

# The TAX TIMES

July-Aug  
2020

Newsletter of the "BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION."

Volume 35, Issue 4

## Congressman Gallagher July 16th

### BCTA Monthly Meeting @ The Village Grille

Monthly meetings are held at The Village Grille, corner of Hoffman and East River Drive, Allouez. The location has no stairs or steps, convenient parking, and a room to better accommodate speakers and conversation. There will be three selections from which to choose lunch - each one will be priced at \$12 (including tip.) Lunch is at 12:00 noon with monthly speakers presenting.

## Climate Change

By Jerry Loritz

If I told you that an asteroid was going to hit earth next Sunday and bring major devastation, you may believe it. Especially if I have lots of visual aids to support my theory. When it does not occur, you will naturally doubt my credibility. It doesn't matter that a high percentage of scientists and politicians agreed with me. In fact, you would likely be skeptical of the next person to make such a prediction.

Over the last 50 years, we have had an abundance of catastrophic predictions about the earth's temperature. We have had the time of the predictions come and go. The catastrophes have not occurred.

In the sixties, we were told that unless we stopped burning fossil fuels, we would face dire consequences. This message was delivered by the New York Times, Time magazine and Newsweek. A Newsweek article, The Cooling World, suggested that cooling "may portend a drastic decline in food production."

Then in the late twentieth century, global warming became the enemy to be conquered. We were told that unless we reduced fossil fuel usage, we would experience catastrophic warming.

"No one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public."

H. L. Mencken

Over these periods we have enough specific predictions so we can all go back and test for credibility.

- ◊ In 1971 it was predicted that a new Ice Age was coming by the year 2020 or 2030.
- ◊ In 1972 a new Ice Age was to be coming by 2070
- ◊ In 1974 it was reported that space satellites show a new Ice Age coming fast
- ◊ In 1978 it was reported there's no end in sight to the 30-year cooling trend.

Then the common enemy changed from cooling to warming.

- ◊ 1988, the Maldives Islands will be underwater by 2018
- ◊ 1989, New York City W. Side Highway would be underwater by 2019.
- ◊ In 2008 it was predicted that the Arctic will be ice-free by 2018
- ◊ In 2008 Al Gore came on the scene and predicted that the Arctic will be ice-free by 2013

One of the more dramatic illustrations of the catastrophic effect of global warming is that the polar bears will become extinct. The sad picture of a lone polar bear on an ice floe tugged at the heartstrings of everyone. in the 60s there were 10,000 polar bears there are now estimated to be 40,000.

This was just a sampling of the misses. With all these missed predictions one would think that we will no longer be gullible enough to buy into this message.

Unfortunately, there is an enormous amount of money available to people who can save us from the predicted catastrophes.

A cursory look at the last 50 years should convince anyone that there is no credibility of predictions of warming and cooling. The latest ploy is to claim climate change is now caused by burning fossil fuels. This opens up tremendous opportunities to claim any aberrant blip by Mother Nature is the fault of burning fossil fuels.

Hurricanes, forest fires, tornadoes, hot spells, cold spells, dry spells wet spells, etc. all will worsen unless we stop burning fossil fuel.

**How gullible are we?**

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
*In our 35<sup>th</sup> Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.*

## Things That Make Us Wonder

Unfortunately, any plans you or anyone else for that matter had for the summer and the rest of this year has been thrown into complete disarray by the Coronavirus. At this time, no one seems to be sure exactly how long it will take to play out except that it could take some time.

This was an epidemic that spread throughout the entire world rather quickly, and it is difficult to say if or how it could have been prevented. As could be expected, Pres. Trump's critics have been quick to publicize how much better things would have been handled if only they had been in charge at the time. While this accusation may be valid, the solutions offered have been better stockpiles of essential supplies of materials to prevent and fight the virus, and more facilities for handling those infected.

As far as the spread of the disease is concerned, the availability of modern air travel, along with other forms of communications have reduced barriers between countries to a seemingly uncontrollable point. A virus does not honor

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international borders or practice discrimination.

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Even after, (and assuming), the virus is history there will be items to resolve. Sports scheduling will have to be adjusted to everyone's satisfaction. Schools may have to re-schedule summer vacation. Some business establishments will survive the sacrifices they made during the epidemic better than others. The list can go on and on. What about the political conventions and important fall elections? It will be interesting to see how sports franchises and others giving contracts will manage pay the mega-salaries of their prima-donna star athletes and other employees if events are not held to pay the bills?

\* \* \* \* \*

Worse yet, the stock market took a huge hit the first few days of the epidemic in the U.S., and may take a while to recover. While we acknowledge the stock market is not everyone's concern, it is the instrument which makes business growth possible and keeps retirement plans solvent. This is further complicated by the Government's decision to allow a couple of trillion dollars increase to the National Debt at a time interest alone is our biggest expense item. All because of a tiny virus germ.

\* \* \* \* \*

With all the concern over the concern over the Coronavirus, we almost forget this a big Presidential election year. Blame for all the

grief and disruption caused by the Virus is sure to be a factor, but working together and getting back to normal should be more important than playing politics.

At least we hope the fall elections go smoother than the spring ones did. Although complicated by the virus, it was a disaster for other reasons. To their credit, local and state officials recognized the dangers of spreading the virus, and encouraged the use of absentee ballots and other measures to reduce personal exposure. These steps may have caused more problems than they solved though. There were instances of ballots being in the custody of the Postal Service but not being delivered so some votes were never counted. In Green Bay officials limited polling places to just one on each side of the Fox River leaving citizens with the choice of standing in line for as long as four hours to cast their ballots. The good news is that it wasn't raining at the time.

At least we shouldn't have to see endless campaign messages on the tube – for a couple of months anyway. It seems that at one time these ads were more positive for the sponsor than negative for the opponent. It seems that in recent years politics has become more about power than a public service? Do you agree?

\* \* \* \* \*

We turned in our census form the other day. We noted they put a lot effort in determining the nationality of you, your spouse, and even

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 TIMEES." Please send them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684 or email [BCTaxTimes@gmail.com](mailto:BCTaxTimes@gmail.com)

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your children. It didn't seem to matter, though, if any of the previously mentioned bodies was a U.S. Citizen or just information for the new sign at the City Limits. This raises the question: Do we still have an Immigration and Naturalization Service, or are people automatically a citizen a citizen because they say so?

\* \* \* \* \*

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, more commonly referred to as "Obamacare." Somewhere in its 70,000+ pages of double-talk were supposed to be found the answers to many of the nation's health problems, with the net result has been that many of us are still without coverage or paying more for private insurance which still doesn't pay all the bills.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the ideas touted during the Democrat debates was "Medicare for All", payment plans and details to be worked out after the election. While this may sound good to many voters, realistic estimates are that it would add at least two trillion dollars annually to our national debt which is already at a crisis level. The solution may be to somehow reduce the cost of but maintain the quality of medical care. Give us your suggestions but wait until after the Coronavirus thing is history.

\* \* \* \* \*

The economy has taken a tremendous hit from trying to keep the virus under control, and it is hardly necessary to itemize. It will take large amounts of money, both public and private getting back to what is considered normal, and we must depend upon and trust our National, State, and Local Leaders to make the correct decisions.

Any second guesses about what should have been done can be set aside. We were dealing in uncharted waters and sincerely hope we don't have to go through it again.

We commend the many medical people throughout Wisconsin and rest of the country for their sacrifices and dedication in helping us all through this crisis.

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As usual, plenty of things to wonder about.

*Things That Make Us Wonder consists of taxpayer related thoughts that occur to us from the daily news events. We use reliable published information and statistics. Some items are not worth commenting about while others could be expanded to full length feature articles and study to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and sometimes will put a different spin on a subject than you read in the papers or see on TV. We*

*acknowledge the views we present may be contrary to that of some of our readers. One of our purposes is to encourage discussion and debate and we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments and suggestions are welcome.*

Jim Frink - BCTA

"The idea that you can merchandise candidates for high office like breakfast cereal – that you can gather votes like box tops – is, I think, the ultimate indignity to the democratic process."

Adlai Stevenson

"One of reasons people hate politics is that truth is rarely a politician's objective. Elections and power are."

Cal Thomas

"Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."

Charles de Gaulle

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**Rep. Gallagher to Speak**  
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and more

## Meeting Location

**The Village Grille, Allouez**

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

**Thursday - July 16, 2020** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez  
**Speaker - Congressman Gallagher**

**Tuesday - August 11, 2020**  
**Primary Election Day - Go Vote**

**Thursday - Aug 20, 2020** BCTA Monthly Meeting.  
12:00 at The Village Grille, Allouez

**BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at , at The Village Grille, Allouez.**

**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: \$12.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.  
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.**

**July - Aug 2020**



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