Let us not get discouraged in well-doing, in due season change will come your way. We are experiencing interesting times in Shippensburg and changes are coming in ways we may have not thought we would ever experience in the Shippensburg community. Several large warehouses are being built and agree or not, a casino and Starbucks! We are continuing to move forward. It’s the old saying, “how do you see the glass…half full or half empty?”. I choose to view it as half full.

On a daily basis, there are many Chamber and community committees that work tireless hours developing new opportunities for our community. These are groups that work in the background and are rarely thanked but continue to have a passion to move our community forward. It is important for all of us to continue to work together supporting one another and collaborating in all ways possible. WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

Let’s continue to shop local as this is SOOO important. Businesses cannot stay in business without our support. As we move quickly into spring/summer, let’s all remember we are to play a key role in keeping our community a safe place to work, play and live.

Sincerely,
Scott Brown
Chamber President
March 27, 2019

Employer Feedback, IFO Report Further Highlight the Negative Consequences of Government Mandated Wage Increases

As I noted in last month’s column, one aspect of Gov. Tom Wolf’s budget proposal that is concerning to the PA Chamber is an aggressive plan to increase Pennsylvania’s minimum wage to $12 in July – which represents 65 percent increase over the current rate – and incrementally increase it to $15 by 2025. Additionally, the plan calls for elimination of the tipped wage – which means many of the Commonwealth’s restaurants would have only a few months to determine how to account for an immediate increase in entry level wages by 235 percent and by over 500 percent in just a few years.

In the weeks since the governor’s budget address, we’ve heard from small business owners across the Commonwealth that this aggressive proposal would have a negative impact on their companies. Responses have ranged from being forced to reduce employee hours to not being able to hire additional workers to, in some cases, having to close as a result of the steep increase in operating costs. This feedback mirrors the findings of countless independent studies.

A recent analysis by the state’s Independent Fiscal Office, which was released in late March, found that a $12 hourly rate would result in the loss of 34,000 jobs throughout the Commonwealth. The report also found that at some employee levels would see a reduction in hours; consumers would see some price increases on the costs of goods and that businesses would have less money to reinvest into operations.

A Congressional Budget Office report also found that mandated wage hikes would lead to job loss. That study concluded that an increase to $10.10 an hour would result in the loss of 500,000 to 1 million jobs nationwide. Studies from other states have also found that mandated wage hikes have negative impacts on employment. In Seattle – where the minimum wage was increased to $13 an hour, a report from the University of Washington found that there has been a reduction in average take-home pay for low wage workers.

Another factor to consider is the impact that higher labor costs would have on youth employment. Following the 2007 federal minimum wage increase, a Philadelphia Inquirer article stated “with the minimum wage increase making it difficult for businesses to hire, an estimated 1,100 young people would not be able to find summer jobs.” This point was noted in the IFO report, which found that the increased would create “more difficult entry into the labor markets for inexperienced workers, especially part-time high school and college students.” The lack of job openings for high-school and college age students presents another workforce problem. These entry-level positions often serve as the building blocks for students entering the working world. First-time jobs help to reinforce and teach necessary “soft” skills – such as work ethic, punctuality and responsibility – that are essential to maintaining Employment.

No one disputes that some individuals benefit from mandated wage increases; but the fact is, others end up being hurt – including some of the very people advocates claim they want to help. It’s reasonable to assume that moving to $15 an hour – which the administration’s proposal aims to have in place by 2025 – would only serve to exacerbate these negative consequences. As the budget process continues, we are urging lawmakers to look at alternative proposals that focus on helping individuals obtain the necessary skills-training to advance through the Commonwealth’s evolving workforce.

Instead of relying on “feel good,” ineffective policies to address this problem, we need to take a more direct, targeted approach. Strengthening workforce development programs will help give workers the tools they need to fill job vacancies and close and existing jobs skills gap. Additionally, some states have implemented an Earned Income Tax Credit – which better directs assistance to low-wage workers, especially those raising families. These more thoughtful efforts will better help low-wage earners support their families and move upward through the workforce, offering long-term career opportunities at family-sustaining wages.

Gene Barr
President and CEO
PA Chamber of Business and Industry
The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the state’s largest broad-based business association, with its statewide membership comprising businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors. The PA Chamber is The Statewide Voice of Business™
Spring has officially started!! The thought of warmer weather gets our mind and body moving and we want to start our spring projects that we have thought about all winter long. Ah, spring cleaning, we all have ideas of going through our homes and businesses and get rid of things and organizing what is left…Right?? Well, we always start out like we are shot out of a cannon and then when it is time to organize what we have left, we sometimes slow down and in some cases, we just give up. Well, why do we give up? Do we need better storage solutions? This month I want to focus on storage ideas in your home and business.

Many homes in our area are 100 plus years old and to say that the closets in these homes are lacking is an understatement. If we do have closets, they are small and cramped and really not functional. We also do not have a lot of space for kitchen items and any type of games, books, etc. always lie around with no home. So, what can we do to become more organized and functional?? We can add closets, custom built-in bookcases, kitchen storage in the cabinets that we have already and add a ton of storage options in the garages, if we have any. Let’s take a look at these areas.

Look at each room in your house. Can we frame in a closet in any areas? Normally the answer is yes. It doesn’t have to hold just clothes. Maybe you need storage for shoes or maybe hunting supplies or maybe our seasonal decorations. No matter what we need room for, there is always a place that we can add a closet. The key here is making the outside of the closet match the rest of the room and on the inside the key is to design shelving, drawers and hooks for you to organize the items and allow you to see what you have. We recommend using clear totes that are stackable and then put a piece of tape on the front and label what is in each tote. Custom closets could have racks for shoes, custom built drawers for clothes or other supplies. If you can think it, we can usually build it!

How many books, board games and toys do you have laying around? Is there a place in your home that has an area for custom built cabinets and bookshelves? By building one or multiple units, you can hide a lot of items that are lying around. Again, make the exterior of the cabinets match the rest of the room. Maybe you want it to stand out. In this case, go bold and use this built-in as a showpiece of the room. The cabinets are great for larger items and the shelves can hold tons of books if designed right!

The kitchen is a place that we always could use more storage. We can now add custom made pantry shelving to the inside of taller cabinets. We can add drawer pullouts into base and wall cabinets. We can add spice racks and the inside of taller cabinets. We can add drawer pullouts into base and wall cabinets. We can add spice racks and

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April is designated as “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month.”

As engineers, designers, excavators, and homeowners work to keep pace with the state’s unprecedented economic development, it is important to minimize damage to underground utility lines, danger to workers, environmental pollution, and the loss of utility service to Pennsylvania residents.

The Pennsylvania One Call System, a utility service information center celebrating its 47th year of continuous service to the Commonwealth, is key to preventing injuries and damage when excavating. This unique service provides easy, one-call notification about construction and excavation projects that may endanger workers and jeopardize utility lines while promoting workplace and public safety, reducing underground utility damage, minimizing utility service interruptions, and protecting the environment.

This vital service serves more than 100,000 excavators and over 3,600 critical infrastructure owners throughout the Commonwealth. Each year, the Pennsylvania One Call System receives more than 750,000 notification requests and transmits more than 6 million notifications, providing protection to utility companies, their employees and customers.

This month, and year-round, we encourage all excavators and homeowners to dial 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 at least three business days before digging in order to “Know What’s Below,” avoid injury, protect the environment and prevent damages.

Safe digging is no accident; for more information visit pa811.org.

Adams Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric utility serving 32,500 homes, farms and businesses in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry and York counties. The cooperative is headquartered in Gettysburg and has district offices located in Gettysburg, Shippensburg and York. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
When I was a kid I loved to decorate Easter eggs. Drop a colored tablet in water and vinegar, submerge the egg and after a couple of minutes a thing of beauty emerges. The one half always bled into the other one. But it was fun to try! We had another tradition at my house growing up. My mom would always hide our Easter baskets somewhere in the house for us to find. The excitement of the search followed by discovering the goodies that awaited in the basket are some of my favorite Easter memories. I still have my childhood Easter basket and believe it or not my wife hides it every year.

As much fun as those traditions are, I have grown to realize that Easter is much more than candy and colored eggs. Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The resurrection was Jesus’ vindication. It proved He was who He claimed to be—God’s Son. If He had remained in the grave, He would have been no different than any of the other self-proclaimed saviors or religious leaders we find throughout history. If Jesus had not been raised then how did the Christian faith grow so rapidly beginning in the very town where the story of the resurrection began? Author Josh McDowell says, “Do you believe for a moment that the early church could have survived for a week in its hostile surroundings if Jesus Christ had not been raised from the dead?” The church has not only survived, but flourished for over two thousand years. Christianity is the largest religion in the world. That could only happen if the resurrection is true.

So if the resurrection is proof positive that Jesus was God’s Son, the Savior of the world, then how can we know the resurrection really happened? Let me share with you just a few of the many convincing facts:

1. The resurrection is attested to in the historical record of the New Testament by those who actually encountered Jesus after He rose from the dead. We have eyewitness testimonies. Historian Paul Maier says, “If all the evidence is disproven as soon as it got started if someone had produced the body of Jesus. But no one ever could. As a matter of fact, just weeks after the crucifixion, Peter stood up in front of thousands of people in the same town in which Jesus was crucified and buried and said, "God has raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

2. The story of Jesus’ resurrection could have been easily disproven as soon as it got started if someone had produced the body of Jesus. But no one ever could. As a matter of fact, just weeks after the crucifixion, Peter stood up in front of thousands of people in the same town in which Jesus was crucified and buried and said, "God has raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

3. Why would Jesus’ disciples go from being a group of terrified men hiding in a locked room after the crucifixion to being a group of men risking their lives to boldly proclaim the resurrection? Because they encountered Jesus risen from the dead!

4. If Jesus had not been raised form the dead then how did the Christian faith grow so rapidly beginning in the very town where the story of the resurrection began? Author Josh McDowell says, “Do you believe for a moment that the early church could have survived for a week in its hostile surroundings if Jesus Christ had not been raised from the dead?” The church has not only survived, but flourished for over two thousand years. Christianity is the largest religion in the world. That could only happen if the resurrection is true.

These are just a few of the many convincing proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For more information, please consider reading The Resurrection Factor by Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell or The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel.

I am looking forward to coloring eggs with my family and hunting for my Easter basket again this year but what is really exciting is that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, conquering death, so that we may have eternal life through faith in Him!

For most children, the opportunities presented to them through after-school programs help build their future! Check out how our employees are involved with this program.

The Technological Student Association (TSA) leads an after-school program among middle and high-school students focused around teaching students engineering and technological skills, guiding them as they work on special projects that spark their interest. The program not only helps get students excited about something they’re passionate about, but it can help them excel in their future endeavors by giving them new opportunities to grow. The program leads up to a “science fair” style showcase, where students can present their projects and compete with one another, with categories ranging anywhere from 3D printing and laser cutting, to designing and modeling eco-friendly homes.

Many local schools in our community participate in the TSA program, but not every district has the funding to support it. A few years ago, Boiling Springs School District was making necessary budget cuts, and reluctantly had to cut their funding for the TSA program that was benefitting so many of their students. When the issue was raised at a Volvo CE Shippensburg Charitable Board meeting, Volvo CE made the decision to make a financial contribution in order to fund the TSA program for the entire district of Boiling Springs. Now, Boiling Springs has been able to keep the program running for their students for the last two years!

A few of our employees also volunteer to donate their time. On February 2 several employees, including Brian Rudge and Steve Lanahan, helped judge the student showcase and competition. When asked about the experience and why they chose to volunteer, Brian explained, “At Volvo, we try to support the local students not only to give them new and exciting opportunities, but to pave the way for the future of our industry and create a potential hiring pipeline.”

While Volvo CE sponsors on a regional level, over the last two years several Boiling Springs students have advanced to the state level, with one student even advancing to and winning at nationals. By participating in these efforts, we are helping build tomorrow to help get students excited, passionate, and eager to make a difference through their newfound technical skills.
81st Annual Awards Banquet
I am a small town girl. I was brought up in South Lebanon Township, but my real childhood memories happened in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where my mother owned an antique shop, The Wee Cottage Antiques, and we spent every weekend, vacation and summer moment.

It’s a fairly tiny town when the tourists aren’t there.

Fast forward, and I’m living in Shippensburg, pretty much the best darn small town on the face of the earth. I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else, and I count myself blessed that I live AND work here at Sanctuary Christian Counseling.

However … Sometimes it’s good to get out of Dodge.

A few weeks ago, I went to a new conference for me. Five days in Washington D.C. Now, I really think of DC with disrespect – I’ve lived close to it for my whole life, I’ve been there a myriad of times, I think I’ve seen all there is to see of it. Or at least all I’m really interested in.

Not so.

I drove my Civic Hybrid vehicle down to the Omni Shoreham Hotel, which was the conference venue. A rookie mistake. My friend took the train. Her cost, including Uber (twice): under $100. My parking cost: $220. Plus gas.

Yikes.

As I said, I’m a small town girl. I never even thought how expensive parking would be.

However, once in DC, and over the course of five days, I really appreciated all the wonderful things that make up a big city – the bookstore with a great restaurant inside (two things I’m very fond of!); the variety of ethnic restaurants within a two-block radius of the Omni (my favorite? The Lebanese Taverna … fantastic!); the ease of public transportation (the Metro was half a block away), the nearness to the heartbeat of the Nation.

The conference itself was a blast. Unlike some therapy conferences which teach only practical things, this conference, the Psych Networker Symposium, focused on ideas … And plan was that you would think on those things, take them home and then let the ideas themselves inform your therapy. Pretty amazing.

The highlights for me were two speakers, one well known, the other less so.

Gabor Mate is the lesser-known one. A Canadian physician, he specializes in the effects of childhood trauma across the life span, and he is a fascinating and challenging speaker. Although many at the conference found him too provocative, I enjoyed his ideas and his theory that trauma can morph into serious physical issues. His book, “When the Body Says No” is first up on my bookshelf at present.

Malcolm Gladwell was the more well-known speaker – an amazing man, also a Canadian, and the famous author of “The Tipping Point”, “Blink”, “David and Goliath” among others. He was speaking about his upcoming book, “Talking to Strangers”, and presented well-researched and absolutely stunning statistics about suicide and our thoughts about it. Since this is a hot-button topic in my field of therapy, I was mesmerized, and I very much enjoyed the opportunity to hear about his research in this area.

Gladwell’s mother was a marriage and family therapist, like myself. I was intrigued to hear his incredibly kind and complimentary words about her – I sure hope my sons could say the same about me!

Less obviously, it was good to do something completely different, in a very different locale. Being there and not here was fun for a time. Making the rounds of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, Q & A’s, and therapist-only social events was a great change from my normal workaday life. It was very different from vacation.

I met great people. I learned great things. I had great food. Not necessarily in that order.

Of course it wasn’t my first conference, and I’m hopeful it will not be my last, but this small town girl enjoyed her foray into the big city.

For a short time.

But it’s good to be home.

We at Sanctuary Christian Counseling help grieving individuals, distressed teens and couples in crisis find peace, solutions and connection. We would love to help you live your best life. Contact us soon!

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