



## Hands Extended Again.

It was only a matter of time before the "B" word was used with the local school district budget, that word being "Billion." When the proposed budget was reported in the news, some folks began to say that's roughly a quarter of a billion dollars, a million here, a million there, close enough. The Green Bay Press Gazette article went on to say in their inimitable, confusing style, "The proposed \$252.7 million spending plan for this school year is up about 7 percent from last year's \$238 million budget....The equalized tax rate would drop nearly 2 percent," a statement that leads people to believe their taxes would drop.

Now, please explain to me what accounting trick allows an increase in spending with a concurrent drop in rates? Most of our members long ago understood the black and white difference between "tax levy and tax rate," but some media continue to obfuscate the reality of spending going up but miraculously, taxes go down-no amount of accounting tricks can hide that truth, "and that's the fact, Jack."

If you talk with District finance officials they were able to conveniently refinance some debt, but this laudable fiscal maneuver while lowering interest costs ( no matter the term was extended) however the savings somehow failed to come back to taxpayers pockets. And although salary contracts only called for a little under a 4% annual increase, the Board found a generous moment to award a bit more than 1.5% increase in these costs, but what the heck, taxpayers can afford it after all their "tax rate" went down!

District finance manipulators don't miss a trick to shift costs, see Fund 80 expenses, and now less than 4 years since we voted near \$17 million for deferred maintenance back to the taxpayers proposing upwards of \$ 30 million for additional deferred maintenance. What don't I/We understand about "deferred maintenance," since the District has basically two goals for operation, teach and graduate our youth and operate and maintain District facilities.

Now, you want to get steamed up about these pecuniary peccadilloes, ask the question why the district come hands out to taxpayers when District cash on hand has risen to upwards of \$ 40 million. Obviously, our financials are so precarious that large sums need be piled up all the while bonds over decades are floated. I can help but ask, "You mean we can't pay cash for one or a few, deferred maintenance items?" Folks, for my/our money we are being fleeced unnecessarily by a District who somehow conjure up creating more jobs at taxpayer's expense helps the local economy. The District budget reflect an approximately Administrations increase of 15% and financial operations increase around the 20% mark. After all, someone has to think up these monetary malefactions, not to suggest laws were broken, but good practices, moral monetary methodology, managing public funds at the lowest cost for accomplishing the District's basic tasks, should become the primary function. And although Act 10 has produced savings elsewhere, not so much in Green Bay-better to defer, and defer.

*Richard Parins* — President

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
*In our 29th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.*

## Code of Ethics to elected officials at all levels of government. (From your local representatives to The President, )

1. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to Government persons, party, or department.
2. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
3. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay; giving to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
4. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
5. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges by anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.
6. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a Government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
7. Engage in no business with the Government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.
8. Never use any information coming to him in confidentiality in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.
9. Expose corruption wherever discovered.
10. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust. From Taxpayers Network, Inc.  
*We would like to add one more:*
11. At all times remember the public is watching you. It is important to constantly set an example of decency, leadership, and concern for the public interest and the trust they have placed in you.

"If political thinking for years has been vitiated in the same way. . . The most grossly obvious facts can be ignored when they are unwelcome." . . . George Orwell

"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." . . . John F. Kennedy

"President Obama says he will get the best and the brightest to fix the problems with enrolling for healthcare. Isn't that what he should have done in the first place?" . . . Jay Leno

## It Pays to Support the B C T A.

At the end of each year we reflect on what has taken place, the effect on taxpayers, and try to make plans to meet the challenges of the coming year. We are fortunate in having local officials who keep the concerns of taxpayers foremost in fulfilling their public duties. Nonetheless, the economy and employment rates are still in need of improvement, and the imposition of "*Affordable Health Care*" in particular by the Obama administration has left many questions going beyond the scope of health care remaining to be answered which will likely have a monetary effect on all of us.

The Brown County Taxpayers Association is an all-volunteer organization, now in our 29th year of existence. The members who do the research, represent you at government meetings, travel to Madison on your behalf, publish our Tax Times newsletter and respond to press inquiries with a taxpayer point of view are doing so because we believe we must. Without a local group to counter the arguments of those who want to grow government, taxpayers are in jeopardy from those who believe government can put your money to better use than you.

Earlier this year we met with officials of the Governor's office in Madison to ask that taxpayer interests be advanced in the state budget. We discussed an array of mandates, subsidies and loopholes in current state laws which are used to take money from taxpayers without justification. We are pleased that the Governor's office listened to our viewpoint and, with the Legislature, created a taxpayer-friendly state budget. We continue to engage Madison policy makers on behalf of people like you.

On another important front, county residents continue to be protected from enactment of a county sales tax due to our having a majority of County Board members signed on to the BCTA's Sales Tax Opposition Pledge. However, the County Executive will not rule out the idea of this tax and with your support we will continue to oppose it. Additionally, we are working hard to see that the Packer Tax expires as committed and is not somehow "extended". We've paid long enough.

Our members enjoy association with a larger group promoting "*fiscal responsibility in government*," and seeing the results of their participation. Our committee structure includes, schools, local and county government, and state and national government.

You can help us continue to work for all Brown County taxpayers by renewing your membership or becoming a member. Also, please consider joining one of our committees = we can achieve even more if we can put the talents of more taxpayers to work. If you know of a potential member, get us their name and we will invite your prospect to join us. You can visit our website at [www.BCTAxpayers.org](http://www.BCTAxpayers.org), for details or call our treasurer, Tom Sladek at 499-7701. Our dues are only \$15.00 per year for an individual which is a good investment to have someone concerned about the taxes you pay.

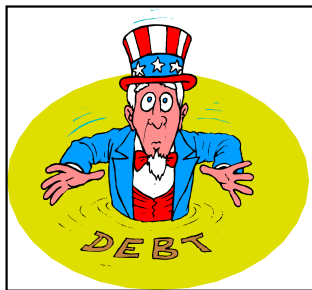
Finally, our monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at Titledown Brewing Co., and usually feature a public official or speaker on current issues. Members and their guests are always welcome, and open discussion is encouraged. If you've not been to one of our meetings, come out and see what it's all about!

## National Debt Update.

At the beginning of November the U. S. National Debt was \$17,075,585,730,612.00, or as they say in Washington, "just a little over 17 Trillion." In this case it (*with little notice in the press.*) had gone over 17 Trillion for the first time. That was last month.

As of the first of December, our National Debt has climbed to \$17,204,230,159,338.00, or an increase of \$129 Billion in just 30 days. This is something like \$3.87 Billion per day. Even more shocking, if you take the monthly increase of \$129 Billion, multiply by 1,000 to get the number of million, and divide that by 317,000,000 which is the estimated present population of the United States, you would come up with \$406.94, which is your personal increase in the United State National Debt during the last month alone. Figure it out for yourself.

Now try and figure out where will this money went to and whether or not it was necessary. Recall a month or



so ago the Senate, House, and President were at odds over raising the debt limit, with the possibility of closing down the government if no action was taken. Words like compromise were thrown around, and numerous meetings were held between members Congress and the President to work things out. The Senate was

following the Presidents lead and not budging an inch, while the House of Representatives wanted a budget designed to control spending and place some restrictions on the imposition of Obamacare.

The end result was no cuts in spending, no budget, full speed ahead with Obamacare, and a costly, unfortunate 2-week government "shutdown" choreographed by the administration to inconvenience as much of the population as possible while still keeping the lights on. The media still blames "Congress" for their failure to compromise.

We question if the government has any clue as to what the implementation of Obamacare will ultimately cost. The problems with their failed website demonstrate a complete lack of knowledge as to what they are doing. While blaming insurance companies for their need to reform. we are only getting our country into a much bigger mess. JF

"We're not going to wait for Congress to fix what's going on in our health care system. If Congress won't act, I will." . . . Barock Obama

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410. E-mail BCTA@ExecPC.Com.

## Simple Obamacare fix: freedom.

Here's a great plan for fixing the Obamacare mess.

If you don't believe in Obamacare (you think it's bad for the country, don't like paying more money for fewer benefits, believe you'll get poor care, don't like government access to your health and financial records--whatever your reasons), you're allowed to opt out of it. Those who opt out would be required to take care of their own health outside the government system and could never make a claim on it. But they would never have to share in its expenses or regulations either.

If you believe in Obamacare, you opt in. Those who want Obamacare should be willing to bear its costs and regulations without forcing others, who don't believe in it, to take part in the program or be taxed for it. In this way Obamacare would be funded entirely by those who people who believe in it and participate in it. Not one penny would be added to the federal debt.

This simple plan would preserve the freedoms of those who want nothing to do with Obamacare, and the freedoms of those who want it. This is a plan for those who love fairness and democracy,

S. Liddicoat—BCTA

## Happy Thanksgiving.

*On Thanksgiving Day, 2001, I first sent out this column. I have sent it out annually since then, and am thankful that it is still true. Enjoy, and I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.*

Thanksgiving and the Christmas season are traditionally the time of year in which we reflect, look back, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. This year will be no different in that respect.

**I am thankful to be an American.** That's an easy phrase to say. It rolls off the tongues of thousands of politicians as easily as gravy off mashed potatoes. This phrase does have meaning that most of us never give a second thought.

**I am thankful to my forefathers** (foremothers, too), who risked all, including their own lives and those of their families, to create what had never been seen before on the face of the Earth: a government required to submit itself to the rights of its people . . .

**I am thankful for the Bill of Rights:** free speech, freedom of religion, freedom to own firearms, freedom from undue government interventions.

**I am thankful to those who protest our nation's actions,** our nation's laws, even our nation's existence, and who in so doing verify the very principles upon which our nation was founded.

**We live in a country where a person can criticize our government,** our system, our way of life, and then drive his own car back to his own home, where his children are sleeping peacefully, free from fear, at least from his own government

**I am thankful that I live in Wisconsin.** I'm thankful for the people who live here. The good neighbors, the hard workers, the people who sacrifice for their businesses and their families. The people who face an obstacle and overcome it. Who face adversity and defeat it. Some say our government makes Wisconsin great – I say it is those people.

**We live in the best country in the world.** Because of our freedoms, and because of the rule of law, not of men. Happy Thanksgiving. Senator Frank Lasee

### November Meeting Notes.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting held Nov 21, 2013 at Tiletown Brewing. The following committee reports were presented.

**COUNTY/MUNICIPAL:** The City of Green Bay 2014 budget, approved by the Green Bay City Council, reduces the property tax rate from \$8.95 to \$8.86 per thousand dollars of valuation. The issue of a new Wal-Mart store on north Broadway is still not resolved. Moody's Investors Service has reduced city's debt ratings in several categories, but the reduced ratings should not significantly affect borrowing costs.

The Brown County Board has approved a budget with an \$80.87 million tax levy, a small decrease from the \$80.88 million tax levy this year. It will mean a tax rate of \$4.5738 per thousand dollars of property valuation. The County Board dropped the proposal to give its members a pay raise.

**NEW Water**, formerly known as the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, has increased its estimate of its rate increase for next year from 7 percent to 13 percent, due to a large customer significantly decreasing its wastewater flows. This is the rate it charges municipal and large industrial customers, so the rates municipalities charge individual customers and businesses should be somewhat less.

**SCHOOLS:** The Green Bay School Board has approved a \$252 million budget for the upcoming budget year. The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) continues to seek more data from the Green Bay School Board concerning inappropriate Community Service Fund (Fund 80) expenditures being made by the Green Bay School District.

**Election of Directors and Officers:** the following directors were re-elected for three-year terms: Jim Frink, Rich Heidel, Dave Nelson, Richard Parins, Steve Terrien, and Rich Carlstedt

New director Arlen Thayse was elected for a three year term ending October 31, 2016.

Officers elected for one-year terms expiring October 31, 2014 were:

- President: Richard Parins
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Rod Goldhahn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Dave Dillenburg
- Secretary: Dave Nelson
- Treasurer: Tom Sladek

The next meeting of the BCTA will be Dec. 19, 2013 at Tiletown Brewing Co. Details on back page of this TAX TIMES. **Dave Nelson—Secretary**

### Common Core...Good or Bad for Wisconsin?

Public education is a state function, administered through local districts. Education systems rely on some type of standards to direct curriculum and teaching processes across the grade levels. By the time a child reaches 5th grade, or 8th grade, or 12th grade, they should possess predetermined skills in reading, math, science, etc. The "No Child Left Behind" federal initiative in the 2000's required tests or assessments to be done to measure those skill levels in each state and to do state to state comparisons. Common Core School Standards (CC) is a set of national education standards for English and Math. They were a joint development by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The standards were rolled out in 2010 and 45 states, including Wisconsin, quickly adopted them.

At face value, the idea of a consistent set of standards makes sense. However, as more was learned about CC, questions arose and dissenting groups formed, causing some states to reconsider their adoption of CC. Supporters argue that CC was created by a team of school administrators, educators, parents, and state government representatives. They say they provide a minimum standard of performance to prepare our young people for careers or college, and benchmark well against other leading industrial nations. They also provide consistency across states, and allow for uniform testing.

Dissenters argue that CC was developed with little input from parents and educators and was largely driven by private funding. They claim states were coerced into quickly adopting the CC standards by the promise of millions of dollars in grant money from the federal government's "Race to the Top" initiative and that they have not been properly tested or communicated to the public. They fear national standards will drive a national curriculum with social and political bias, largely eliminating state and local control of education. The costs of implementation are also unclear.

So what is the right answer? There are too many open questions to jump into the adoption of CC for Wisconsin. The legislature should stop implementation until the debate has had a chance to run it's course and the public understands the full impact of CC on performance, curriculum, cost, and state control. Our students and schools compare well against other states. We do not need to rush into a new set of standards before we know where they will take us.

**BCTA Schools Committee.**

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

. . . **John F. Kennedy**

"Never travel faster than your guardian angel can fly,"

. . . **Mother Theresa**

## Things That Make Us Wonder.

As 2013 comes to an end, local elections hopefully will take some of our attention away from all the fire-works in Madison and Washington.

On December 1, City Council, County Board, plus other municipal officials could start to circulate nomination papers seeking election or re-election to represent their friends and neighbors in these important and responsible jobs.

Local elected officials must commit to spending a lot of time on the job if elected, including making themselves available to their constituents to discuss their concerns. They deserve your respect and applause.

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While the local races are right around the corner, the 2016 Presidential and Congressional races are already heating up. Under a theoretical assumption that it will be a race between Hillary Clinton and Gov. Chris Christie, the pollsters for the media are already busy trying to pick a winner. How? By doing everything in their power to slant favorable or negative opinions in their reporting.

While 2016 is still a long way off and hopefully the best candidates on both sides will emerge, a lot will probably happen in the meantime. However, coming out with polls from anonymous sources and methodology three years in advance of the fact appear to be the first salvos fired in what will be the granddaddy of all election campaigns with new highs in spending and new lows in advertising with sleazy misleading information

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The Postal Service claims they will lose only about \$5 Billion this year compared to \$15.9 Billion last year and are lobbying Congress to approve a three cent increase in first class postage to \$.49 cents. Problem is that traditional first class mail has been decreasing due to the internet, high costs, and other factors, while lower rate bulk and non-profit mail which receives the same delivery service but costs half or even less tp mail seems to be increasing.

Presently non-profit organizations are able to make mailings as low as .10-.15 cents each depending on the destination and commercial bulk mail can average \$.25 each. These rates are for pieces up to 3 1/2 oz. each while if an individual wants to mail something across town it requires extra postage.

While these mailings do require some presorting by the sender, they are delivered the same as other mail with regular rates.

The point is if raising the price of first class mail every so often, and then wonder why fewer people use it the best approach? Under the assumption that the volume of non-profit and bulk mail far exceeds traditional individual and business mail, a three-cent across the board increase to non-profit and bulk rate users would still allow ridiculously low rates to churches and charities and still allow these groups to perform. It might even encourage some of them to cut back on their junk mail and surprise the post office by making a profit for a change.

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This will make you think. An item in the Nov. 18, "TIME" magazine claims that scientists estimate there are **8.8 BILLION** existing planets out in the solar system similar in size and temperature to earth, or in other words capable of supporting life.

Considering that distance in space is measured by thousands of light years it's possible that civilization such as ours existed millions of years ago. This brings up the unanswered age-old question of what exists beyond space? Maybe Star Wars wasn't so far fetched after all.

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NWTC, along with the UWGB and St. Norberts have announced they are seeking ways to raise more revenue for their programs without increasing tuition or raising taxes.

We hate to suggest business as a source, but if they are seeking new employees with specific skills, isn't that the purpose of having these schools in the first place? We know that the NWTC in particular designs

its curriculum to the needs of local employers, and does considerable follow-up with new students and employers to assure their needs are met.

Considering that private employment agencies charge hefty fees for their services perhaps this money could better be spent directly with the schools providing the training.

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The White House has made the claim that health care spending across the country has been in decline during recent months, and even went so far as to credit their findings on the imposition of the Affordable Health Care law.

This may be partially true. If they factor in the millions of people who have had their health insurance plans cancelled as a result of the law, and accordingly postponed necessary health care procedures, or those who are waiting for the law to take full effect to receive benefits you can give credit Affordable Health Care.

\* \* \* \* \*

For some time there have been rumors of domestic ammunition shortages and that the Federal Government had been buying all the ammunition they could on the open market in order to keep it out of the hands of private citizens. This was evident on local TV recently when deer hunters were unable to find ammunition in local stores. In the meantime, it is no secret that President Obama is not a supporter of gun ownership rights, and has a reputation of getting his way by any means at his disposal. In this case with the help of the EPA.

The only lead smelting facility remaining in the U.S. is the Doe Run Co, plant in Herculaneum, Mo., a town just south of St. Louis on the Mississippi. It is here where the lead used for most of the bullets sold in the country is produced. Guns are of little use for anything without bullets. The plant also recycles used car batteries which is a necessary recycling service for the entire country.

Unfortunately lead or any smelting industry and the EPA are not compatible, While their differences were not disclosed, there is specula-

Continued on next page →

tion that the government may have set higher standards for Doe Run than other industries to deliberately close them down, or Doe Run made the decision on their own due to the cost of compliance that was involved. Speculation is that it was the former.

The net result is that the only viable producer of lead in the U.S. is closing their business. and the supply of firearm ammunition will be jeopardized unless alternatives can be found.

Other major lead producing nations are China, Australia and Peru, with China the likely choice. While this whole affair may or may not have been an end around orchestrated to complicate gun ownership, it could cause plenty of other problems along the way. For example will we be depending on China to supply bullets for our military or batteries for our automobiles?

One possible lesson to be learned from this is if industry, national defense, protecting the environment as well as growing the economy have a chance to cooperate and compromise on a problem, the winner is always going to be partisan politics.

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Remember Gov. Doyle's efforts to promote a "high speed" train line between Milwaukee and Madison? The federal government was going to give us \$810 Million but the ongoing cost to the state would still have been far more than the project was worth. The whole deal was eventually called off but apparently no one bothered to inform Talgo, the manufacturer of the trains what was going on. Now they are suing the state for \$66 Million damages for expenses encountered.

Several law firms will likely profit while the details are sorted out. In the end, we doubt if many people will miss taking the two hour "high speed" train ride with all the stops along the way when they could make the trip door to door faster by car.

\* \* \* \* \*

All too frequently we hear of some party, usually retired and living on limited resources being swindled out of their savings by those who take advantage of any person or situation to

make themselves a fast buck.

We notice a lot of TV ads for all sorts of home improvements, services, legal and financial matters. All they give you is a reliable sounding name and a phone number to call. In most cases you have no idea where the business is located if you respond. Common sense should tell you to know who you are dealing with and where they are located

As Obamacare extends its ugly grip on our lives, there will certainly be numerous scams with insurance deals and health management plans. The point is that TV stations do not seem to be responsible for the actions or claims made by their clients. Just be careful.

\* \* \* \* \*

In case you missed it, the Democratic majority in the Senate arbitrarily changed the voting rules from 60% to a simple majority on votes to approve presidential appointments. The reason given was this would make it easier for President Obama to gain approval of his choices for executive appointments to judicial posts, the federal reserve board, and environmental control among others. He claimed Republicans were blocking approval of too many of his choices.

The advantage of the two party system established by our Constitution is that different points of view on issues can be presented and debated to compromise prior to a vote dependent on its merits. Most of the good legislation and appointments through the years has been approved with bi-lateral support.

With the polarization of partisan politics in recent years, there has been a noticeable lack of compromise between the two main parties. Previous Presidents have drawn on experience with business rather than political backgrounds which may be the cause of some of the problems we are having today.

If this kind of power grab had been made under any previous administration the media would have gone wild.

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The *New York Times* reports that the IRS will be doing closer checking on certain non-profit, tax-exempt groups whom they determine are engaged in political activity.

While it appears that more conservative groups will be the main target, this could turn into a major finger pointing free for all if it is allowed to get out of hand. While IRS rules regarding non-profits are quite explicit, many organizations manage to structure themselves to qualify and avoid taxes. Is it possible this is more politically motivated than an IRS compliance problem?

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The Green Bay School District has announced they are considering a \$30 Million referendum next spring to address a list of building repairs and renovations. They claim it would not effect the property tax levy as current debt is being retired.

While we would assume that each year's budget includes repairs and maintenance, the board will prepare a list of items to be included and make their case for a referendum to be presented to property taxpayers.

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Most states, including Wisconsin and Minnesota, require residents to submit state income taxes based on the state of residency rather than where the money was earned.

Problems are that each state has different rules and rates, and have varying rules for reciprocity, or returning tax money withheld from workers to the state of residency. While workers generally can apply taxes withheld in another state as a credit on their tax returns, this does not put the money in their states treasury unless a reciprocal agreement exists between the states. In most cases this apparently is not a major problem. However, there are 56,000 Wisconsin residents working in Minnesota and 24,000 Minnesota residents working in Wisconsin so there is a lot of money involved and figuring to do.

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The Food and Drug Administration, in their efforts to make every

one live longer has announced plans to phase out trans fats from our food supply. They have already warned us about gluten. Trans fats are commonly found in vegetable shortening, and commonly used in items such as bakery goods, margarine, etc.

They claim there are 7,000 deaths in the U.S. each year caused as a direct result. That still leaves about 2.5 million deaths in the U.S. each year from other causes so they have plenty of things to work on yet.

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A 12 day UN sponsored global warming conference attended by 189 nations was held in Warsaw last November. There was not much said about it in the news and it appears not much was accomplished either.

Basically while the U.S. and other industrialized nations are taking steps to control global warming, other nations are not.

First off the delegates criticized the fact the conference was held in Poland, which uses a larger amount of coal for power and heat than other nations. Then the many developing nations present all complained they could not compete and prosper if emissions and pollution were restricted.

Some accused the more industrialized nations for being the cause of recent typhoons and other severe weather conditions. Some small nations insisted upon being reimbursed for complying with any treaties and others were worried about ocean levels rising and flooding their cities.

In the meantime air pollution in China has gotten so bad that vision is a problem, and peoples health in the more populous cities is in danger.,

The conference ended as China and 132 other nations walked out. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Paris in 2015.

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Is ethanol really the fuel of the future? The actual cost of production, government subsidies, and automobile performance are still matters of speculation, as we keep expanding efforts to produce more of the stuff. Side effects include that five million acres of grazing land maintained for

conservation purposes has been converted to raising corn for ethanol, Heavy rains have washed away the newly exposed topsoil causing massive pollution and erosion problems. Using corn for ethanol rather than animal feed has had an effect on the price of beef for all of us, as well as all other food products dependent on corn and corn oil.

It is estimated that ethanol producers receive about forty-five cents in tax breaks and subsidies for every gallon they produce.

How much fossil fuel is actually saved considering the amount used in planting and harvesting corn and then converting it to ethanol?

If you think you are saving the earth by buying fuel containing ethanol, think again.

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The United States has had sufficient warnings in recent years that we can't forever depend on foreign sources to support our gluttonous thirst for oil. Maybe research will save us in the future, but for the present you can't power a truck or airplane with a windmill or solar panels. While new sources of fossil fuels are being developed and hold promise they won't last forever.

If there is a national energy policy it should provide for conservation and sensible development of new energy sources while not wasting our precious reserves and hoping for scientific miracles to happen.

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Rabid support for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), seems to be diminishing day by day as more and more people find how it will effect them, their families, and their pocketbooks. It is becoming an albatross on the Presidents neck as the fine print starts turning to reality.

Whatever his vision when the plan was proposed could end up as a disaster without equal as our healthcare system is placed under more government control, the costs of insurance and compliance upset the economy, and the system that most of us understand and appreciate becomes a thing of the past.

Major concerns so far include the famous website that doesn't work, people being told their present insurance was being cancelled, and then being led to a new insurer they knew nothing about at a price they couldn't afford to pay. The President says not to worry, you can keep your insurance because I say so. Problem is so many new benefits have been mandated in the coverage (*including insurance for those presently not insured*) that no private insurance company could afford to stay in business.

True to his style he has tried to make corrections as they arise But again, most of these corrections tend to favor one group over another and only make things worse. Like trading a headache for an upset stomach.

There are a lot of stories about the effect of clauses in the act from salaries of doctors to the care we receive which will have to be sorted out if this monstrosity ever becomes a full scale reality.

As usual, lots if things to wonder about.

**Jim Frink**

*"Things That Make Us Wonder," consists of taxpayer related thoughts that occur to us from daily news events. We use reliable, published information and statistics. Some items are unimportant and probably not worth commenting about while others could easily be expanded to full length feature articles worthy of future study and action to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and perhaps put a different spin on items from what you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge that our perspective on some items in this column may be contrary to some of our readers. However, one of our purposes is to encourage debate, as we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments or suggestions are welcome for inclusion in future "TAX TIMES."*

"Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names." **John F. Kennedy**  
"The longer it takes to answer a question, the less likely it is to be the real answer." , , **Washington Rule #168**  
"Experience trumps Brilliance."  
. . . **Thomas Sowell**

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  - It Pays to Support The B.C.T.A.
  - National Debt Update.
  - Simple Obamacare fix: freedom.
  - Happy Thanksgiving.
  - November Meeting Notes.
  - Common Core - Good or Bad for Wisconsin?
  - Things That Make Us Wonder.
- And more . . .

## The TAX TIME\$ - December, 2013

### BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday, December 19, 2013. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon  
Discussion of current topics.
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013 Celebrate Christmas.
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014. Happy New Year.
- Thursday, January 17, 2014. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon  
Program to be announced.
- Thursday, February 20, 2014. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon  
Program to be announced.

**Public officials and candidates for public office are cordially invited to attend any of our meetings and be recognized.**

Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Tiletown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

**Meetings are open to the public.**

**BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.**

COST: \$8.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.  
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.



“We don’t seem to be able to check crime, so why don’t we legalize it and tax it out of business?”  
. . . Will Rogers

“IRS: We’ve got what it takes to take what you’ve got.”  
. . . Bumper Sticker

**SUPPORT THE BCTA**  
New Members are Always  
Welcome. Call 499-7701  
Write us at P. O. Box 684  
or visit our website  
**www.BCTaxpayers.Org**  
for Details.