1. Maximizing Returns: Expert Tax Advice for Small Business Owners - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcsPDKfBz_U>

Transcript:

see we have a few people starting to join us so welcome we're going to get started here um right close to or right at the top of the hour so give some people a minute to trickle in and we'll be right with you thanks okay we are just past two o'clock so

let's get rolling I hope everyone's having a great Wednesday so far just at the end of November hard to believe um so yeah today we're here to talk about maximizing your tax returns and we're here to share some advice for small business owners so uh first off um just a little bit about us here at bench so we're bench um and just wanted to of course welcome everybody again my name is Colleen and I'm joined today by bench tax adviser Kimia Franklin um we are America's full service bookkeeping and

tax filing solution for small businesses we pair you with in-house uh bookkeepers and experts to get you books your books up to date and compliant with IRS standards uh through the VCH platform we Prov provide interactive and easy to read monthly Financial reports and we can also file file your income taxes for you I get to join as part of my role cool informative sessions like this one on a monthly basis so I'm really looking forward to hearing from all the small business owners on the call about what's

on your mind what sort of concerns or ideas that you have moving into 2024 and that really helps us on this side of things plan other events and webinars like this so we're really here to you know listen and respond to what your needs are um as you know the economic landscape changes as I mentioned we do host a free webinar every month and it's all about serving business owners like you so yeah please keep your questions rolling in um you can put them in the chat um as they come up or we will have uh about 1015 minutes at the end of the

presentation uh for a live Q&A session okay so uh to kick things off uh I'm going to launch a poll here in just one second and we'd just love to know from you uh which of the following essential tax saving techniques do you find the most challenging to implement in your small business we we're still waiting for a few more people or letting a few more people join us so if you could take a moment and do this poll it should be coming up for you on your screen now thank you give everyone 30 seconds or just about

10 seconds more to get your response in if you have the the time to do it okay we're fairly split on of course the topic that we're here all here to discuss today is maximizing deductions and a few of you are looking uh into more insight uh on tracking and documenting your expenses great thanks for your participation okay so um on our screen now is our agenda so um before we get into the presentation though I would like to acknowledge that bench headquarters is founded on the traditional and ancestral and unseated

territory of the Coast Salish peoples that includes the territories of the musum squames and Cil WTH Nations thank you so as you review the agenda just a few more housekeeping notes before we're officially rolling today uh we will be sharing the recording with everyone later today so please keep an eye out uh in your inbox for that link um of course you're able to rewatch this at any time and it is a sharable link so if a friend or partner was unable to uh to join us here today we do encourage you to share that uh far and

wide um as I mentioned please keep an eye on the chat um make sure to keep any sort of you know personal information uh personal um but otherwise would love to hear where you're all tuning in from um and what sort of business or industry that you represent today okay so now I'm going to pass this on to uh bench senior tax adviser Kima Franklin uh to take us through the presentation Kya over to you all right thank you so much Colleen and hi everyone uh my name is kamama Franklin uh I'm a senior Tax Advisor for

bench and I'm also an enrad agent and uh sens enroll agent is a designation that isn't discussed often let me explain further first of all what the designation represents and so an enroll agent is a tax practitioner authorized by the United States federal government to represent taxpayers in affairs with the Internal Revenue Service and so uh also the United States Department of Treasury empowers the enroll agent to represent taxpayers for any tax related duties including tax preparation um but it also includes audits appeals or

Collections and so just for your knowledge this occupation is and has been regulated by Congress since 1884 and it was originally established to investigate questionable and fraudulent claims that were submitted in the wake of the Civil War and so Congress decided to regulate persons who given the task of representing citizens in affairs with the United States Treasury so uh that's what an enroll agent is and it is similar to a CPA and uh as it relates to tax uh and enroll agent can and uh do things just like a CPA would uh and

where uh a CPA is uh licensed to operate within the state in which it uh got its licensed with enroll agents are licensed uh or are able to represent uh taxpayers in all 50 states so that's a quick uh snapshot of enrolled agents but let's go ahead and move on to our um presentation and so um we're all here to talk about taxes and we need to to get filing ready and so we here at bench have simplified the process into three basic steps which are recording transactions the collection of documents and completing

your tax return and so this sometimes sounds uh easy but sometimes it's not so easy uh each of those steps have multiple components from reviewing bank and credit card statements and remembering what each transaction was to figuring out what to put where and so when you think about it in that aspect all of a sudden it's not so simple you know and so let's actually simplify it with some tips okay and so we're going to go over a couple of tips uh today uh how to simplify these things so uh tip number

one is to get organized okay so you want to go through your receipts you know your everyday receipts that you may have uh Cashwise that you go go back and forth every day and you're Gathering your receipts and you're making purchases uh you want to also go through your bank statement and determine where your expenses fall and so I want to include some examples so for example if you go to restaurants often and conduct business the restaurant expenses would go under the category for instance for meals all

right and so um if you pay contractors whether they're individuals or businesses or vendors for services for your business in some cases you would categorize something like that under independent contractor expense and so that's what you want to do you want to go through all of your expenses that you have on a daily basis where you business and try to figure out where they fall under okay uh and once your income and expenses are categorized you want to balance your books by reconciling all of your accounts and completing a profit

and loss balance sheet and even a statement of cash flows um if this gets too overwhelming you may want to talk to a professional for assistance such as Vin and then last lastly you want to make sure to only include the transactions for the current year those transactions that have occurred between January and December 31st of the current year all right our second tip uh is surrounding document collection all right so when collecting documents and retention of them you want to make sure you are keeping them in a safe place

where you can access them in the event of an audit you want to make sure to keep them all um at minimum based on the record type uh the diagram to the right if you're looking at our presentation here it describes the length of time required to keep documents based on the type of record it is so for example if you take a look at the diagram um any past tax returns you want to keep those as well as any receipts or miscellaneous records for three years while employment records it's suggested to keep those for

four years in other cases it is necessary to keep longer based on the situation for instance if you look at our diagram here um if it is ever determined that you omitted income on return the IRS will expect you to retain those records for that particular return for six years so um as a rule of thumb in away you may want to go ahead and keep your records for six years um especially if you're in a occupation or a business where uh there maybe some 1099s or some things that you did not know you had in your name that may come

up uh and they may you know in the event in the future be omitted if you're in that situation you want to keep those for six years okay um and with the progression of Technology it is now possible to digitize your records and so it's highly recommended to retain your records in this way because it allows you to have a more organized way to keep your receipts and you can access them easily and in addition you can document your receipts as you go by scanning the physical receipt and sometimes the particular app May actually categorize

the receipt for you so that helps you um stay organized and you also want to consider where you want to store your digital files long term um and we'll talk about this soon but there are options such as Dropbox and Google Drive that we will talk about uh in the next slide or soon moving on to tip number three more about long-term storage you want to keep a backup of your records because again if you are ever audited will need to present them as evidence of the expenses and some documents the IRS um are expecting to have when you are in an

audit would be the receipts you know that we spoke about earlier any bank statements that you uh have used to uh claiming expense credit card statements as well and payroll records um and again you may want to consider backing up your documents in a system such as Google Drive Dropbox there are a lot of solutions online now since we are techn just Savvy now that uh makes this easier for you and that you can get at the d p so that is why we always suggest that you uh choose a digital option for keeping your deductions uh

recorded okay we're GNA pass this now to Colleen to continue with the presentation thank you so much all right so thanks Kya um as you know we have a Q&A period at the end as I mentioned but we so please do do on any questions that are coming up as Kya goes through the content um and before we we uh meet bench customer Taylor tyman uh let's take a quick pause for another poll please so what aspect of financial management in your small business do you feel needs the most uh Improvement or attention uh and that poll should be

launching sorry everybody I'm looking for my poll all right here it is all right 30 seconds answer that please folus quick on the draw we got budgeting and forecasting at the top and tax planning and compliance is now leading and managing cash flow as well all right thanks for your participation everybody we'll be sharing those results out uh at the end uh via email today when you get the presentation as well okay so uh now I am pleased to introduce you to uh a bench customer uh we always feel that it's great to hear

uh right from the individuals that use our platform and work with tax advisors like Kya um so uh here is Taylor um Taylor if you're ready to unmute uh welcome you to uh to our Zoom call today um and just a quick bio I'll share uh on your behalf but Taylor please chime in at any time um so Taylor advises small businesses entrepreneurs and influencers on how to best pro uh protect their brand Services products and content uh she's a lawyer I don't think I said those words quite yet but you can maybe

deduce that from what's on screen uh Taylor is also the founder of the legal MGA Community which is a unique Legal Services membership that gives members uh access to a dedicated attorney who specializes in supporting latinx and by talk business owners looking to build impactful businesses uh and Taylor welcome here hi good well good morning for me welcome welcome all right Taylor so thanks for being here today um just in your own words if you could tell us what first brought you to bench and what convinced you to subscribe um when

there's you know a competitive market and maybe other options out there yeah um I mean I have zero tax accounting background whatsoever and when I started Ed my Law Firm I very quickly found that I was not going to be able to do any of that by myself um and so I think I actually had a friend Mentor who was working with bench and she had really good things to say so then I found you all and have been using bench ever since excellent and so as we're heading into tax season I'm sure you've experienced

tax Seasons as a lawyer and business owner without bench and then uh post bench tell me a bit about what that experience has been like and uh you know what tax season looks like for you now that you've got a partner in your corner yeah it is uh so much easier I tell the story to my business owner friends and clients that I spent my first TCH season like crying in my living room sitting on the floor trying to get all my expenses together and just not knowing anything about any of that um so I've after

frustrating my husband to no end for like 3 hours I was just like I need to hire somebody to do this so Ben now handles my Law Firm um accounting and they also handle my other businesses accounting and it's just so so easy to be able to like get a quick report to give uh my my CPA and just have them handle everything for me absolutely and uh tell me a little bit if I could put you on the spot Taylor just about um I guess you know you mentioned the financial reports what sort of Intel or what what do you use that those

financial reports for in terms of you know managing and maybe even growing your business are there certain um financial statements that you look at um to help inform you with those decisions yeah so I pop in monthly to just you know check in bench does a really good job of reaching out and asking you know for some feedback and just to make sure everything looks good um so I pop in monthly just to see kind of like cash flow what's going on making sure expenses are what I think they are and they're not out of control um and

then also this year we're heading into a new physical office space so being able to pull past reports of what previous years have looked like and can I afford to actually get a physical office space so um my husband is the math person in this household so he helps me look at uh you know potentially projecting forward but he very easily is just able to grab the reports in bench and and help me make really great decisions um so yeah the reports have been really really helpful excellent all right Taylor well

I really appreciate you uh you know hanging out with us for a few minutes today was there anything else that you wanted to add or share um I don't think so thank you I appreciate it absolutely all right well we maybe talk to you later and if you decide to uh to to turn off that's say okay too and we'll see you soon thank you all right bye all right Kya uh we're gonna head into the next part of our agenda which is write offs to trim your tax bill so uh I will pass it back to you please thanks alrighty thank you so much um thank you

so much Colleen we're going to move forward in the presentation um I'm going to be talking about understanding your tax deduction okay and what we're going to be talking about um what is a tax deduction in it its entirety um the importance of tax deductions and the difference between tax deductions and tax credits okay so first what is a tax deduction a tax deduction is an expense you have that reduces the amount of your income before tax is calculated okay so you have you may have your uh self employment uh you

know your business income you may have a W2 income or you may have a spouse that has W2 income you may have real estate that you uh have you know a property that you claim rent or shortterm short-term rentals uh Investments all of those things add up uh to a total income number okay and then after adjustments you arrive at your adjusted gross income and so then we move to tax deductions and what happens is a deduction subtracts the number uh from where your adjusted grossing come is um you have that um they are important because they

lower your taxable income which also can eventually reduce your tax bill at the end of the tax process um this could save you hundreds maybe even thousands of dollars in some cases off your tax bill now while tax deduction reduces your income before determining tax a tax credit reduces the actual tax you owe dollar for dooll and can even sometimes increase your tax refund and so um as I was speaking earlier and I talked about income and I talked about adjustments and I talked about deductions um we arrive at your taxable

income after all of that is determined and um once your your taxable income is determined that tells us where you fall as far as far as what percentage rate your taxes in okay and so then there's a number that's issued amount of the tax and just to make it simple okay your income maybe $10,000 and at 10% uh your tax is a$1 th000 out that $1,000 if you have a tax credit that's non-refundable um if you have enough in a tax credit it will reduce that whole thousand number uh if it's not refundable and let's just say um you

have a credit that's more than your tax if it's a non-refundable credit then what happens is um that other money that's left it gets it just goes away generally so if your tax is $1,000 and you have $2,000 worth of tax you can only utilize the $1,000 of the $2,000 credit that you have if it's a non-refundable Credit Now if it's a refundable credit what happens is that money becomes refundable so um if you want an example of a refundable credit um for the most part for lowincome taxpayers that would be considered the

earned income tax credit and most times that credit is uh uh related to if you have children or dependents um that are considered um your children so um if you have a $3,000 earned income tax credit that is a refundable credit and your tax is a th the 2,000 is what would be your refund even if you didn't have any withholdings so that's how that kind of goes okay um now you want to make sure that you're you know listening to everything we said today compiling your deductions make sure we have the documentation um you know and if you're

a business owner you know you want to make sure you have all of your documents um that categorizing uh tells you what your expenses are such as advertising business bills insurance premium so that's what we're going to go ahead and talk more about uh in this next St um so some examples of tax deductions for fall small businesses and if you looking at the slide we're going to be talking about top tax deduction such as advertising meals and insurance vehicles contract labor appreciation education home office interest and legal fees um

but first of all what I'd like to say in this uh category is any potential deduction or expense you have within your business that you take should be considered ordinary and NE necessary and you might be saying to yourself well what does that mean and so an ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted in your industry while a necessary expense is one that is helpful appropriate and helps develop and maintain your business so some expense categories that I've already discussed uh the advertising promotion meals

things like that I like to highlight educational expenses um because educational expenses are some things that are sometimes you know not understanding so um self-employed business owners can deduct costs for their own education subject to certain limitations in the same way uh as individual taxpayers would when you talk about certain credits that are related to educational tax but to be deductible in the business must be able to show that the education maintains or improves skills required in your present work or it is required by

law or regulations for maintaining a licensed practice status or job uh so if to make that simpler you can deduct cost for continuing education uh me as a enroll agent or a CPA we have to take continuing education to be able to uh continue to practice in in our areas and so something like that if I'm a sole proprietorship or a business I can deduct that um but I do want to make it clear um when you're taking deductions it's important to speak to a tax professional or professional so that they can look at the law and tell you

know what criteria is necessary for certain deductions um for instance another one is meals so uh last year and the year before you know based on the tax cuts and jobs act uh certain meals were 100% deductible well this year is gone back to 50% um because we're no longer under that law um and so those are the type of things that you need to uh make sure you are uh taking advantage of and making sure that you speak to someone about um another one would be vehicle expenses okay you want to keep a mileage log for

that and you have to by law if you're ever audited that's what they would be looking for another thing about um vehicle expenses commuting miles are not deductible so you would have to separate that information uh when you're documenting your uh mileage and presenting that either to your prepar or if you're using a do-it-yourself software um it's going to ask you those type of questions so that get the proper credit um and again we want to make sure that you're keeping detailed records to

substantiate any claims to potentially avoid issues with IRS okay and we have set this presentation specifically up to guide small business owners to effectively navigate tax deductions and potentially save substantial amounts of the tax okay now some moves you want to make now moving on um the moves that you want to make now um because the tax season is 33 days away um you want to consider first possibly delaying your income until January to reduce this year taxes so um remember if you're a cash basis business po the postponing of invoices

or receivables can be key so you're asking yourself well how does this really help me you know I'm going to have to pay taxes anyway eventually so what you're doing in this case would be deferring the receipt of the income and as a cash-based taxpayer uh pay tax when you receive the income versus a crol you pay tax when it's constructively received so um if you are a cash based taxpayer this tax strategy can help you in the current year that you're needing to pay taxes because it's deferring the

receive income thus deferring the tax to the next year so that would need some tax planing to see well is my income actually going to be less in this year than you would expect it to be in the next year um because you might want to choose not to do that if your income is possibly going to be uh less this year than it is in the next year and hopefully I didn't you know that's kind of tongue time but I'm hopefully hopefully I'm making sense here um next um want to talk about tackling bad debts

so if you are you know in a position in your tax situation is where you can take back debt if you're uncollectible depending on the tax basis they may qualify you for deductions and also you want to think about making those office repairs now um this would be considered accelerating expenses and this is another tax strategy that people take uh by taking the expenses that you may have in the next year and deducted in in this year by making the payment and again this is for cash taxpayers making the payment in this year so that you can

utilize and save taxes in this year okay also um if you started a new tax business you you might be eligible for significant startup cost deductions uh startup cost deductions are deductible now uh in many cases they have to be capitalized over a number of years but if the startup cost I believe the first five thousand of the startup costs are deductible in the first year uh and lastly re-evaluate your business entity type because it could make a big tax difference and we always like to suggest if you need help check out bench's

bookkeeping tax service for expert guidance all right so now we've moved on to our last poll um in this poll we want you to let us know how you're currently managing your business finances and tax related challenges and so it should have uh pulled up by now you know there's four questions uh four answers I'm sorry in-house accounting team of bookkeeper Outsource Accounting Service like bench personal financial software tools or you need assistance so we going to give you a little time to uh get that

done thank you for listening everyone couple more minutes to speak to seek your answers by doing the poll and how many uh minutes do we actually have U Colleen we are just getting so uh yeah I would say we've had the poll open for a minute I think we're good to move on thank you all right we're going to end the poll then and it looks like it actually looked like there's a tie uh between in-house accounting team or bookkeeper and personal financial software tools so thank you so much for um answering the and you will get the

answers uh when we submit the uh presentation all right so moving on let's go ahead and talk about taxes and prep and how bench can help as a general rule it is suggested that you set aside up to 30% of your net profit for taxes uh this amount set aside will vary depending on your state and the kind of business you own so you know this is just a rule of thumb that uh the tax industry has said just to give you a number but it could be more or less depending on your personal tax situation and so it takes into

consideration the 15.3% of self-employment tax as well as uh a reasonable tax rate uh between let's just say 10 and 12 perc because that's where the majority of people fall under um but the 30% should be based on your net profit for the period versus your entire Revenue earned and net profit is how much revenue you earn minus any ordinary and necessary expenses that we talked about earlier that occur throughout the year uh you should expect to make estimated tax payments if you are profitable and so if your business

is not yet profitable you won't necessarily owe any tax for your business however depending on your tax situation you may have an estimated tax responsibility based on your personal tax situation so um when you're a so proprietorship especially because um single member LL and so proprietorship businesses taxes are reported with your personal taxes um you may not you know you may either have a loss or you may have a small profit or you may break even and so you may not have a tax for your business but

you may still have taxes for your personal tax situation and so in certain cases um you have to make estimated tax payments even if you have a W2 um and has the proper withholdings certain people have to make estimated tax payments and so um as it relates to your um business Z to make it easier we suggest setting up a separate bank account that holds only the money safe for tax purposes so therefore you're not touching it you're not comingling you're not using it for your business expenses and it's there for when you need it

because believe me um for instance if you're doing really good in your business better than you ever thought and now you have this big profit and now you got this big tax bill you'll be so happy when April 15th comes and you have that money saved to pay your taxes and you don't have to figure out where it's going to come from so that's why we tell you that okay and how to do that is you want to contact your bank and open a new business savings account then move 15 to 30% of of every profit each week or

month into that account and then just don't touch it like I said earlier uh some banks will help you create a rule that automatically moves that percentage into your savings account and if yours does not you can make manually transfer those funds once a week or once a month depending on when your business finances and so bench also has some links okay that if you wanted to take a look at this more or dive in and see how to do this on your own um we'll be sharing some links uh that may be put in the chat or maybe you know part of this

presentation once we send it out that you can take a look at okay okay another another way that uh bench can help um we offer bookkeeping okay we offer retroactive bookkeeping and that only means that um there are books that they may be old that you need to catch up on we can help you do that do your bookkeeping income tax preparation and filing so you can focus on your business you provide expert support any time so uh as I was saying earlier I'm a senior Tax Advisor but there are there's a whole uh Department

worth of advisors that you have access to when you're at bench unlimited at no extra cost and our team can answer any Financial question quickly no matter how complex and then what we do offer after in all these things uh combined are smart reliable finances and we do guarantee accurate IRS compliant books so you're ready for taxing excellent and Kya on the no matter how complex do you want to give us a little bit of the small print there in terms of who exactly bench serves right so uh bench you know

primarily serves the small business taxpayer um if there are some things that are complex for instance if you are foreign in any way um and you have uh foreign considerations those type of things uh sometimes we refer out because they become a little bit more complex than what our particular uh business model supports so also if you have sales tax related items because of the complexity and because of the inter the nuances of state law um sometimes we refer that out payroll information we can definitely um consult with you and

we have questions but the actual doing of the payroll and the actual um ins and outs of what your payroll tax calculations are we we ref first things like that so those are a couple of examples of uh things that uh say no matter how complex we may run into things that we have to refer out but we do have options for you uh we won't just leave you uh you know in in in the weed so to speak um just because we don't offer we will try to at least lead you in the right direction if that's your situation so you know please

just uh take a look at us and we can definitely speak about this further you know depending on your tax situation sounds great yes and as K was saying we've got a great partner Marketplace so for things like payroll uh we work with goose Gusto for example uh fresh books with invoicing and uh a whole lot more depending on your needs all right so uh now we're at the Q&A portion of uh of the presentation um I'll KCK things off I've got one that came through already um from deia who says uh and Kia will be answering the

questions uh deia says uh I'm a consultant seeking a list of tax deductions and costs that can be expensed for a single owner LLC to reduce taxes uh Kya any low hanging fruit ones come to mind um for someone like jilia that's in a single owner LLC um well it it about the things that we have already discussed you know obviously advertising obviously meals obviously any travel you know as a consultant you know a lot of times me as a Tax Advisor uh or in the tax industry I have to go to conferences you know

those type of things are deductible uh home office because I know a lot of Consultants um if you have home office and you utilize a home office that's also deductible um you know some other things you know I know social media is very high now so if you're doing a lot of things in social media you had to purchase a camera you had to purchase this that other um related to you having to present yourself in social media those type of things are uh deductible um if you have a cell phone a lot of us no longer use landlines and this is um

something that uh sometimes is omitted or you don't realize it but the portion of the cell phone use that you have business that's also deductible so those are some suggestions sounds good uh one other question that came in was what about the fact that many of us work from home now with a small uh with the home office deduction if your office is like part of your dining room or like a shared living space how would one go about calculating that or making sure you're getting the full maximum deduction available to

right so what you want to do okay so um it has to be exclusive so that's number one thing when you're talking about home office especially when it's a combined room um you want to use a portion of the room just exclusively for whatever business you're doing so if you have a desk area um you know you may have children or a husband or other people that you live with and they might need to use the computer also don't let them use that computer have them have a different area to to do their business and want to be

exclusive and that particular area in that room is what you would need first need to start with what is that area what's the length and width and then you times that and determine what the square footage is and then you would divide that by the total square footage of your home to get to arrive at a percentage and so then what happens is you would have to tally uh how much your yearly expenses are so the things that you pay pay rent at home or if you pay a mortgage or property taxes um the mortgage would not be

deductible but the mortgage interest that you pay and the property taxes that you pay those are the type of things that are deductible including utilities um any other thing that you have home related you could tally all those up for 12 months get a total and then whatever the percentage of square footage that you use for that particular area of your home is what is deductible and um you also can consider any direct direct expenses that you have related to the home office for instance if you had to paint that area or if you had to

separated in some way if it's directly related to the particular area that you're using for business that's a direct expense so that amount is totally deduc versus percentage okay sounds good thank you um okay one more um if you're using an exclusive account for business a banking account for business you still need to keep your receipts and document them even though they itemized in your bank account I would say yes especially for meals um in audits um you know certain expenses require contemporaneous um documentation and

that just means that you have to have a who what when where on the on the uh document so yes um for meals and then for vehicles you would need to keep a a mileage log and not only the mileage log but IRS expecting you if you're ever audited to determine uh and give them documentation of what your mileage was at the beginning of the year and what they were add at the end of the year so that they can determine if the amount that you've given in that amount is correct uh for total does it make sense you know okay if I subtract the the the

receipt that you have for the beginning of the year and the receipt you have for the end of the year does that total equal the log the log amount that you have written down um and so they use all of those things to compile and and uh determine if uh the expense you have is reasonable and is is is truthful because they want to make sure that it you know it's accurate okay and what would your advice be for a lost receipt say something you know just you remember that you would hit up a fast food restaurant you know on a in between

meetings for example and just misplaced or didn't get a receipt what can you do to I guess be a buff board and track things for an eventual audit and in that way in that case um in certain isolated uh situation there is law where you can reconstruct for instance if you there's a total loss uh you were in a fire somehow you lose you lost all of your documents um they expect you to back into certain uh numbers you have to have a way to uh prove that what your reconstruction is or what your estimate is right but you want to for the most

part uh for meals and things that have to be contemporaneous you may not be able to deduct it if you don't have a receipt but in certain cases you can uh use um reconstruction methods uh to back into the the numbers and you would just have to give an explanation as to why it's lost you know you don't just want to say well I lost it or well you know they expect you to possibly you know and it might seem unreasonable because sometimes I I feel like that too but you know they want you to like think about

where you were okay where were you January 1st 2023 I don't remember but you know you might remember you have to figure figure it out do your best effort to contact the vendor or contact the restaurant you know if it's a meal is there any way you can give me my receipt you know or if you have a bank statement that you can get and you got the name of the business or whatever reach out and call like do make your best efforts to get the receipt but if you really can't and you've done everything you can and

it's uh you know it's it's it's part of a expense that you can reconstruct then they allow you to do that right thank you okay well it looks like uh that is the bulk or that is our concludes our questions for right now uh Kia is there anything that you wanted to share to close us off um I'd like to thank everyone for being here thank you for listening um you know we have uh tax advisors available that and CP that our en Ro agents and CPAs and then we're able to you know at least answer your questions

um we're here for you and uh just give us a try excellent all right everybody well wishing you all a happy holiday season and uh yeah just encourage you to you know get through those to-do lists before uh tax season is here and those what what do we say 33 days so all the best to everybody and thanks for joining us we'll see you soon thanks