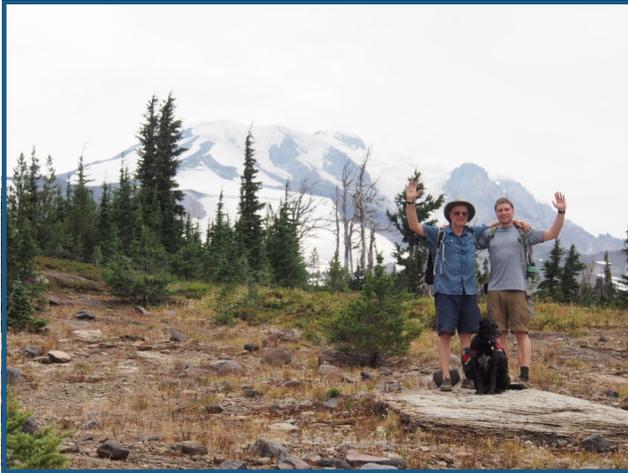


Welcome!



We are pleased to announce that Ted Haley has been promoted to President of Advanced Wealth Management. This promotion is a reflection of Ted's competency in the business, and his success in working effectively with clients, staff, other professionals, and with peers in the financial services industry.

With his new title Ted will take on new responsibilities, primarily in the internal operations of our firm. Bob Haley will remain Chairman and CEO. His primary focus will continue to be helping clients achieve their financial objectives.



Please join us in congratulating Traci Vanaken on passing her Series 66 exam and her promotion to Registered Associate! The exam is administered by FINRA and covers topics that have been determined to be necessary to provide investment advice and effect securities transactions for clients. The exam is an exciting step for Traci and AWM. This is something Traci worked very hard for and we are all very proud of her achievement. Congratulations Traci!

Winter Preparation Checklist | Operations Corner

Are you ready for colder weather and the end-of-the-year rush? Consider using some of these tips to help you save money and time as winter approaches:

Be mindful of your Employer Benefit programs with calendar year-end deadlines:

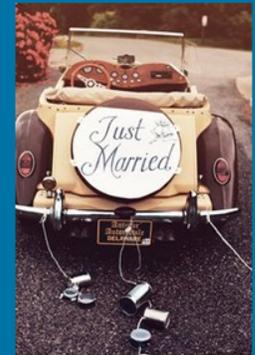
- Are you taking full advantage of employer-sponsored matching contributions for plans such as 401(k)s?
- If you have a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), be careful that you have fully spent your account by year-end, or be certain to get clear guidance from your employer regarding how much, if any, of your FSA can be rolled into the new year.
- Have you taken all your vacation days? If not, again be certain you know how much unused vacation can be rolled into the new year.
- Some insurance benefits reset at the end of the year. It may be prudent to get that new pair of glasses or dental exam before year-end.

If you plan to make charitable gifts, be certain you make the gift early enough so that it is completed in this calendar year. Many charities have difficulty processing gifts in December, because everyone seems to have the same idea at the same time!

Before the cold weather really sets in, it is a good time to check your home's heating systems and energy efficiencies.

During the holidays, be mindful of safety – yours, your family's, and your visitors'. Many people review their insurance coverages early in the New Year, but it might be prudent just to check all your insurance policies. Ask your property/casualty agent whether you have an "Umbrella Policy," and if so, if it is big enough.

We hope you and yours enjoy the holidays, and spread good cheer wherever possible!



Congratulations are due to Becky as well! Becky and her new husband Brandon were married on October 25th at a beautiful venue in Northwest Portland. The couple hosted a champagne brunch to celebrate with family and friends. Please join us in congratulating the new Becky Clevenger and wishing them both many years of happiness together!



Fiduciary Rule | Bob Haley

A few months ago Ted and I were included in a group of experienced financial services professionals who met with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. The purpose of this visit was to share with her our views about the "Fiduciary Rule" being proposed by the Department of Labor for retirement plan investment accounts.

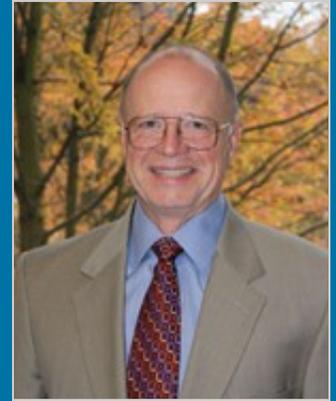
The Fiduciary Rule would require investment professionals to fully disclose conflicts of interest when working with investors of retirement plan accounts, AND it would require that the investment professional must act in the clients' best interest.

This seems reasonable to us. Ah, but not everyone thinks so!

Currently most financial services firms and their employees are not required to represent their clients' best interests. Instead, these firms may steer clients toward products which maximize the profitability of the firms, even when more appropriate choices could have been presented to the client. The legal standard for the majority of financial services transactions is "the Suitability Standard." This has a much lower level of responsibility for the investment professional. It requires that the product offered be suitable for a person in a situation similar to the clients, but does not require the clients' best interest to be addressed.

We support the Fiduciary Rule, and always have. As CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certifiants, we have agreed to always maintain a fiduciary relationship with our clients, and the written contractual language of the Commonwealth asset-based management programs specifically confirms our fiduciary status.

If you have any questions about how this affects you, please be sure to contact us. And if your friends and family are not being served by someone who commits to the fiduciary status, please suggest they contact us. Thanks!



Connect with Bob



Sharing the Wealth | Ted Haley

As the end of the year approaches and we enjoy the holiday season, many people seek ways to show their thanks to their family, their friends, and their community. This can be done with words, with actions, and with gifts, both financial and otherwise.

Some people would not think that charitable giving plays a large role in the financial planning process, but it is in fact a very integral consideration for many people's overall financial plan. It is important to consider and maximize the financial benefits of any charitable intentions that you may have, such as saving receipts in order to deduct charitable gifts.

We have many strategies to help clients achieve their charitable goals, including gifting appreciated stock, creating specific accounts structured to achieve charitable goals, and timing financial gifts most efficiently.

If you would like to review how your charitable goals fit into your overall financial life, please be sure to reach out to us or raise the issue the next time we talk!



Connect with Ted



Saving for College – Giving the Gift of Education

Looking for the perfect gift to give a child for a birthday or holiday celebration? Consider giving the gift of education!

One way to help a child save for their future college education is with a 529 Savings Plan account, a state sponsored investment account used to help set aside funds to save for future college expenses. Accounts allow funds to accumulate tax deferred for a child's college or graduate school education. Some states allow contributions to a 529 Savings Plan account to be partially or fully deductible.

Withdrawals are federally tax exempt if used for qualified higher education expenses, such as tuition, room and board, fees, books, and equipment. If distributions are not used for qualified higher education expenses, then the distributed earnings are subject to federal income tax plus a penalty.

529 Savings Plan contributions make great gifts for the holidays and birthdays. Contact our office if you are interested in learning more about giving the gift of education.*



Click here to visit our website!



Giving Back



Our team is always alert for ways to "give back" to our community.

In late August, and in the spirit of back-to-school, we went shopping and loaded backpacks, one for each grade K-5, with school supplies to be donated to our local public school.

We also returned to the Oregon Food Bank in October, where we repacked frozen corn to be distributed to families. Our team, along with other volunteers, repacked 8,235 pounds of food, or in other terms, 6,862 meals for families in need.

Commonwealth Financial Network is also dedicated to giving back through a variety of service projects and initiatives. Any knitters out there? You may be interested in this [video](#) about the Commonwealth Chemo Caps for Kids project. If you decide to get involved, we would love to see pictures of your hats!

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Hours: 7:30am–4:30pm, M-F

Securities offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Advisory services offered through Advanced Wealth Management, a Registered Investment Adviser, are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth. *The fees, expenses, and features of 529 plans can vary from state to state. 529 plans involve investment risk, including the possible loss of funds. There is no guarantee that a college-funding goal will be met. In order to be federally tax-free, earnings must be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. The earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to ordinary income tax at the recipient's marginal rate and subject to a 10-percent penalty. By investing in a plan outside your state of residence, you may lose any state tax benefits. 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, and administration/management fees and expenses.

Office Closures

Thanksgiving
November 26th

Christmas Day
December 25th

New Year's Day
January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18th

Presidents Day
February 15th

