

President's Report – May 8, 2017

*As we approach our 80th anniversary (we were incorporated in 1937!) as the most active taxpayer advocacy group in Contra Costa, it's appropriate to do a heads-up.*

*We exist in a "target-rich environment." Virtually every day I am asked to help taxpayers in our county, and see other situations which require our attention. Even though the demand clearly exceeds our current resources, our impact on our communities and the various government agencies who take - and frequently misuse - our tax dollars is significant.*

*As we discussed at year-end, we need to focus our energies on those issues which most affect our taxpayers, and for which we have the best chance of success. Since the massively over-promised and under-funded pension obligations in our county (and the state) drive so many of the tax measures we see, we have selected the public employee pension issue as our top priority challenge: "Public Pensions; Death by a Thousand Cuts."*

*To that end, the executive team formed a task force of Jim Pezzaglia, Sue Pricco, Hal Bray, Dan Walden and myself to:*

- *Identify and quantify the problem;*
- *Identify potential solutions that can be applied locally, and*
- *Develop an outreach program to educate the public and elected officials.*

*We have selected four jurisdictions as local targets:*

- *The city of Hercules (West County);*
- *The city of Brentwood (East County);*
- *The city of Walnut Creek (Central County), and*
- *Contra Costa County, including those organizations that are covered by the county's pension plan (CCERA).*

*Next month you can expect to see the first draft of our plan, and I hope you will be motivated to pitch in. There's ample opportunity for every single CoCoTax member to participate and contribute.*

*Jack Weir*

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