

Why We Love Working with Non-Profits on 990s | Video Transcript

Lynn Meiser:

I love working with non-profits. I think that it's more the people that you get to work with and you get to meet. They have such a passion for their causes. When you get to talk to them and understand their passion and understand what they want to do to make this community a better place. And I really enjoy working with them and getting to know their organizations and helping them complete their Form 990 with the IRS and their state filings that they need to complete. To really help them on that side so they can spend their time working on their programs and their passion.

Paula Hume:

I like to work with the non-profit industry because it connects me with our community, giving back, helping them present to the public their financial information. And it tells the story I think. And so I enjoy doing that. I love working in the non-profit niche. The people are always so caring and giving, and that to me fulfills a couple sides of my pillars and as well as Barnes Dennig.

Lynn Meiser:

It makes it meaningful for me that I get to help my non-profit clients understand the Form 990. Understand that it is available for the public to look at. Understand the meanings of why the IRS is asking these questions. And really to make sure that they're compliant with everything they need to be compliant for and so that they understand. I want to help the board members understand the questions to ask at board meetings to make sure that they're understanding all the financial information that is represented in the 990.

Paula Hume:

So I think helping exempt organizations with their 990 is incredibly valuable to organizations. The 990 form presents a story. And so for us to be able to help them tell that story, I think is an important factor for them.

Lynn Meiser:

The thing I enjoy most is getting to know the clients, getting to know their mission, the programs that they want to accomplish, and just getting an understanding for the passion that they have at helping the community out. I also really enjoy educating them on what the Form 990 is, and what needs to be



completed in those forms, and maybe what some of the schedules are and how it represents themselves to potential donors and to board members, and anybody else that might be looking at the Form 990 in the future.

Paula Hume:

We have a responsibility to give back to our community. And so to me, helping exempt organizations complete their 990, submit it timely, all joins those values that I have in my personal life as well as the professional.

So one reaction I get usually is when I go and present the 990s to boards, which I do often. And let's be honest, the 990 is a tax return. Who can get excited about a tax return? But I've had board members say, "You have one of the most exciting presentations on a tax return that we've ever had." And so to me, that's fulfilling that I can get people involved in what I do professionally and at least get them involved and get excited about a form that is it a critical document for an exempt organization.

Lynn Meiser:

We also get feedback from board members who want to make sure that they understand Form 990 and make sure that they understand the difference between, maybe the financial audit report and the Form 990. Because there are differences between the two that have to be reported. And educating those board members is a great thing. We get feedback on and we're happy to do that and help them understand some of the differences between those two reports.

I think it helps the community by, the non-profits that are out there helping the community, helping do great things for this community. Helping people, helping in all their different ways it takes. Let us do the Form 990. Let us worry about the expertise in completing this form and understanding all the complexities with it. Because it is a very complex form. So they can spend more time working on their mission, working on their programs and accomplishing everything that they set out to accomplish.

Paula Hume:

So the 990 is used in so many different facets. Granters look at it, donors look at it. And so it's an important document for most exempt organizations. I think most board members should take a look at it. If you are a donor, it's a good document to use to decide if you want to give to that organization. And so to be, I think it's an important document. And so I enjoy being involved in preparing it.