
◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

Volume 19, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

February/March, 2004

THE CORE MISSION

While civilization crumbles and reality television taints the everyday world, let's take a moment to distill the real mission of our governing bodies. What is government's core mission, it's real purpose? Most of us would answer: law and order, education, public health and safety, roads and infrastructure, water and sanitation. Good answers.

Law and order are the basis for civilized society. There must be uniform, impartial standards to ensure justice. This is absolutely a government duty. The counties have been assigned justice system duties by the state, but the state has lacked the knees to support it. Until the state owns up to its responsibility, it falls on the shoulders of local taxpayers funding numerous law and order agencies. How many agencies are necessary?

Education is another basic for civilized society. This ensures the future workforce, the economic basis for survival in a mercantile economy. It is also another state responsibility hoisted onto local shoulders. We need to ask, how many local school administrations and positions are required to complete the task?

Public health and safety help ensure our physical survival. These rules are meant to give residents some protections against natural and public forces outside their control. The state sets some standards here, but allows local governments to make some additional requirements. We have ordinances for zoning and sanitation, building codes, traffic rules, and maybe a few we really don't need. Are these ever reviewed and analyzed for effectiveness?

Roads and infrastructure are primary economic drivers. Goods and services, people and products come on roads and wires to and from our cities, towns and villages. This is another shared responsibility. State, county and local roads intertwine, through complex cooperation. Are roads built and maintained as cost effectively as possible?

Water and sanitation are also vital to our physical and economic health. We cannot live without water. And it is used variously for nutrition, hygiene and removal of waste. This is perhaps the most intensely local of all essential government services, but are we getting a local, cooperative effort to achieve cost savings for all?

In our county budget, you will find issues like affordable housing, elder care, name some more). While these are worthy issues, are they part of government's core mission? This and many other services the county provides should be open to more effective review. Are we asking the right questions and looking for new resources, better ways to do the job?

Affordable housing is designed to adequately house lower income workers. Our economy needs lower wage workers to fill many important jobs. But virtually all of these are private sector jobs. While government is concerned with economic health, this is a private concern for the marketplace to coordinate with the businesses that need low wage workers. Should government meddle in this most essential market function?

Elder care is primarily a family responsibility. Granted, many families have foisted their duty upon government out of convenience. And there are elders who have lost all family connections and out of humanity, we must help them. But the effort need not be solely tax-reliant. Counties have been charged with running nursing homes – another state responsibility heaved onto local taxpayers' backs. If the state has decided we should have nursing homes in our counties, shouldn't the state fund them?

I have no problem with state mandates. It is the Legislature's duty to make policy for the benefit of the whole state. Not funding these policies is the state's crime on local property taxpayers. The answers to these questions are sorely needed. The answer may lie in new look to find the core mission and duties of local government. Does anyone believe the time for this has come?

Experience should tell us that the answers will not come from new spending. We've tried that and failed time and time again. Maybe we should just decide to do less.

Richard Parins, President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION – Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government

County Board Candidates Pledge to Control Taxes and Future County Spending.

For several years we have asked candidates and incumbents seeking positions on the Brown County Board of Supervisors to commit against imposing an additional county sales tax and to control county spending.

This year we asked #1 - *"I will vote against any initiative to impose an additional sales tax for county purposes, Yes__ No__."* and #2 - *"I support limiting Brown County spending to growth in population percent plus growth in inflation percent. A 2/3 vote of the County Board would be needed to exceed this cap, Yes__ No__."*

We also asked them, "Would you recommend more or less spending in the following areas or departments", and "Which way should Brown County proceed towards a healthy, stable economy in the future."

We had an excellent response, and are encouraged by the quality and number of persons who want to represent us on the county Board. Listed below are the responses by district number, and a brief summary of their remarks. We apologize for any errors or misunderstanding of written comments.

Many of the candidates obviously spent much time preparing the questionnaire, and we regret not have more space for their responses. We have tried to condense their thoughts or philosophies as well as possible. We have also indicated those from whom we did not receive a response and again thank those who did.

We cordially invite all candidates for Public Office to attend and be recognized at the next regular meeting of the *Brown County Taxpayers Association*, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19, 12:00 noon at the "Glory Years", 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay. Time permitting, we will give those in attendance an opportunity to speak briefly. See the back cover of this "**TAX TIMES.**" Thank you.

Oconto County Forming Taxpayer Association.

On January 28, four of the directors from the BCTA attended an organizational meeting in Oconto with about 35 people from throughout the county interested in forming a taxpayer organization.

We shared our experience with forming the BCTA, discussed our activities through the years, and offered suggestions for remaining active and visible in the entire county..

At the conclusion of the meeting, there was an enrollment of those wishing to become charter members and to participate in further organization of their association.

We wish them success, and will give them whatever support we can.

National Debt Clock Update.

As of 8:00 P.M., Feb. 2, 2004, the U.S. National debt unofficially stood at **\$7,011,714,185,917.** or an increase of \$73 Billion since last month, give or take a trip to Mars or two. The debt *per family* has increased \$1,166 since last month, not including your unpaid property and income taxes still due.

No word of the effect of the Presidents proposed \$2.4 trillion budget for next year in the debt total. **JF**

School Board Candidates Forum To Be Presented By BCTA.

The six candidates for the Green Bay School Board, three incumbents and three seeking their first election have been invited to a forum conducted by the Brown County Taxpayers Association at our March 18, monthly meeting.

This meeting will be held in the *"Glory Years"* meeting rooms, 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay, and all interested parties are cordially invited to attend. Details on the back page of this *TAX TIMES*.

Also, we cordially invite all candidates for public office to attend our next regular monthly meeting to be held Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Glory Years.

All candidates present will be recognized, and given an opportunity to make a short statement regarding their candidacy. Our meetings are open to the public, and again, details are on the last page of the *Tax Times*.

Please mark these dates down as we will not publish a *TAX TIMES* for the month of March. **JF**

"There are no personal sympathies in politics." . . . **Margaret Thatcher**

2004 Taxpayer Survey Enclosed. Please complete and return.

For several years the BCTA has surveyed our members and readers to determine their thoughts on various items of current taxpayer interest.

The results have given us a fairly good idea of how people feel about various items, and to prioritize by importance the projects we should address during the coming year.

While daily events constantly raise new issues, our concern still focuses on the use of taxpayer dollars.

It should only take about ten minutes or your time to complete, and the results are most useful to us as an organization.

We are also sending this issue of the *TAX TIMES* to candidates for public office, and invite these persons as well as our members and other readers to complete and return the survey. We do not ask respondents to identify themselves, but would appreciate if you indicate your municipality of residence where indicated on the back page.

Special thanks to those who submitted questions and assisted with the preparation of the survey. **JF**

"We may not imagine how our lives could be more frustrating and complex — but Congress can." . . . **Cullen Hightower**

"Voters quickly forget what a man says." . . . **Richard Nixon**

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 Frink@ExecPC.Com.

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Primary Election

Tuesday, April 6, 2004

General Election

VOTE!

**Green Bay City Council,
Brown County Board of Supervisors,
Green Bay School Board,
Various Local Elections.**

Tell your friends, "Your Vote Does Count."

City Council Candidates Pledge to Control Taxes by Controlling Spending.

Similar to the questionnaire and pledge form we sent to candidates to the Brown County Board of Supervisors, we asked those seeking election or re-election to the Green Bay City Council the following: *“I support limiting Green Bay City spending to growth in population percent plus growth in inflation percent. A 2/3 vote of the City Council would be needed to exceed this cap. Yes__ No__.”*

In addition we asked, *“Would you recommend more or less city spending in the following areas or departments?”* and *“Which way should Green Bay proceed towards a healthy, stable economy in the future?”*

Of the 22 candidates, all but 3 responded. Several are running for both the city council and Brown County board, and we recognize the time and energy being committed to serve the public in these demanding jobs. Their responses are listed below with a brief summary of their written statements.

We thank the candidates for their interest, and urge you give careful consideration to their commitment to serve in your interests with fiscal responsibility.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Senior Citizen Benefit or Big Taxpayer Expense?

Before the year 2006, millions of older American will have to make a decision as to whether or not to sign up for the Medicare drug prescription program or stay with traditional Medicare. This may be a tough decision with many questions to be answered before making a decision. You will also have to take a close look at your own prescription expenses.

Will the new Medicare law help or harm older Americans? Will the huge \$400 billion expenditure (possibly much more) allocated for this program be spent mostly to help older Americans to pay prescription drug costs or will a good share of the funds go to insurance companies as an incentive for them to insure Medicare beneficiaries? What will happen to drug prices, since Medicare is prohibited from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices? For what reason does the bill preclude these negotiations, which could reduce drug costs? Is this bill considered to be a Medicare program or a government subsidy for private insurance companies, which is the beginning of privatization of Medicare? Will retired persons, who have health insurance through their former employers lose this coverage because of the new law?

Why wasn't this \$400 billion program set up as a simple drug prescription benefit under Medicare, instead of allocating billions of dollars to private insurance companies? Wouldn't this alternative result in providing the same benefits and save billions in taxes? Will the plan be more of a benefit to insurance and drug companies than to older Americans? One wonders how seniors will manage who have drug costs between \$2250 and \$5100, known as the "donut hole". Medicare pays nothing for drug costs during this period. Will the plan be a strain on the Treasury and require an increase in taxes? Some of these questions can be answered by reading between the lines, but it will be some time before much of the information concealed within the thousand-page bill is interpreted.

One of the pluses of the program is that the bill will include an increase in Medicare payments to Wisconsin health care providers. In the past health care providers were not paid adequate fees for Medicare patients and were forced to charge higher fees for non-Medicare patients. Hopefully, this could also lead to lower health insurance premiums. The plan also provides extra help for seniors with low incomes and a drug discount card

will be available. However, means testing will be applied and wealthier beneficiaries will be charged more to participate in the program.

The premium for the plan is expected to be \$35.00 per month with a deductible of \$250.00. Apparently this would double for a husband and wife. After the deductible is paid, Medicare will pay 75% of the next \$2,000.00 in drug costs, while the senior pays 25%. Drug costs between \$2,250 and \$5,100 are not covered, so the senior pays 100% of this \$2,850 segment of drug costs. For drug costs beyond \$5,100, the senior pays 5% of the cost and Medicare pays 95%.

Following are examples of how the plan might affect seniors with different drug costs. *The figures do not reflect any savings from a prescription discount card which will be made available and could save 10-25%..* If a senior with \$800 in annual prescription drug costs chose the plan, they would have to pay the \$250 deductible. Then 25% of the next \$550 or \$137.50. With the \$420 premium the total outlay paid for \$800 in drugs is \$807.50. (In this case, with relatively low drug costs, the senior pays more under the drug prescription plan than without the plan.)

With \$1,750 in drug costs, he or she would pay the \$250 deductible. Then, 25% of the next \$1,500, or \$375. Add the \$420 premium and the total outlay for \$1,750 in drugs is \$1,045.

With costs of \$4,250 he pays the \$250 deductible plus 25% of the next \$2,000, or \$500. *Medicare pays nothing between \$2,250 and \$5,100.* The senior pays 100% of the next \$2,000, or \$3,170 for \$4,250 of drugs.

The last example illustrates a situation where the senior has total drug costs of \$8,100, which puts him in the catastrophic category. They still pay the \$250 deductible and 25% of the next \$2,000, which is \$500. Then 100% of the next \$2,850 during the "donut hole" period where Medicare pays nothing. Beyond the "donut hole" period, the senior pays 5% of costs. Since \$3,000 of this person's drug costs fall into the catastrophic period, the senior pays 5% of this amount, which is \$150. After adding the premium of \$420, this person's total outlay is \$4,170 for \$8,100 of drugs.

The drug prescription plan doesn't start until the year 2006, so eligible medicate recipients will have adequate time to make a decision. We assume that helpful information will be made available to clarify the plan. ***However, considering that bill is a document containing one thousand pages, there will be much more to learn before making that final decision.***

Jim Smith, BCTA

Rep. Gard Gives Support for "Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

When the legislators proposed a property tax freeze last summer, the governor called it a gimmick, the press call it irresponsible, and the public employee unions called it mean spirited.

The majority of the people in this state, however, called it long overdue. And they were right.

They know that high property taxes are keeping young people from getting into their own homes, and driving senior citizens out of theirs.

They understand that if property taxes go up almost twice the rate of inflation in what would have been the first year of the proposed three-year property tax freeze, it would only be worse in years two and three.

Meanwhile, some people didn't get it. People like Governor Doyle, who vetoed the freeze, along with others who flip-flopped his their position to uphold that veto. Because of their opposition to the freeze, many families saw their property taxes go up—again.

The fight to control property taxes goes on, though. Recently hundreds of citizens in Milwaukee gathered the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.. This constitutional amendment would go over the governor's head and give the taxpayers themselves the final say on tax hikes.

The Job Creation Act was a fine step toward making Wisconsin a more attractive place to live, work, and raise a family. As long as our tax burden is allowed to rise faster than our families' ability to pay, however, we will continue to see jobs and workers move out of Wisconsin. The Freeze was the "shot heard round the world" in Wisconsin's taxpayer revolution. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights is the next big battle in this struggle and it is a battle I am committed to winning.

Speaker of the Assembly John

Gard.

"Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue." . . . **Words to live by.**"

"An income tax is like a laundry list, either way you lose your shirt." . . . **Fred Allen**

"Economy has frequently nothing whatever to do with the amount of money being spent, but with the wisdom used in spending it." . . . **Henry Ford**

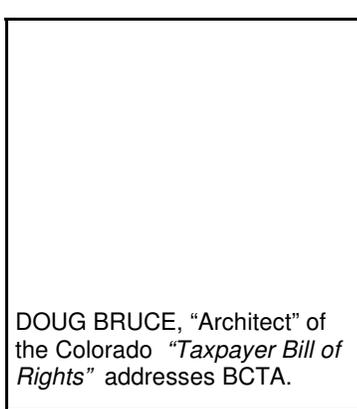
"For every action there is an equal and oppopsite government program." . . . **Bob Wells**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTaxpayers.Org

January Meeting Notes. *Father of Taxpayers Bill of Rights Addresses BCTA.*

Brown County Taxpayers Association monthly meeting, January 15, 2004 at the *Glory Years*.

Doug Bruce, considered to be the father of Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights (**TABOR**), spoke to the meeting, explaining how TABOR was finally enacted with a constitutional amendment in Colorado. He stated that work to pass a TABOR amendment began in 1976. Opponents of the TABOR movement used incredible scare tactics. The third attempt at passing the TABOR amendment was finally successful in 1992 with 53 percent of the vote. In 1998, Colorado voters rejected a \$1 billion tax increase with 60 percent of the vote.



DOUG BRUCE, "Architect" of the Colorado "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" addresses BCTA.

Recent polls indicate that TABOR is now supported by 73 percent of Colorado voters.

Colorado is the only state where politicians can't raise taxes. Taxpayers determine how much money government units can spend. TABOR reintroduces the "consent of the governed" rule to the political equation. Colorado citizens feel better about their government and the government respects it citizens. TABOR puts government on a budget. Stable control of taxes cre-

ates an attractive business climate. *For eight years, Colorado has had the strongest economy in the United States.*

Mr. Bruce explained that TABOR does not cut taxes; it simply controls the rate of growth. A fair rate of growth is often considered to be population growth plus the rate of inflation. TABOR also requires that tax dollars not spent be returned to citizens. Thus far, \$3.29 billion has been refunded to Colorado citizens. *The three percent Colorado sales tax has been reduced to 2.9 percent. Colorado's flat income tax rate has been reduced from 5.3 percent to 4.63 percent.*

Mr. Bruce advised that passing a TABOR amendment in Wisconsin will not be easy. Vigorous opposition will come from government bureaucrats with strong support from the media. Unending predictions of doom and catastrophe will bombard Wisconsin citizens. Twisted logic will abound. As an example, a WEAC official recently testified at a hearing in Madison, "Voting on taxes is undemocratic."

The Water Supply Study Task Force reported a positive meeting in which City of Green Bay representatives offered to sell water to the Brown County Central Water Authority for 17 percent above the bulk rate for its largest customers. This 17 percent margin would be used for upgrades to the system. Negotiations will continue, but the initial tone is encouraging. The bonding companies will require take or pay agreements.

The next BCTA meeting will be Feb. 19, at the *Glory Years*. All candidates for public office are cordially invited to attend and be recognized. The March 18, meeting will feature a forum of candidates for the Green Bay Area School Board. See the back cover of this **TAX TIMES** for details.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

Things That Make Us Wonder.

Be careful of candidates for office who promise good government plus additional services we are not necessarily now receiving. While none of them ever mentions the possibility of tax increases, perhaps we should ask how they intend to pay for their promises if elected. How many candidates have ever been elected who ran on a platform of tax increases?

President Bush has announced a plan to offer "work visas" to illegal aliens now in the United States. How many persons would take advantage of this or effect on the economy was not disclosed. Such a plan would certainly have costs including further burden on existing government benefit programs.

Hasn't this been tried a couple of times in the past under previous administrations? They called it "amnesty" then. It was supposed to stem the flow of illegal immigration and make sure everyone was properly registered for tax and census purposes, etc. If it worked then, we haven't heard about it.

If this is truly a concern of the U.S. Government, (and it should be), stricter enforcement of existing social security and income tax laws would go a long way towards solving the problem.

Most of us agree that vigilance and security are of the utmost importance in this age of international terrorism, and we realize it will be expensive. Sporting events such as Packer games are as vulnerable and tempting a target as airports or government offices. However, when we see our local law enforcement officers checking fans as they enter Lambeau Field, we wonder if their additional wages for this are already budgeted, or reimbursed by other than the taxpayers. We realize this is a necessary service, but police overtime has been a major issue in balancing the city and county budgets.

One of the first projects of the ~~Brown County Taxpayers Association~~ after the group was founded in 1985 was to initiate and promote a referendum calling for a "numbered seats" system to elect members to the Green Bay Area

school board. The primary reasons for such a system are #1-It allows candidates to the board to run against a specific board member rather than the board at large, #2-It could provide for board representation from different areas covered by the school district, and #3-It would encourage a greater number of qualified citizens to seek a school board seat. This system was in use in several state cities, and had been proven successful.

Despite opposition from the usual entrenched sources, the referendum was approved by district voters, and the numbered seats system was initiated. Although there was some renewed interest in seeking school board seats, the school board soon managed to return to the old system of elections at large.

We are fortunate to have had dedicated and well-qualified people on our school board through the years, and our proud of the accomplishments of our schools. They have always rated among the tops in the state scholastically, and every other measurement of comparison. They have been responsive to taxpayers concerns.

Nonetheless it is discouraging that there has not been more people interested in seeking seats on the board. This is possibly an endorsement of the current board, it could be a lack of interest, or it could be the fact that the system heavily favors incumbents. As an example, divide the county board into thirds, have eight of the seats up for election each year with the top eight vote getters being elected. Regardless of what part of the county they were from.

This year appears no different. There are three well-qualified incumbents, with only three candidates seeking their posts.

Only about half of the County Board and Green Bay City Council ~~seats will have contests this year.~~ Hopefully this is also an endorsement of their work during the past year, and their concern for taxpayers in approving budgets which did not increase property taxes, despite rising personal costs and demands for services.

The various party caucuses and primary elections being held to determine ~~presidential candidates are drawing~~ plenty of national publicity, with the polls busy trying to establish what will happen in November under various scenarios. However, this type of hoopla can also be a day to day popularity contest subject to change dependent on misleading publicity and current events. The candidate who goes into the convention with the most delegates after all this will be the winner.

Whatever happened to smoke-filled rooms when the candidate who would be best for the country, represented the mainstream citizens rather than special interests, and could be elected accordingly was nominated?

One of the tenets of taxation is that they be hidden from view as much as possible. This principle has been adopted to a new level on your monthly telephone billing. Deregulation has allowed competition in the telephone business, and they all advertise competitive rates to lure you to try their service.

However, the attractive rates usually do not tell the whole story. They do not include a list of government mandated fees and charges including a local 911 charge, Federal and state excise tax, subscriber line charges, local number portability charge, state and local sales taxes, subscriber line charges, relay service charges, and a few others. This list does not include income, property, or employment taxes paid by the phone company on their operations which are already being charged back to you. Don't blame the phone company when you get your bill.

The Ho-Chunk Indians want to upgrade their bingo hall in Madison to a full scale casino, but have been ~~sidetracked until the results of a referendum~~ called by opponents are in. Casino supporters are sponsoring an advertising blitz, and have promised the city and county \$91 million over the next 13 years if the referendum is approved. They are working hard to gain support from local politicians. In the past, most referendums to approve casinos have been defeated.

Although a state wide referendum which passed a few years ago called for a moratorium on gambling expansion, other plans are currently in the works for new casinos in Kenosha and Rock counties.

It is discouraging to hear about allegations of price fixing by highway contractors bidding on state and local projects. While any excess profits these firms may have made has not been disclosed, it is the taxpayers money (ours) that is involved. Even more discouraging is that these firms apparently have been making campaign contributions for some time to various office seekers. Fortunately many of these have been returned. Something even worse than price fixing by contractors is having our elected officials giving favoritism to certain vendors who have provided the funds which got them elected.

It appears this may be a complex matter with other parties involved. No doubt the state justice department will make the most of this to showcase their concern for Wisconsin taxpayers. Perhaps rightfully so. It would be unfortunate however, if the firms involved were unable to continue in business as a result. They have already been forbidden from bidding on state jobs. Their employees are not to blame and they have a long history of providing quality construction. In addition, it would seem that if our money is being spent on future contracts Wisconsin contractors should receive first consideration if everything else is equal.

Suggestions have been floated to create a paid holiday for veterans on "Veterans Day." Presently this is only observed to this extent by the federal government. We all respect our veterans ~~and our thankful for the sacrifices they~~ have made for our society. They should be honored, and a day when we can all show our gratitude is a fine idea. In fact, we already have it.

Requiring that employers pay them for a day off however, while a noble gesture, could just be another can of worms with many potential problems. This is a classic case of politicians making someone else pay for their glory with an "unfunded mandate" directed at both

business and government employers. Ideas like this and mandating a much higher minimum wage only enhance Wisconsin's reputation as a bad place to do business. Right now we are supposedly trying hard to erase that image.

Another "positive" if parking meters were removed from downtown Green Bay is that it would be much easier to comply with the ordinance requiring snow removal from sidewalks, and easier to clear the streets.

A recent article told of a new biological process that could supposedly destroy PCBs and other contaminants in the sludge at the bottom of Fox River. Whether something like this would work or be cost effective would have to be determined. It would certainly be worth examining before we spend \$300 million and probably a lot more to build a pipeline along the Fox River trail so the Environment Protection Agency can dump the stuff in someone else's back yard.

While politicians say their votes aren't for sale, maybe the voters are. One estimate claims that all of the money spent on advertising in the Iowa Caucuses would equate to about \$90.00 for each vote cast there. This may not be helping all of the economy, but the newspapers and TV stations certainly benefited. While this election will be history when you read this, it makes you wonder why bother to vote when the polls keep telling you who is going to win anyway?

The City of Green Bay has eliminated garbage pickup from about 4,000 multiple family units they had formerly serviced. While this should significantly reduce the volume of waste, will it also proportionately reduce the cities cost to taxpayers for this reduction in service?

Citing higher salaries paid in Illinois and Michigan as an example, and blaming QEO restrictions, Gov. Doyle has strongly endorsed increasing teachers salaries in Wisconsin. While the teachers and their unions constantly lobby their cause, National Education

Assn. (NEA) figures for 2002 rank Wisconsin 20th nationally in average teacher pay, and 12th nationally, (ahead of all of our neighboring states), in average public school expenditure per student. Also, the Dept. of Commerce indicates that average Wisconsin income to be somewhat below that in neighboring states while our state and local tax burdens are still above the national average.

While Gov. Doyle in his "State of The State" address called for repeal of the QEO limiting teachers to "only" a 3.8% annual salary increase, he made no reference to restoring the shared revenues to local school districts which help municipalities pay these salaries without skyrocketing property taxes. Same goes for state aids and revenues which were cut from the counties and municipalities last year.

While so far this hasn't been a record bad winter, we keep hearing that money for plowing snow is running short. We would assume that even though our city, state and county budgets were tight this year, this issue was adequately addressed. Is this a management problem regarding manpower and overtime allocation that should be examined?

As usual, lots of things to wonder about.

Jim Frink

"If we fixed a hangnail the way our government fixes the economy, we'd slam a car door on it."

. . . Cullen Hightower

"Things in our country run in spite of government, not by aid of it."

. . . Will Rogers

"The political machine triumphs because it is a united minority operating against a divided majority."

. . . Will Durant

The TAX TIMES

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The TAX TIMES - February/March, 2004

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule. (Mark Your Calendars.)

Tuesday - February 17, 2004 – Primary Elections. BE SURE TO VOTE !

Thursday – February 19, 2004 – BCTA Monthly Meeting.
GLORY YEARS. 12:00 Noon
Discussion of current events. Candidates for Local elected office are cordially invited to attend, be recognized and give a few words on their candidacy.

Thursday – March 18, 2004 – School Board Candidates Forum.
GLORY YEARS, 12:00 Noon (Luncheon Buffet starting at 11:45). All six candidates for the Green Bay School Board have been invited to participate. This meeting is open to the public. A buffet lunch will be served prior to the Forum.

Tuesday - April 6, 2004 – General Elections. BE SURE TO VOTE !

Thursday – April 15, 2004 – BCTA Monthly Meeting. GLORY YEARS.

BCTA Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the
GLORY YEARS, 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay.
Cost – \$6.50 for meal – Includes tax & tip. Payable at meeting.
All members of the BCTA, their guests, and other interested are cordially invited
to attend and participate in our open meetings.
Call Jim Frink – 336-6410 for information or to leave message.

**February –
March,
2004**

Sorry: There will not be a
TAX TIMES for March.



"Like mothers, taxes are often misunderstood, but seldom forgotten."
. . . Lord Bramwell

"The United States is the only country where it takes more brains to figure out your income tax than to earn the money to pay it."
. . . Edward J. Gur-

SUPPORT THE BCTA

New Members are Always
Welcome. Call 336-6410
Write us at P. O. Box 684
or visit our website
www.BCTaxpayers.Org
for Details.