

Nov. 29, 2011

Dear Damascus Craft Show Vendor,

It appears that our little town has finally made it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century; this is not necessarily a good thing. At our craft show earlier this month we were visited by an agent of the Dept. of Agriculture who was checking to make sure that any food vendors were properly licensed; happily, they were in compliance. However, this led to great concern about the possibility of the “revenooers” coming around. (“Revenooers” was the term applied, in the “old days,” to gentlemen from the Dept. of Revenue, in other words, tax guys. They hassled the locals who ran stills, made moonshine whiskey, corn likker, white light’nin, mountain dew. This was the roots of NASCAR; the moonshiners souped up their cars to outrun the tax men, and then started having races among themselves.) But I digress. We’re faced with a decision: either require our vendors to obtain a vendor permit and collect and submit sales taxes on their sales, or stop having craft shows. We’ve decided on the former option. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT IT’S NOT A BIG DEAL!

To get a license, call the Pa. Dept. of Revenue at 717-787-1064; this is an automated service. For the computer literate among you, you may go to [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us). This state makes it easy to submit your sales taxes, although the situation does require you to keep records of your sales, which you probably do anyway. You can file on-line or over the ‘phone (which is what I do—easy.) You’ll be asked for:

Your 8-digit PA Sales Tax Account ID number (which will appear on your license)

Your 9-digit Entity ID (EIN or SSN). This is your Social Security number

The end date of whatever tax period you’re in (such as Jan1-June 30; or July 1-Dec. 31. The end dates would be either June 30 or Dec.31.)

Your gross Pa. sales (Your total sales for that period.)

Your taxable Pa. sales (used merchandise or food is excluded—you don’t have to collect sales taxes on those)

The amount of sales tax you’ve collected.

The amount of Use Tax due (Use tax occurs when you make purchases that support your business on which you yourself haven’t paid sales taxes. For instance: when you buy craft supplies in a store, you pay sales tax at the cash register. If you buy something on line or from a catalog, you don’t pay sales taxes, so instead you pay what’s called a Use Tax of 6% in Pa. since you didn’t pay it at the time of purchase.)

There are 3 other items which little vendors like us can ignore; they don’t apply to us.

You then write a check for the amount you owe, and mail it to the address provided. They give you lots of time to get this done—about 6 weeks after the end date.

We realize dealing with stuff like this can be intimidating, but really, it doesn't need to be. We don't want to give up our craft shows, and we don't want to lose you as a vendor; it's been such a great relationship!

If you have questions, or just feel like commiserating, PLEASE call me at: 224-4377.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hedy".

Hedy Kunstmann