It feels like home.

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Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce Committees

- Awards Banquet Committee
- Bloom Festival Committee
- Business & Community Expo Committee
- Chamber Strategic Planning Committee
- Cinco de Mayo Committee
- Finance Committee
- Golf Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Oversight Committee
- Shippensburg Beer & Wine Festival Committee

Membership Development:
Membership Committee
Promotions and Programs Committee

Community Outreach:
Famly Fun Day
Community Christmas Party

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Vision Statement: To be recognised as the premier membership-based organization for professional networking, development, and stimulating economic growth in the vibrant and prospering business community of Shippensburg.

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Chamberline 2019

May 2019

Spring is here and things are starting to warm up and we’ve already had some amazing events this year. We did some “puddle jumping and paddle ball” at our comeback Chamber Golf Tournament in April and even with all of the rain, everyone had a great time. Our players had the opportunity to win a lot of great door prizes and received a full return trip to play golf anytime. Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers and to Eagles Crossing Golf Club for a great time. We will be back next year!

Let’s not forget our 11th Annual Cinco de Mayo Mixer!! Our regional fiesta mega mixer held at the Volvo Customer Center is just that...a FIESTA with great participating sponsors who made this event bigger and better than the previous year. This event continues to grow so we hope you plan to join us again next year!

I would like to highlight what is coming up on Saturday June 8th from 9am to 3pm. Our 5th Annual Bloom Festival continues to “bloom” in our community with other returning community events and some new ones happening around town which makes this event bigger and better. Please mark your calendar to come to downtown Shippensburg on June 8th.

Lastly, Chamber membership is filled with many benefits including networking opportunities and events such as Focus Groups, Lunch & Learns and community/business engagement and well as advertising options.

Please take advantage of all the benefits that Chamber membership has to offer!

Sincerely,

Vicky Simmel
Chair, Board of Directors
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.

For more information, contact
Tricia Harris, Director of Public Affairs
717-720-8447

PA Chamber Hires New Workforce Development Executive to Expand Workforce Efforts

The PA Chamber of Business and Industry is proud to announce an expansion of its far-reaching workforce development efforts with the hire of Allen Norton as the organization’s first workforce development executive.

“Since embracing workforce development as a cornerstone of our mission in 2016 and making it an essential element of our strategic plan, we’ve made great strides in closing the jobs skills gap through a program that is connecting the business and education communities and students,” said PA Chamber President and CEO Gene Barr. “Workforce concerns are plaguing employers in every region of the state, as evidenced by our 2018 Economic Survey – which found for the first time that employers’ top of mind concern was finding qualified workers to fill open positions. Given the continued growth of our internal workforce efforts, we are now at the point where it is necessary to have a full time employee who is solely focused on further expanding our organization’s work in this arena. We are excited to have Allen on board, whose background is sure to help propel our program to the next level.”

Norton brings vast experience to the role, with a long and successful career in higher education. He first began working with non-traditional students in 2003 before moving into community and high school relations where he focused on workforce development needs. For the last seven years, he has been primarily focused on promoting trade, technical and health career programs at Harrisburg Area Community College.

As the Chamber’s Workforce Development Executive, Norton will work to expand the Chamber’s workforce efforts, including the “Start the Conversation Here” initiative, by further developing partnerships between the education community, business and the public sector and identifying creative solutions to ensure that future generations of workers are skilled and prepared to meet the state’s changing workforce needs.

“The PA Chamber has done so much already in terms of laying the ground work for addressing the state’s skills gap,” said Norton. “I’m thrilled to be a part of this dynamic team and look forward to building on the great work that’s already being done.”
Do Your Research

We all have that group of old guys sitting around a restaurant or gas station every morning talking about how much they think that they know. It happens that in our area we have different groups of these “know it all” groups. Well, when was the last time they knew current ways of doing their projects for you? Whose advice should you take and how do you know who is qualified to give you advice? Great question! Let’s talk about what and who you listen to for your advice with your projects.

I recently had a lady that had a water loss in her home, and she happen to run into a group of older guys at a local gas station and told them what happened. They immediately scared her into believing that she is going to have mold in her home no matter what we did as the restoration contractor. When she told me, I just laughed and asked them what their qualifications were? I then explained why she should listen to me and not someone that has no idea what they are talking about.

In Pennsylvania, to be a contractor of any kind you must have a contractor license. This is done by filling out an application online and paying a fee of $50.00 every two years. So, you ask a contractor that comes to your home or business if they are licensed and they say that they are. Well great, but what does that mean for you? Did you know that no matter if they are a good contractor or the worst in the area, it doesn’t matter to the state of Pennsylvania. Yes that is right, the state really only cares about getting their $50 every two years. So, what can you do to figure who is qualified to do a project for you?

Years in business is one of the most important questions you can ask a contractor when you meet with them. The longer in business the more projects that they have done and there will be more info on them, good or bad, for you to do research on them. The next question is, how many times have you done the work that you want done? If it is their first time, then maybe you want to look for someone else. Next, ask them what they consider to be their main type of business. You do not want someone that does only roofing to do plumbing or tile for you. Next, I would ask for pictures of projects that match what you want done. The pictures do not have to be exactly like yours but if you want a custom built-in bookshelf and they show you a custom kitchen or nice trim work, then this might be your person. Lastly, ask them to talk to referral customers. If the contractor is a great contractor, they will want to show off their work and they can do this by asking previous clients to allow new customers to look at their projects.

The other area that you want to ask the contractor is what certifications they have. As a restoration contractor, I have multiple certifications in the restoration field including water damage and water damage clean up, fire restoration clean up, odor removal and mold removal. This is what is needed to have a successful business. A great contractor will be familiar with new products and have certifications on using these materials. If your project has to involve code inspectors, then you need to ask your contractor if this is something that he has dealt with before?

Times have changed since the “good ole boys” have done any type of work. Do you really want to listen to them for advice or do you want to find a current and up to date contractor that will be qualified to do the project that you want done? It is up to you, but I think I know your answer! Be careful of free advice, it will usually cost you money somewhere!
New Members!

Aloha Cafe’
20 West King Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
(717) 300-3636
www.alohashippensburg.com

Aloha Cafe’ is 100% gluten free and offer a vegan soup option daily. All sweet treats and smoothie bowls are vegan. Come and enjoy a healthy lunch in a warm, welcoming atmosphere and check out the gift shop area featuring small, local artisan gifts.

Reins of Rhythm
4035 McClays Mill Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257
(717) 446-1431
www.reinsofrhythm.org

Reins of Rhythm is a riding and horsemanship program based in Shippensburg. They are a non-profit organization reaching out to local young people, joining able-bodied, special needs, and disadvantaged youth in a shared love and appreciation for horses as athletes, companions and therapy partners.

Shippensburg Aquatic Club
P. O. Box 255
Shippensburg, PA 17257
www.swimship.org

The Shippensburg Aquatic Club provides swim lessons and water safety education to the Shippensburg community. They also sponsor a competitive swim team dedicated to helping young people develop physical skills and character values necessary to become successful athletes and citizens.
There is a great George Jones song called “Choices” and it begins with these words:

“I’ve had choices
Since the day that I was born
There were voices
That told me right from wrong
If I had listened
No I wouldn’t be here today
Living and dying
With the choices I made”

Like the song says, we make choices from the day we are born, and we get to live with the results from all of the choices we make. Nobody really makes those choices for us, even though it is so easy to point fingers at others and say things like, “They make me so mad!” In reality, we get to choose how to respond and nobody truly makes us mad. We decide to be mad just as much as we can choose to let things “slide” or be happy.

In Viktor Frankl’s book “Man’s Search for Meaning”, he said “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.” Mr. Frankl was a holocaust survivor and wrote about that incredible realization after he was freed.

So what do we do with Mr. Frankl’s words? Wrapping our heads around what it means for us to have the freedom to choose can be a tough concept to practice. I mean, someone cuts us off in traffic and it is so easy to respond in a negative way, right? Maybe give them a “one finger salute”, or send some choice words their way, right? Here is a piece of reality. There are some not so nice people out there – jerks perhaps – but, who knows why that person isn’t nice? What was their upbringing like?

What are they dealing with at work, or home, or somewhere else? We don’t know, just like nobody really knows what is going on in our minds either.

If a man in a World War II concentration camp could come to the realization that he could choose his daily attitude despite what the guards said or did to him, can’t we do the same in our world? I say, that the answer is a big resounding “Yes, we get to choose!” It isn’t easy to choose to be nice at all times, but the truth is that we have the freedom to choose how to respond. Nobody can take that away from you. That is, unless you let them. Don’t let anyone take your freedom away from you. The next time someone cuts you off in traffic, be nice. The next time someone says something not so nice via social media or perhaps in person, choose to be nice. After all, we live and we die with the choices we make.

Thanks for joining me again. As always, “I Am Keeping It REEL”.

Randy Wilson is an independent certified John Maxwell Coach, Teacher and Speaker, and owns his own company, REEL PD. He can be reached at randy.j.wilson@gmail.com or 717-414-6064.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Safety Tips That Can Save A Life

May is a time where we are even more mindful of safety because it is National Electrical Safety Month. May not only means spring storms and potentially severe weather, it also heralds the beginning of the celebration season for many high school students, especially seniors. Proms, graduation parties and other social gatherings are often associated with this time of year.

While we naturally focus on the sunny aspects this season brings, we also sometimes hear about preventable tragedies involving young people and car accidents. Does your teen or loved one know what to do in the event of a collision with a utility pole resulting in a downed power line? Do your loved ones know what to do if they come upon an accident with a downed power line?

Here are a few safety tips that we hope you never have to use…

- If a car collides with a utility pole, the vehicle may be charged with electricity. Anyone exiting the car could contact thousands of volts of electricity from the downed line. When you step out of the car, you become part of the electricity’s path to the ground and could be electrocuted. It’s critical to stay in the vehicle and tell others to do the same until an emergency crew tells you it’s safe to exit the car.

- If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothing touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away (in small steps with your feet still together) to avoid electric shock. Keep moving away until you are at least 40 feet from the vehicle.

- If you come upon a car accident involving a utility pole or downed power lines, keep your distance. A downed power line can energize the ground up to 35 feet away. While your instinct may be to rush to the car to help, instead pause. Do not approach the car or scene of the accident. Tell others to stay away. While you may be concerned about injuries to those involved, the best action you can take is to alert emergency officials, who will in turn coordinate with the power provider. For the same reasons described above, never drive over a downed power line or through water that is touching a downed power line.

- If you have a downed power line on your property as a result of a falling tree, storm or other circumstance, do not go near the power line. Assume that the downed line is energized and dangerous. Never try to move the power line even if you think it’s not energized or if you are using a non-conductive material. We recognize that you may be anxious to clear your property of tree limbs or other debris near the downed line, but please wait until after an electric co-op crew or emergency officials have confirmed that the scene is safe to do so.

Contact Adams Electric for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like to request a safety demonstration at your school or community event. It is no accident that safety is our top priority, 1-800-726-2324.
Deeper Meaning

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. I always found it hard to do two colors though. 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 whose graves are still occupied.

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 weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to the canons of historical research, to conclude that the tomb in which Jesus was buried was actually empty on the morning of the first Easter. And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in literary sources, epigraphy, or archaeology that would disprove such a statement.”

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.”

No one could dispute his claims because the grave was empty. Instead thousands put their faith in Jesus that day.

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!
Smoke Alarms

Smoke detectors are one of the simplest and least expensive ways that you can help protect your family and home from fire. But did you know that they need to be replaced after 10 years? Be sure to check yours for their manufactured date and take a few minutes to review these other important tips:

**Smoke Alarms at Home**

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART**

of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

**SAFETY TIPS**

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today’s smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

**FACTS**

1. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
2. Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
3. Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

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Ten Marriage Lessons From The Past Ten Years

Recently I was reflecting on marriage, which, given what I do, is something that happens fairly frequently.

When you sit with couples in their pain, relationships are often on your mind.

I decided that I’d compile a list of the things that I’ve learned. I’m sure this will be by no means complete, but I’ll make a stab at it. Chances are, I’ll be dissatisfied with my efforts later on, and add and subtract as my life – and career – dictate.

But you’re in on the ground floor.

So here goes:

1) Never, and I mean NEVER talk about your partner in a negative way in public. It’s one thing to do it in private with a therapist, but quite another to air their private habits – however disgusting – in public. Sometimes sharing a bit with a friend can be helpful, but take care never to belittle them or be contemptuous. These things can kill a relationship.

2) It’s ok to express anger, but not to wound. Take the time you need to calm down before continuing a difficult discussion or argument. Don’t make things worse by intentionally inflicting harm with your words or – heaven forbid – your actions.

3) Your kids belong in second place behind your spouse. Many people put their kids first, and, when they inevitably leave home as adults, find they have little in common with their once-beloved partner. Make sure that you work as a team and keep the kids, kids. NOT little adults.

4) Marriage is 100/100% NOT 50/50%. That’s ridiculous. It takes all of you. Seriously. There is so much commitment, compromise, grace, compassion, love, wisdom … and many other things … involved. Give your all if you expect to get great returns.

5) Seriously think if the issue you have with your partner is worth the discord. As someone whose spouse has faced life-threatening health complications, I now find there isn’t much I think is worth fighting about. I came too close to losing him to seriously contemplate warring with him.

6) Try hard to put your partner’s needs above your own. This is HARD, and doesn’t come naturally to many, myself included. However, to the degree you can surrender your rights, you may find your spouse ready to give your desires back to you, with interest. This is one of the most compelling things you can do to express commitment and love.

7) Don’t ignore the sexual side of your marriage. Sex is super glue for couples. It’s important, and not just for men (that’s a myth)! Be sexual. Be intimate (not the same thing). Love and be loved. That’s the essence of marriage.

8) Find things that feed both of you and do them. Enjoy each other. If you can’t immediately think of things you like to do together, reminisce about what you did together when you were dating. Do those things, even if it seems silly. Enjoy. Find joint passions and feed them!

9) If your spouse makes an emotional statement, stop and pay attention, especially if expressing their emotions is not natural for them. This is a BIG deal, and you should treat it as such, and explore what’s going on with them.

10) Always kiss goodnight. It sounds cliché, but it’s a good axiom to live by. Turn toward each other (metaphorically) all day and do it physically at night. Don’t let the sun go down without you expressing love and gratitude for who your partner is and what they mean to you each day. Have no regrets that doubt they knew they were loved by you.

A reminder – I’m not trying to hit every marriage tip possible – that would take books and books! Nor am I trying to do marriage therapy by article. I am simply trying to give you a few tips and hints for thought and action, if you want to try new things.

If you struggle in your relationships, we would love to talk with you. We help grieving individuals, distressed teens and couples in conflict find peace, solutions and connection.

We are compassionate, creative, Christian therapists based in Shippensburg. Give us a call!

Sanctuary Christian Counseling LLC
9974 Molly Pitcher Highway, Suite 4
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