



WHERE WILL YOU BE?

As it always does, time creeps up on us, but the upcoming 2016 elections will have more to do with the future of the United States as most of us have known it. Should the progressive political movement hold sway, the US will continue to lose on the economic front, and their continued penchant for increasing public social programs, in particular what looks like, the ramping up the movement to nationalize illegal immigrants. Our southern border has no strength, it resembles the will of our Federal Leadership, flaccid and mushy.

So most conservatives would agree, this is not the place we grew up, and the burden placed upon the earning/working faction of our economy will only increase as taxation will likely grow in our existing environment. Even with the recent reductions in taxation here in Wisconsin the state continues in the school, "States called tax hell." Last week a report came out from the country's largest moving companies with statistics about the net gains or losses realized as families or households move in and out of the states. Unfortunately, Wisconsin continues to have more households leaving than moving in.

So the question that becomes more important to our national well-being will be "where will you be" as the elections unfold on State and National fronts. Amidst our perceived recent conservative gains in electoral power lies the sleeping giant of laziness and fractional political will necessary to cement these gains; the result being, gains becomes losses and both economic and national security continues to weaken.

While many political bobbleheads correctly regard Donald Trump as simply a grandstander and entertainer, his current popularity strikes a nerve in the populace that awaits leadership that will stand up to our enemies, both economic and military when he says, "We need a leader that can bring back our jobs, can bring back our manufacturing, can bring back our military, can take care of our vets." Trump is correct when he says our national leaders haven't a clue how to negotiate and let our adversaries write their check.

My own concern is that my fellow conservatives will stay home because they dislike both candidates, and in the end, let an opportunity to rebuild the nation slip away. Ben Franklin aptly said, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." All of this begs the question, "where will you be" working to see the right candidate or the correct ideological movement win, will you make the calls, walk the streets or write a check. Whatever you may choose to do, hopefully all three, our push to lower taxes and restore some National credibility will just be wishful thinking if we don't heed Ben's admonition. I know I am preaching to the choir but some of the choir are losing their voices, and we must show up ready to sing.

Richard Parins - President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 30th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

May Meeting Notes.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting held May 21, 2015, at The Titledown annex.

Cullen Peltier, Director - Public Safety Communications, presented an overview of the new Brown County 700 MHz radio system. Before his appointment as head of Public Safety Communications for Brown County in April, 2013, he served as Brown County Emergency Manager for 11 years.

The new Brown County 700 MHz radio system cost \$14 million for the transmitter sites, backbone communications, and control equipment with software. There are nine transmitter locations around Brown County. Microwave communications link the transmitter locations with the dispatch center. The transmitter sites have backup power equipment. The new system has improved coverage and capacity compared to the old VHF radio system. The Dispatch Center can monitor all fire scenes, in addition to the Green Bay Metro Fire Department and Ashwaubenon Public Safety.

There are clearer communications from the fire scenes. There is a single page out for all fire departments in the county, improving response time.

All users will have ability to communicate seamlessly with each other. Fire departments, emergency medical services, local police departments, and the Sheriff's Department, all handling the same incident could communicate on a single tactical channel. The new radio system has particularly improved coverage in areas with difficult terrain and improved in-building coverage (signals in overlap zones are "additive").

The 911 Dispatch Center has seven dispatch sets. There are a total of 62 dispatchers. Dispatcher training is a high priority.

The new radio system has provisions for redundancy. We can lose towers and still communicate with limited to no effect on the responders in the field. It can provide backup for the 800 MHz siren system. It has five 700 MHz conventional repeaters. There is a backup 911 call center.

It has 24/7 system monitoring. A full system upgrade (software) was completed last month without any interruption to the system; it was unnoticed by responders.

Future improvements include upgrading our CAD system (15 years old) and upgrading our phone system (10 years old). With proper maintenance, the new radio system should last 15 to 20 years.

NOTE: The BCTA took an active role in the approval process for the Brown County 700 MHz radio system. Several BCTA members performed research and communicated with Brown County board members. The net result was a \$5 million reduction in the bid price for this project.

Dave Nelson—Secretary

June Meeting Notes.

Monthly BCTA meeting held June 18, 2015.

Elaine Willman, former Director of Community Development and Tribal Affairs for the Village of Hobart, shared her thoughts about the federal government's encroachment on local governments' authority, especially when tribal governments are involved.

Taxes are being used for positive purpose (roads, buildings and public safety), but MORE taxes are being used by federal agencies to regulate away our liberties, change American values, and WORSE, used as funding to reduce states' jurisdiction over lands, reduce state authorities and further upend the balance between federal and state government, as required in our Constitution.

Senior citizens (including many BCTA members) were educated in the K-12 system in an era when American government, and history were requirements for all students. That is all gone now, so it's incumbent upon all senior citizens to talk with and educate their children and grandchildren about our country's founding principles, the Constitution, and other important documents.

Elaine said she came to Hobart because it was, and is, the only municipality in which all elected officials were/are unanimously dedicated to preserve their municipal authority, their property values and property taxes, while co-located on a former Indian Reservation. She was hopeful that with a nationally recognized and effective tribal government such as the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, that the two governments could forge an equitable model of some kind for peace-keeping co-existence. That did not happen. However, the Village has been successful in preserving its property tax base and municipal authority. Major disagreements about the legality of a former "reservation," and the federal recognition process of the Oneida tribe will ultimately be resolved in the courts.

On the national level, federal taxes have been used to militarize otherwise benign agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S Fish and Wildlife (USFW), the Bureau of Land Reclamation (BLR); US Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Education, Environmental Protection Agency (USDA, HUD, DOE, EPA). Under the current federal Executive Branch, all of these agencies are: 1) ignoring Congress, 2) ignoring the U.S Supreme Court, 3) ignoring their State counterparts, and 4) ignoring their own agency rules. The federal branch of our government has rolled out rogue across the country, and tribal governments are following this model as well.

Nationally, federal agencies are using Indian reservations and tribal governments (56 of them) to control all state waters, and expand the federal Indian and jurisdictional footprint in all of the western states.

Dave Nelson—Secretary

"Liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty, as well as by the abuses of power." . . . James Madison

"Do everything you ask of those you command." . . . George Patton

"Politics, n. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage." . . . Ambrose Bierce

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTaxpayers.Org.

Like us on



BROWN COUNTY
Taxpayers Association

The Night Watchman.

Versions of this tale have been around for a long time on the internet and are probably more hypothetical than factual. Somehow it still seems like the way government operates

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert. Congress said, "Someone may steal from it at night." So they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control department and hired two people. One was to do the studies and one was to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created two positions: a time keeper and a payroll officer, then hired two more people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an administrative section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$918,000 over budget, we must cut back." So they laid-off the night watchman. NOW slowly, let it sink in. Quietly, we go like sheep to slaughter.

Here is a good example. Does anybody remember the reason given for the establishment of the Department Of Energy during the Carter administration? Bottom line is, we've spent several hundred billion dollars in support of an agency, the reason for which very few people reading this probably remember!

It was very simple... and at the time, everybody thought it very appropriate. The Department of Energy was instituted on 8/04/1977, *To lessen our dependence on foreign oil* Hey, pretty efficient, huh? But now it's 38 years later, and the budget for this "necessary" department is at \$24.2 billion a year with 16,000 federal and approximately 100,000 contract employees and look at the job it has done.

What is the purpose and general policy of the Dept. of Energy? Reduce our dependence on foreign sources, preserve our resources for future generations, reduce consumption of fossil fuels to reduce pollution, develop every source of energy at our disposal and hope someone comes up with a solution before we run out, keep working on ways to reduce consumption of resources that actually work, none of the above or all of the above? Use of energy throughout the world is increasing at a rapid rate and solutions are in order. While the EPA keeps looking for ways to reduce pollution the Dept. of Energy keeps looking for moreb stuff to burn.

Good old Federal bureaucracy. We have now turned over our banking system, health care, and the auto industry to government control. While we acknowledge this may be somewhat exaggerated, it does seem at time many federal agencies exist and grow simply to keep each other busy, with the sole purpose of perpetuating their employment by pouring through reams of statistics and creating new rules to make life more complicated

and expensive for everyone else in the country.

Out of curiosity, I googled up a "List of U.S. Government Agencies" and came up with a total of 516, each with their own headquarters, E-Mail address and phone number in case you want to contact them and ask what they do for us as citizens. Many of them have there own headquarters buildings with white marble pillars in front and a politically appointed bureaucrat in back. Notably missing from the list was a "Bureau of Cost Control and Debt Reduction," but even Washington has to draw a line someplace. Quoting former President Ronald Reagan, "The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."

No doubt each agency was initiated by Congress with good intentions and perceived need at some point in time, but as President Reagan pointed out, once a government agency has been established it will be with us forever. No doubt some are relatively small but we would also suspect there is some duplication and confusion between agencies in services provided. Also a person in charge to assure his/her agency is remembered at budget time, a staff including a publicity department, and yes, a night watchman to make sure nobody steals any secrets

Unfortunately that's not all. The set-up plan for Obamacare includes a total of 159 new agencies, each charged with some aspect of setting up, administering, and enforcing this monstrosity. At last count it contained somewhere between 11,000 and 20,000 pages, and the media keeps telling us how wonderful it will be. Maybe the night watchman knows.

Jim Frink - BCTA

National Debt Update.

As of June 30, 2015, the United States National Debt had reached \$18,267,141,655,109.00. That's only \$18.3 Trillion the way government looks at it, but it's \$56,941 for each citizen or \$154,235 for each household. Assuming same sex couples qualify as a household this is still a lot of money.

The next big event will be when we reach \$19 Billion which at the present rate of growth will be next year sometime.

As usual we can expect the usual amount of grandstanding finger pointing, and threats to close parks and monument, but the debt will still continue to grow.

Next year is also a Presidential election year and perhaps candidates should address the National Debt for the serious problem it is rather than promising the masses things the country really doesn't need and really can't afford.

JF

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.

"The most terrifying words in the English Language: I'm from the government and I'm here to help." Ronald Reagan

Things That Make Us Wonder.

With all of the rainfall here and in other parts of the country during recent weeks it is hard to imagine anyplace being dry. Except in California where officials have placed drastic restrictions on water used for irrigating crops and household/personal use.

It has gotten so bad we read that some of the Hollywood elite have even cut back on filling their swimming pools and watering their lawns.

One problem complicating the situation is that much of California's water comes from reservoirs and piped to where it is used. Construction of new reservoirs has not kept up with population growth and demand. Also environmental interests have blocked any new reservoir construction.

We are fortunate to live in an area where a good supply of water is usually available, and goes to show just how important sensible management of our own water supplies and the Great Lakes resource have become.

* * * * *

For some reason or other The Pentagon authorized sending samples of live anthrax samples to a number of laboratories here and throughout the world. This is the stuff that if you just touch it it's curtains.

Recall a few years ago they found people mailing it to politicians, etc., and ever since the USPS has been scanning all mail for traces.

As usual, no one from the Government will take any responsibility for this potentially dangerous situation.

Kind of makes us wonder if anyone knows what really goes on in Washington.

* * * * *

A recent news item claims that the tattoo removal business has grown 440% during the past decade. Medical laser procedures are used, and can cost 10 times what the tattoo cost in the first place.

It would seem this would be a lucrative career for the future as tattoos start to stretch with age.

* * * * *

Green Bay is considering de-

veloping a plan to open and close the three downtown bridges remotely from the Walnut Street bridge. Good idea as long as traffic is not stalled on a bridge waiting for a train.

Having crews of bridge tenders on the payroll 24-7 is one of the disadvantages of having a river in the center of town, and there must be a better way to do it.

* * * * *

Scientists claim to have discovered the brightest known galaxy in the universe, shining brighter than 300 trillion of our suns.

This could make a great source of solar power except for the fact that it's 12.5 billion light years from earth. Really gives you an idea of how big the universe is as light has been calculated to travel 186,000 miles per second, give or take a few miles. You can do the math.

* * * * *

It seems that everything that goes wrong these days gets blamed on the lack of money, and the fact that not enough is spent by government to make everything perfect.

An example is the recent Amtrack crash near Philadelphia in which 8 people were killed. Safety "experts" claim this would not have happened if "Positive Train Controls", or PTC's had been installed. Maybe so, but would cost taxpayers billions to install all over the country, and still might not work as advertised.

The accident could also possibly have been prevented if the engineer had been paying attention to his job and not going 106 miles per hour on a curve designed for 50 MPH. Expensive mechanical devices usually don't work 100% of the time either.

* * * * *

Highway construction and maintenance in Wisconsin seems to be exceeding the amounts that can be budgeted using current sources of revenue.. Gas taxes and user fees have been raised several times in recent and not a politically popular idea at this time.

In the meantime work continues for the third or fourth year on I-41 In Green Bay, giving us all an oppor-

tunity to see how our motor vehicle tax dollars are spent. When construction started it was U.S. 41 so even the name of the road has been updated in the meantime.

We assume the project is on schedule and within budget, while the extra time and expense must be considerable due to keeping traffic moving through construction zones making it difficult to get any section completed.

It will be great when completed but take some adjustment for motorists to get used to not driving between orange barrels and temporary roads after four years.

* * * * *

Most of us have become used to the concept of recycling our waste materials and feeling good about saving the earth as a result. Now it turns out that the demand for recycled materials is dropping due to more supply than demand of many products.

As a result our recycling centers which had depended on the sale of refuse to users to cover the expenses of collection and sorting may have to start charging communities more for their services.

Don't worry, it will all be hidden in your property tax or water bill someplace. While giving tax breaks to corporations for various reasons is not always a good idea, in this case creating viable uses for more recycled materials could make an exception as it could create demand for recycled products as well as jobs.

Same could apply towards designing more packaging for goods that is more suitable for recycling.

* * * * *

Claiming they cause 7,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, the Food & Drug administration has banned the use of trans-fat in all food products within the next three years.

"Time" Magazine reported that these products are added to about 37% of grocery store items, so it is obvious that many of the items we buy will be affected. They are usually added to products to enhance flavor, add texture and extend shelf life.

If the FDA is primarily concerned with product safety and death

rates over flavor and shelf life, why don't they call for an all out campaign against drug abuse which kills a lot more people and causes far more grief than the frozen pizzas and microwave popcorn many people enjoy?

* * * * *

Every once in a while a group of scientists and deep thinkers claim the U.S. should switch our standard of measurement to the metric system. The government tried to mandate it back in 1975 but nobody cared.

While the argument that we are the only major country in the world using English measurements can be quite compelling, there has been little enthusiasm shown by our manufacturers, retailers, or the general public to make the big change. The pharmaceutical industry uses it and wine and liquor come in metric bottles but that's about the only thing most of us notice.

Trouble is we are completely entrenched in the English system, and it would be difficult to change all of our property descriptions, highway mileage signs, grocery labels, scales, and the sizes of our clothes.

In the meantime, if you like metric measurements, go right ahead but nobody will know what you are talking about when you mention liters, kilometers, and kilograms.

* * * * *

The tragic shooting incident in Charleston has caused all the gun control advocates to renew their efforts to have their way. They may as well add explosives, sabotage, poisons and knives to their list as they all have been used to endanger the lives of innocent people in recent years.

While the U.S. may have a reputation for gun related killings, we read that if the statistics for just four cities *{which happen to have the strictest gun control laws}*, Chicago, Detroit, Washington D.C., and New Orleans, were removed from the list, we would only be fourth worst from the bottom, and there are some pretty wild countries out there.

We all can list many objectionable things about the condition of our society. How can we advocate responsible gun control when every-

day we are exposed to prime time TV dramas and Hollywood movies which always seem to end up in a recreational type shootout by glamorous box office heroes? Unfortunately that's the kind of stuff that becomes part of our culture and does more to influence young peoples behavior than the NRA.

* * * * *

Once again there is conversation about the future of the aging Brown County Arena. Is it just a white elephant in need of repair or does it still have economic value and be an asset for the community?

It can still be used for smaller events to supplement the Resch Center and Shopko hall but does this warrant the necessary repairs?

One nice thing is it's closer to the expensive Lambeau Field parking lot than the Resch Center.

* * * * *

While Brown County ponders over their old Arena, the Milwaukee Bucks claim they need new facilities or will pack up and leave town.

Advocates have been touting a plan for the state *[us taxpayers]* to contribute \$250 Million along with other contributions being arranged.

They claim it to be a win-win for all based on return on investment and that it would even create 10,000 new jobs in addition to keeping the Bucks in town.

This almost sounds too good to be true. Too bad we didn't think of all that with the Lambeau Field deal.

* * * * *

Apparently the recent concert at Lambeau Field was a huge success including cooperation from the weather, and despite 300 or so attendees being ejected for behavior problems.

Although not disclosed, the finances and planning for such an event must have been considerable, and we would assume that the expense to the city of providing adequate police security and emergency care are covered as they were certainly kept busy.

We also don't know who collected the rent for the stadium or proceeds from the parking lot but assume

that income and contracts relative to the event provided for police protection and damage to the Lambeau Field turf with a little left over.

* * * * *

The search is on for a new Green Bay Police Chief. The committee selected to screen and interview candidates must select a person meeting their criteria and that of the the city council and Police and Fire Commission. Maybe we're wrong but it seems that in the past while he standard procedure for filling key vacancies is through a tedious nationwide search, before long we are doing it all over again. Do we give due consideration to promotion from within the ranks to those who have worked to qualify themselves for a promotion?

Often a newcomer with an impressive resume has to be bribed with a huge salary, takes time to learn our city and culture, and soon leaves for something even more lucrative.

* * * * *

There have been a number of recent incidents of hackers breaking into supposedly secure computer systems and obtaining personal information. The latest is the revelation accusing China of compromising our military and government personnel records. If true, it is an indication proving even our government cannot be trusted with confidential material.

We realize that in today's world information and security go hand in hand but again, we wonder if anyone really knows what's going on.

* * * * *

We have commented previously about all the business mergers going on. At one time the government supposedly encouraged competition as being good for the economy and that no one had a monopoly on anything so consumers had a choice. This policy no longer seems to apply.

A good example is the airline industry which had merged to the point that there is little choice of carriers but there are all sorts of new nuisance charges, fewer meals and less seating space for customers.

The three largest office supply chains have now merged into one,

and the two largest cable TV providers have announced a merger.

If this trend benefits us as consumers we would like to know how.

* * * * *

The term "Freedom of Religion" means different things to different people, and so far is guaranteed to us by the first amendment of our Constitution. We can acknowledge the term religion may be expanded or stretched from time to time, and sometimes the description of separation of church gets a little fuzzy when politics are involved.

Fortunately we are still free to hold religious beliefs, and be thankful we do not live in a country with a national religion of hatred and calling for the destruction of all others. Amen.

* * * * *

Like it or not, with the assistance of the Supreme Court and the cheering media, Obamacare is wrapping its tentacles around our entire health care system. "Full speed ahead" with "Affordable Health Care," despite all the roadblocks its many opponents are able to place in the way.

One recent news item concerns doctors retiring early, largely because they can no longer manage all of the paperwork and mandates being imposed on their profession.

Another was that Assurant Health, a 132 year old Wisconsin Insurance Co., was closing down because they could no longer afford to stay in business with the restrictions mandated by Obamacare. While these may be isolated incidents, the full effect hasn't hit home as more and more business's try to insure their employees and new taxes are enforced.

* * * * *

The "Marketplace Fairness Act", intended to force online retailers to collect and report sales taxes applicable to customer residency passed in the U.S. Senate in 2014, but was never voted on in Congress. While states claim they are losing billions in sales taxes by people buying over the internet, local merchants also complain about the loss of business.

While the big winner is probably the consumer, Amazon, the largest

online retailer has started to collect and report tax on a voluntary basis.

In any event, we read that efforts have been to re-introduce the bill in the Senate so be prepared.

* * * * *

San Diego has become the latest city to claim they need a new venue for their NFL team. Their Qualcomm Stadium is 23 years old already, and probably needs a new paint job and an atrium.

The cost is estimated at a billion dollars and the Chargers have hinted they could move to Los Angeles. Sound familiar?

* * * * *

If we recall correctly, when Brown County voters graciously approved a .05% sales tax in 2003 there was no definite dollar amount set except for a portion of the total cost of financing, plus a reserve to set aside for maintenance and utilities. Also there was no definite calendar cutoff date except for the above commitments.

We have been fortunate that the economy has been good, and payments probably have been far in excess of what was anticipated. In fact, it has been disclosed that payments have been in excess of the original agreement, and some sort of a refund to taxpayers could be established. We understand details are being worked out between the parties.

* * * * *

In recent years, the Federal Reserve has managed to keep interest rates to borrow money at a fairly low level. This was intended to keep the cost of borrowing money low to boost economy which was good.

Unfortunately this discouraged people from saving money because interest paid by saving institutions was very low which was bad.

Now that the economy has stabilized the Federal Reserve is considering raising interest rates a little which should encourage saving and borrowing which is good.

The United States has an unsecured National Debt to parties all over the world of about 18 Trillion dollars, with the unpaid interest alone

accumulating something like a Billion dollars per day. Even if a minnute interest rate increase were to apply to this debt, it could be a disaster.

* * * * *

Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. {WEDC} have been under fire for making loans with state money that opponents claim were politically motivated.

With communities desperately trying to attract new business to boost their economy, the state also does whatever it can to help and no doubt has many success stories. While the best way to encourage new business and keep everybody happy might be to provide necessary infrastructure and elimination of red tape. Leaving money up to the banks and keeping politics out of the equation unfortunately doesn't always work.

The federal Government also borrows money to business. Whatever happened to the billion dollars or so that Solyndra made disappear?

* * * * *

Detractors often note that the average salary or family income in Wisconsin is less than other states, and something should be done about it.

The good news is in just about every comparison of one state to another that matters, Wisconsin ranks somewhere near the middle, or somewhere closer to the best.

Averages are derived from comparing everyone's numbers. We consistently rank high in employment, education, income, home ownership, cost of living, low crime rate, infrastructure, medical facilities and a lot of intangibles which make Wisconsin a great place in which to live. For many years we were in the top five for taxes per capita, but even that has been improved recently.

If you can earn more in California or New York you can always move.

* * * * *

The State Legislature has been debating changes to the prevailing wage law. While one problem was that any construction contract performed using public money had to be performed by contractors by workers

Continued Next Page →

earning the prevailing wage. In most cases this meant union wages which in many cases meant sky high. While we acknowledge these wages were derived through the years by legal contracts and performed by highly skilled and qualified workers. That is probably the primary reason that building a school, bridge, or highway always seems to cost so much.

In other words, it was difficult for a non-union firms to compete. One problem with eliminating the law is that it be could easier for contractors from out of state to do work in Wisconsin which leaves our workers out.

No matter what happens there will be winners and losers. Under any circumstances, it would seem logical that Wisconsin taxpayers money should go to Wisconsin workers.

* * * * *

The first Federal minimum wage law was established in 1938 at .25 cents per hour. It didn't reach \$1.00 until 1956, and has risen to the present \$7.25 in 2009.

It is obvious that one could not support a family, and most but not all occupations do provide higher wages for those qualifying themselves. A call for a higher minimum wage is understandable, and started out to be at raising it to \$10.00 per hour, which most industries could probably handle.

For years the trend has been to more automation and self-service to offset the increasing costs of labor, and will likely intensify under any circumstances. Even our know-it-all Federal Government practices this.

Now it seems there is a push to raise the minimum to \$15.00 per hour. Perhaps Pres. Obama is under the illusion that this would help reduce poverty and enhance his legacy. Would more inflation be welcomed along with more unemployment. Unfortunately no employer is likely to start paying \$15.00 per hour if he/she is hardly worth \$7.25 and benefits. It's not in the cards. Wages have risen on their own accord through prosperity.

Maybe we have this wrong, but most people with good paying and satisfying jobs obtained them through a combination of education, experience, and attitude.

The real enemy is inflation, and the question should be, do wages need to be increased due to inflation, or is inflation caused by raising wages?

* * * * *

The "National Review" reported that the FAA formerly gave aptitude tests for entry level air control positions, which, often call for the ability to make split-second decisions. It was brought to their attention they were not diversified enough in their hiring, so the requirement was dropped and replaced with a questionnaire with subjects like what sports the applicant participated in during school, English proficiency, a high school diploma and proof of U.S. citizenship.

* * * * *

While the IRS is probably the governments least favorite agency, they also seem to be in the process of self destructing.

While their job is to enforce the nation's tax laws, Congress is the one to blame if you have any complaints. If you are at all honest about reporting your income and deductible expenses you should never have anything to worry about except the other guy.

Through the years, they have been the agency of choice for budget cuts even though it is their responsibility to bring in the funds to run the government. They claim to have 13,000 fewer employees than in 2010. Isn't that about the number that was supposed to be added to monitor compliance with Obamacare? They did complain they had to spend \$252 million to update their computers to handle Obamacare but were not reimbursed.

Other than that they claim their computers go back to the Kennedy Administration and need updating.

Perhaps it's time to weed out the 90,000 or so pages of rules and regulations that have accumulated through the years and never been updated. Flat tax anybody?

* * * * *

Sooner or later some drastic changes will have to be to our entire tax system in order to finance government. Ideally it would be by a combination of tax reform and reduction of government costs, but that will never

happen, State or national .

Some of the ideas bantered about include a "fair" tax, flat tax, VAT tax, modify the present system or keep things as they are or a combination of systems. No doubt each system has good and bad features, for example.

The present system has become so full of loopholes that even trying to comply can be confusing and expensive.

VAT, or value added taxes are widely used in Europe, produce a lot of revenue, and are supposedly hidden in the cost of merchandise. They add to the price of goods bought by everyone and would be difficult to enforce in an economy as diverse as ours.

When people say "fair tax" it seems they mean the wealthier should support everyone else. Enough said.

The "Flat tax" has possibilities and backers. It would depend upon taxpayers to honestly report their income and submit a portion in taxes.

This would still require a lot of record keeping available for audit and control over all of the exemptions and tax breaks which have contaminated our present system. Any suggestions?

As usual, lots of 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."

"The only people who don't want to disclose the truth are people with something to hide."

, , , **Barock Obama 8/2/10**

"A nation that is afraid to let it's people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people." John F. Kennedy

The TAX TIME\$

Brown County Taxpayers Association
P. O. Box 684
Green Bay, WI 54305-0684

PRSR STD
U. S. Postage
PAID
Green Bay, WI
Permit No. 255

Address Service Requested.

Inside This Issue

Where Will You Be?
May Meeting Notes.
June Meeting Notes.
The Night Watchman.
National Debt Update,
Things That Make Us Wonder.
. . . And more

The TAX TIME\$ - July-August, 2015

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday - July 16, 2015. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Speaker: David Steffen, 4th District Assemblyman.
- Thursday - August 20 ,2015. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
- Thursday - September 17,2015. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
- Thursday - October 15 ,2015. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.

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. Annex, "TAP ROOM."

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.



July –
August.
2015

"Politics is the entertainment branch of industry." . . . Barry Goldwater

"Be thankful you're not getting all Government we're paying for."
. . . Will Rogers

"Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a lot easier than puttin' it back in."
. . . Will Rogers

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.**