
◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

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Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

September, 2006

Paying dearly.

I complain a lot about paying taxes. And rightly so. Paying taxes reminds me of a character in “Candide” by Voltaire who has his tush over time sliced off like turkey roast at the deli. Makes me wince hard to think of it.

But you know what – It’s only money. I can hardly believe I’m saying that, but it’s true. Paying taxes is easy. It’s only money.

I was brought back to this more reverent and sober state of mind by the return last month of Appleton’s 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, from a year-long tour of duty in Iraq. They came home 3 soldiers short. And that breaks my heart more than a four grand plus bill from the county treasurer.

While I have been complaining about my taxes -- from the comfort of my home, embracing my family and pets, tending my garden -- these men and women have endured unimaginable desolation and danger, in a distant, hostile land, to support my right and leisure to moan about my taxes.

I don’t know how to thank them, and their brave and patient families, other than to complain all the louder for tax relief now that they are home, ready to enjoy the liberty they fought to preserve. Instead of the 152, un-audited economic development programs from the state, what can we do to return these brave soldiers to some economic development on their behalf?

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, my pal Tom Jefferson used to say.

Ensuring American freedom is a war fought on many fronts. Military soldiers are fighting for it in Iraq and Afghanistan. And we civilian soldiers can support our troops best by continuing to fight locally for sensible government and lower taxes that enable citizens to buy and enjoy the homes that represent our American Dream.

On behalf of the Brown County Taxpayers Association, I want to thank all our American soldiers, with an extra hardy hug for our fellow Wisconsinites, for fighting to preserve our liberty.

Especially our right to dissent when Know-it-all Government dictates the next tax hike we must pay to preserve our way of life. In the name of all who have fought for our freedom, give us a Taxpayer Protection Amendment! I offer this simple sample:

“State and local government taxes and fees shall not exceed the citizens’ ability to pay.”

Simple enough? Let me know.

Anyhow, welcome home to all our returning troops. God bless you. And God bless and keep all who are still overseas or preparing to deploy. Our hearts are with you.

And I promise, as you struggle to secure our freedom, we will keep you in our hearts. In this crazy election year, we will guard your wallets as closely as we guard our own.

Richard Parins – President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government

How Government Works.

This story has been around for a few years, but still sounds familiar.

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 (GS-4) and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a planning position and hired two people: one person to write the instructions (GS-12) and one person to do time studies (GS-11).

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control position and hired two people, one GS-9 to do the studies and one GS-11 to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created the following positions, a timekeeper (GS-09) and a payroll officer (GS-11) and hired two people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?"

So they created an administrative position and hired three people: an Admin. Officer (GM-13), an Assistant Admin. Officer (GS-13) and a Legal Secretary (GS-08).

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget, we must cutback overall cost," so they laid off the night watchman.

From the Internet.

National Debt Update.

As of September 1, the U. S. National Debt had risen to **\$8,521,873,632,757.50**. This is an increase of about \$132 Billion since the first of August.

This proves that even when Congressmen are home campaigning for re-election the national debt can keep rising so you can't necessarily blame them.

"American public opinion is like an ocean, it cannot be stirred by a teaspoon." . . . **Hubert Humphrey**

"Diplomats are just as essential to starting a war as soldiers are for finishing it...You take diplomacy out of war, and the whole thing would fall flat in a week. . . . **Will Rogers**

"If you desire respect for the law, you must first make the law respectable." . . . **Louis Brandeis**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.BCTaxpayers.

A Borrowing Epidemic

How would you like to have a magical credit card that allowed you to buy just about anything you wanted? Oh, and you never had to worry about paying the bill. Sounds like a fantasy doesn't it? It is. There is no such thing. We live in a real world, real costs, and real debts. When we borrow money, we have to pay it back, simple as that.

Unfortunately, many state and local government officials seem to believe they can rack up large sums of debt and not worry about paying the bills.

The Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, one of the state's most respected non-partisan fiscal research groups, released a study recently which should make politicians wake up and come back to the real world.

The study found that total debt for state and local governments in Wisconsin had increased by 38% from 2000-2004. That's over 8% per year. Our state debt now stands at nearly \$9 billion (\$9,000,000,000). This borrowing epidemic, which is a large contributor to our high tax burden, grew nearly four times as fast as inflation (10.4%).

To put this borrowing into perspective, consider the fact that our personal income grew by 16% during this same time period. In fact, in 2000 to 2002 our total state debt increased by roughly 14% per year, nearly surpassing our income growth for the entire period. As our incomes increased gradually, government debt blew up.

This enormous debt has more serious consequences.

After reviewing our financial situation, three national bond rating agencies (Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch) consistently ranked only two to four states lower than us (California, South Dakota, Louisiana, and Idaho). We're 46th of 50. That puts our bond rating among the worst in the nation and dead last in the Midwest.

Why should you be concerned?

A state's bond rating is similar to a person's credit score. Both measure risk. That is, how likely you are to pay back the money you borrow. If you have a poor credit score and get a loan, it will be at a higher interest rate than a person with a better credit score. The higher the interest rate climbs on our government loans, the more we all pay. That's a serious problem.

The other problem is that we have to make payments on our existing debt. Because tax collections have remained nearly the same and our debt has increased substantially, we are in a situation where we have to borrow more to cover these obligations. As the debt service climbs it will crowd out other options for paying the bills. That is of course unless we want to raise taxes even higher.

All of this increased borrowing and spending is leading us down the road to becoming a 'Wississippi' state - a state with only middle class and poor, where demand for services outstrips the ability of the citizens to pay for those services. In other words, our high tax burden and increased government debt are chasing out higher-income people. We are moving closer to the point where we no longer have the tax base or borrowing power to support the services we've enacted.

Someone has to pay for it all. With wealthy people leaving the state in high numbers, that responsibility shifts even more to the middle class. No budgeting gimmicks or accounting tricks will get around that fact.

Rep. Frank G. Lasee

Will Privatization Work For The IRS?

Often when reducing the high costs of government services is discussed, privatization, or using private contractors to perform certain necessary tasks is recommended. While we acknowledge that every government job cannot be privatized, the BCTA has often endorsed this approach and it has been favorably approved in our annual membership surveys.

Privatizing government services traditionally done by the public sector however, is often easier said than done. Public employee unions and others who perceive a loss of influence can be obstructive.

Now the IRS is going to give it a try by using private contractors to try and collect the billions in unpaid taxes the country is owed. Starting early September, three private collection agencies will be assigned certain accounts to collect on behalf of the IRS. They will receive 22 to 24% of what they collect, even though the IRS does not know how successful their efforts will be. Also how much, if any the government will save by using private firms rather than their own personnel.

The IRS already acknowledges the plan will cost more than hiring additional agents to do the job. Congress has been reluctant to authorize additional funds to the IRS even though estimates are that as much as \$300 Billion dollars, enough to balance the annual budget are owed the government in unpaid taxes.

There are other potential problems. The employees union representing the Treasury Department is unhappy. There is a question about turning over confidential information to private agencies. Will the public accept these new methods. While the IRS could be ruthless on occasion, their position was always that income to an individual or corporation is subject to taxation, and that it is your responsibility to provide the funds to pay these taxes. Often the basis question is what consists of income and the amount. They also could and would cooperate and compromise if possible or practical. When dealing directly with the IRS a taxpayer knew where he stood and could deal directly with the proper level of authority.

Their attitude is that taxes owed the government are an unfor-givable obligation. While horror stories are common, the odds are that anyone treated unfairly was not completely open and cooperative.

While some cities and states already use private collection agencies to collect amounts due them dealing with personal income tax information will be different.

While private business uses collection agencies, generally the details requiring the service are of little consequence. Often it is a simple matter of someone purchasing an item or service and not making payment. The seller has exhausted sufficient time and effort and is willing to pay a commission on part of the debt rather than write off the entire transaction,

Tax indebtedness may be much more complex. While I said previously the IRS will discuss matters with you, sometimes no compromise can be made. If a debtor cannot deal with the IRS, will they do better with a private collection agency authorized to do whatever necessary and working for a lucrative commission.

In any event, if you owe the IRS money and cannot resolve a settlement, you will receive a letter from them with the name of the private company assigned your account. You will next receive a letter from the collection agency, and from there on you are probably on your own.

Jim Frink – BCTA

Individual Trust Funds Would Contribute To Quality Education.

As a member of the Brown County Taxpayers Association, I am aware that about 53 percent of property taxes go to fund education.

Recent hikes in employee benefits, energy and transportation costs have necessitated the reduction or elimination of several programs. This trend will continue: nothing is getting cheaper.

To continue Green Bay's quality of education, I envision a simple program where an individual sets up a trust fund to finance a program in the school of that person's choice.

Since only the interest of the trust fund is dispersed, the fund continues to give assistance in perpetuity. Until the benefactor's death, the fund is owned and managed by the individual. Via the individual's will, the fund's management is transferred to the Board of Education after death, with one check (the interest) being dispersed annually to the school or program of the benefactor's choice.

Many people may question whether their heirs will squander their estates. This concept removes these doubts, and continues to aid education in the benefactor's name forever—a living legacy.

Hopefully this type of program will also lighted the burden taxpayers bear while maintaining a high level of quality education. **Patrick Kenny – BCTA**

Terry Fondow Speaker at Next BCTA Meeting.

Terry Fondow, former principal of Green Bay East High School will address the Sept. 21, BCTA membership meeting. Plan on attending. Details are on the last page of this "TAX TIMES."

DID YOU VOTE?

While we regret it was not possible to mail this issue of the "TAX TIMES" in time to arrive before the Sept. 12, primary election, there is no way of emphasizing how important your vote is. The primary campaign has been well financed by special interests but is probably nothing like we will see during the next month.

Mark November 7, on your calendar.

"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain."

. . . Louis L'Amour

August Meeting Notes. SUPT. NERAD SPEAKS ABOUT NEED FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL.

Monthly BC meeting held August 17, 2006.

Green Bay School Superintendent Dan Nerad presented his viewpoint on the need for construction of a fifth high school for the Green Bay School District. He stated that planning for the new high school has been going on for three and one-half years.

Running from January 2003 through October 2004, the Phase I study determined that boundary changes could not provide a long-term solution for enrollment growth. Multiple boundary moves would be needed. Southwest, West, and East High Schools serve one-half of the geography of the district. Preble serves the other half. The Preble area has the fastest current growth and the greatest potential for growth. Preble is 300 students over capacity this year. The Preble site is not viable for expansion to provide a long-term solution. The task force concluded that a new school in the growing area is the only long-term solution.

The Phase II study ran from Nov. 2004 through Nov. 2005. It developed enrollment projections for the rest of the planning process, as well as a final attendance area plan. Enrollment projections were developed from three sources: Green Bay School District annual enrollment projections, the UW-Madison's Applied Population Laboratory, and the City of Green Bay Planning Department.

Mr. Nerad explained that the present plan would require \$65 million for a new building serving lower grades as well as high school students. Eventually, the lower grades would be moved out and the building would be only a high school. At this time, the district has a backlog of \$61 million of projects, such as roofs and boilers, which are not allowed by state formula.

The Board of Education is still deliberating about placing a referendum question on the ballot for operating costs for the new school. The cost of the new school construction is expected to have an effect of 10 cents per thousand on property taxes.

Members present raised several questions about the cost and design of the proposed new high school. They felt that a less expansive design would be less costly to build and maintain.

Questioned about the effect of illegal immigration on enrollment growth, Mr. Nerad explained that the school district is prohibited by law from inquiring about immigration status.

The rate of poverty increase in Green Bay is outpacing the state average. While the average percentage of Green Bay School District students receiving free lunches is 44 percent, 100 percent of inner city students receive free lunches.

The Green Bay School District public budget hearing will be held on the fourth Monday in October. A 1.9 percent levy increase is anticipated. Comments from the public are welcome.

The next meeting of the Brown County Taxpayers Association is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 21, at the Titledown Brewing Co. The speaker will be Terry Fondow, former principal of Green Bay East High School. Details on the last page of this *TAX TIMES*.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

“Come to Wisconsin - We are Bad for Business.”

That motto would probably not attract many businesses. Unfortunately that seems to be the message we are sending to business owners and professionals who may be looking to relocate or expand here.

Forbes Magazine, an international business publication, released its first “Best States for Business” study last week. Not surprisingly, Wisconsin ranked near the bottom of the list. We were 39th overall among the 50 states. States were ranked according to six categories: regulatory environment, business costs, economic climate, growth prospects, labor, and quality of life.

Wisconsin underperformed badly in nearly every category. We ranked 42nd for regulatory environment, 39th for economic climate, 38th for growth prospects, 30th for labor, and 27th for business costs. Our quality of life was ranked 6th in the nation. Had this category been removed we would be even lower on the list.

Unfortunately not many business owners and professionals are looking to move to a state with a high quality of life and a government that over taxes, over spends, and over regulates.

Why should you care?

Despite political attempts from both Republicans and Democrats to improve our business environment, we are underperforming in the categories that matter to businesses. Talented people who create jobs and pay a lot of taxes are leaving or NOT coming here because of it. They realize that they will keep more of the money they make elsewhere. And that means we are all paying more in taxes and fees to make up the difference.

What can we do to fix the problems that make Wisconsin bad for business?

Democrats believe that the solution to our problem is not that we are taxing people too much. It is that we are not taxing the RIGHT people enough. The liberal answer to lower our tax burden and boost the economy seems to be – tax business owners and executives MORE. In their minds, these people are not paying enough in comparison to the rest of us and that is not fair.

If that is true, then the top five states in the Forbes study must be taxing their businesses more than we are. That is not the case. According to data from the Federation of Tax Administrators, all five states have a much lower corporate income tax rate than we do. Two out of the top ten states have no corporate income tax.

In Wisconsin, we automatically tax 7.9% of all business profits regardless of how much the business makes. That's on top of the 35% the federal government takes. To put this in perspective, if you own a small business in Wisconsin and you make \$10,000 in profits, you will automatically pay nearly \$4,200 in state and federal taxes. Talk about unfair.

Raising taxes on businesses is NOT the answer.

Eliminating the corporate income tax is. We also need to reduce the regulatory burden that often prevents businesses from expanding and creating more jobs. Wisconsin can do better.

Rep. Frank G. Lasee

“Governments last as long as the under-taxed can defend themselves against the over-taxed.” . . . Bernard Berenson

Things That Make Us Wonder.

The 100 or so Sargento Cheese employees sharing the \$208 million Powerball lottery jackpot is a great story, and will certainly enhance the popularity of lottery investing.

While public attention was focused on the lucky ticket holders, the real winners were the state and federal governments. Figure it out – it was announced that each winner would get an average of \$650,000 in a lump sum payout. A nice piece of change. Times 100 would be \$65 million, or \$143 million short of the announced total prize. This difference is a penalty discount for taking an early payout plus applicable state and federal income taxes. Since lottery payouts are usually about half of ticket sales, one can assume it took about \$400 million of ticket sales to produce the \$65 million return. Not a bad profit; for the government.

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The Wisconsin Dept. of Corrections reports a dramatic increase in the number of prisoners over the age of 60, along with all of the health problems usually associated with people as they get older. This situation likely will only get worse under present “3 strikes & you’re out” and “no chance of parole” laws designed to keep dangerous criminals off of the streets.

Prisons are not designed with the amenities of a retirement community or nursing home. This situation will likely become more expensive in years to come. Perhaps a solution would be to designate one of our prisons as a “home for elderly felons.” They may have to redesign the cells to accommodate wheelchairs and make other changes to comply with federal access to persons with disabilities laws but a law is a law.

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While the price of regular gas has dropped somewhat from a high of \$3.10 to \$2.75 or so we all have reacted as if we were really receiving a bargain. Especially with the media direly predicting considerable increases due to the Alaska pipe line and other problems. Unfortunately the price will likely be a larger problem as time goes on subject to

all sorts of disruptions caused by politics, rumors, demand and reserves. It doesn’t seem like too long ago when the price seemed stabilized around a dollar a gallon. Unfortunately hindsight is often better than foresight when it comes to conservation.

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We all read about the Wisconsin DOT establishing a 50 mile detour while they repave a 10 block section of State Highway 23 in the Village of Princeton. An alternate and suitable detour through the village would take 5 minutes and add about 2 blocks of extra driving.

Apparently asking motorists to take an extra hour and waste 50 miles of fuel in the process was of no concern. Whether this is simply another example of bureaucratic arrogance on the part of our public employees or simply a lack of common sense deserves an explanation.

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The UW Board of Regents recently voted 15-2 to ask the state to include an additional \$144 million for the system in the next state budget. With an enrollment of about 100,000, thus equates to about \$1,440 per student. They claim this would enable them to accept another 2,000 students. The regents also claim this would enable them hold tuition increases to ONLY 2.5% annually for the next several years.

Unfortunately the UW budget is not open to scrutiny by the taxpaying public to the extent the state budget is. Not that our elected representatives are more careful with our money than the University, but they at least know that tax increases for whatever purpose are going to haunt them at election time. The taxes we pay to feed their blank checks are among the highest in the nation but this does not seem to bother them one bit.

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In a somewhat related article the same Board of Regents voted 12-4 to approve the sale of the state owned house used by the UW-Milwaukee chancellor. The 10,000 sq. ft. mansion was donated to the state several years ago. It costs about \$40,000 per year to

maintain and presently needs repairs and upgrading estimated at \$500,000, and has an estimated value of \$1.3-2 million.

The article didn’t state if it had been subject to property taxes or if its use had been considered as taxable income to the chancellor.

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The Oneida Nation has announced plans to place 3,256 acres of land they own into federal trust, which means it would no longer be subject to local and county property taxes. It was reported this property currently generates over \$870,000 annual property tax revenue for Brown County, the Town of Hobart and various school districts.

While a portion of these revenues will be reimbursed to the jurisdictions by the Oneidas in the form of service fees the bottom line may be the difference in revenue between the distribution of these fees and what property taxes through the assessed valuation would have brought. Somebody will have to pay the difference, which could mean every other taxpayer in the county.

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The threat of terrorism may seem remote to most of us but is becoming more real every day. If you do any flying you get a good reminder of the realities and are always thankful when you arrive safely at your destination.

Further we expect our government agencies to track down and eliminate terrorist threats and are always glad to hear of any successes that may occur. Like it or not, it is probably necessary to use wiretapping and other covert means to track these threats to our existence and accept the fact we are dealing with a vicious, heartless and well organized enemy aimed at our destruction. It is disturbing to see our governments efforts to protect our interests used to political advantage in an election year. Other nations constantly use whatever means to their advantage to obtain our business and military secrets.

We all respect the right of privacy and freedoms granted by our constitution. Law abiding U. S. Citizens should have nothing to fear. If someone thinks wire tapping and other methods to track down these killers is illegal or what

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Continued – Things That Make Us Wonder/ ever their problem is, they should come up with a better solution and a better set of tools for our officials to use rather than creating a political crisis just to sidetrack the issue.

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The Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism claims that if the same sex marriage amendment to the state constitution is approved it could have an adverse effect on the tourism industry. This seems rather difficult to believe but it is obvious from the TV commercials that for whatever reason there is a lot of money being invested by certain groups opposing this amendment.

It appears that either this unique opportunity for people to approve or disapprove an important piece of legislation has not been properly explained and presented by its sponsors, or is being spun all out of proportion by its opponents. More likely an unfortunate combination of the two.

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Now that the automatic annual increase in Wisconsin's gasoline tax has been set aside, the Department Of Transportation is complaining big time about a shortage of funds to do their work. We all realize the cost of new road construction and maintenance, but is it possible the problem may be the DOT itself. Not to claim they do not have a problem, but Wisconsin is an average size state with an average amount of highways and should be able to take care of itself. Our gasoline, registration, and other revenues supporting our highway system are amongst the highest in the nation while our roads may be below average.

Perhaps we spend too much money designing roads for the future and not enough building what we need now. Is our money wisely spent? Just look around Green Bay. Grandiose intersections filled with sharp curves, blind entrances and exits, and daily accidents. The impression is that the aesthetic appearance of highway projects takes precedence over safety, efficiency and overall cost. They have spent millions redoing 41 on the west side twice in the last 10 years and it is still dangerous and confusing. Too many drivers watch too much Nascar.

Various groups plus some of the candidates for Wisconsin Attorney General have announced support for criminalizing our OWI laws to make the first conviction a felony rather than a misdemeanor, as at present. We can all agree there is no excuse for driving while alcohol impaired and the tragic consequences often caused. Tougher laws and increased public awareness have helped a lot but there is still a long way to go.

Some problems could be that with the new .08% limit which is what determines if you are intoxicated, some people may be more of a hazard than others. Not saying that anyone should be allowed to drive if over the limit. The use of roadblocks to check everybody and make arrests is always possible regardless of their driving behavior. What will keep repeat offenders off of the road? Unfortunately prominent politicians, star athletes and other celebrity types also get arrested from time to time, and steps would have to be taken to assure everyone is treated the same, which could be big business for the legal profession. The difference between a felony or misdemeanor conviction for any offense can make a huge difference in ones future career.

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Are the TV ads we all pay for through the Fed. Dept. of Transportation showing a car full of alcohol up to the windows effective? They give the impression you have to drink a tremendous amount to become impaired.

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An article in "TIME" Magazine claims the Veterans Administration system of 1,400 hospitals and clinics has improved its service and reduced costs considerably during the past 10 years. In the 1990's they were considered so substandard that Congress proposed shutting down the entire system and using private facilities.

Since that time, the number of veterans receiving treatment has more than doubled from 2.5 to 5.3 million but in the meantime has eliminated about 10,000 employees. As a result their cost per patient has remained steady while private care has increased over 40%. A satisfaction index from

the University of Michigan gives the VA 83 out of a hundred in a patient satisfaction survey while private institutions averaged 71 out of a hundred.

Improved record keeping methods and equipment is also largely credited for the improvement. It is acknowledged that the VA serves a different type of patient than private hospitals, and insurance benefits or making a profit are not as much of a factor as with private institutions. While difficult to imagine the government doing something better than a private institution they obviously have some good ideas to share.

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In addition to \$300 billion the IRS claims due them in unreported taxes, they now estimate they sent out \$318 million in improperly claimed refunds last year. They blamed this on a computer program which didn't work properly and said will be more careful in the future.

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The U.S. Census Bureau reports the median household income for Wisconsin dropped 4.6% last year, while the national average showed an increase of 1.1%. Apparently not everyone receives automatic pay increases each year as teachers and other public employees do. Unless their methodology is flawed, this is an indication of a very serious problem with our states economy. They further indicate that from 2000 to 2005, Wisconsin's family income dropped from \$50,559 to \$45,956, a decrease of 9.1%. These would be actual dollars not adjusted for inflation.

If their numbers are correct, our citizens endure dramatically higher energy costs, higher healthcare and other costs of living, higher costs of education and taxes on all levels with less income.

While our state officials may claim this is simply due to a shift from a manufacturing economy with better paying jobs to a more service orientated job market it appears to be a problem that should be addressed and corrected.

This should be a high priority election year issue. If you agree part of the problem may be business leaving or avoiding our state, the article by Rep. Lasee elsewhere in this *TAX TIMES* titled "*Come to Wisconsin, We are Bad for Business*" may be of interest.

Much has been said of the high SAT scores achieved by Wisconsin students compared with the rest of the country. A recent article states our students scored 82 points higher than the national average in the 2006 tests. What wasn't explained was that only 4,012 students from Wisconsin took the test. Is this group hand selected or what? Only 46 students from Green Bay participated so it must have been on a voluntary basis. It would seem that a true comparison would include all students from all states.

In the meantime, the Fordham Foundation of Washington D.C., which compares academic standards around the country gave Wisconsin a D- for the Department of Public Instructions setting of academic standards for the states schools., which included an F in U.S. history, world history and science.

Only 4 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Montana and Wyoming were rated lower than Wisconsin.

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The Green Bay Stadium district expressed concern that the .5% sales tax receipts for June were about 3% less than last year. This probably equated to about \$52,000. While they worry about \$52,000, what about all of the merchants adding the tax and collecting it for the stadium. It would take Brown County retailers \$10,400,000. in taxable sales to provide \$52,000 at a rate of .5% indicating that other businesses are sharing a loss of revenue.

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It takes a lot of money to run an election campaign for a major political office, and we are sure that all candidates and their committees are well aware of the rules and implications imposed by their contributors. Money can come from many sources, with many motives represented for supporting a particular candidate. It seems that so far campaign reform laws are unclear and ineffective. It seems that when a partisan committee is able to disallow the contributions of a candidate something is out of balance with the system. The result will probably be making a nasty issue of opponents financing.

As usual, lots of things to wonder about.
Jim Frink

"Things That Make Us Wonder" consists of thoughts that occur to us, mostly taxpayer related in some way, that come to mind during the days news events. Some are unimportant and probably not worth commenting about. Others could easily be expanded to full length feature articles worthy of further study and action to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in a limited space and put a different spin on items from what you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge that our perspective of some issues in this column may be contrary to that of some our readers. However, one of our purposes is to encourage debate. We realize there are two sides to every question. Comments and suggestions for items to include in this section of the TAX TIMES are always welcome.

Thank You for Membership Renewals.

We recently sent notices for members who's renewals came up during July, August and September, and want to thank everyone for their prompt response. We want to thank you for your great support. If you have any question regarding your BCTA dues, call Jim Frink (Treasurer) at 336-6410.

"Domestic policy can lose elections. Foreign policy can kill us all." . . . John F. Kennedy

"Ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors to bullets." A. Lincoln

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.

Welcome New Member.

While it is the policy of the BCTA not to reveal or publicize our membership, we want to tell you about a new member, Isadore M. Fedup. His friends call him Izzy and he is a very average person making an average salary, living in an average home and paying an average amount of taxes. Izzy can be rather outspoken and likes to send letters expressing his thoughts on various subjects, and has agreed to send us copies for publication.

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Senator Barbara Boxer
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Senator Boxer:

As a native U.S. citizen and Californian, and long time customer of our Internal Revenue Service, I am writing to ask for your assistance. I have contacted the Immigration and Naturalization Service in an effort to determine the process for becoming an illegal alien and they referred me to you.

My reasons for wishing to change my status from U.S. Citizen to illegal alien stem from the bill which was recently passed by the Senate and for which you voted. If my understanding of this bill's provisions are accurate, as an illegal alien who has been in the United States for five years, I would only need to pay a \$2,000 fine and income taxes for three of the last five years.

I recognize a good deal when I see one and I am anxious to get the process started before everyone else in the U.S. figures it out. Simply put, those of us who have been here legally have paid taxes every year so I'm excited about the prospect of avoiding two years of taxes in return for paying a \$2,000 fine. Is there a way I can apply to be an illegal retroactively? This would yield excellent results for me and my family. We paid pretty heavy taxes every year from 2000 thru 2005.

Another benefit in gaining an illegal status would be that our children would receive preferential treatment relative to their college/university applications and tuition.

If you would provide me with an outline of the process needed to become illegal retroactively if possible) and copies of all the necessary forms, I would be most appreciative.

Thank you for your assistance.

Your Loyal Constituent,
I. M. Fedup

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
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Inside This Issue.

Paying Dearly.
How Government Works.
National Debt Update.
A Borrowing Epidemic.
Will Privatization Work For The IRS?
Individual Trust Funds for Education.
Terry Fondow next meeting speaker.
August Meeting Notes.
Come to Wisconsin – We are Bad for Business.
Things That Make Us Wonder.
Membership Renewals.
Welcome New Member.

and more.

The TAX TIMES - September, 2006

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Tuesday - September 12, 2006. PRIMARY ELECTIONS.**
Be Sure To VOTE !
- Thursday - September 21, 2006. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.**
TITLETOWN BREWING Co., 2d Floor Meeting Room.
Speaker – Terry Fondow, Former Principal, Green Bay East High.
- Thursday - October 19, 2006. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.**
Program to be announced.
- Tuesday - November 7, 2006. GENERAL ELECTIONS.**
Be Sure To VOTE .
- Thursday - November 16, 2006. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.**
Program to be announced.

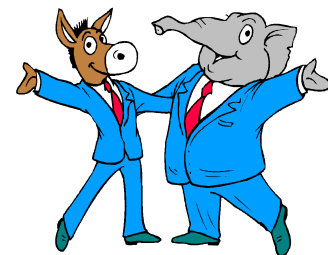
Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of Each month, 12:00 Noon, at the Titledown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

Meetings are open to the public.

BCTA embers, guests, and other interested persons are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

COST: \$7.00 per meeting – Includes light lunch, beverage, tax & tip.
Call Jim Frink – 336-6410 for information or to leave message.

SEPTEMBER,



“A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want to get in...and how many want out.”
... Tony Blair (When asked why he believes so much in Amer-

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.