



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# Taxing Times

May 2009 – Volume 5 – Issue No. 2

# Taxing TIMES

## FROM THE EDITOR

By Brian King

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This newsletter is free to section members. Current issues are available on the SOA Web site ([www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org)).

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Hello readers. The start of 2009 brought a new administration to Washington. As is generally the case, the wind of political change brings with it an increased expectation for the possibility of regulatory and legislative activity, especially in the early days. This certainly holds true with this go around. Although at the time of this writing, the anticipated activity in the insurance industry has not yet occurred, the expectation is that it will.

In the area of insurance there are many issues which could see new guidance initiatives. Among these are longevity products, VA CARVM, development of separate account DRD and health care. It will be important to understand any such guidance as it emerges. In addition—given the current financial condition of our economy—legislative changes could emerge which could affect the way life insurance companies and their products are taxed. To the extent that this type of activity does occur, it could have a profound impact on our industry.

One of the tasks of the *TAXING TIMES* editor and editorial board is to keep vigilant with regard to this expected activity and bring updates as quickly as possible to keep our readers informed. Realizing that we do have some limits given publication schedules, we will do our best to run articles in regular issues and, if necessary, in supplements to keep our readers abreast of any regulatory guidance or other changes as they emerge.

The issues listed here are some of the hot topics that we are seeing in 2009. There most likely are others; so if there are areas that you see that require a watchful eye, let me know via e-mail at [bking@smartgrp.com](mailto:bking@smartgrp.com). If there are topics that already exist that you feel warrant an article, please contact me with your ideas. If you are short on time or would like to team up with a colleague to coauthor an article, let me know, and we'll find you a writing partner.

Taxation Section members, this is your newsletter. We want to know what you want to hear. We want you to be part of the process—that encompasses being part of the questions as well as being part of the answers. These promise to be interesting times. There is so much going on with our country's financial condition and within our current political arena. This is not a time to sit on the sidelines. This is the time to get in the game.

Finally, you will notice that this issue of *TAXING TIMES* has a new look. In addition to some style changes, we have added a color format to our already colorful content. We hope you like what you see.

Enjoy the issue! ◀