**Review Your Social Security Earnings Report**

Most of us go through life without being concerned with, or even checking on, our Social Security earnings report. However, the Social Security Administration (SSA) can and does make errors and omissions. The only way these problems are caught is if **YOU** notice them. Waiting until retirement may be too late to correct an error made 10 to 20 years back. Common problems and their impact:

* **Incorrect amounts.** If the SSA does not receive a W-2 wage statement from an employer, you will not see credit for these earnings. If you have earnings that are missing, your retirement check will be permanently lower!
* **Missing Earnings.** In addition to receiving credit for earnings, you also need to work a certain number of quarters to be eligible for retirement benefits. These missing earnings reports reduce your number of working quarters.
* **The three- year correction time limit.** Per the SSA, an earnings record can be corrected at any time up to three years, three months, and 15 days after the year in which the wages were paid or the self-employment income was derived. While there are exceptions for fraud and obvious clerical errors, why risk the hassle by not finding errors and fixing them when they happen?

**Action to Take**

It is now easier to confirm the accuracy of your account as the SSA has an online tool that allows you to review your historic earnings statements online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

To use the tool, you will need to go through an online signup process that includes safety measures to ensure your identity is protected.

If you see an error on your statement, you should immediately correct it. You can do this by contacting the SSA:

* Telephone: 1-800-772-1213
* By Mail: Social Security Administration

Office of Earnings Operations

PO Box 33026

Baltimore, MD 21290-3026

Since you are receiving a new W-2 for 2021, make reviewing your social security retirement account part of your annual tax filing routine.