

Economy league

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PEL is composed of four divisions: Eastern, in Philadelphia; Capital, in Harrisburg; Western, in Pittsburgh; and the largest division, Central, whose headquarters is in Wilkes-Barre. Central's Executive Director is Charlie Watters, a 27-year veteran of the league who is justly proud of his staff of ten. He says, "We have five guys and five girls," adding with a grin, "We can prove we are an equal opportunity employer can't we?"

There are five researchers on Watters' staff. He says, "These people have advanced degrees and extensive experience in things like government management. Throughout the league we have folks who go on to high state positions, such as Secretary of Administration or Education. The state wouldn't rob us like that if we didn't have good people!"

The Luzerne County Committee is headed by Chairman Bernard Banks, who is executive VP of American Asphalt Paving in Shavertown. One of his committee says, "Bernie takes this job seriously and works hard at it, sometimes harder than we do."

Banks' group is quite diversified, including members who are banking executives, businessmen, lawyers and utility company executives. Ron Stern, CEO of Wyoming Valley Health Care System is a member, as is Tom Ward, president of Blue Cross. This checkered makeup enables Banks to get input that is representative of all points of view.

Jack Burke of Dallas is president of Penn Millers and has been with PEL as he says, "from way back." He believes "any time spent in committees or sub-committee

work is time very well spent. I enjoy talking to others in business, and in today's slang, the networking is excellent. I'd never give it up."

Dallas' Bob Edgerton, vice-president of Franklin First, feels the same way. He says, "I was out of it for awhile but I'm glad to be back. I think we do a lot of good and I am proud to help."

Another member from Dallas, Bob Richardson, president of Commonwealth Bank East, in Pittston, has been a PEL stalwart for three years. He says, "I am glad to be asked about them, because I feel strongly they are very beneficial, otherwise I don't think I would have stuck it out this long," Richardson adds, "They do their homework, and their costs are always within reason. They do a great job, whatever they tackle."

Other Luzerne County Commission members are David Feyrer of Epiphany Enterprises; Terrence Herron, Esquire, of Hourigan, Kluger, Sporher and Quinn; Ron Knouse, VP of Penn Millers; David Koff, Esquire, of Koff, Wendolowski, Ferguson, Mangan and Cordaro.

Also, Gary Lamont, president of First Valley Bank in Hazleton; John Levitski, community development director of PP&L; Eugene Pelesh, CPA, of Parente, Randolph, Orlando, Carey; Joseph Rymar, manager of customer relations of UGI; Guthrie Conyngnam, pres., Eastern Penn Supply; Paul Skrzysowski, VP, First Union Bank; Murray Ulberg, Esq., Rosenn Jenkins and Greenwald; and Micheline Pagnotti Kennedy, treasurer of Pagnotti Enterprises, Inc.

The professional and unbiased research of PEL can claim credit

for countless cost-savings in both state and local government areas, and in so doing, those in charge can prove desirable economic development results. "Improved quality of life for all Pennsylvanians" sums up all PEL goals.

To keep members informed on key topics, PEL provides several publications free, in addition to numerous research summaries, they also publish and distribute *News and Views*, a monthly newsletter, *Capital Perspective*, a periodic newsletter of governmental issues, *Eye on the Capital*, a quarterly on state legislation and programs, and *Capital News*, an "insider" newsletter for members only which provides more definitive information on pressing issues.

Membership fees in the Pennsylvania Economy League are uniform whether an applicant is a manufacturer, retailer, utility, financial institution or in service and construction. A modest addition to the registration fee is based on number of employees.

An official registration form is available by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999 within Pennsylvania, or the Central Division's address is at 88 No. Franklin St., Suite 200, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1393. Fax is (717) 829-8099.

Or, to put it more simply and strongly: all you "few dozen good men or women" out there in the Back Mountain, call 824-3559 right now and join while you are still thinking about it being a good idea.



New Lions inducted at Harveys Lake

At a recent meeting of the Harveys Lake Lions Club at the Castle Inn, John Fletcher was inducted into the club as a new member. Attending were PDG Lee Watson, Fletcher, sponsor Wayne Rhone, president Dan Williams and Secretary Tom Shina.

A PEL project sampler

So, what has the Pennsylvania Economy League done for us lately? Quite a lot, it seems. Central Division executive director Charles Watters listed a few recent projects:

- PEL identified inconsistencies in the state's prevailing wage legislation, which inflated construction costs. They found the wage was determined in large regions, which often meant small town projects had to pay big city wages. Now, the prevailing wage for construction will be based on county averages. The state estimates the savings at about \$200 million per year.

- Low health care costs are one of the few advantages Pennsylvania employers have over nearby states. But proposed legislation will eliminate some of that, and PEL has warned the Legislature against them.

- PEL has provided research and guidance for two Luzerne County school districts; enrollment projections and other data which is used to help determine the need for additional buildings.

- Closest to home, PEL conducts a survey of tax collection costs each four years (to coincide with the election cycle for tax collectors). The last report identified Dallas School District as having the highest tax collection costs in the county. As a result of PEL's information, the district cut its commission rates. The tax collectors sued, and the matter is still in litigation.

Kingston Twp. issues permits

Kingston Township zoning officer Benjmain Gorey issued 68 permits in June and collected \$8,049 in fees.

Five permits are for new homes: for E. Ziemba at 34 Somerfields, valued at \$202,785; A. Robinson at 302 Terrace St., valued at \$94,710; J. Dzigan at 288 Terrace St., valued at \$106,150; C. Koehl, 143 Staub Rd., valued at \$214,720, and M. Kolojchick at 298 Highland Ave., valued at \$54,000.

Other large projects include interior repairs at a building at 40 S. Memorial Highway owned by A. Boyer and valued at \$120,000; an in-ground pool at the E. Marquart residence at 39 Kenilworth Dr., valued at \$20,000; an addition at the Spaciano residence at 385 Carverton Rd., valued at \$15,000 and an in-ground pool at the J. Demuro residence at 161 Lawn Ave., valued at \$12,000; and an above ground pool at the Kelvechto residence at 8 Knob Hill.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property deeds were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of June 14 - 20.

Mark Baloh, et ux, to Joseph James Cook, et ux, 85 Wellington Ave., Dallas Borough, \$79,900.
 Karen W. Brown, to William J. Ackerman, Huntsville Road, Dallas Borough, \$220,000.
 Vern Neely, et ux, to Joseph M. Neary, et ux, 1.732 ac. Hunlock Twp., \$45,000.
 Marie Gregory estate et al, to Andrew Sorber, et ux, Hunlock Twp., \$750.
 Douglas M. Richards, et ux, to Mark V. Baloh, et ux, 61 Grace Ave., Lot 5, Kingston Twp., \$100,000.
 James Thomas Mulhern, et ux, to

Thomas W. Ambrose, et al, Lot 2 Crane's Landing, Kingston Twp., \$210,000.
 Jeffrey Pyros, partner et al, to James T. Mulhern, et ux, Ivory Dr./16 Maple Crest, Kingston Twp., \$38,900.
 Woodridge Associates to Christopher L. Hackett, et ux, 1.8963 ac. Morgan Ridge, Kingston Twp., \$90,000.
 Russell Moore, to Michelle Ann Nichols, et vir, 7.331 ac. Lot 11, Ross Twp., \$3,590.
 Frank Moyer, estate et al, to Robert J. Moyer, Ross Twp., 2.88 ac. Ross Twp., \$44,000.
 Stephen J. Luscan, III, et ux, to Richard A. Love, et ux, Ross Twp., \$69,900.

Two injured in collision between car, ambulance

SHAVERTOWN - An accident Friday sent two young women to the hospital and tied up traffic on Route 309.

Police said that a 1985 Nissan Pulsar operated by a 16-year-old girl from Shavertown collided with the Kingston Township ambulance on Route 309 at Center Street. They refused to release the driver's name because she is a minor.

Operated by Shavertown resident Peter Kerdesky, the ambulance had its lights and siren activated because it was answering a call and had stopped before entering the intersection. It then crossed half of the highway and stopped a second time in the center lane.

When the ambulance pulled forward and entered the southbound lanes, it collided with

the Nissan on the line separating the driving and passing lanes.

The ambulance had the red light and the Nissan had the green light, police said.

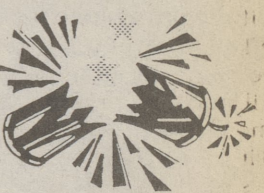
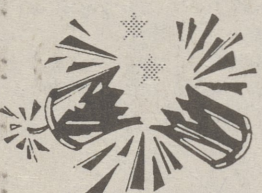
The Nissan, which had apparently swerved before the point of impact, traveled an additional 394 feet in the southbound passing lane before it stopped. Police couldn't find any skid marks at

the scene.

Both the driver and a passenger, Kelly Killeen, 17, of Dallas, were taken to the hospital.

No citations were issued, although police noted that drivers are required by law to yield to any emergency vehicles using flashing lights or sirens.

Officer Charles Rauschkolb investigated the accident.



1996 DALLAS FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Dallas High School Grounds Friday, July 5th

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