



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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No. 79/198

November 16, 1979

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS:

TAXABLE STATUS OF CERTAIN INSURANCE COMPANIES'  
PERSONAL PROPERTY

We have previously informed you that insurance companies pay a gross premiums tax which is in-lieu of property taxes on their personal property. This information is correct, providing the insurance company actually pays a gross premiums tax. However, we have recently become aware that certain insurance companies are exempt from the gross premiums tax and all other state and local taxes, except taxes on real estate and office equipment. There are two types of insurance companies in this category. The first group is nonprofit hospital service corporations, and the second is fraternal benefit societies.

Nonprofit Hospital Service Corporations

The Insurance Code, Section 11493.5, declares nonprofit hospital service corporations to be charitable and benevolent institutions and exempts all their "funds" from all state and local taxes except taxes on their real estate and office equipment. We are aware of only three such corporations in California:

- (1) Blue Cross of Northern California  
1950 Franklin  
Oakland, California 94659
- (2) Blue Cross of Southern California  
21555 Oxnard  
Woodland Hills, California 91367
- (3) Takecare Corporation  
1950 Franklin  
Oakland, California 94659

Fraternal Benefit Societies

In a similar provision, Section 10993 of the Insurance Code declares fraternal benefit societies to be charitable and benevolent institutions and exempts their funds from all state and local taxes, except taxes on their real estate and office equipment. Following are the names and home office locations of 59 such societies that do business in California.

- (1) Aid Association for Lutherans (0718-7)  
4321 North Ballard Road  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54919
- (2) Alianza (0504-1)  
121 East 29th Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85713  
(As a result of amendment to Articles of Incorporation, society  
no longer qualifies to transact new business)
- (3) American Fraternal Union (1264-1)  
111 South Fourth Avenue, East  
Ely, Minnesota 55731
- (4) American Slovenian Catholic Union (K.S.K.J.) (1284-9)  
351-353 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60431
- (5) American Woodmen, The Supreme Camp of the (0680-9)  
2100 Downing Street  
Denver, Colorado 80205
- (6) Associacao Protectora Uniao Madeirense do Estado da  
California (A.P.U.M.E.C.) (0754-2)  
3256 East Fourteenth Street  
Oakland, California 94601
- (7) Baptist Life Association (1240-1)  
8555 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14221
- (8) Ben Hur Life Association (0507-4)  
227 East Main Street  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933
- (9) Bnai Zion (1530-5)  
136 East 39th Street  
New York, New York 10016  
  
Brith Abraham (Fraternal Order)  
136 East 39th Street  
New York, New York 10016  
(In Liquidation in New York since July 8, 1968)
- (10) Catholic Family Life Insurance (1980-2)  
1572 East Capitol Drive  
Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211

- (11) Catholic Knights Insurance Society (1713-7)  
1100 West Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
- (12) Catholic Order of Foresters (0509-0)  
305 West Madison Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606
- (13) Croatian Catholic Union of U.S.A. (1225-2)  
One West Old Ridge Road  
Hobart, Indiana 46342
- (14) Croatian Fraternal Union Of America (1140-3)  
100 Delaney Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235
- (15) Czechoslovak Society of America (1295-5)  
2701 South Harlem Avenue  
Berwyn, Illinois 60402
- (16) Danish Brotherhood in America (1203-9)  
3717 Harney Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
- (17) Degree of Honor Protective Association (2063-6)  
325 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
- (18) Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (1163-5)  
4254 Clairton Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15227
- (19) Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. (1555-2)  
502 East 8th Avenue  
Munhall, Pennsylvania 15120
- (20) Hungarian Reformed Federation of America (The) (1222-9)  
815 15th Street North West  
Washington, D.C. 20034
- (21) Independent Order of Foresters (The) (0517-3)  
789 Don Mills Road  
Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3C1T9
- (22) Irmandade do Divino Espirito Santa do Estado da California  
Conselho Supremo da (I.D.E.S.) (0511-6)  
22237 Main Street  
Hayward, California 94541

- (23) Knights of Columbus (0519-9)  
1 Columbus Plaza  
New Haven, Connecticut 06507
- (24) Labor Zionist Alliance (1101-5)  
575 Sixth Avenue  
New York, New York 10011
- (25) Lithuanian Workers, Association of (1263-3)  
104-07 102nd Street  
Ozone Park, New York 11417
- (26) Loyal Christian Benefit Association (0522-3)  
305 West 6th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16512
- (27) Lutheran Brotherhood (0829-2)  
701 Second Avenue, South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
- (28) Mennonite Mutual Aid Association (1990-1)  
1110 North Main Street  
Goshen, Indiana 46526
- (29) Modern Woodmen of America (0526-4)  
Mississippi River at 17th Street  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
- (30) National Catholic Society of Foresters (0549-6)  
35 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60601
- (31) National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (The) (0533-0)  
1300 West Northwest Highway  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056
- (32) National Slovak Society of the United States of America  
(The) (0531-4)  
516-518 Court Place  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
- (33) Neighbors of Woodcraft (0534-8)  
1410 Southwest Morrison Street  
Portland, Oregon 97205
- (34) North American Benefit Association (0550-4)  
1338 Military Street  
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
- (35) North American Swiss Alliance (1412-6)  
33 Public Square  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

- (36) Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society (0783-1)  
1700 Farnam Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
- (37) Police and Firemen's Insurance Association (0775-7)  
3550 North Washington Boulevard  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205
- (38) Polish National Alliance of the United States of North  
America (0540-5)  
6100 North Cicero Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60646
- (39) Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (1447-2)  
984 Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60622
- (40) Polish Women's Alliance of America (1290-6)  
1309-15 North Ashland Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60622
- (41) Royal Arcanum, Supreme Council of the (0541-3)  
61 Batterymarch Street  
P. O. Box 392  
Boston, Massachusetts 02101
- (42) Royal Neighbors of America (0571-0)  
230 16th Street  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
- (43) Slovene National Benefit Society (1107-2)  
166 Shore Drive  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60521
- (44) Sociedade do Espirito Santo, Conselho Supremo da (S.E.S.)  
(1250-0)  
733 Benton Street  
Santa Clara, California 95050
- (45) Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel do Estado da  
California Conselho Supremo da (S.P.R.S.I.) (0545-4)  
3031 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, California 94609
- (46) Sons of Norway, The Supreme Lodge of the (0544-7)  
1455 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408
- (47) Travelers Protective Association of America (The) (0546-2)  
3755 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

- (48) Uniao Portuguesa do Estado da California, Conselho Supremo (U.P.E.C.) (0599-1)  
1120 East 14th Street  
San Leandro, California 94577
- (49) Uniao Portuguesa Protectora do Estado da California (U.P.P.E.C.) (0554-6)  
1229 B Street  
Hayward, California 94541
- (50) Union & League of Romanian Societies of America, Inc. (The) (1134-6)  
720 Williamson Building  
215 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
- (51) United Commercial Travelers of America, The Order of (0552-0)  
632 North Park Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- (52) United National Life Insurance Society (1531-3)  
1951 Webster Street  
Oakland, California 94612
- (53) United States Letter Carriers' Mutual Benefit Association of and for the National Association of Letter Carriers (1357-3)  
100 Indiana Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20001
- (54) United Transportation Union Insurance Association (2247-5)  
14600 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44107
- (55) Western Fraternal Life Association (1226-0)  
1900 First Avenue, Northeast  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
- (56) William Penn Association (1285-6)  
429 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
- (57) Woodmen of the World (0551-2)  
1450 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, Colorado 80204
- (58) Workmen's Benefit Fund of the United States of America (0548-8)  
714 Seneca Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11227
- (59) Workmen's Circle (The) (0595-9)  
45 East 33rd Street  
New York, New York 10016

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Office Equipment

Essentially, the Insurance Code Sections exempt the funds of these insurance companies from taxes and specifically provide for the taxation of their real property and office equipment. We are of the view that the term "office equipment" includes office machinery and equipment, supplies, data processing equipment, and all other property typically found in a business office. This letter is to advise you that such property is subject to local assessment. If any of the listed corporations and societies own such property in your county, you should enroll applicable escape assessments.

Please refer any inquiries to Bud Florence or Mike Shannon of this division.

Sincerely,



Verne Walton, Chief  
Assessment Standards Division

VW:dr