

Thrivent Member Network

Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2022

Thrivent Quarterly

Your Thrivent Member Networks of the Northwest, Pacific Cascade, Pacific Sierra and Southwest are your connection to special Thrivent client programs and resources that can help you create impact in your communities and improve the lives of others.

We are proud to serve over 230,000 clients across Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

We are part of Thrivent, a membership-owned, holistic financial services organization that is committed to providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs. Thrivent exists to help people achieve financial clarity and make the most of all they've been given.

To find the latest resources and events happening in our region, scan this QR code with your phone camera or click [here](#):



Work Toward and Live Your Dream Retirement



For many, the pandemic and economic climate have created unprecedented challenges the past couple of years, and new financial and personal goal strategies may be necessary.

Building a confident retirement plan can be part of new financial goals and can feel overwhelming. Where do you begin? What are the right decisions to make?

Whether your retirement is decades away or already here, it is important to understand what you want your retirement to look like when building a plan.

In October, we are debuting our retirement and legacy building event series with financial editor Jean Chatzky, who will speak about “Money Rules to Rescue Your Retirement”. Jean is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, and *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author. In this informative and engaging event, she will teach us how to create a resilient financial life that will go the distance. Jean will share a seven-point plan to overcome financial stress caused by the pandemic and how to help achieve lifelong security and financial independence, a journey that is different for everyone. *See page four for details.*

Estate Planning and Wills 101



Many people believe they don't have much to leave their family, but estate planning isn't necessarily about how much you have, but how you manage what you have. Making the right decisions now about your assets will not only provide direction to your heirs, but will decrease arguments later.

Estate planning is a gift to your loved ones so they can carry out your wishes after you are gone. With an estate plan, you choose which beneficiaries receive your assets, you can incorporate tools to potentially avoid probate for your estate, and your advanced care directive lets everyone know about your desires for treatment decisions.

To get you started, here are four essential tools to estate planning:

- 1. Create a will** - this names one or more people to manage your estate and distribute your property at death, provides direction to name a guardian for minor children, and clarifies wishes for your memorial service.
- 2. Establish power of attorney** - a document that identifies who will make financial, legal and tax decisions on your behalf should you be unable to make them yourself.
- 3. Enact a living will** – also called an advanced care directive, communicates your medical treatment preferences in situations when you may not be capable of making your own decisions.
- 4. Design a trust** - a legal agreement created with an attorney that helps you control your property and other assets aligned with your needs and desires.

Want to know more? Join us on November 1st to hear from Michelle Singletary, *Washington Post* personal finance columnist, and learn why it's important to have a will and estate plan regardless of your age and assets. *See page four for details.*

How Tax Savvy are You?



Taxes and tax exposure are common conversations in nearly every household. Because your tax exposure will change over time, you need a tax strategy that anticipates how and when you tap into assets to cover personal expenses, understands the range of taxes you may face at various stages of life, and manages your actions so you pay as low a tax rate as possible. You don't want to be surprised once you are already retired and find out that inflation, longevity risk, unexpected expenses and unknown/unplanned health care costs impact your tax situation.

Do you want the good news first? Of course! The good news is a lot of people are entering retirement with solid foundations in investment and retirement accounts to supplement Social Security. What is the bad news, you ask? The rules about distributions from those accounts can be complicated and ever-changing. This may lead to you paying more taxes than necessary, but there are options to address those taxes with planning.

Working tax efficient strategies into your financial plan begins by understanding the three ways that various accounts are taxed:

Tax Now

Generally consists of accounts funded with dollars from your paycheck that you've already paid tax on.

Tax Later

Accounts you fund with pre-tax dollars.

Tax Never

Includes accounts that are generally funded with after-tax dollars and grow tax deferred.

Explore more about using tax efficient strategies here <https://bit.ly/plantaxeff>. We encourage you to connect with your Thrivent financial advisor to help ensure you are on the right path and work tax efficiency into your financial plan.

Taxation is a hot topic! Join our webinar "Savvy Tax Strategies" on November 3rd. *See page four for details.*

Meet a Leader

We are excited to bring you a new section of the newsletter, "Meet a Leader", where we will showcase leaders throughout the West Advisor Group. This is a great way to meet those who are leading the charge in specific geographic regions and hear about the things that matter most to them.

Phil Wuerffel, Market Director, WA

Meet Phil Wuerffel. Phil is a Market Director in western Washington, specifically Seattle/King County. He has been with Thrivent for over five years and states "We are seizing this incredible opportunity to grow our team of financial advisors in the greater Seattle/Tacoma area." Phil's one big goal for 2022 is to add 3 or 4 new financial advisors in each of the offices in his area. Phil is married to Kelli, an elementary school teacher, and they just celebrated their 15th anniversary. Congratulations Phil and Kelli! They have 3 children, ages 6, 9 and 13, so you know they are very busy people because their children are all active in sports, clubs, and other projects. You will find the Wuerffel family on the soccer field and sidelines, out on a hike or enjoying other adventures in the great Pacific Northwest. Phil is a huge sports fan of the Dallas Mavericks, Texas Rangers and any team that is playing against the Cowboys (especially if it is the Seahawks!).

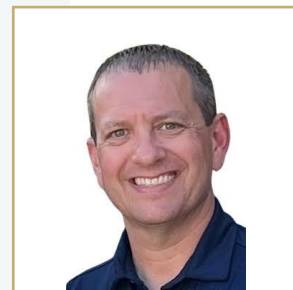
If you are interested in more information about a career as a financial advisor and live near the Seattle/Tacoma area, please email Phil, one of the leaders in that area, at phil.wuerffel@thrivent.com.



Daniel Schmaltz, Market Director, AZ

Hey Arizona! Meet your Market Director, Daniel Schmaltz, who has been with Thrivent for over 10 years. Daniel's one big goal this year is to tell the Thrivent story to more and more Christians, and partner with his financial advisors in Arizona to help provide financial clarity for all. Daniel has been married to his beautiful wife Brianna for over 21 years. They have two children: Katelynn who is 20 and a nursing student at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, and Joseph is 14 and a freshman at Scottsdale Christian Academy. They enjoy family time together, participating in kickboxing, gardening, yoga, barbecues with friends and family, Alpha Tauri Formula One Racing, Arizona Cardinals football, Chelsea Blues football, Arizona State University Football, all things Marvel, Star Wars, and John Grisham books.

Thrivent is growing by leaps and bounds in Arizona. If you are interested in more information about becoming a financial advisor in Arizona, please reach out to Daniel at daniel.schmaltz@thrivent.com.



Have You Used Your Thrivent Action Team?

Are you a member who is excited to use your action teams? Or are you not sure what an action team is? Clients with benefit membership are eligible to lead two action teams each calendar year, and clients with associate membership are eligible to lead one per calendar year.



The West Advisor Group Thrivent Member Networks are bringing members an opportunity to give back to their communities in ways that are meaningful and have the chance to give back with a boost.

Wondering what makes an action team possible? The idea starts with you! A Thrivent Action Team can make a positive impact in your community, and Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get you started, including up to \$250 in seed money.

For all members who have approved action teams between January 1 and September 30, 2022, we have a special bonus just for you! Watch your email for additional details.

For helpful tips, resources, and to apply, visit the Thrivent Action Team page here <https://bit.ly/TATres> or call 800-847-4836, where you can sign up to lead your own project, so *apply for that action team today!*

Plan Now for Giving Tuesday on November 29!

Giving Tuesday is the one day every year when people across the nation support local nonprofits in one huge day of on-line giving, and Thrivent is participating again this year. Your West Advisor Group Thrivent Member Networks are partnering with local Feeding America food banks for an online giving campaign, as well as in-person volunteer events in select cities.



For every \$2 you donate, Thrivent will match that donation with \$1. Watch your email, follow us on Facebook, and check out our websites in early November for more information.

**Donations made online through Thrivent's giving platform to featured organizations on Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2022, will be matched up to \$20,000 per Thrivent Member Network. Thrivent, in partnership with Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™, offers you the opportunity to make online personal donations to the organizations you care about.*

Thrive With Purpose

Thrivent Action Teams in Alaska



Thrivent member Pam Christianson and friends in Alaska used their action teams for this Spring Bazaar at First Lutheran Church in Ketchikan. They created and sold quilted crafts, baked goods, potted plants, fish cakes, Krumkaka, and Lefse. Over \$10,000 was raised to support their steeple repair, a historical community marker and beacon for God's love and hope in a seafaring community.

Living Generously in Washington



Thrivent's team of financial advisors and leaders in Spokane partnered with Peak 7 Adventures to "Raise the Bars" at Brick West Brewing Co. Thrivent members participated by donating energy bars at the event to fuel a summer of adventure for underprivileged youth. Local artist Blake Braley provided the musical entertainment, Chick-fil-A food was enjoyed by all, and beverages came from Brick West Brewing Co. In addition to the fun and fellowship, over \$6,000 in energy bars was donated for Peak 7.

2022 Calendar of Events

Enjoy these virtual events from the comfort of your home.



For event details and registration information, scan the QR code or visit:
<https://bit.ly/ThriventWestFall2022>.

October

25 Money Rules to Rescue Your Retirement



Could your retirement strategy use a refresh? Wondering how to build wealth and melt away your money woes? Join Jean Chatzky, award-winning journalist and broadcaster, and *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author, to learn how to create a resilient financial life that will go the distance.

In conjunction with the webinar, check your local Thrivent Member Network website for details about events happening in two of our West Advisor Group cities where Jean Chatzky will be presenting live in-person.

November

01 Where There's a Will, There's a Way



Estate planning isn't about how much you have, but how you manage what you have. Join Michelle Singletary, *Washington Post* financial columnist, and discover ways to make clear decisions about your assets.

03 Savvy Tax Strategies



Taxes can be complicated, and no one wants to pay more than their fair share. Learn how to avoid common mistakes when it comes to your investment portfolio, health care, and estate strategies at this informative webinar.

10 Golden Strategies



Are you planning to retire soon, have recently retired, or are living in retirement? Attend this educational webinar to learn strategies around managing your retirement income assets, estate planning, and tax efficient investing.

Resources

Work Toward and Live Your Dream Retirement

<https://bit.ly/finindep2>
<https://bit.ly/overwdebt>
<https://bit.ly/markvol>
<https://bit.ly/invinfl>

Estate Planning and Wills 101

<https://bit.ly/willestate>
<https://bit.ly/weltran>
<https://bit.ly/donchar>

How Tax Savvy are You?

<https://bit.ly/plantaxeff>

Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. [Thrivent.com/disclosures](https://www.thrivent.com/disclosures).

Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credentialed to provide investment advisory services. Visit [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors. Thrivent financial advisors and professionals have general knowledge of the Social Security tenets. For complete details on your situation, contact the Social Security Administration.

No products will be sold. Jean Chatzky and Michelle Singletary are not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent. The views expressed in these presentations are their own and not necessarily those of Thrivent or its affiliates. The material presented has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable and is current.

Thrivent and its financial advisors and professionals do not provide legal, accounting, or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. For additional disclosures, visit [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.thrivent.com/social).

Stay Connected

To receive the most up to date information on events, activities, and communication, please update or add your email address by logging on to your Thrivent account at [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) or by calling 1-800-847-4836.



Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

About Thrivent

Thrivent is a membership-owned fraternal organization, as well as a holistic financial services organization, providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they've been given.

Member benefits and programs are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits and programs is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue, or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them, at any time.

You should only purchase and keep insurance and annuity products that best meet the financial security needs of you and your family and never purchase or keep any insurance or annuity products to be eligible for non-guaranteed membership benefits.