership to create DB plans, real estate in separate LLCs with favorable leases, shareholder loan and secured financing, etc)









#### **IRS** Representation

- Audits
- Appeals
- Penalty Abatement
- Challenging Assessed Taxes
- ► Installments Agreements
- Offers-in-Compromise
- Forensic Accounting









15

15

#### State & Local Tax Planning

- ► Sales Tax after Wayfair
- Withholding Tax
- Apportionment & Allocation Planning
  - ~ NJ Limited Partnership (gone)
  - ~ MA has a throwback rule and CT does not







#### International Tax Planning

- ▶ Transfer pricing
- Cross-border transactions and investments
- VAT Tax Planning
- ► Tax beneficial jurisdictions







17

17

## Worst Tax Season EVER: Maintaining Your Mental Health

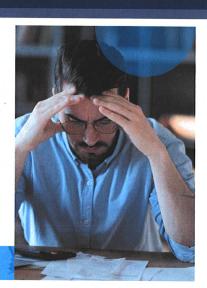






## The State of Mental Health in Accounting

- A March 2020 survey by Accountemps found, 52% of accounting professionals said that they are stressed at work daily, and 60% reported their work-related pressure has increased over the past five years.
- A 2020 AICPA report found that 34% of CPA's reported feeling more stressed than before the pandemic.

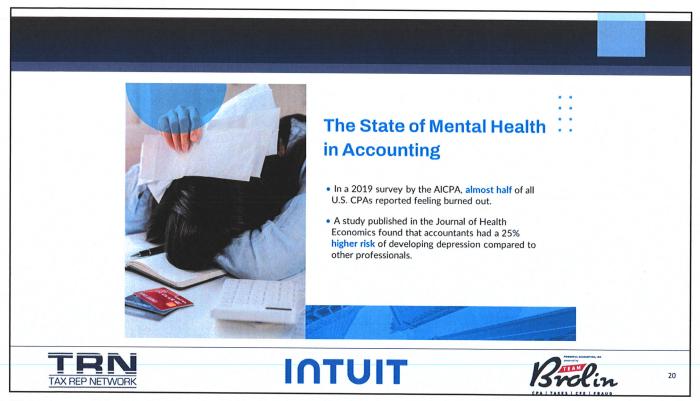


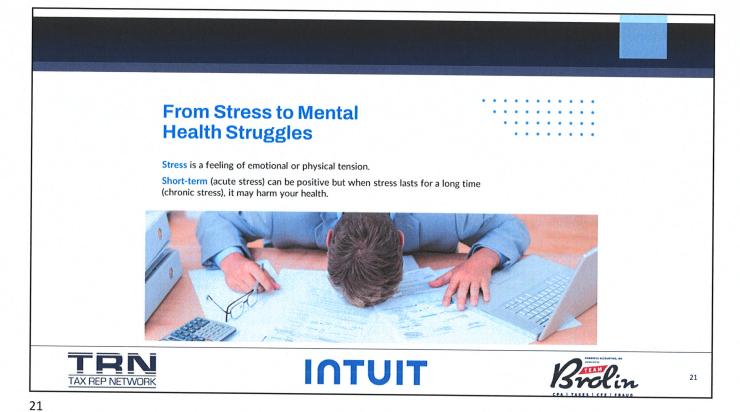






19





What Drives Us?

• We think we need to help everyone
• We know the problems and want to fix them
• Working harder and longer to catch up
• "I'll just do it because it will get done faster"

#### **Uncontrolled (chronic) Stress**

Uncontrolled stress can have a wide range of negative effects on the brain, including:

- Neurochemical imbalances,
- Structural changes,
- Cognitive impairment,
- > Emotional and mental health issues,
- > Physical health consequences.

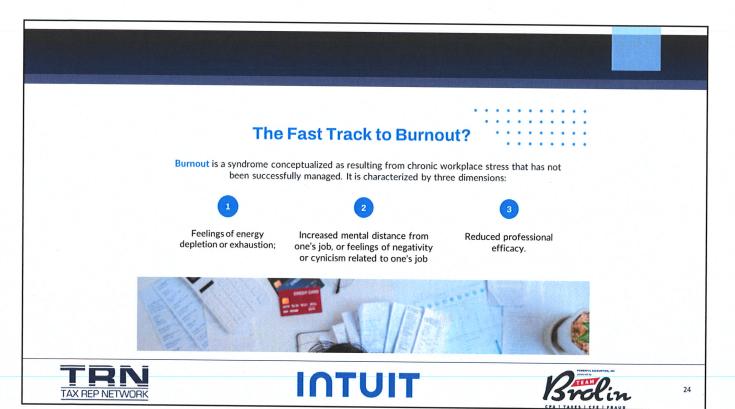


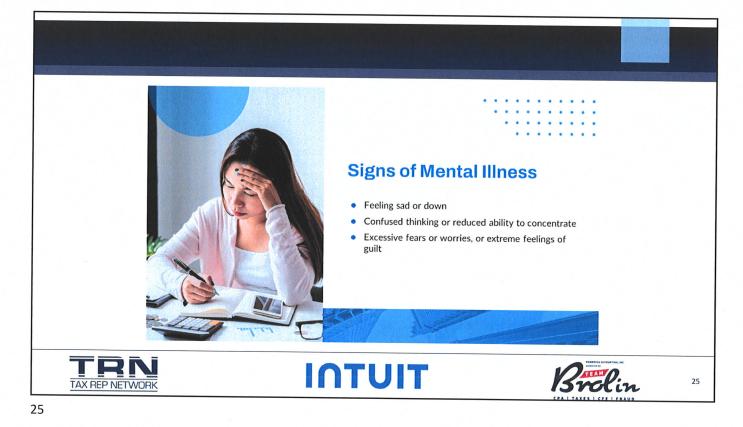






23







#### **Break Burnout Before It Breaks You!**

Take control back so you don't break YOU!









27





### Tip: Practice Self-Care (Really!)

- Go for walks during work hours and leave the phone behind
- Don't eat at your desk
- Reduce exposure to job stressors
- Get plenty of rest. Take breaks during the day and get a full night of sleep.
- Prioritize exercise
- Mediate







29

29

# Give Yourself a Break! Avoid Burnout Block off time on your calendar Create a central storehouse for all tasks Use full focus system (Free to Focus) Be true to your priorities Consistent accountability by focusing on just three tasks in the right direction each day Create daily, weekly, monthly goals Courtney DeRonde, CEO at Forge Financial & Management Consulting (formerly TDT CPAs and Advisors)

#### Learn How To Disconnect At The End Of The Day

- Turn off at the end of the day
- Bookmark your work
- Create an "instead plan"
- Perform mental and physical shut-down practices

Source: Brian Kush, Co-Founder of Intend2Lead, LLC









31

31

# Tip: Redefine Your Worth Develop a niche practice What clients are you most passionate about serving Stop undervaluing your service Stop selling hours Value billing or subscription pricing Incorporate advisory services TRN TAX REP NETWORK

# Leveraging Technology: The Tech Tools to Use







33

33

#### Technology Tools – Al-Nesha Jones, CPA, MBA

- Bookkeeping/Payroll QuickBooks Online & Gusto
- ► Tax Preparation ProConnect Tax Online
- ► Tax Advisory ProConnect Tax Online & Intuit Tax Advisor
- Reasonable Compensation RC Reports
- Project Management Asana
- CRM Hubspot
- Scheduler Gmail







#### Technology Tools - Diana A. Crawford, CPA

- ▶ Bookkeeping/Payroll QuickBooks Online & Accounting CS
- Tax Preparation ProSeries/SmartVault/UltraTax
- ► Tax Advisory ProSeries/Intuit Tax Advisor/Self Compiled Tools
- Reasonable Compensation BLS & PayScale
- Project Management Canopy
- Scheduler Calendly







35

35

#### Technology Tools - Dawn W Brolin, CPA, CFE

- Bookkeeping/Payroll QuickBooks Online & ADP
- Tax Preparation Lacerte/SmartVault/DocuSign
- Tax Advisory Lacerte & Intuit Tax Advisor
- Reasonable Compensation Analysis RC Reports
- Project Management/CRM Financial Cents
- Scheduler Tracey







## **RC** Reports

# Reasonable Compensation Entity Selection Planner

https://rcreports.com/







37

37

## **RC** Reports

**Entity Selection Planner** 

https://rcreports.com/







#### Entity Selection Planner – RC Reports

- ➤ When performing tax planning services, choosing the appropriate entity type for your client's business based on ownership structure, performance and goals
- > This adds a lucrative revenue stream for YOU and provide immediate value to your client

This will naturally start a conversation about the overall health of your client's business including reasonable compensation



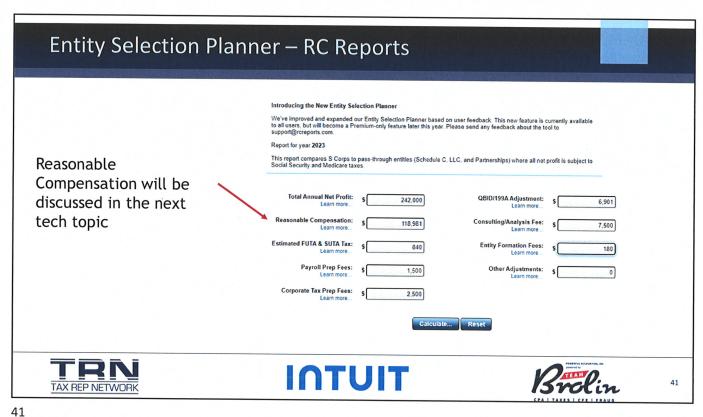


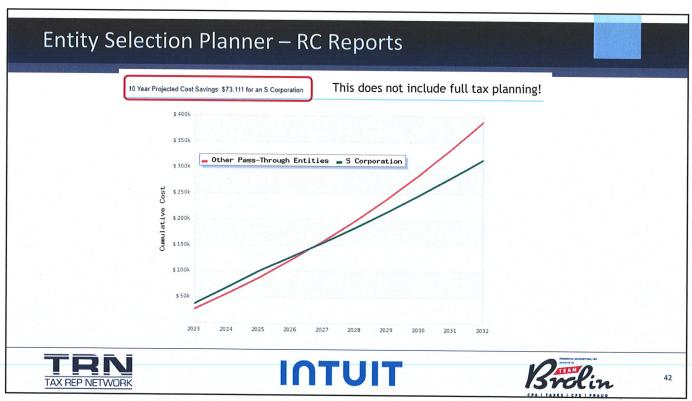


39

39

#### Entity Selection Planner – RC Reports Introducing the New Entity Selection Planner We've improved and expanded our Entity Selection Planner based on user feedback. This new feature is currently available to all users, but will become a Premium-only feature later this year. Please send any feedback about the tool to support@rcreports.com. You will fill in the This report compares S Corps to pass-through entities (Schedule C, LLC, and Partnerships) where all net profit is subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes. information requested Total Annual Net Profit: QBID/199A Adjustment: \$ Consulting/Analysis Fee: \$ Reasonable Compensation: Learn more... An excel workbook to Estimated FUTA & SUTA Tax: Learn more... \$ Entity Formation Fees: \$ [ calculate necessary Payroll Prep Fees: \$ Other Adjustments: \$ fields is in your materials Corporate Tax Prep Fees: TRN INTUIT TAX REP NETWORK





#### Entity Selection Planner – RC Reports

The red numbers indicate the S-Corp Estimates

The green numbers indicate the entity remaining as a Schedule C









43

43

# **RC** Reports

**Reasonable Compensation Analysis** 

https://rcreports.com/







#### Reasonable Compensation – IRS Factors

- ▶ Training & Experience
- Duties & Responsibilities
- Time and effort devoted to business
- Dividend history
- Payments to non-shareholder employees
- ▶ What comparable businesses pay for similar services
- Amounts paid out as salary compared with the amount distributed as profits







45

45

#### Reasonable Compensation - IRS

#### Defined as:

"the value that would ordinarily be paid for like services by like enterprises under like circumstances"









#### Reasonable Compensation - 60/40 Rule

- ► This is not a real rule
- Promoted as a guideline
- Not an IRS rule



▶ Eric Green – Non documented reasonable compensation audit results









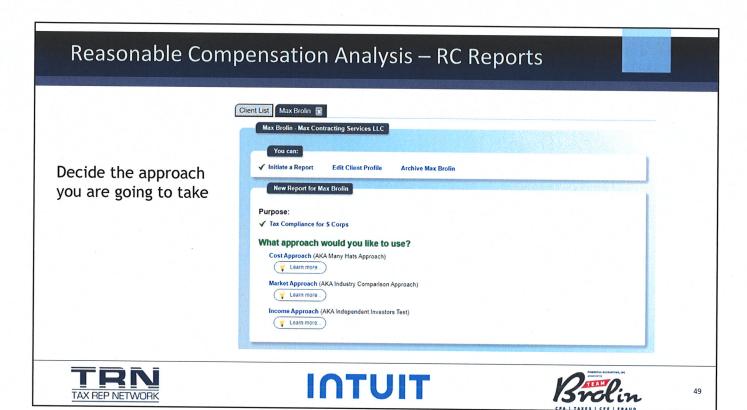
47

48

47

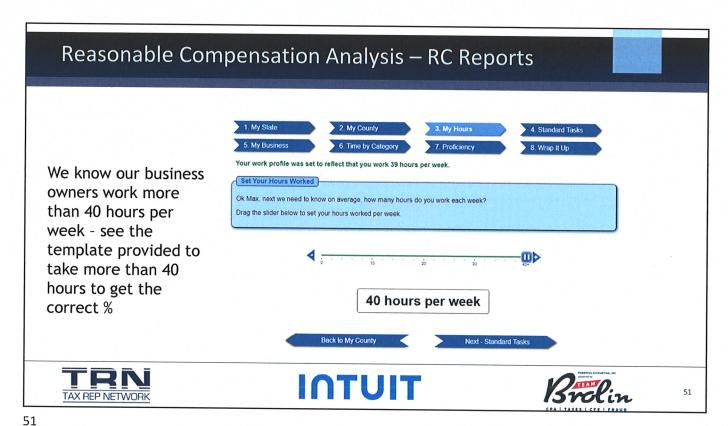
#### Reasonable Compensation Analysis – RC Reports Client List Max Brolin Max Brolin - Max Contracting Services LLC **Edit Client Profile** Decide the purpose New Report for Max Brolin for the report What is the purpose of this report? Tax Compliance for S Corps Learn more... Tax Compliance for C Corps Learn more... Normalizing Compensation for Valuation Planning Learn more... TRN

TAX REP NETWORK

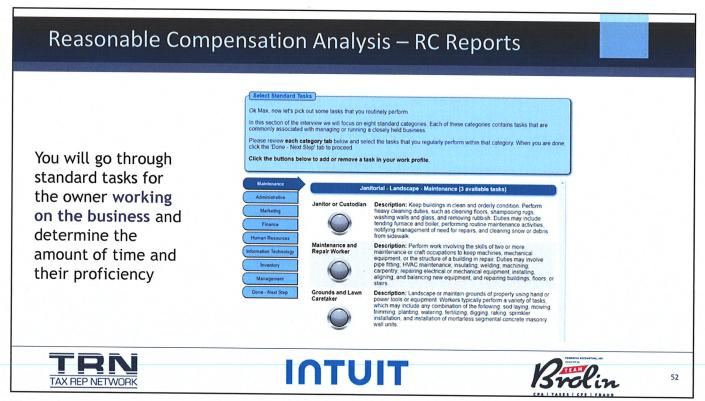


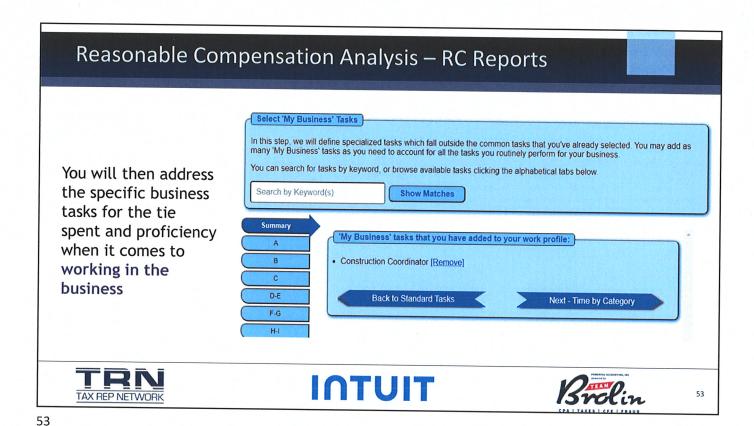
Reasonable Compensation Analysis – RC Reports Client List Max Brolin Max Brolin - Max Contracting Services LLC Select the year you New Report for Max Brolin are analyzing - the Select the tax year for the report: calculations change **√** 2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 regularly based on 2004 updated data Display report to client upon completion of the interview? Notify me upon completion of the interview? Yes 🗸 No Initiate Report TRN INTUIT

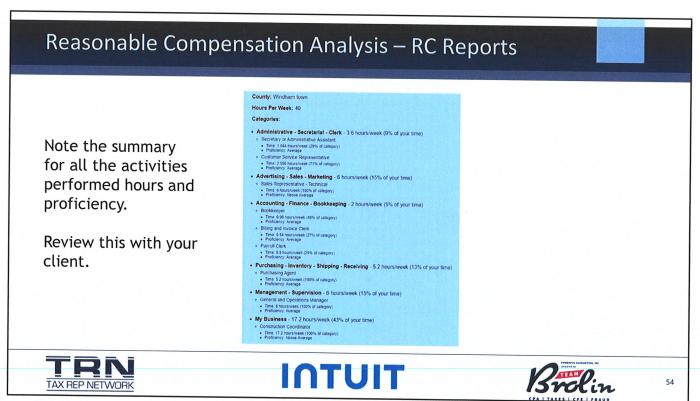
TAX REP NETWORK



\_\_



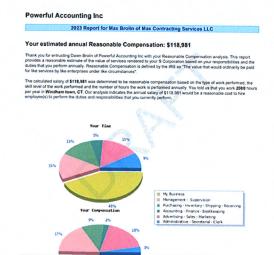




#### Reasonable Compensation Analysis – RC Reports

The tool will calculate an estimated reasonable salary - if something seems off, adjust your time and proficiency

Adjust the proficiency if necessary









55

55

#### Reasonable Compensation Analysis – RC Reports

Provides you with a sample meeting minutes - these should be signed by the shareholders and kept in the meeting minutes - have this ready for the IRS!

CONSENT AND MINUTES OF MEETING
OF DIRECTORS OF Max Contracting Services LLC

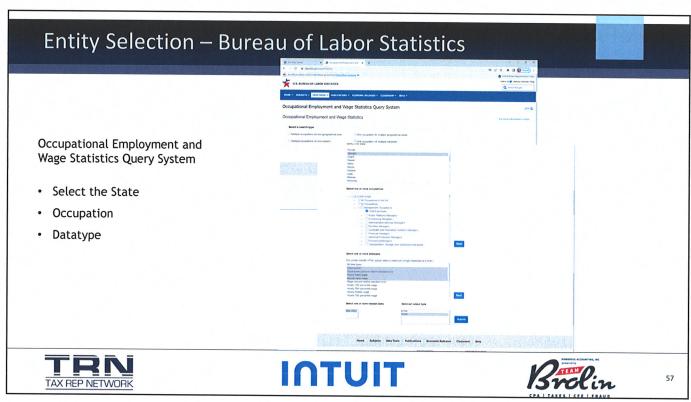
The undersigned, being all of the directors of Max Contracting Services LLC (the "Company"), waive any rights to notice, and consent to the following action, taken on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 20\_\_\_\_\_:

RESOLVED, that the Company adopt the report of Powerful Accounting Inc, a copy of which is attached and, in reliance on such report, pay to Max Brolin the sum of \$118,981 per year as salary for the duties set forth in such report.



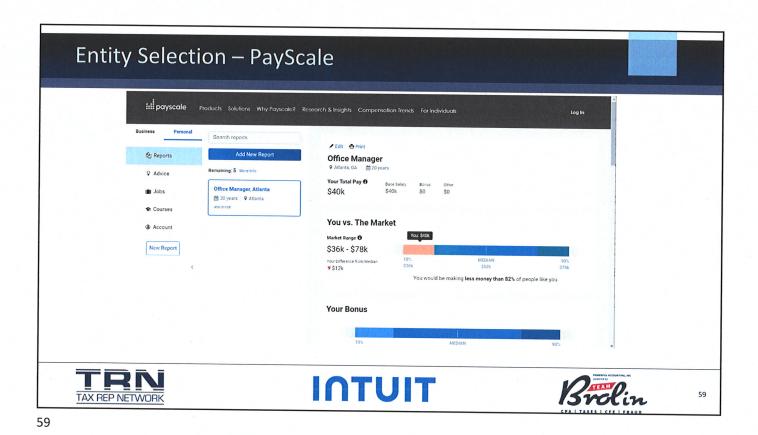






57

#### Entity Selection - Bureau of Labor Statistics Multiple occupations for one geographical area Area:Georgia Period:May 2022 Employment percent Occupation (SOC code) Employment<sup>(1)</sup> relative standard Hourly mean wage Annual mean wage<sup>(2)</sup> Management Occupations(110000) 299410 60.76 126390 Business Operations Specialists, All Other(131199) 36.43 75770 (1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers. (2)Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the corresponding hourly wage by 2,080 hours. (3) The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the reliability of a survey statistic. The smaller the relative standard error, the more precise the estimate. SOC code: Standard Occupational Classification code -- see http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm SOC Code: Standard Occupational Classification Code http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm TRN58 TAX REP NETWORK



## Entity Selection – Action Steps

- Sole Proprietors
  - □ Register entity as an LLC (you or attorney)
  - □ Obtain appropriate EIN, state withholding, state unemployment numbers
  - ☐ Prepare operating agreement, if applicable (you or attorney)
  - $\hfill \Box$  Prepare S-Election Forms 2553 and 8832 (if an LLC)
- Single Member LLC's
  - ☐ Obtain state withholding and state unemployment numbers
  - ☐ Prepare S-Election Forms 2553 and 8832 (if an LLC)







#### Entity Selection – Action Steps

- State Issues need to go through federal process and wait for acceptance
  - ☐ New Jersey charges a corporation tax and a fee
  - ☐ New York charges a corporation tax and a fee
  - Other states
- Passthrough Entity Taxes
  - ☐ Optional in some cases retirement income exclusions etc. (Georgia)
  - ☐ Pay attention year by year







61

61

#### Reasonable Compensation – Action Steps

- ▶ Put them on payroll Failure to do so may flag the client for an audit
- ▶ Repeat reasonable comp analysis
  - ☐ Annually at a minimum
  - ☐ If things change like moving or their role changes, time devoted changes
- Create meeting minutes and have the sign the minutes and file them away
- Watch basis for loss limitations







### **Intuit Tax Advisor**

https://proconnect.intuit.com/offering-tax-advisor/







63

63

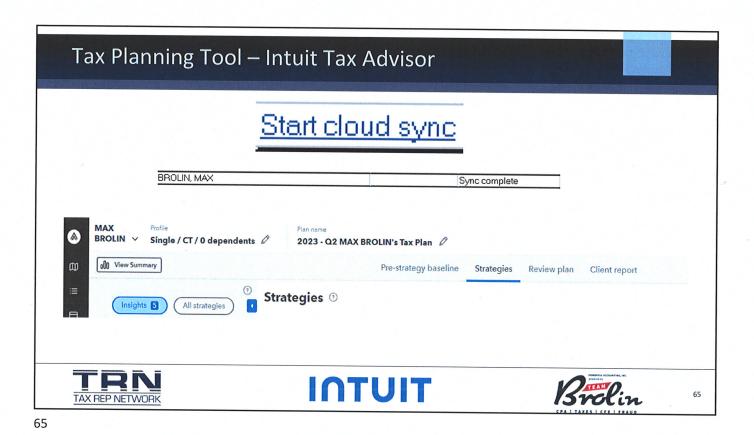
#### Tax Planning Tool – Intuit Tax Advisor

- Cloud sync with ProConnect & Lacerte
- If your system doesn't cloud sync, you can enter pre-strategy baseline (prior year tax return data)
- Creates insights of potential savings based on various strategies from prior year data
- Allows you to create your own strategies if not included in the already existing strategies
- ► Has strategy cards and provides a full tax plan proposal and report to review with the client or simply provide to the client

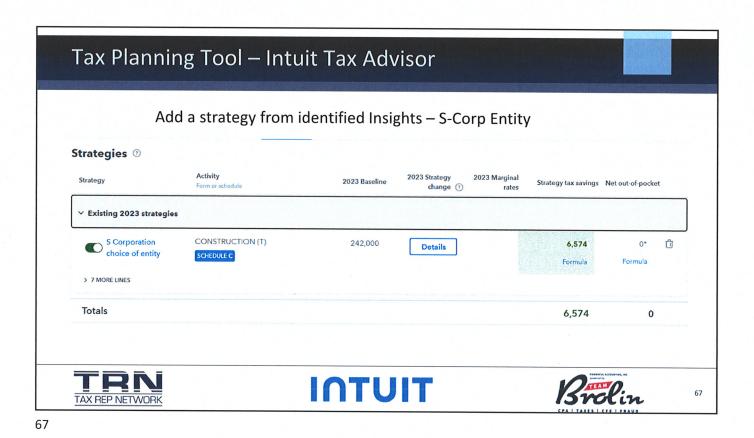


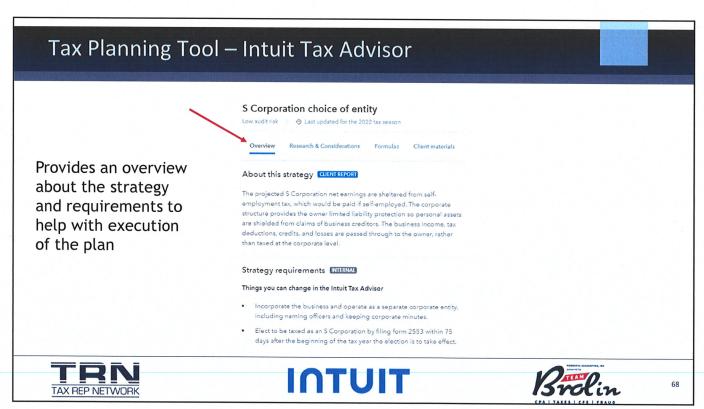


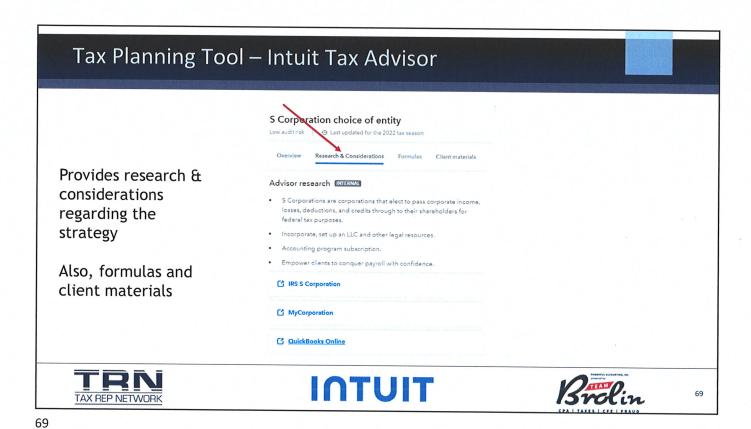




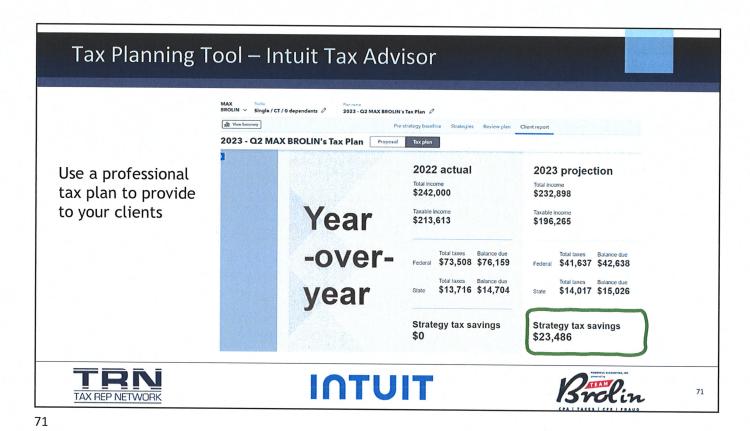








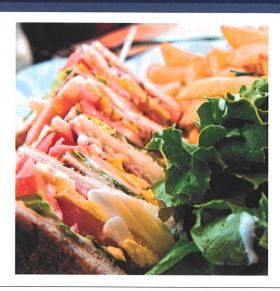
Tax Planning Tool – Intuit Tax Advisor Strategies ① → Existing 2023 strategies S Corporation choice of entity Details Add other strategies for an ultimate tax > 7 MORE LINES savings calculation **OBI** Deduction 4,643 18,140 ∨ New 2023 strategies 3,555 > 3 MORE LINES Solo 401(k) 22,500 8,662 Totals 17,393 TRN INTUIT TAX REP NETWORK



Dawn's Starting Lineup - Technology to run the firm PLAYING FIELD Brolin → 🚹 Smart**Vault '** DocuSign ignition\* FinancialCents Intuit Tax 💴 Liscio Advisor **Jirav** Æ @ quickbooks Financial Planning Payroll Processing & Analysis Corpay<sup>^</sup> bookkeep Online Payments : ( Reports SWIZZNET TRI-MERIT Hosted IT/Cybersecurity Compensation TRN TAX REP NETWORK

## Lunch!

See you in 30 Minutes!









73

73

# **Action Steps:**

What is Next?







## Look at your current clients

- ► Have clients working as Sole Props?
- Have LLCs that are profitable?
- ▶ Have S Corps and C Corps that need to take reasonable comp?
- Have clients you need to show the door?







75

75

## Rank your clients from A to F

- ► A great clients that pay you fairly, on time and a pleasure to work with. We want more of these folks!
- ▶ B good clients that really could be "A" clients if only we could find the time to work with them more...
- ► C they don't bother you much but they are not paying much and are often holdovers of your early practice years before you knew how to price your services
- ▶ D They are too cheap and these returns are an annoyance
- ► F you know who these people are...you dread the phone ringing or the email from them! They literally suck your will to live...







## Step #1

- ▶ Implement relationship pricing with you're "A" and "B" clients
- Increase prices
- Focus on setting up the procedures you need to make their work smooth
- ▶ Making progress, now lets deal with the "C" clients







77

77

## Step #2

- ► For the C Clients they either must move into the A/B client fold or join the D&F clients (which is Step #3)
- ▶ Prices go up
- Expect most of them to leave good!







## Step #3

- D & F Clients
- ▶ Fire them it does not need to be nasty:

"We have grown beyond our capacity to manage your account properly and can therefore no longer do your work. I have enclosed a list of other practitioners who can help you. You have all your original documents and your copies of the returns are in the secure portal. Thank you for your past business, and we wish you the best of luck in the future."







79

79

## Interpretation

► I'm going to sleep so well tonight knowing I never have to deal with you again! Here is a list of other accountants I hate so you can go torment them. Don't let the door hit you in the rear on your way out!







## Sole Props

- ► This is just wrong
- Need to be at least an LLC
- ▶ If profitable, look at S Corp







81

81

## **Profitable LLCs**

- ► Time to elect S Status?
- Run the Entity Selection Planner in RCReports to determine potential tax savings
- Run the Reasonable Comp Reports
- ► Time to move these people into amore sophisticated planning and pricing structure, save them money, and reduce their audit risk

(hint: Reasonable Comp Reports will be needed to set the salary, and must be run every year)







## **Corporate Clients**

- Are they having reasonable comp reports run each year?
- ▶ Required to support the number on the return and in case of audit
- Creates an annuity stream for you to be discussed later









83

83

### So a CPA calls us

- ► IRS audited S Corp clients
- Many took no salary, some took de minimis salary, no reasonable comp workpapers or reports to support any of the numbers
- ► Assessed preparer penalties of \$120,000 for both 6694(a) and 6694(b):

Understatement due to unreasonable positions — IRC  $\S$  6694(a): The penalty is \$1,000 or 50% (whichever is greater) of the tax preparer's income to prepare the tax return or claim

Understatement due to willful or reckless conduct — IRC § 6694 (b): The penalty is \$5,000 or 75% (whichever is greater) of the tax preparer's income to prepare the tax return or claim







## Creating an Annuity

- ▶ RCReports S Corp and C Corp reasonable comp reports every year
- Transcript Monitoring
- Consult meetings with clients







85

85

# Coffee Break

See you in 15 minutes









# Pricing: How to Go From Hourly/Product Billing to "Relationship Pricing"







87

87

## Pricing Tax Planning Services – Traditional Way

- Charge by the hour
- ▶ More reactive than proactive don't even engage
- Provide safe harbor coupons no charge
- Price based on a % of savings
- Charging by plan
- DO NOTHING AT ALL FREE







## Advisory Services - Moving to Relationship Pricing

- Begin to level out your cash flow
- Become a PROACTIVE advisor and not a REACTIVE advisor
- Stabilize your own budget
- Provide higher paying salaries
- Work with less clients
- Provide you and your staff with a more controlled workload you determine your maximum client #







89

89

#### Advisory Services – Relationship Pricing by the Package Tax Planning Basics **Advanced Strategies Full Service Advisory** We will provide basic tax planning advisory for your We will provide advanced tax strategy advisory for We will provide advanced tax strategy advisory and additional advisory services for your business \$300.00 \$500.00 \$750.00 Tax Planning Basics Advanced Tax Strategies Full Service Advisory Annual Tax Planning Meeting Annual Tax Planning Meeting Annual Tax Planning Meeting Entity Review Entity Review Entity Review Owner Payroll Allocation Owner Payroll Allocation Owner Payroll Allocation Retirement Plan Review Retirement Plan Review Retirement Plan Review Taxation services - 1120S Corporate Tax Taxation services - 1120S Corporate Tax Taxation services - 1040 Individual Income Tax Return Taxation services - 1040 Individual Income Tax Return Taxation services - 1040 Individual Income Tax Return Monthly Business Review Business Goal Tracking Electronic Document Storage Electronic Document Storage Payroll services - Bi-weekly Payroll (Up to 5 employees) TRN TAX REP NETWORK

## Advisory Services – Pricing and How to do it?

- Start by evaluating your existing client base
  - ☐ Revenue by client summary fiscal basis
  - ☐ Identify clients you love to work with
  - $\square$  Evaluate the prior fiscal year revenue and triple it then divide by 12
- ▶ Determine the services you have been providing reactive and compliance driven
  - List out the basic services
  - ☐ This becomes your baseline package







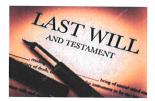
91

91

## Tax & Business Advisory Services – Develop the Package

- ▶ Once you have determined your base package add on additional services you weren't providing before to develop your second package (middle level):
  - ☐ Buy Sell Agreements
  - □ Wills
  - Projections
  - Budgeting
  - Quarterly business performance reviews











## Tax & Business Advisory Services – Develop the Package

- Next add even more services to the already existing lists from the first two packages:
  - Periodic KPI's
  - Workforce Planning
  - Monthly business performance reviews
  - Compensation benchmarking for employees
  - ☐ Insurance Evaluations









93

93

## Tax & Business Advisory Services - Communicating

- Explaining advisory to your clients:
- > Proactive guidance that most taxpayers often feel they lack with tax preparation --
  - ☐ Someone to answer the hard questions about how tax law changes impact your tax situation
  - ☐ Regular reviews of your income and life change to avoid surprises during tax season
  - Updating W4s as needed
  - ☐ Helping you to evaluate the impact of your retirement account savings
  - ☐ Calculating and remitting estimated tax payments (if applicable), etc.







## Tax & Business Advisory Services – Communicating

- Explaining advisory to your clients:
  - □ It ensures that tax season runs smoothly because everything is reviewed and discussed during the year, while life is happening. Offering it as a subscription helps to avoid surprise bills, creates predictability, and increases client/accountant communication.



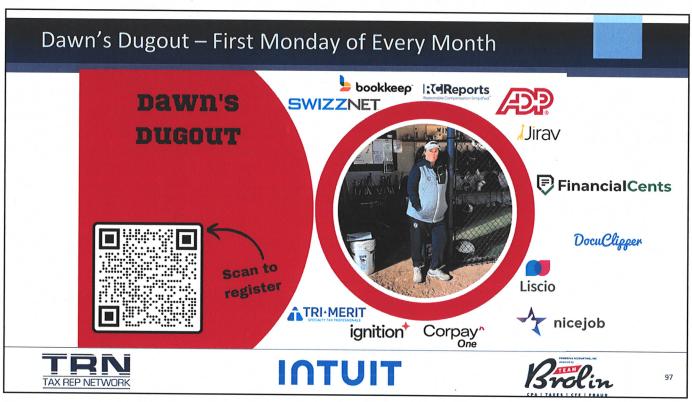






95





97

# **Converting Existing Clients** and Attracting New Clients







## Level 1: Existing Clients -The Low-Hanging Fruit

- ▶ According to research by WASP Barcode 60% of SMBs want and need their accountants to be more proactive about giving them business advice.
- ▶ The door to advisory conversations is wide open.
- ► The first step is defining your offering according to the clients you want to serve.
- Create advisory packages and then sell.







99

99

## Examples of Who & What to Look For:

- Established business owner or startup business owner.
- High net worth individuals with complex tax returns what are they missing?
- A business entity with multiple locations or that sells goods in a variety of states.
- A growing business with several employees.
- Individuals who have inherited money or who have varied real estate or other financial assets.







## Tap Your CRM to Start Finding Advisory Opportunities

- Existing clients with single service or tax returns.
- Business owners.
- Not sure of what they need? As the right questions:
  - ☐ What are their long-term goals?
  - ☐ Are they planning on expanding their business?
  - ☐ Are all of their payroll and other taxes up to date?
  - □ Do they have questions for you?







101

101

## Level 2: Existing Client & Network Referrals

- Like attracts like.
- ▶ If you have advisory clients who have colleagues/family members tap into those relationships and ask for the referrals.
- ▶ Ask for reviews online and for use in videos and case studies.
- Practice your elevator pitch about the niche you serve and the benefits of working with you.
- ► Find a center of influence who has a complementary service offering and partner (financial advisor, realtor, banks, lawyer, etc.)







## Level 3: Put Yourself and Your Firm Out There

- Speak at conferences on webinars that appeal to your target.
- ► Content marketing focus your efforts on creating videos, blogs, cross-blog on relevant platforms and use appropriate social channels.
- ▶ Be very specific about creating content that showcases you are an authority on the pain points your audience wants to solve.
- ► Targeted networking events with your pitch prepared.
- ▶ If you have a high-quality lead list, strategic emails and even direct amil may be useful.







103

103

## **Upcoming Events**

## **Master IRS Offers-in-Compromise**

4 hours, 4 ce/cpe credits

Tomorrow, June 15th, 1:00 pm EST

https://taxrepllc.com/2023-series-oic/



David Jones 1 Main Street, 4th Floor New Haven, CT 06511

#### Date:

Person to contact
Name: Employee Name
Employee ID number: 100 xxxxxx
Telephone: 203-xxx-xxxx
Fax: 855-xxx-xxxx
Hours: 8.00 - 4:30
Tax perbdgle ended:
12/2017 12/2018 12/2019

Re: Offer in Compromise

Dear Mr. David Jones:

We accepted your offer in compromise signed and dated by you on 12/03/2021 and as modified by an addendum dated 05/03/2022. The date of acceptance is the date of this letter and our acceptance is subject to the terms and conditions on the enclosed Form 656, Offer in Compromise.









