

Tax break for motorists are numerous, AAA says

Michigan motorists who itemize deductions on federal income tax returns may include many of the costs related to owning and operating an automobile, according to an Automobile Club of Michigan.

Copies of a pamphlet listing tax deductions for car owners, whether they use their automobiles for personal or business use, are available to triple-A members at any auto club office.

The following deductions to which all car owners are entitled, even if their automobile is used solely for pleasure, are listed by the auto club:

• The standard mileage rate is 15 cents per mile for the first 15,000 miles of business driving and 10 cents per mile for additional business mileage. A log should be kept of mileage and parking and toll charges accumulated during business use.

Automobile expenses incurred in connection with business use should be computed on Internal Revenue Service Form 2106, which should be attached to the individual income tax return.

The auto club points out that costs incurred in driving from home to a regular place of employment and returning home are not tax deductible.

• The four per cent Michigan state sales tax on the amount paid for a new automobile, car, parts, accessories and supplies.

• Damage to, or loss of, an automobile due to fire, theft, collision, vandalism, storm, etc., not reimbursed by insurance or other means, if not due to willful negligence. (Deduction for damage to property used for personal purposes is limited to the amount of each loss in excess of \$100.)

Persons itemizing deductions may claim as a charitable contribution any actual unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses of operating an automobile in the interest of services to a charitable organization.

The actual expenses of using an automobile to obtain medical or dental services may be claimed as a medical expense.

In lieu of itemizing actual costs, a standard rate of seven cent per mile for such mileage, plus any parking fees or tolls, may be used in figuring deductions for charitable contributions and medical expenses.

Auto club reminds motorists that the cost of license plates and driver license are not deductible items, unless the car is used for business purposes.

If a car is used for business, the following items (in whole or in part, depending on the extent of business use) are deductible: Auto club membership cost; state automobile license plate fees; driver license fees; automobile insurance premiums; car depreciation.

The members come from throughout southern Michigan and work to keep the art of storytelling alive.

The theme for the month will be "The Long, Mirth and Laughter."

Persons wishing an invitation to the meeting are asked to call Roberta Bullough at 461-2884.

One of Mrs. Bullough's latest appearances as a storyteller took place in Farmington's Eagle school last week.

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