

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF THE LEBANON 9-12 PROJECT
MAY 22, 2018

Co-Chair, Titus Hostetter, called the general meeting of the Lebanon 9-12 Project to order at 6:30 p.m. on May 22, 2018 at All About You Catering.

Linda offered the invocation, wherein she asked for God's guidance and protection for the group, our state and our country. She prayed for servant leaders who care about others more than self. She ended her prayer that God hold our soldiers in His protective arms.

Titus then led the group in the Pledge to the American Flag.

Treasurer, Sue Rodkey, gave her Treasurer's report, along with the Adopt a US Soldier Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

Harry Fies, Membership Chair, welcomed all members and guests with his usual brand of humor. He spoke of the wonderful attendance at the 2nd Amendment Rally on the 30th of April. He also noted that, while the Government may want to ban "assault weapons," law abiding citizens have "defense weapons." Harry's final anecdote was that the latest news shows that, in 1973, Donald Trump used "Russian" dressing, to which our members erupted into laughter and applause.

Education Chair, Sandy Paveglio, gave her Education report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B, which also includes the Respect Life Committee updates.

Jim Rodkey, Chair, discussed the recent election, noting that, while some races were considered wins and some were considered losses, nothing really changes. We must stay engaged. He discussed the America into which we were born and the current America, ending with "Where liberty dwells, there is my country.....but where is that Country?"

After a short break, Jim once again took to the podium for a presentation on the corruption in Harrisburg and the inability of the Pa. House and the Pa. Senate to work together. Too often, a good bill will pass the House but die in the Senate committees, and vice versa. His speech is attached to these minutes as Exhibit C.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rodkey, Treasurer

TREASURER / AAUSS

MAY 22, 2018

As Treasurer, it is my obligation to see that the bills are paid. We don't have a whole lot, but we do have some. In order to continue the work of the Lebanon 9-12 Project, I need your help. There's a blue donation basket back on the literature table, into which I ask that you throw a few dollars worth of your help. That way, we can continue to rent this hall every month, continue to provide you with literature that you can read and share with your friends, continue to get our name out there through events like the upcoming Jonestown Block Party.

Your contributions also help me send out one or two boxes of love from home to our beloved soldiers overseas, on the Front Lines, through the Adopt a US Soldier Project.

I normally stand here and tell you how important it is to keep in touch with our troops but, tonight, I just want to share something with you that I saw in Harrisburg last month, only steps away from the Pa. Capital building, that I never even knew existed.

Across from the fountain in what I call the back of the building, there is a park. I never went over there and it's view is usually obstructed by the fountain but, when we attended the 2nd Amendment Rally on the 30th of April, the fountain was not running and Jim and I walked over to the park. There were stones of memorial for the Pennsylvanians who served this country. The wording I want to share with you tonight is this:

"No Soldiers choose to die. It's what they risk by being who they are.
It's what they dare while saving someone else whose life means suddenly as much to them as theirs – or more. To honor them, why speak of duty or the will of governments?

Think first of love each time you tell their story.
It gives their sacrifice a name and takes from war its glory."

To each and every one of you who ever donned the uniform of the US military, I thank you. Not only for your sacrifice but for your love. Your love of this Country and your love for your fellow man. God Bless you all.

Sue Rodkey, Treasurer
AAUSS Facilitator

"A"

Lebanon 9-12 Project General Meeting, May 22, 2108

Education:

Websites:

Institute for Justice ij.org

The Institute for Justice is the National Law Firm for Liberty. IJ litigates to limit the size and scope of government power and to ensure that all Americans have the right to control their own destinies as free and responsible members of society.

Since 1991, IJ has come to the aid of individuals who want to do the simple things every American has the right to do—including own property, start and grow a business, speak freely about commerce or politics, and provide their children with a good education—but can't because they find the government in their way.

IJ has litigated over 200 cases, including five before the U.S. Supreme Court. Of those five cases, IJ won four of the cases before the Supreme Court and won the fifth case *in the court of public opinion*, the Kelo vs. City of New London, eminent domain case.

“Little Pink House”, documentary about the Supreme Court case of Kelo vs. City of New London Connecticut

Susette Kelo's Supreme Court case now has a Hollywood ending, just not the one she hoped for. This documentary has not shown in our area, but may come out on DVD in the future.

What Kelo wanted when she took her case to the high court more than a decade ago was to get to stay in her little pink house in New London, Connecticut. The city was trying to force her out to make way for development, and Kelo didn't want to go. The high court ruled against her.

Kelo wasn't looking for a fight when she bought her house overlooking the Thames River in 1997 and had it painted Odessa Rose pink. Divorced and with five grown sons, she was looking for a place of her own. She found it in the 100-year-old cottage. Shortly after she moved in, pharmaceutical manufacturer

Pfizer announced it would move in nearby, building a research facility that opened in 2001.

New London hoped Pfizer's move could help revitalize the city and, with the help of a private nonprofit development corporation, sought to redevelop land near the facility. A hotel, housing, office space, restaurants and shopping were planned. To get it done, the city authorized the use of eminent domain.

Kelo thought that was wrong, and she and a small group of other homeowners took on the city. They acknowledged eminent domain could be used to take their homes for public uses such as a road or military base, but they argued the planned development didn't count.

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled against Kelo 5-4. Three justices who sided with the city — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Anthony Kennedy — are still on the court. The two others — John Paul Stevens and David Souter — have since retired. The justices wrote that the city had carefully crafted a development plan it believed would benefit the community. They agreed the use of eminent domain was permitted.

Stevens, the Supreme Court justice who authored the opinion, has acknowledged it was the most unpopular one he wrote. Justice Antonin Scalia, who dissented from the decision, ranked it among the court's biggest mistakes.

After the decision, more than 20 states significantly revised their laws to make it more difficult to take property through eminent domain.

Those changes didn't help Kelo, who had to move. And despite the lengthy legal battle, her land still stands empty. Pfizer announced in 2009 that it would leave New London. But submarine builder General Dynamics Electric Boat now occupies its former facility with many more employees, said New London Mayor Michael Passero.

Passero said that's now helping spur development. Passero, a Democrat who grew up in the city, said while the movie vilifies the development corporation, he believes the people behind it **had good motives**, though they also made mistakes.

Kelo's little pink house was ultimately saved. Disassembled and moved but still painted pink, it stands on New London's Franklin Street. Although Kelo doesn't live there, she says she thinks about her former home and her legal fight often.

Government officials and the developer promised that the project that replaced Susette Kelo's tight-knit blue-collar neighborhood would thrive and would make New London tax-rich. Now, 13 years after the landmark *Kelo* ruling, all that remains there are barren fields; nothing lives there now but weeds and feral cats.

Another one of the liberty issues they are the Institute for Justice is litigating:

April 6, 2017, a family run farm sued the FDA for the right to call skim milk skim milk.

Books:

Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic, by Sam Quinones, 2016

From a small town in Mexico to the boardrooms of Big Pharma, an explosive and shocking account of addiction and black tar heroin in the heartland of America.

In 1929, in the blue-collar city of Portsmouth, Ohio, a company built a swimming pool the size of a football field; named Dreamland, it became the vital center of the community. Now, addiction has devastated Portsmouth, as it has hundreds of small rural towns and suburbs across America--addiction like no other the country has ever faced. How that happened is the riveting story of *Dreamland*.

Pain Doctors Face Greater Scrutiny Than Death Doctors, by Wesley J. Smith, May 3, 2018

Our society often sacrifices law-abiding and productive people to protect the dysfunctional from themselves.

The current attack on opioid addiction threatens more of the same. To prevent over-prescribing and pill-pushing, pain patients who need strong drugs to function are being pushed off their proper dosages. The result too often? Agony.

Here's the thing: At a time when assisted-suicide pushers fear-monger about unrelieved pain as a reason to legalize doctor-prescribed death, physicians are so afraid of the feds they leave some pain patients in the lurch, thereby unintentionally pushing them toward suicide — assisted and otherwise.

Making matters worse, *doctors who intentionally prescribe lethal doses of opioids for use in assisted suicide have far greater legal protections than physicians who prescribe the same drugs responsibly to control pain.*

Respect Life:

Mark your calendar now to join fellow pro-life advocates from across the Commonwealth for the PA-Pro-Life Federation's 2018 Celebrate Life Banquet to be held Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Hotel Radisson Harrisburg, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA. The keynote speaker will be Ann McElhinney, coauthor of Gosnell: The Untold Story of America's Most Prolific Serial Killer, and co-producer of the film The Gosnell Movie, due out this fall. Registration details are available at the PA-Pro-Life Federation website now.

The June meeting of the Lebanon 9-12 Project will have as our presenter Thomas Shaheen from the Pa Family Institute <https://pafamily.org/about/>. He will give an update on their work with state issues and bills concerning life issues, the Boyertown School District lawsuit, the so-called "bathroom" bill, and the Down's Syndrome legislation.

Tom heads the public policy department of the Pennsylvania Family Institute, since 1991. He is responsible for a major part of PFI's mission: To help enact laws that respect the traditional, foundational principles and values essential for the well-being of society —and to help defeat proposals that do harm. His three major areas are: sanctity of human life, marriage and family, and religious liberty.

As Pennsylvania Family Institute's chief lobbyist, Tom works with state lawmakers and staff on the "inside" of government - and with grassroots coalitions and pro-family leaders on the "outside."

In conjunction with Mr. Shaheen's visit, and the PA Family Institute's recent "Diaper Drive" initiative, the 9-12 Project will have a Diaper Drive at the June meeting to support Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Services, Lebanon. So, please be generous and bring along to the meeting a pack of diapers to help our Constitutional value of Life! Especially needed are sizes 4-6

In January of this year, Senator John DiSanto saw his Senate Bill 611 pass 50-0. Senate Bill 611 would change the collective bargaining rules which would allow for members of the public sector unions to lose their pensions if they are convicted of crimes.

This is an important step in addressing some of the issues related to the public sector collective bargaining process. Unfortunately the bill got to the House Judiciary Committee and there it seems to be dying the slow death of internal bickering between the house and the Senate.

Today Russ Diamond introduced another similar piece of legislation. It doesn't have a bill number yet and exists only in memo form and while I'm commend him for doing so, chances are his bill will see the same fate when it goes to the Senate. It will die in committee before then end of this session and then we'll be back to square one.

I bring this up because I want to address something tonight. Some of you may be aware of the situation at Northern Lebanon High School that involves three school administrators who thought that throwing a sex toy around during school hours. The sex toy in question is, I'm told, a 10 inch pink rubber dildo that has a suction cup attached to it so it can be stuck to the wall. It was even found attached to wall in a locked athletic boys locker room. As residents have learned more about this and other incidents it became part of the Laura Lebeau show and many of them claim that this activity pails in comparison to other things happening with the administrators. One commentator said that the Northern Lebanon School District is one of the most corrupt districts in the State.

Here's the problem. That simply not true. It's a problem that is more common that we actually want to admit or accept.

Let me set the framework for this by going back to 2014.

At the time Lehigh Valley Live covered a story about sexual misconduct in our classrooms. The article was centered around a teacher who was also a friend of the family until it was discovered that he was in a relationship with their high school daughter.

(http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/breaking-news/index.ssf/2014/12/bad_apples_when_teacher_miscon.html)

The article then tells us that, over the previous 4 years, this teacher was one of 25 Lehigh Valley educators who had their teaching licenses suspended, revoked or have been issued public reprimands for offenses ranging from drunken driving to having sex with a student, according to state records.

The article went on to explain that many of these teachers, although they lost their license to teach in Pennsylvania, were still able to collect their pensions after being removed from their job. The newspaper attempted to file a Right To Know request to get the details on the cases

but the school district refused stating this was a personnel matter and that the Right to Know request law does not apply in such matter.

Something is drastically wrong here. These were teachers who were hired as a matter of public trust who had access to students and crossed moral lines with students and yet remains protected from public scrutiny. The lack of transparency in such matters is inexcusable. We have a right to know who our school boards and administrators are putting in front of our children and why they are let go, we have a right to know why and what were the consequences of their actions. The sad part of this is that we don't know because they don't want us to know because if we did know we'd be pissed.

What this newspaper uncovered about Lehigh Valley School district was not an exception to the rule.

In 2014, the Pittsburgh Tribune reported that Pennsylvania was tied with California for 2nd place for the highest incidents of educator crimes. Only Texas was higher. The Tribune articles explained that State attorneys logged 450 complaints against teachers in 2014 alone. The State Department of Education recorded 482 during 2013. Of the 450 complaints in 2017, only 100 resulted in official action that year, through public reprimand or suspension or revocation of a teacher's license. Allegations ranged from drunken driving and drug possession to prolonged, multi-victim rape. (<http://triblive.com/news/education/6449541-74/teachers-state-teacher>)

Since 2014, one would hope that things look differently; that over the past four years, the safety and well-being of our children took a higher priority and these problems would have been corrected.

Not so! In January of this year the York Daily record reported that about 80 Pennsylvania educators had their state certifications suspended or revoked. Another 80 more surrendered their certifications in the face of disciplinary charges. That's a total of 160 educators in just one year. The article does not discuss the actual number of reported violations contrasted by actual convictions or guilty pleas. Just the 160 who lost their teacher's certification in just one year. (<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/2018/01/04/listed-more-than-100-pa-educators-who-lost-their-certifications-2017/999114001/>)

In May of this year, the Pittsburgh Gazette explained that there are more than 200 former Pennsylvania public school employees who receive pension benefits — more than \$300,000 each month combined — despite certification sanctions following misconduct allegations, and in some cases, felony convictions. That is a total cost to Pennsylvania tax-payers in excess of \$3,600,000 each year. (<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2018/04/02/Pennsylvania-educators-teachers-banned-convictions-felonies-working-in-schools-collect-state-pensions/stories/201803300166>)

The crimes aren't just sexual misconduct. In February of this year, Fox43 reported that a Harrisburg School District employee was facing multiple charges after allegedly stealing almost \$180,000 from the district by creating fraudulent invoices and creating fraudulent overcharges from the transportation company the district used. (<http://fox43.com/2018/02/26/harrisburg-school-district-employee-accused-of-stealing-almost-180000-from-district-by-forging-checks/>)

In March, it was reported that a former employee of the William Penn School District allegedly stole more than \$210,000 from district employee's union. The recording secretary of the William Penn Education Support Personnel Association made more than 200 unauthorized deposits into an association account. (<http://skookii.com/210000-stolen-school-employee-pennsylvania-support-gambling-habit/>)

In April, Fox 43 also reported that a teacher within the Upper Dauphin Area School District is accused of stealing nearly \$38,500 from a youth football organization over a four-year period while she served as treasurer, according to a criminal complaint filed by Dauphin County criminal investigators. (<http://fox43.com/2018/04/11/dauphin-county-woman-accused-of-stealing-almost-38500-from-youth-football-organization/>)

In May, The Mercury times reported that Richard Wallace Como, Coatesville Area School District Superintendent, was sentenced to a jail term in Chester County Prison of three to 23 months, followed by three years of probation, on the charges that he was found guilty during a trial in January of dealing in unlawful proceeds, theft by unlawful taking, theft by failure to make required disposition of funds, and conflict of interest. (<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/general-news/20180316/ex-superintendent-como-sentenced-to-prison-for-theft-of-school-funds>)

Another newspaper reported that the charges encompassed 45 counts of theft by unlawful taking, theft by deception, receiving stolen property, conspiracy, conflict of interest, and related Ethics Law charges. (<http://www.timesherald.com/general-news/20180119/como-retrial-former-upper-merion-coach-accused-of-stealing-from-coatesville-district>)

In a study released by The Pennsylvania Certified Public Accountants, we are told that one Pennsylvania school district lost more than \$2.5 million of public funds to an employee embezzlement scheme executed from August 2001 to December 2013. This report goes on to tell of a former student activities secretary embezzling more than \$100,000 from a school district, committing the largest single theft in the history of that school. From 2006 to 2009, the secretary stole funds collected from students and parents by neglecting to deposit the monies into school-issued bank accounts. School business records were tampered with by shuffling monies from various other accounts to hide the fraud scheme, thus misleading the public and school officials.

This report goes on to explain that another school district's former benefits coordinator embezzled school funds from June 2012 to October 2013 by fraudulently writing checks for their own benefit. The coordinator began the embezzlement by writing modest checks, totaling just over \$1,000 a month, but by the last month of the embezzlement stole over \$19,000 a month. After the

termination of the coordinator, it was discovered the individual was a convicted felon. Around 1998, prior to being employed by the school district, the now-terminated benefits coordinator had actually been convicted in a grant embezzlement scheme in another state. While the report does not list the actual school districts, the information helps us see that such things are more common than we might want to think. (<https://www.picpa.org/articles/cpa-now-blog/cpa-now/2015/05/08/school-district-fraud>)

I found several other stories related to this type of theft that could be included here, but you get the point. What's happening at Northern Lebanon is happening in other school districts and unless you spend the time to do the digging, it's off the radar of most people in this Commonwealth largely because they don't want us to put the dots together so we all realize just how bad this is.

The Pennsylvania constitution provides that it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to provide for a thorough and efficient system of public education (Article 3, Section 13) and somehow, that system is failing in that responsibility to the tax-payers of this Commonwealth.

A system where someone involved in the educational system can convict crimes that may result in a reprimand allowing that teacher back into a classroom, or a system where, even after having the teacher's certification removed, that teacher or other educator may still receive their pension and the PCPA can make the determination not to report this to other jurisdictions or sister organizations is neither thorough or efficient.

I spent some time going through the codified law and found myself on the website of the PSPC (Pennsylvania Standards and Practices Commission). This commission was created to deal with the education system specifically. The Commission functions to assist the State Board and the Department of Education on issues related to certification standards and requirements. As I read through this Commission I have to admit to being disgusted.

They address something they call "Teacher Misconduct". According to their interpretation these actions of Teacher Misconduct do not warrant removal of teacher certification but rather recommends only a reprimand. It Includes:

1. Immorality --- Immorality is conduct which offends the morals of the Commonwealth and is a bad example to the youth whose ideals a professional educator or a charter school staff member has a duty to foster and elevate.
2. Incompetency --- Incompetency is a continuing or persistent mental or intellectual inability or incapacity to perform the services expected of a professional educator or a charter school staff member.
3. Intemperance --- Intemperance is a loss of self-control or self-restraint, which may result from excessive conduct.
4. Cruelty --- Cruelty is the intentional, malicious and unnecessary infliction of physical or psychological pain upon living creatures, particularly human beings.

5. Negligence --- Negligence is a continuing or persistent action or omission in violation of a duty. A duty may be established by law, by promulgated school rules, policies or procedures, by express direction from superiors or by duties of professional responsibility, including duties prescribed by Chapter 235 (relating to Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators).

In other words, a teacher can cross moral relationship lines with a student; demonstrate that they are incompetent; lose control in the classroom using excessive force; commit and act of cruelty against another human being; and be continually and persistently negligent in a violation of their duty as a teacher...and yet, after all of this, the school district is not required to fire the teacher; the teacher can only be reprimanded. That reprimand would not fall under Right To Know Laws so the public would never know the extent of the action of the teacher being reprimanded and that teacher could find themselves back in the classroom in front of other students.

To reach a point of losing teacher certification requires serious infringements. It is the worst cases of the bad cases in our public schools. The system fails because the laws and regulations are framed in a way that protects the educational institution by hiding the facts from the public

The Pennsylvania Standards and Practices Commission is not acting as an agent to protect the public welfare in these matters, they act as an agent of the PSEA to protect the Public Sector Membership by doing what they can to prevent the depth of what is happening from becoming public knowledge.

Let me give you an example of how this system is structured in ways that protect the public sector union at the expense of the people in this Commonwealth.

Jerry Oleksiak was recently appointed as head of the Department of Labor and Industry. You may think this has nothing to do with education but if you think that you would be wrong. When Oleksiak was appointed to this position, Governor Wolf applauded Oleksiak's work as a teacher but he wasn't really a teacher, he was just posing as one.

Oleksiak was a "ghost teacher", a term used to describe a teacher who is paid his salary, accumulates his pension growth and continues to receive all the benefits of a teacher even though he was not actually teacher in a classroom. Instead, he was working full-time for the PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association).

As head of the Department of Labor and Industry, Oleksiak will also oversee the mediation of any public sector labor dispute during arbitration. In 1937, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted a law giving a broad mandate to the Department of Labor & Industry to provide mediation services to the private sector. As the demand for mediation activity increased, the Department established a separate Bureau of Mediation.

In 1970, the Public Employee Relations Act (Act 195) gave public sector employees the right to bargain collectively and to strike. The Bureau of Mediation was then assigned the responsibility of providing mediation services to public sector parties. An amendment to the school code in 1992, known as Act 88, provided additional strict time lines utilizing mediators within the public school setting. Additionally, mediation assistance has been provided for Act 111 police and fire fighter contract disputes when requested.

As a previous employee of the PSEA, representing the state teacher's union, where do you think Mr. Oleksiak's loyalties will lie...with the Teacher's Union or with the Working Families of this Commonwealth.

During Mr. Oleksiak's oversight of the PSEA, pension costs to working families have continued to rise far above the rate of inflation.

He was not the only ghost teacher in Pennsylvania doing the work of public sector unions. Even though many districts do not utilize their ghost teacher contract provisions, they could do so at any time. Currently Pa. school district contracts authorize almost 200 employees to work for teachers' unions full-time instead of teaching in a classroom. 59 ghost teachers are employed in the Philadelphia School District making it the highest number of ghost teachers with Pittsburgh coming in a close second with 42 ghost teachers.

According to the Commonwealth Foundation, 115 of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts--or 23%--authorize ghost teachers in their teacher contracts. Pa. taxpayers owe \$1 million for Philadelphia ghost teachers' pensions since 1999. Their study also reports that Allentown taxpayers have paid ghost teachers \$1.3 million since 2000 without reimbursement. (<https://www.commonwealthfoundation.org/issues/detail/ghost-teachers>)

When a teacher is no longer in the classroom, we have to have replacement teachers for them. For those who lost their certification but still receive their pensions, the taxpayers must pay that pension as well as provide for the salary, pension and healthcare benefits of the teacher hired to replace. When a ghost teachers is not in the classroom a replacement teacher must be hired to replace them where we also pay the wages, benefits and pension.

All of this just adds to the cost of maintaining the educational system yet much of this is outside our radar because they don't want it to be on our radar.

We talk about the pension debacle but most of the population really doesn't understand what this means because we don't actually write a check to pay for our part of the pension debt. Maybe if we did, things would be different.

Let me help to put this in perspective for you. On your tables there are two charts that I'll be referencing

A 2017 report from Lancaster Online tells us that Pennsylvania teachers are the 12th highest paid in the nation, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/pennsylvania-teacher-salaries-on-average-rank-th-in-the-nation/article_3c5407b8-4afe-11e7-8d65-2f54610504a9.html). Higher salaries will translate into higher pension debt because pensions are determined by salary rates.

The unfunded Pension Liability dept is one of those issues that shows just how convoluted the Pennsylvania Government is. Depending on what source you read, the number is different. Some put it around \$70 billion dollars, other say it is much higher. For the sake of argument we'll use the lower \$70 billion number.

\$70 billion is a difficult number for the average person to comprehend so let's put it terms that are easier for you to understand.

Dividing the lower estimate of \$70 billion by the total population of the Commonwealth translates into a personal debt obligation of \$5,464 per person. For a family of four that's a debt obligation of \$21,856 dollars or almost half of the state's annual median household income.

The following chart from the Department of Numbers (<https://www.deptofnumbers.com>) shows that, when adjusted for inflation, Pennsylvania household income had remained relatively stagnant since 2005.



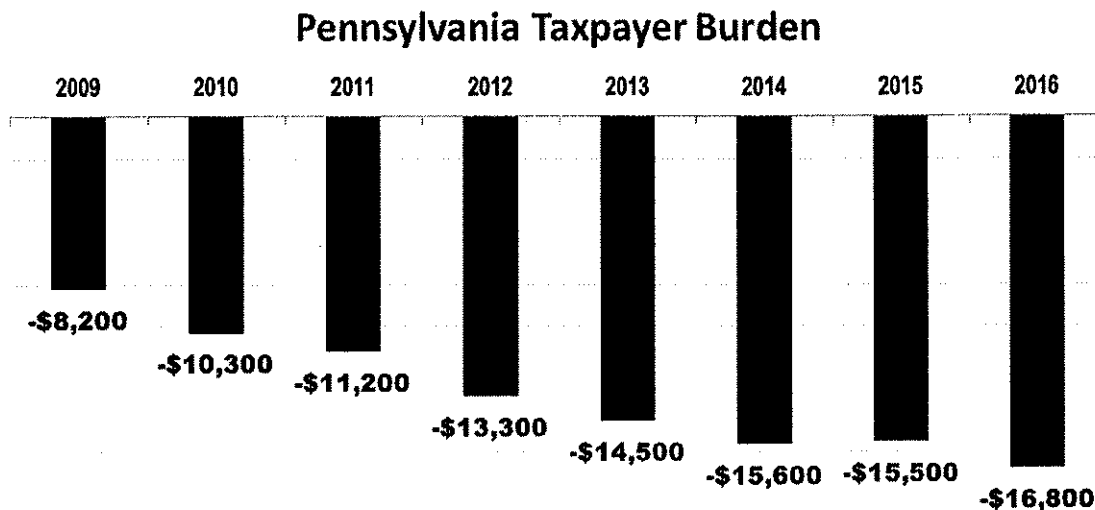
The chart shows that only now in 2017 have our wages reached the point of being close to where they were at the time of the 2007-08 recession.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_pa.htm#25-0000) shows that in just 2017, the average increase in teacher's wages alone was 4.7%. That majority of that cost is maintained through tax-payer funding putting less disposable income in the pockets of the private sector workers in the state which has a negative impact of their tax burden and on the total economy of the state. Now add that to an unfunded pension liability of \$21,856 for a family of four. This is simply unsustainable.

It also does not take into account the unfunded medical liability debt for Pennsylvania or other unpaid bills that fall on working families in the state.

State Data Lab (<https://www.statedatalab.org>) studies total state liability. According to their study, Pennsylvania owes more than it owns and ranks the 37th out of the 50 states. The study reveals that Pennsylvania only has \$39 billion of assets available to pay bills totaling \$111.4 billion. It goes on to say that because Pennsylvania doesn't have enough money to pay its bills, it has a financial hole. To fill it, each Pennsylvania taxpayer would have to send \$16,800 to the state.

Their report gives us the following graph to show us how the problem has grown. Remember that during this time, the wages of the average working family in the Commonwealth has remained relatively stagnant.



According to this study, Pennsylvania Taxpayer burden has more than doubled in just eight years. We should remember that this is only state debt. This does not reflect existing debt in our County, Municipal and school district budgets.

This should make it clear that the path we are on is unsustainable, Something need to happen and it needs to happen soon. In a stagnate wage growth market for the private sector, when are tax burdens increase we have less disposable income to use in support of business and services. That has far reaching negative impact of the entire economy of the state.

The question remains, what are Pennsylvania lawmakers doing about it.

There are some legislators who are working on financial overhauls with regards to how Pennsylvania does business. Yet, like Senate Bill 611, a political animosity that exists between the house and Senate, an animosity that both are guilty of, we see bills that will pass in one chamber and then go to the next chamber where they die a slow death.

It's an atmosphere where who gets the credit becomes more important than dealing with the financial insolvency the state faces.

By refusing to reign in the Deep State bureaucracies, the regulatory environment in the Commonwealth continues to grow as does the financial burden to Pennsylvania tax-payers. Add this to a system that generally lacks any real transparency or accountability to the people in this Commonwealth and we have a recipe for disaster.

Ego, partisanship and inter-party fighting coupled to the massive amounts of money spent by lobbyists on every side creates stumbling blocks that keeps us from doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do. While we have some good legislators, too many of them become a part of this system where principles are sacrificed on the altar of self-interest.

Now I want this to be clear. I am confronting the educational system here in general...not all teachers. As with any institution there are good people and there are bad people. My education benefitted by a handful of great teachers, several mediocre teachers but my education also suffered at the hands of a few teachers who had no place in the classroom. Those teachers can do far more damage than we may want to admit.

My frustration with teachers in general is the unwillingness of the good teachers to band together to help weed out the bad players. That problem is only made worse by a system in place where those connected to the PSEA are actually appointed to government agencies or hired within the agency by the appointed people who are there to create a regulatory environment that benefits the teacher's union to the detriment of the good teachers and the benefit and protection of the bad ones.

I also want to make a clear distinction between private sector unionism and public sector unionism. There is a difference and all of the issues I've raised tonight are directed connected only to the public sector unions.

When it comes to education we aren't just talking about Reading, Science and Math, we're taking about the health, safety and well-being of our children...our future.