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FROM THE EDITOR WHO'S READING TAXING TIMES?

By Brian G. King

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It is quite common for Society of Actuary sections to produce newsletters. Thus, it came as no surprise when five years ago the new Taxation Section decided that it too would produce one. Five years and 19 issues later (including supplements), it is somewhat surprising how well received and broadly read *TAXING TIMES* has become.

From its inception, *TAXING TIMES* was well received by the Taxation Section members. The articles were timely and well written, and underwent a rigorous peer-review process. Readers gained education and insights on new and emerging tax matters impacting our industry. Given the fair amount of affiliate members present in the Taxation Section, our newsletter has had, from the very beginning, a wide readership, including actuaries as well as law, accounting, tax and other professionals in related fields.

However, recent references to *TAXING TIMES* by government personnel and in government publications suggest just how far its readership extends. This past May at the Federal Bar Association's 21st Annual Insurance Tax Seminar, several government people participating in session panels acknowledged that they in fact read *TAXING TIMES*. IRS Notice 2009-47, released on June 15, 2009, references SOA Taxation Section Task Force findings published in the May 2006 issue of *TAXING TIMES*. On Sept. 9, 2009, the Joint Committee on Taxation of the United States Congress released a description and analysis of President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposals. This document included an explanation of a proposed modification to the Dividends Received Deduction for life insurance company separate accounts and cites a two-part article written by Susan J. Hotine and published in *TAXING TIMES*. In addition, in a recent SOA communications audit, *TAXING TIMES* was one of four SOA section newsletters cited as a premium product.

We should be proud! Our section newsletter has become a strong and influential voice for our section and our profession. It is providing timely and useful information to a broad audience on the tax issues impacting our industry. Through this valuable tool, we are making a difference.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have contributed articles in the past. Your hard work, expertise and willingness to write, often under tight timeframes, are the reason that we have such a successful publication. Thank you!

I would also like to encourage new authors to come forward and share their knowledge through publication in *TAXING TIMES*. With additional authors and new areas of tax expertise, our newsletter will benefit greatly. We have a quality publication to showcase our technical analysis and thoughts. All of our members have the opportunity to share in this work.

Enjoy the issue! ◀