

[From Winter 1998-1999]

First Matching Gift Received

Were you ever happy to be embarrassed? Well, I recently experienced this conflicting set of emotions, thanks to one of our members, Cathy Ross.

It all started when I received an e-mail from Cathy asking if the Chincoteague Natural History Association could accept matching gifts. Her employer had a matching gift program, and she was hoping she could double her membership renewal contribution by means of a matching amount from her company's program.

I immediately responded with a resounding "YES" since the CNHA was granted tax exempt status in August 1986 under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions to the CNHA may be deducted as charitable contributions under section 170 of the Code.

A few days later, I received Cathy's generous renewal check along with a one-page form she had obtained from her company. All I had to do was sign and date the form (certifying that the CNHA is tax exempt, the amount of the gift, and date of receipt) and mail it back to her employer.

It couldn't have been simpler! Although I was happy to receive Cathy's renewal and a matching gift from her employer, I was mightily embarrassed that I hadn't previously made members aware of this simple, no-cost way to increase their support to the CNHA.

So now that I'm totally chagrined at my oversight, put a happy smile on my face by using the matching gift program of your employer to multiply your CNHA membership renewal contribution.

Frank Moore
Editor