

Municipal Leadership Summit

PITTSBURGH  OCTOBER 6-9, 2022



SUMMIT PROGRAM BOOK

Strengthen, Empower & Advocate for Effective Local Government

#MunicipalLeadershipSummit2022



Every piece of the puzzle is important to the big picture.

Reduce costs and improve performance with a total building enclosure approach.

Facilities need *complete* protection from the elements – on all six sides, within all components. How every piece connects – from roofs to walls to windows to doors and more – is crucial to controlling air, heat, and moisture flow.

At Tremco Roofing and Building Maintenance, we are building enclosure experts. Together with our affiliated construction services company WTI, we provide turnkey maintenance, repair, roof management, and general contracting services for the entire building enclosure.

Through advanced diagnostics, proven asset management programs, and cooperative purchasing options, we can help you to avoid emergency repairs, establish predictable budgets, and improve building performance to ultimately reduce facility lifecycle costs.



**To learn more or to schedule a complimentary consultation, please contact:
Jennifer Miller at jdmiller@tremcoinc.com, 412.225.6007 or visit yourroofexperts.com.**



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Tremco Roofing and WTI are part of Tremco Construction Products Group.

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Pennsylvania Municipal
League

STRENGTH THROUGH ENGAGEMENT

2022 League Officers



League President

Mayor Danene Sorace
City of Lancaster



League 1st Vice President

Mayor Michael Lombardo
City of Pittston



League 2nd Vice President

Mayor Douglas Baker
City of Franklin

Executive Director's Message



In October 1899, 10 Mayors met to form the League of Cities of the Third Class. Mayor Geise invited the group to hold its first meeting in York. The first annual convention of The League was held in May of 1900. We've come a long way since then. Today, a growing number of cities, boroughs and townships have come together to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government.

Welcome to the 123rd Municipal Leadership Summit. The Summit brings together The League, The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association. State officials, legislative leaders and candidates for Governor and U.S. Senator have been invited. We are honored to welcome Governor Tom Wolf, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Auditor General Timothy DeFoor and Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward.

A Roaring 20's Celebration with a reception will be held this year, presented by Comcast. Also, there will be a Silent Auction in which all proceeds will benefit the Schuettler Center for Municipal Development.

The Summit is a perfect opportunity to learn about emerging topics like automated vehicles and virtual reality training being utilized by local law enforcement. Informative sessions include managing and reporting American Rescue Plan Act dollars, health equity, climate action and a keynote address by Charlie Batch, former Steelers quarterback and leader of a foundation to support young people in Homestead.

Pittsburgh Mayor Gainey has planned a special reception the first evening of the Summit.

The Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) will be covering our event.

The Summit is important as we conduct the business of The League, the Township Commissioners and the Career Fire Chiefs.

Thank you for attending, participating and engaging during the Municipal Leadership Summit in the great City of Pittsburgh!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Brenner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Brenner

League Executive Director

Summit Information

Registration and Customer Service: The League registration booth will be located on the 17th Floor of the Omni Grand Ballroom Pre-Function area on Wednesday, October 5 through Saturday, October 8.

Registration is open on Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday: 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wi-Fi: Network: **Omni_Meeting** | Passcode: **Summit2022**

Summit App: The Whova app can be found on the Apple App Store and Google Play. **Download the app and create an account.** Once you're signed up, you will be taken directly to your event! If you aren't directly added to the event and are asked for an invitation code when accessing the event, please type in this invitation code: **2qkdf07n9u**

Already used the Whova app in the past? Double-check that it is installed on your phone, and log in using your existing account email and password.

Badges: Participants are required to wear their badge and ribbon(s) at ALL times. Due to security reasons, this requirement will be strictly enforced.

Parking: Parking is available at the Mellon Square Garage located across the street from the hotel for \$20 weekdays and \$6 weekends. There are no in/out privileges for this lot. The valet rate is \$39 per day.

Emergency Information: In case of an emergency - dial 911. Hospital in the area: UPMC Presbyterian, 200 Lothrop Street (412) 647-2345. Urgent Care: Allegheny Health Network, 501 Penn Avenue (412) 442-2343.

AEDs located on 17th floor and main lobby.

Shuttle Service:

Playground Build: Transportation will be provided to the playground build. The transportation schedule is on [page 6](#).

UBER and LYFT services are also available in the City of Pittsburgh.

Exhibitor Passport: Several opportunities are available to network with the vendors in the Grand Ballroom at the Thursday evening reception and all day on Friday. Municipal officials that visit each vendor and have their exhibitor passport stamped will be eligible for several great prizes including one of three \$100 Amazon gift cards.

Resolutions Committee Members: Committee and alternate committee members will receive a ribbon with their badge. The committee ribbon serves as credentials for admittance to the Resolutions Committee member section at the meeting on Friday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The alternate member ribbon will serve as credentials for admittance to the committee member section if the committee member is unable to attend the meeting; otherwise, the alternate member may attend the meeting as a spectator in the back of the room.

Voting Delegates: Voting and alternate voting delegates will receive a voting delegate ribbon at the registration booth. The ribbon serves as credentials for admittance to the voting delegate section at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon. The alternate voting delegate ribbon will serve as credentials for admittance to the voting delegate section if the voting delegate is unable to attend the Annual Business Meeting; otherwise, the alternate voting delegate may attend the meeting as a spectator. Voting and alternate voting delegates must pick up their ribbon at the League registration booth by 12:00 noon on Friday. Any voting delegate failing to receive their ribbon by that time will be required to obtain their credentials from the Credentials Committee.

Summit Information

Credited Training: The Municipal Leadership Summit has been approved for Continuing Legal Education Credits; special forms are available at the registration desk. Municipal officials attending credited training sessions may receive credits towards the League's Elected Officials Leadership Training Program Certificate, Risk Management Certificate, or the APMM Professional Development Program Certificate, if they are registered participants of those programs. Registrants will receive a credit reporting form for each day, requesting information regarding the sessions attended, attendance time, and to which certificate program the credit is to be applied. Confirm attendance by signing and returning the completed yellow copy to the registration desk. Each day's form will be used to tally the total credits earned during the summit. Those not yet registered in a certificate program are welcome to track their credits and submit their credits recording form with their application and appropriate fee for enrollment program. For more information, visit The [League's Training and Development webpage](#) or contact Katie Reibsane, Director of Training & Professional Development, at (717) 236-9469 ext. *255.

Press Room: Britton Kosier and Holli Hugendubler will be available to assist the media in providing up-to-the-minute information regarding the summit and arrange interviews with The League leadership and guests. Please contact Britton at (717) 480-2172 and Holli (717) 480-2871.

Evaluations: To assist in planning for future summits, The League would appreciate each delegate taking a few minutes to complete the overall evaluation, which is available on the mobile app. Individual session evaluations will also be available on the app. We appreciate your feedback.

Dress: Dress for this Summit is business casual attire, unless otherwise noted. Meeting room temperatures may vary beyond our control; please wear layers of clothing for your comfort.

Cell Phones: As a courtesy to our attendees, we request that you turn your cell phone to vibrate during the training sessions.

Visitor Information: For things to see and do while you are in the area, please visit the website: [VisitPittsburgh](#).

Please join us on social media during the Summit using
#MunicipalLeadershipSummit2022



@PAMunicipalLeag



/PAMunicipalLeague



/PAMunicipalLeagueOrg

Transportation Schedule

Playground Build Transportation

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Participants to meet at the front of the Omni William Penn Hotel

7:30 a.m. – Vans depart from Omni WP Hotel to West Penn Park (470 30th Street)

8:15 a.m. – Van departs from Omni WP Hotel to West Penn Park

1:00 p.m. – Van departs from WPP to the Omni WP Hotel

3:00 p.m. – Van departs from WPP to Omni WP Hotel

Rivers of Steel Tour

Saturday, October 8, 2022

Instructions

Guests will meet in the back lobby of the hotel and a League team member will escort you to the Light Rail.

Walk across the street to the Light Rail “The T” entrance.

Take the inbound Blue Line to Downtown to Allegheny Station.

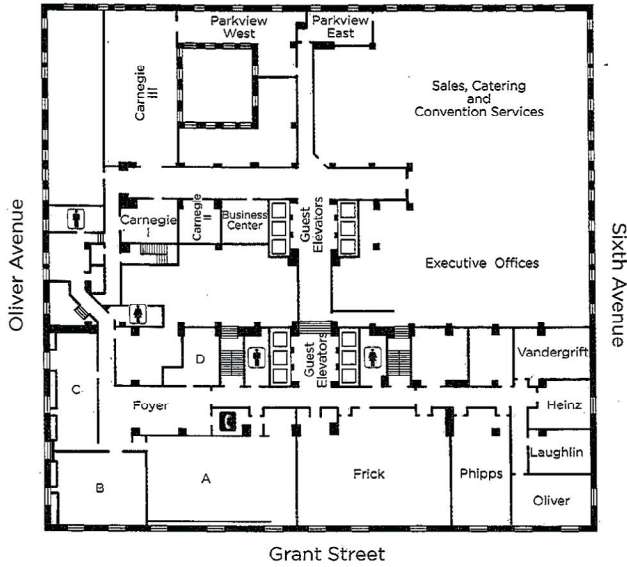
From there, it is a five-minute walk to the dock: From the Station, head west on Reedsdale Street and turn left of Sproat Way. Cross over Casino Drive and follow the sidewalk to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Turn left onto Three Rivers. Heritage Trail and walk a short distance (240 feet). The dock will be on your right.

Following the tour, you will be returned to the docks at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for an easy walk back to the Omni William Penn Hotel.

Omni William Penn Hotel Floor Plans

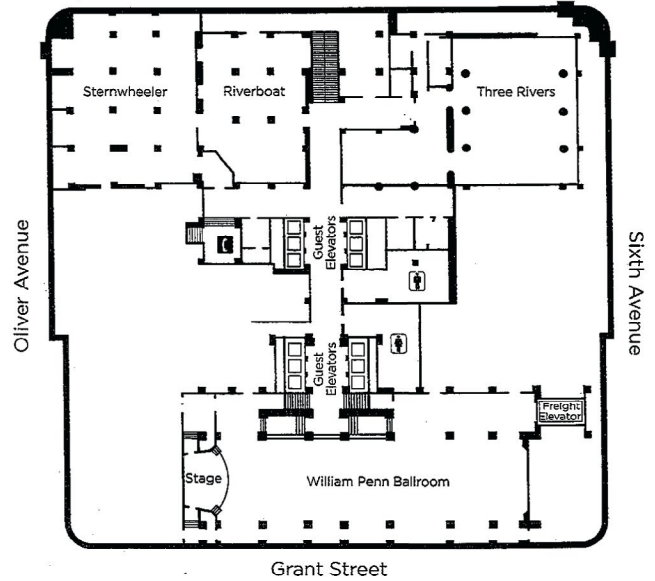
Conference Level

William Penn Place



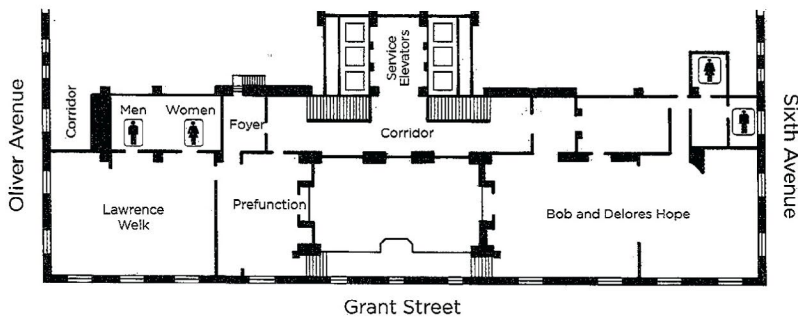
William Penn Level

William Penn Place



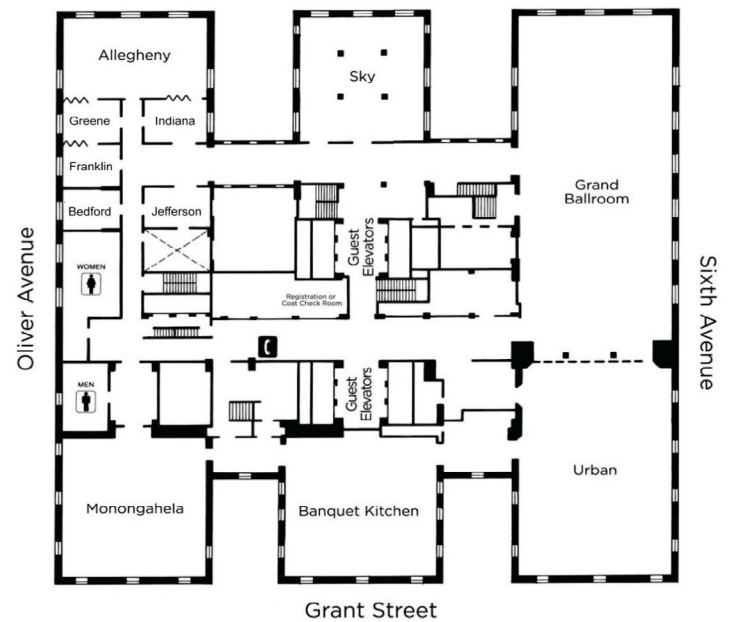
Mezzanine

William Penn Place



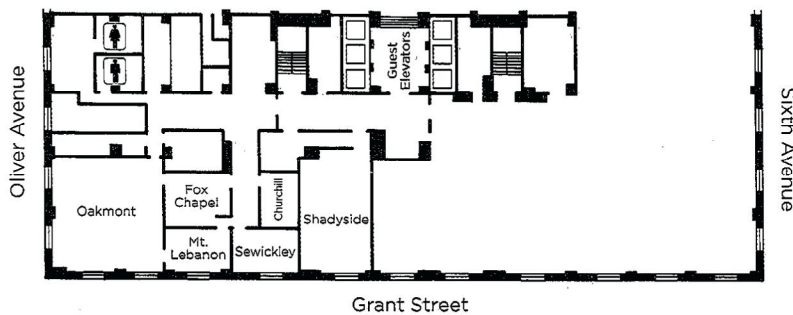
Seventeenth Floor

William Penn Place



First Floor

William Penn Place



Agenda

Wednesday, October 5

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

KaBOOM! Playground Build West Penn Park (Ribbon Cutting at 3:00 p.m.)
470 30th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Built-In | 17th Floor

Registration Open

Thursday, October 6

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sternwheeler |
William Penn (WP) Level

PA Career Fire Chiefs' Association Training Sessions

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Built-In | 17th Floor

Registration Open

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.
Monongahela | 17th Floor

League Board Meeting

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Three Rivers | WP Level

General Session: Implementing Climate Action Plans & Modernizing Infrastructure
Jonathan Zeller, Market Lead, Siemens Industry, Inc.

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Riverboat | WP Level

PSATC Executive Committee Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

Buffet Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

Opening Ceremony

Honor Guard: **Vietnam Veteran's Inc. Honor Guard** | Anthem Signer: **Carlos T. Carter**

Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome: **League President, Mayor Danene Sorace**, City of Lancaster; **PSATC President, Commissioner Sam Valenza**, Upper Moreland Township; **Mayor Ed Gainey**, City of Pittsburgh

Auditor General Timothy DeFoor

League Executive Director John Brenner - Envision 2032 and Closing Remarks

2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

General Session: Attorney General Josh Shapiro
Attorney General Josh Shapiro

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

General Session: Road to Sustainable Transportation
Keith Jack, Director of Facilities Operations, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Mark Kopko, Director of Transformational Technology, PennDOT

Agenda

Thursday, October 6

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Conference Center A |
CL Floor

Session #1: Equity, Inclusion, and 21st Century Public Service

Venus L. Ricks, Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Office of Advocacy & Reform, Governor Wolf's Office

Frick | CL Floor

Session #2: The Perfect Storm - When Will It End?

John Spagnola, Managing Director, PFM Asset Management

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom | 17th Floor

Meet & Greet Reception

You are invited to enjoy an evening with your colleagues.

This is your chance to expand your network of contacts in the municipal government field. Meet with other officials from across the state and mingle with vendors who offer a variety of services and products tailored to your community's needs.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Omni William Penn Hotel
Entrance

Level 4 Autonomous Vehicle Demonstration: Cadillac SRX

Courtesy of: Mobility21 National University Transportation Center and Carnegie Mellon University

Professor Raj Rajkumar, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Dept.

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Emerald City - 213
Smithfield Street (5 minute
walk from Omni)

The Welcome to Pittsburgh Reception

Hosted by Mayor Ed Gainey and The Southwestern PA Black Mayors Collaborative

[Click Here to Register](#)

Friday, October 7

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Built-In | 17th Floor

Registration Open

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

Awards Buffet Breakfast

Senator Jay Costa, Senate Minority Leader; **Gina Johnson**, Director of Programs, Sustainable Pittsburgh;

Toni Murphy, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Comcast Central Division; & **Rick Vilello**, Deputy Secretary, Community Affairs & Development, DCED

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sternwheeler | WP Level

PA Career Fire Chiefs' Association Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

William Penn Ballroom |
WP Level

General Session: Cyber Security

Leigh Balcom, Business & Planning Manager, M&T Bank; **Josh Hinkle**, President & CEO, Splashwire;

Alka Patel, JD, MBA, Vice President, Government & External Affairs, Comcast Keystone Regional

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom | 17th Floor

Exhibits Open

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Urban Ballroom |
17th Floor

General Session: Difficult Management Issues (No One Wants to Discuss)

Neva Stotler, Esq., Neva Stotler Law

Agenda

Friday, October 7

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Urban Ballroom |
17th Floor

General Session & Buffet Lunch: Healthy Communities - Leading the Charge on Health Equity | Presented by:



Nebeyou Abebe, Sr. Vice President, Social Determinants of Health, Highmark
Matt Tuerk, Mayor, City of Allentown
Moderator: **League President, Mayor Danene Sorace**, City of Lancaster

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Business Leaders Network Sessions:

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Conference Center A |
CL Level

#1: Leveraging GIS for Asset Management

Jesse Suders, Manager of Community & Economic Development, Dawood Engineering

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Frick Room | CL Level

#2: Comcast - Digital Equity in Your Community

Jennifer Blatz, Coordinator, Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance

Alka Patel, JD, MBA, Vice President, Government & External Affairs, Comcast Keystone Region

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Conference Center A |
CL Level

#3: The Municipal Utility Alliance Energy Program: Energy & Sustainability Solutions for your Community

Matthew Shortall, Senior Business Development Manager, Constellation Energy

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Frick Room | CL Level

#4: Update on First Net National Public Safety Broadband Network

Christian Peck, Principal, AT&T/First Net

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Conference Center A |
CL Level

#5: The Impact of Inflation on Health Care Costs

Mike Boyd, Executive Director, Municipal Benefits Services

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Frick Room | CL Level

#6: HomeServe Water Infrastructure Solutions for Municipalities & Residents

Ashley Shiwerski, Director of Business Development, NLC Service Line Warranty Program / HomeServe

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Monongahela | 17th Floor

League Resolutions Committee Meeting

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions:

Conference Center A |
CL Floor

Session #1: Pennsylvania Fire Service of the Future Panel Discussion

Scott Frederick, Director of Emergency Services, Butler Township; **John Jablowski, Jr.**, Council Member & PSATC 2nd Vice President, Wilkes-Barre Township; **Jeanne Johnston**, Manager, Cumru Township; **Chief Clifton Laughton**, Fire Chief, West Manchester Township; **Jerry Ozog**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute; **Kevin Smith**, Volunteer Chief of Volunteer Department, Butler Township

Frick | CL Floor

Session #2: Top 10 Labor & Employment Lessons Learned from the Pandemic, Inflation & Police "Reform"

Patrick Harvey, Esq., Attorney & **Richard Miller, Esq.**, Attorney, Campbell Durrant, P.C.

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Monongahela | 17th Floor

PSATC Annual Business Meeting

Agenda

Friday, October 7

5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Grand Ballroom & Urban Ballroom 17th Floor	Summit Reception
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom & Urban Ballroom 17th Floor	Exhibitor Prize Drawing
6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	PSATC Annual Banquet
8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Allegheny 17th Floor	PSATC Lounge with Live Entertainment

Saturday, October 8

7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Built-Ins 17th Floor	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	Breakfast Video Messages: Governor Tom Wolf ; Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman ; State Treasurer Stacy Garrity ; & National League of Cities CEO and Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Monongahela 17th Floor	League Annual Business Meeting
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	Sustainable Program and Equity Sprint Sarah SanGiovanni , Program Manager, Sustainable Pittsburgh
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	General Session: Expect Your Best with Charlie Batch Presented By: Charlie Batch , Best of Batch Foundation & Former NFL Quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers & Detroit Lions
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	General Session: Legislative Update Amy Sturges , League Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	Lunch Buffet
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. William Penn Ballroom WP Level	General Session: Police De-Escalation Training Using Virtual Reality Madeline Lewis , Police Office, Lower Merion Township Police Department



Agenda

Saturday, October 8

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rivers of Steel: Explorer Riverboat

Join Rivers of Steel on board the Explorer riverboat, the world's first green passenger riverboat, for the Uniquely Pittsburgh Sightseeing Tour. The Explorer was designed and built to LEED standards to host the award-winning STEM student education programs now led by Rivers of Steel. This 90-minute excursion seeks to answer the question "What makes Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh?"

Traveling on the Ohio, Monongahela, and Allegheny Rivers, this tour shares the big stories of our region's past—along with many lesser-known tales—as it explores a sense of place. Sit back, enjoy the skyline, and see the sights as you discover how Pittsburgh's unique history shaped the city we have today! Guests will meet in the back of the hotel and walk across the street to the Light Rail "The T" entrance for a quick trip to the Explorer riverboat docked on the North Shore. You will be returned to the docks at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for an easy walk back to the Omni William Penn Hotel. Spaces are still available for this tour. Please sign-up at the League's registration desk on the 17th floor or use the link below.

Please meet at the Grant Street side of the Omni (back entrance) at 2:15 p.m. One of our team members will meet you at the back entrance and escort you to the riverboat via the Light Rail aka The T. Directions will also be available on the mobile app.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sternwheeler | WP Level

Roaring 20s Celebration Reception | Presented By:

Come cut a rug at our Roaring 20's Celebration Reception.
It's gonna be the bee's knees!

This evening's reception is being sponsored by Comcast and includes two drink tickets.



6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sternwheeler | WP Level

Silent Auction to Benefit The Schuettler Center for Municipal Development

Here's how you can help promote this important event. Think of what makes your municipality home. Is it an amusement park, a craft brewery, or an annual arts festival? Do you have a favorite local business or experience that makes your municipality a destination spot? If so, we ask that you solicit gift certificate donations from local businesses that reflect the diverse and unique characteristics of your community. These donations will then be a part of a silent auction during the week of the Municipal Summit to help reach our fundraising goal of \$250,000.

Acceptable items may include gift certificates for overnight hotel stays, special event tickets, golf rounds, spa packages, or even horseback riding adventures. The possibilities are endless. What a great way to showcase your community and promote tourism within The Commonwealth! Donors will be recognized in the Summit program book, on The League's website, and at the evening reception. Donations and cash contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

[Click here to register as a bidder](#)

The Richard J. Schuettler Center for Municipal Development is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity created by the Pennsylvania Municipal League Board of Directors to assist local elected and appointed officials in obtaining the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to meet the challenges of their office and to provide a forum from which urban policy issues can be debated, formulated, and communicated through such means as training, research papers, and educational publications. The Board has approved renaming the Center in honor of Rick for his dedication and commitment to good government, and specifically municipal training. In announcing the new name during our upcoming Municipal Leadership Summit and our effort to create an endowment for the Center going forward, we are asking partners to make a pledge. We are honored to recognize you as a supporter of the Center. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

[Information on the Schuettler Center](#)

Sunday, October 9

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Urban Ballroom |
17th Floor

Farewell Buffet Breakfast

What a perfect way to close out the 123rd Annual Municipal Leadership Summit. Spend some extra time with your colleagues swapping stories about your Summit experiences before everyone hits the road for home.



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Municipalities
And
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Since
1985**

For more information,
please call Elizabeth Henry
at 1-800-922-8063 or email
ehenry@pml.org.

The Pennsylvania Municipal League
414 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

- ✓ Your partner to lower unemployment claims.
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- ✓ Provides great opportunities for dividends.
- ✓ Offers representation at unemployment hearings.
- ✓ Competitive annual rates due to actuarial calculations.
- ✓ No separate sign-up fees to join the program.
- ✓ Prompt and professional service through experienced support staff.



PML.org



Business Leaders Network



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Business Leaders Network

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& LEHR^{LLP}**

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Collective Bargaining
& Interest Arbitration

Personnel Counseling
& Training

Grievance Arbitration

Labor Contract
Administration

Retirement Benefits

EEO, PHRC & Civil
Rights Litigation

Civil Service, Police
Tenure Act

Local Agency Law
Proceedings

Appellate
Representation

cdblaw.com



Taking steps to prevent labor and employment issues is a far better strategy than trying to mitigate them after the fact. We partner with municipalities in every corner of the Commonwealth, helping them address potential risks and create work environments where people and public service can thrive. We'd like to do the same for you.



Pittsburgh

535 Smithfield Street, Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 395-1280

Philadelphia

One Belmont Avenue, Suite 300
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 227-2591

Summit Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

Insurance Buyers' Council, Inc.

Insurance Consulting

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Chairman of the Board, Senior Consultant

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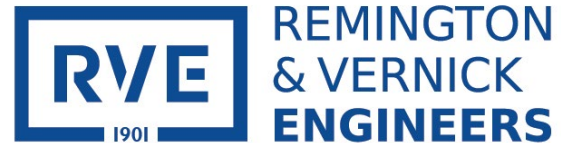
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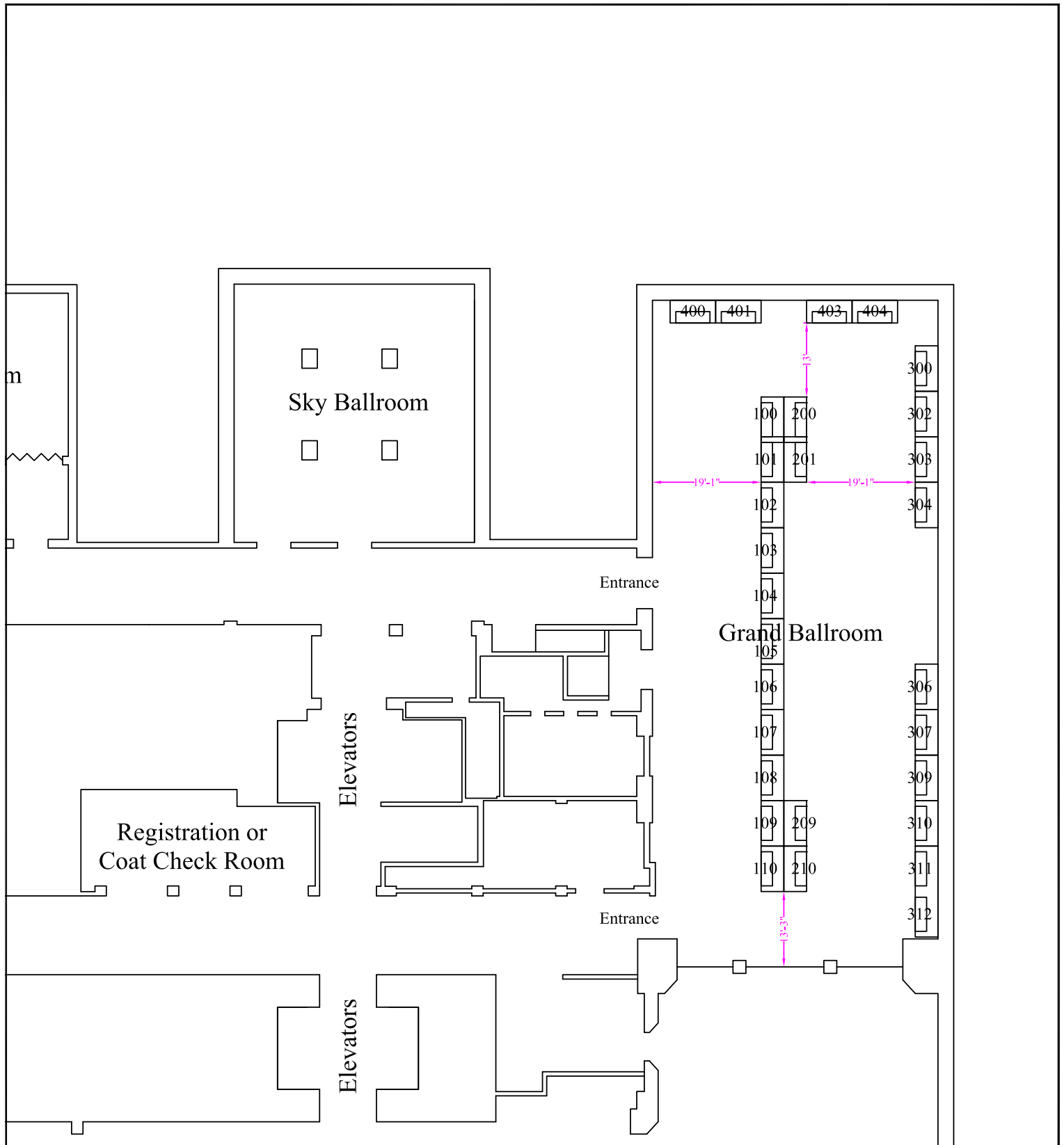
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39th Annual Winning High School Essays



Theme: **Civics and You**

Participants are asked to reflect on the theme by writing about opportunities in their community that allow for civic engagement and encourage citizens to volunteer to help with local challenges.



1st Place High School Essay Winner

Mary Frances McNulty, *Villa Joseph Marie High School (Doylestown Borough)*

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." One great way that citizens of Pennsylvania can make their voices heard on consequential matters is through civic engagement. Municipalities across Pennsylvania provide countless opportunities to residents interested in making a difference in the lives of their neighbors. As a graduating senior who lives in Doylestown,

Pennsylvania and plans to attend DeSales University this Fall, I have been able to contribute to my community by volunteering for Doylestown Borough activities designed to help local businesses and public institutions.

Like towns across Pennsylvania, Doylestown was severely impacted in 2020 by COVID-19. The once thriving business center had become a ghost town. Restaurants that once required advanced reservations were now closed. Shops known throughout Bucks County for selling distinctive merchandise now displayed "For Rent" signs. The economic impact of COVID-19 had hit Doylestown hard, and the prosperity of the community was in critical condition.

As someone who cares greatly about her hometown, I was eager to help my community survive the economic ravages of COVID-19. Despite my limited business experience, I volunteered to join Operation Doylestown, a committee sponsored by the Doylestown Borough and comprised of local business owners and community activists. Through my participation in Operation Doylestown, I was able to recommend several initiatives designed to stimulate the local economy. My proposals included movie nights, a carved pumpkin festival, and a promotional campaign featuring Doylestown's cultural institutions. My initiatives increased pedestrian traffic during the summer and fall months. Families that might not have otherwise come to Doylestown were now arriving early or staying late on movie nights to dine at neighborhood restaurants or shop in local stores. When temperatures dropped, the pumpkin carving festival continued to draw people into Doylestown to support the local merchants. The visitors lingered in town treating themselves to pumpkin lattes sold at coffee shops. Artwork from local museums was displayed throughout Doylestown to uplift and inspire the community. The economic fortunes of the community improved significantly through these initiatives.

Additionally, I worked with the Doylestown Library to promote its services during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The Doylestown Library is a vital part of the community that provides residents with a safe place to gather to support one another. As a volunteer, I developed a marketing campaign that consisted of signs posing questions intended to entertain and inform the public about the library. I worked with local businesses to post the signs in shop windows. Two local newspapers, The Bucks County Herald and the Doylestown Observer highlighted my efforts. The promotional campaign succeeded in informing the public that the Doylestown Library and its many resources were available to them despite the gloom and doom brought by the pandemic.

Given the positive impact I had in volunteering for Operation Doylestown and the Doylestown Library, I sought the position of Junior Councilperson on the Doylestown Borough Council for the term September 2021 to May 2022. This position is open to one high school student in the Doylestown Borough interested in serving the

community. As a Junior Councilperson, I weighed-in on issues directly affecting the residents of Doylestown by proposing solutions to community concerns. During Borough Council meetings, I was able to question Borough Council members as well as community leaders on topics that concern my neighbors for the purpose of expanding my understanding of the issues and building a consensus among the various community groups. As the only student member of the Doylestown Borough

Council, I provided the Council members with a different perspective on the issues confronting the community. In this position, I also participated in the budget process for each of the borough's agencies. Before my term ended, I succeeded in spearheading an initiative that recognizes young people who have made a positive impact in the community. The passage of the Youth Leadership Recognition Award marked the first time a Junior Councilperson proposed and enacted an initiative. This award will serve to encourage young people to get involved in civic activity for generations to come.

The impact of civic engagement is not limited to the present or future. Some civic activities can influence how we view the past. As a student at Villa Joseph Marie High School, I frequently drive past the Washington Crossing National Cemetery when commuting to or from school. The Washington Crossing National Cemetery serves as the final burial site for veterans. Unfortunately, many of the veterans buried at the cemetery do not have family or friends who have survived them or live in the general area that would allow them to visit the gravesites.

Working with my high school's administration as well as local community groups, I established Villa Joseph Marie High School's Wreaths Across America Chapter, which arranges to have students place wreaths on the graves of veterans during the holiday season. This activity affords students the opportunity to learn about the heroics of our fallen heroes while instilling a sense of patriotism in the local community.

Through volunteering, I have been able to help my community overcome challenging times. In the process, I have developed the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in both college and my professional career. By volunteering, citizens can have an impact regardless of their age or skillset. Through civic engagement, each of us can demonstrate the truth in what Abraham Lincoln was fond of saying, "Actions speak louder than words."



2nd Place High School Essay Winner

Alina Keshodkar, *Liberty High School (City of Bethlehem)*

As I hope to study the social sciences in college, I have learned about two major social institutions: family and school. These groups play a significant role in shaping our ideas, values, and identities beginning in our childhood. Growing up with my mother as a science teacher and father working as a professor of anthropology, these institutions in my life have almost always blended. My experiences under these influences have taught me the value and privilege of education and the importance of civic duty.

For myself, the unique environment of school structures my day and provides the support I need to pursue different interests, meet new people, and explore the world around me. Moving from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to Bethlehem in the fifth grade opened a new world for me. The public school system provided me with the freedom to explore various interests and opportunities to find myself in my new community. My fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Sherman, was the first educator to keep me continually engaged and motivated in school. As we learned about the branches of government and the Constitution that year, I discovered my passion for the political and social sciences as I observed my school gym's conversion into a polling center for a local election. I became very fascinated with democracy and the unique characteristics of the United States. As my passion for political science grew, I took classes like AP US Government & Politics in high school. In reflection on how the founding fathers saw schools, and more importantly, free access to education, to be essential in the process of democracy, I began to understand the significance of learning and helping others in my community.

Public education is only the beginning of the rest of our lives of learning, but without the strong foundation this system provides, we cannot reach our full potential to succeed. I never fully understood the extent to which my public school education has shaped me into who I am. I have discovered and developed the different aspects of my identity, not only in the classroom as an active student, but in leadership positions of clubs like the National Honor Society and the Bethlehem Area School District Mini-THON, as a musician in the band and orchestra, a teammate on the school's soccer team, and a volunteer member in the community.

As a member of the Girls' Soccer Team at Liberty, I saw the opportunity to share my passion for the sport in the Greater Bethlehem Soccer League (GBSL) and Marvine Elementary's Soccer Program as an assistant coach. Through these programs, I found opportunities to assist the younger population in our community by directing their energy towards fun and productive activity, while also discovering an interest in working with children. Similarly, one of my most significant roles in school has been organizing fundraisers and raising money for children with pediatric cancer as the Overall of BASD Mini-THON. Through the midst of the pandemic, I was grateful to have the opportunity to help lead the 2021 effort that raised thirty thousand dollars for the Four Diamonds Foundation. This organization allows me to continually contribute to my community by fighting for those who cannot always fight for themselves. Additionally, I am honored to be the National Honor Society President for this past year at Liberty, enabling me to coordinate with Miller-Keystone for in-school blood drives and work with many other students to engage with our local community. Each of these activities has enlightened me on the many ways in which I can support others around me. Whether the local challenge is the financial burden of pediatric cancer treatment, providing basic human right necessities such as food, or simply promoting learning in the younger generation, my exploration of these many different opportunities have illustrated the extent to which we can support one another and engage in civic duty.

In my home environment, my parents have continually reinforced these values. They have positively influenced my belief that we are responsible to help others however we can.

While learning can come in different forms, from formal schooling to sports and activities, access to free education should be a human right. I believe the structure of public schools relieves several financial burdens and promote an encouraging environment for their students to pursue any subject. Especially when planning for the future, I think many of us are conflicted by the need to make money and provide for ourselves, but I believe that knowledge has no end goal. By not placing a price tag on education, students receive the freedom to follow any of their passions.

Although the recent years of the pandemic have disrupted the old structure of education and what it means to help others, I think our physical disconnection from school and each other has only emphasized the importance of such a community. For the future generations of children and educators in schools, it is vital to remember the roots and purpose of public education. What we learn in school can be used far beyond its application in the classroom, but in our daily lives on prominent issues like gender and racial equality and fighting for ways to save the environment.

If it were not for my parents and teachers in this system to promote intellectual and personal growth for all students, I would not be the person I am today. I am grateful to have been surrounded by teachers who truly love to teach their subjects, placed in challenging classes to test my limits and endowed with insurmountable knowledge I will carry throughout my life.

In these many environments throughout my community, my time volunteering has taught me skills like communication, patience, delegation, and teamwork. My public school education and experiences inspire me to ensure people retain their rights like free education by pursuing law and advocating for others so I can continue serving whatever community I may find myself in. I hope to continue to foster such a connection with my community throughout my life.



3rd Place High School Essay Winner

Ella Farrer, *North Penn-Mansfield Jr./Sr. High School (Mansfield Borough)*

Civic Engagement Starts in School

"If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem," is a statement that I have been raised to live by. Civic engagement is the practice of taking action to address public issues. Civic engagement is essentially identifying a concern in the community and working to find a solution. Therefore, it is important to be civically engaged to live up to the expectations of the idea previously stated, Civic engagement is a powerful tool to impact a community, and there are several ways to learn about a concern, form an opinion, and get involved.

The mention of civic engagement leads people to picture voting, running for office, and sitting on administrative or working board. Our community provides the opportunity for people to get involved by running for the school board, working with the Chamber of Commerce, sitting on the Mansfield Borough Council, running for local elections, and campaigning for political candidates. These are the big ways to get involved, but people must also remember that they can be involved in other ways too. When someone votes, they are sharing their opinion on issues. A person can also choose to take action on issues outside of the ballot. Civic engagement is the umbrella of several types of actions. When there is a concern in the community, community members can attend the public meetings and speak during the public comment sections.

Reaching out to other community members, writing a "Letter to the Editor," using social media, volunteering in community service projects, and emailing the relevant representatives are all smaller ways to make an impact. If at least four people acted about something passionately, there would be more of a push for change, making the smaller ways of civic engagement as important as the big ways. This makes it important to show people the ways to get involved. Learning to get registered to vote, understanding Robert's Rules of Order, knowing when public meeting occur, and hearing about the different ways to be involved is something that all community members, specifically students, should be taught.

When students are taught how to get involved in school settings they are far more likely to be engaged in their communities after graduation. As a student, there are several ways to get involved in concerns within the Southern Tioga School District. Students can impact the school community by joining clubs. For example, Student Council primarily works to establish a strong sense of community in the school and focus on school spirit. Student Council also focuses on identifying the concerns that students have and presenting the concerns to the administration.

Students participating in Student Council are able to bring concerns and ideas to the meetings, allowing members to take an active role in changing the school environment. Our high school has several other groups that work to impact the school community, but several of the groups are done through invitation only. North Penn-Mansfield High School has a Student Leadership Council, SPIRIT Team, and Student Empowerment Group. These small groups meet directly with the school administration to identify problems and solutions in the school community. For example, our school recently had concerns with the hall pass system, so the Student Leadership Council helped identify a solution to the problem, and our school now uses an online pass system. The Student Leadership Council and Student Empowerment Group are groups that were established by the administration as invitation-only groups. Having selective groups encourages students to be involved in our community because an involved student is more likely to be selected than a student that does not participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular activities.

Not only are there activities in the school that directly impact the school, students can use the school district to engage in the school community in a more public and formal manner. Several organizations have leadership positions. For example, most clubs have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. This teaches students about campaigning, leadership, and voting which is important to civic engagement outside of school. In my experience, I have learned about what information is important to a campaign speech, and I learned the

importance of acting professional in meetings. Moreover, students can get involved at school board meetings. I am currently working with another student to influence the decision our district has made on the plans for graduation. We have learned more about civic engagement by researching venue options, emailing school board members and administrators, meeting with our school principal, organizing a petition, and speaking at school board meetings. Having this experience helps prepare us to remain engaged in our local communities and our college community. I have learned skills that will apply to my life outside of school, allowing me to take an active role in my community because I will be more comfortable in similar situations. Our school's extracurricular opportunities and additional school related opportunities prepare students to be engaged citizens.

There are big and small ways to be involved in my community, but for these methods to be effective, students must be taught about the different ways to get involved. People are more likely to be engaged in something that they are comfortable with, and comfort often comes from experience or background knowledge. When we teach people about the smaller ways to get involved, the big ways to get involved are not as intimidating. Students should learn about civic engagement through classroom lessons and extracurricular activities. If students are used to being routinely involved in civic engagement in school, there will be an easier transition into community engagement. Communities need citizens that are passionate about issues, people that understand the ways to be involved, and there need to be more people willing to take steps toward being the solution, so we should start by encouraging students to be engaged.

Thank you to all of the schools that participated in the essay contest this year!

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Nebeyou Abebe is the senior vice president of social determinants of health for Highmark Health. He brings nearly 20 years of experience leading social determinants of health, population health, and employee health and well-being initiatives for public and private sector organizations. In his role at Highmark Health, he leads a team that spans across the enterprise and forges close ties with the communities in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and New York, uncovering non-clinical opportunities to improve the health and well-being of people the organization serves.

Leigh Balcom

Business & Planning Manager | M&T Bank

Leigh Balcom started his M&T career in February of 2008 in Business Banking with duties related to website support, marketing, communications and sales support. In 2012, he became a Branch Manager at the Main Delavan branch and joined Enterprise Security and Financial Crimes in late 2014. In Financial Crimes, Leigh manages the bank's Financial Crimes Check Deposit and Wire / ACH Fraud teams. He also works on cases, procedures and training. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Charlie Batch

Founder, Best of Batch Foundation and Former NFL Quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers & the Detroit Lions

Mr. Charlie Batch is a former NFL quarterback turned tech entrepreneur, media personality/color analyst, community advocate and professional speaker.

His NFL career spanned 15 years and two Super Bowl victories. In retirement, Mr. Batch continues to be a respected strategist in the NFL, providing game-day commentary for Steelers broadcasts and several national media outlets. He also serves as Senior Captain for The Trust Powered by the NFLPA, an initiative that Mr. Batch helped negotiate in 2011 with NFL team owners. Additionally, he helps former players achieve their dreams after football as a Transition Consultant for the NFLPA.

At the same time, Mr. Batch is a professional speaker who takes his motivational messages about teamwork and entrepreneurialism to corporate and nonprofit audiences across the country. His speeches include "Expect Your Best" and "From Sweat Suit to Business Suit: It's Never Too Early to Plan Your Next Success."

Mr. Batch is an entrepreneur whose company, Impellia, brings state-of-the-art sports medicine and rehabilitation technologies to everyone. As Co-Founder, Mr. Batch and his partners have brought to market tech innovations from the University of Michigan, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Colorado, among others.

His interest in sports medicine extends to research as well. Mr. Batch is a Player Advisor on the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University. Additionally, he serves as an Advisory Council Member for the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute.

Since 1999, his Best of the Batch Foundation has worked to create communities where all kids and families are equipped with the tools they need to build their own best futures. In addition to his own foundation, Mr. Batch serves on multiple boards. They include the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

Jennifer Blatz

Coordinator | Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance

Jennifer Blatz is coordinating the efforts of the Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance, a grassroots coalition of 20 non-profits in Allegheny County who are striving to align digital equity efforts in the region. She currently serves as Manager of Senior Programming and Advocacy at the Persad Center and does Partnerships and Business Development for Computer Reach. During her career, she has led organizing drives and political campaigns, and has extensive experience in volunteer and program management. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging, and Metowers Senior Apartments of Avalon. Jen earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration from Boston University.

Mike Boyd

Executive Director | Municipal Benefits Services

Mike is the Executive Director for Municipal Benefits Services. Mike is responsible for assisting the MBS Board of Directors with the overall operations of the Trust including strategy development and execution, risk management, financial oversight, program design and compliance, vendor management, and overseeing the Trust's staff.

Mike has over 30 years of experience in employee benefits management and consulting field which included serving as a regional practice leader for one of the largest employee benefit consulting and brokerage firms in the world and the benefits manager for a major national electric utility company.

John Brenner

Executive Director | Pennsylvania Municipal League

John S. Brenner currently serves as Executive Director Designate of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association that serves Pennsylvania's cities and urban municipalities. His role at the League includes coordinating the Business Leaders Network to promote the exchange of ideas between corporate leaders and the leaders of the Commonwealth's communities. Mr. Brenner is a member of the PACE Resources Board of Directors. Elected the youngest mayor of the City of York on November 6, 2001, he was sworn in as the 23rd Mayor on January 7, 2002. Prior to that, he served as the City Controller for two years.



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Speakers

He completed his second term as mayor on January 4, 2010. Mr. Brenner served as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, a statewide nonprofit group charged with educating elected officials and the public about fire and life safety issues, prior to becoming Mayor. Involved in the community, Mr. Brenner is an Eagle Scout, the highest award in scouting; is a founding member of the York Young Professionals. He served as a firefighter and executive officer of the Lincolnway Volunteer Fire Company. He served as a Second Class Petty Officer in the United States Naval Reserve. He served as an Executive Board Member of the York-Adams Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, on the Board of Directors of the York County Chapter of the American Red Cross, as well as the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. He served on the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Board, and was the League President in 2005. Mr. Brenner also served on the Community Board of Directors of York County Economic Development Corporation, Board Chairman of Regional Economic Development District Initiative, Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust Board, Prevailing Wage Appeals Board, and served on the Board of the National League of Cities. In his spare time has taught swimming lessons to people of all ages. Previously, Mr. Brenner was a staff assistant to the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief of Staff to a state senator. He is past president of Northeastern Jaycees. He was named as a 2003 Outstanding Young Pennsylvanian by the Pennsylvania Jaycees, and "40 under 40" by the Central Penn Business Journal. He also received the 2005 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, and in 2006, the York County Chamber of Commerce Local Elected Official of the Year award. Mr. Brenner holds a Master Degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Political Science from Lebanon Valley College. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at York College. In December 2008, Mr. Brenner received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from York College of Pennsylvania. He is a native of Mt. Wolf, and a graduate of Northeastern High School. He, his wife Adrienne, their son Sam and daughter Tipton, reside in the City of York..

Senator Jay Costa

Senate Minority Leader

State Senator Jay Costa represents portions of the City of Pittsburgh, East Hills communities, areas of the Mon Valley and South Hills (43rd District).

As a lifelong resident of Allegheny County, Sen. Costa was born and raised in Pittsburgh and now lives with his wife Roxanne in Forest Hills. He has three children – two sons and one daughter. He is the son of the late Allegheny County Treasurer Jay Costa Sr. A graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School, Community College of Allegheny County, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and holds a Juris Doctorate from Duquesne University.

Before his election to the Senate, Sen. Costa was a deputy sheriff in Allegheny County and Allegheny County Register of Wills. He is currently a Principal in the downtown Pittsburgh law firm Dickie McCamey & Chilcote P.C.

Sen. Costa was elected Senate Democratic leader in 2010. Previously, he served as Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations and Judiciary Committees and was Caucus chair. He now chairs the Rules & Executive Nominations Committee and co-chairs the General Assembly's Arts and Culture Caucus.

Sen. Costa's legislative record of accomplishment is long and features signature laws in the areas of education, family law, judicial reform, public safety, job creation and health care. Early in his career, Sen. Costa prime sponsored the plan (FAIRx) to leverage rebates to lower drug costs for seniors – a concept later signed into law by Gov. Ed Rendell. He was a strong supporter of expanding the nationally-recognized CHIP program and Medicaid. He also authored legislation to direct cooperative agreements between insurers and providers as a means to resolve the Highmark/UPMC coverage dispute.

Over the course of his legislative career, Sen. Costa has been a strong, effective promoter of education. From seeking additional funding for K-12 education, higher education and pre-school he is recognized as one of the General Assembly's leaders for education. In addition to accessing more funding for schools, he sought new state-of-the-art technologies for the classroom, in addition to sponsoring far-reaching property tax relief proposals.

Beyond his legislative work, Sen. Costa serves on board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and is treasurer of the Community College of Allegheny County board. He also is on the boards of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Sen. John Heinz History Center, 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, CLO, Forest Hills Community Development Corporation and a lifetime trustee of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Timothy DeFoor

Pennsylvania Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 52nd Auditor General on January 19, 2021.

Tim started his career in public service as a Special Investigator with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Inspector General, where he investigated government and contractor fraud, waste, and abuse within state government. Tim then went on to become a Special Agent with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, investigating Medicaid fraud and illegal prescription drug diversion. Later he became a Fraud Investigator and Internal Auditor for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – Health Plan and various federal contractors.

In 2015, Tim was elected as Dauphin County Controller, where he quickly earned a reputation as a fiscal watchdog and trusted leader, saving and recovering more than a million taxpayer dollars during his first term in office. He has also worked to create Dauphin County's first Audit Division, and prepared the first Dauphin County Retirement Fund Report.

To protect taxpayers, Tim also changed how Dauphin County reported its finances to a comprehensive, detailed and transparent financial report. His efforts earned his office Dauphin County's first ever award for financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

With more than 25 years of combined experience in law enforcement and auditing, in both public service and private industries, Tim is uniquely qualified to serve Pennsylvania citizens.



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Speakers

Growing up in Harrisburg, Tim has always been committed to giving back to the community he loves. Tim currently serves on and is the former Chair of the Harrisburg Area Community College Foundation Board of Directors, State YMCA of Pennsylvania Board of Directors, and the Chris ""Handles"" Franklin Foundation Board of Directors. Tim is also a member of the Greater Harrisburg Area NAACP and the Pennsylvania State Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #78.

Tim is also very passionate about financial literacy being taught to adults, teachers and Pennsylvania students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Tim has an Associate's of Arts degree in Para-Legal Studies from Harrisburg Area Community College, a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Sociology/History from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master's of Science degree in Project Management from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

Mayor Ed Gainey

City of Pittsburgh

Mayor Ed Gainey grew up in East Liberty and saw firsthand the economic hardships many families face in our city. Raised by a single mother, he counted on the support of his extended family and community to build a pathway to high school and college. Inspired to do the same for others, Ed Gainey discovered in college that an effective government can be a powerful tool to fight injustice and uplift communities. As a State Representative in Harrisburg he was on the front line fighting for working families, and as Mayor of Pittsburgh he'll work everyday to make Pittsburgh a city where all can belong and contribute. Ed and his wife Michelle have three children and live in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

Patrick Harvey, Esq.

Attorney | Campbell Durrant, P.C.

Patrick J. Harvey is a shareholder with the Philadelphia office of Campbell Durrant, P.C. Mr. Harvey practices in the areas of labor and employment, municipal law/school law, public sector pension and benefits law, disability and discrimination law, administrative law and appellate law. Mr. Harvey is a graduate of Villanova University, B.A. Communications 1982, Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1985. Mr. Harvey was admitted to practice in Pennsylvania in 1985 and admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Harvey is a member of the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia County Bar Associations, Philadelphia County Labor and Employment Relations Association.

Josh Hinkle

President & CEO | Splashwire

Josh Hinkle is President and CEO of Splashwire, a technology consulting and solutions company headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa. Under his leadership, Splashwire is fulfilling on its vision to be the preferred service-driven technology solutions company in the Mid-Atlantic region by partnering with organizations to provide their employees and customers with an unparalleled technology experience.

John Jablowski, Jr.

Council Member & PSATC 2nd Vice President | Wilkes-Barre Township

John J. Jablowski, Jr. is a highly experienced government, organizational management, and public finance professional who has held both elective office and public appointments in Pennsylvania. He has also served on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University/Wilkes-Barre teaching a variety of Government and Political Science courses. His core competencies are in community visioning and planning, public finance and grant management, local government partnerships, and managing media relations.

Mr. Jablowski is the Senior Vice President of Collaborative Partnerships serving as the National Innovation Executive for the Alliance for Innovation Transforming Local Government. As part of the Executive Team, Mr. Jablowski directs the organization's efforts in bringing innovative collaborative partnerships to transform how local governments provide services. He spearheads their annual conference, Transforming Local Government, which promotes creating thriving communities and enhancing quality of life.

Mr. Jablowski was President of Eagle Valley Group, a public consulting firm specializing in local government advocacy, economic development, and issue campaign marketing. He serves as Manager of Tobyhanna Township and Executive Director of the Tobyhanna Township Economic Development Authority where he directs operations for a Pocono Region government with a combined municipal budget of \$8.9 million and home to the \$350 Million Pocono Springs Entertainment Village, the largest experiential destination project in North America creating over 1200 full time and 2000 construction jobs.

Early in his career, Mr. Jablowski was a district director for the Majority Policy Chairman of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. At 25, he was elected as Mayor of Ashley, Pennsylvania, and was a Congressional Assistant for Paul Kanjorski, (PA-11). His background in public finance stems from the positions he held as Senior Public Finance Executive for several major regional financial institutions, in which he cumulatively managed over \$2 billion in community development financing and investment management of funds for local governments in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Jablowski has been active with the Government Relations committee of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, has served as advisory board member of the Pennsylvania Economy League, a graduate of Leadership Lackawanna and is a member of the leadership team of the Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners.

Mr. Jablowski has taught American Government, International Political Systems, Regional Cultural Geography, and American Political Campaigns & Elections at the Pennsylvania State/Wilkes-Barre. He has participated as a guest presenter and featured panelist in a variety of forums including Governing Magazine, ESU Economic Outlook Summit. And Mr. Jablowski was nationally recognized with the Robert J. O'Neil Local Government Leadership Award.

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Speakers

Keith Jack

Director of Facilities Operations | Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Keith Jack is the Director of Facilities Operations at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and is also the Chairperson of the Commission's Sustainability Committee. His duties include overseeing the day-to-day operations of the facilities department. Jack has been employed by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission for more than 20 years. He also served as a Seabee with the U.S. Navy. In 2014 he has named the Engineer of the year by the Pennsylvania Facilities Managers Association. He also served as the Adjutant of American Legion Post 329.

Mark Kopko

Director | Office of Transportation Technology, PennDOT

Mark Kopko is the PennDOT's Director of Transformational Technology. His duties include managing all activities related to emerging technology including the deployment of connected infrastructure, development of policies and standards, and the authorization of automated vehicle testers, platooning operations, and personal delivery devices. He is the co-chair of the AASHTO CAV Working Group, was the past chair of the Smart Belt Coalition, co-chairs the Eastern Transportation Coalition's CAV Leadership Team, sits on the UL4600 Standards Technical Panel, and represents Pennsylvania on numerous national working groups/committees. In addition, he also leads the deployment of the Pennsylvania Safety Transportation and Research Track (PennSTART), oversees smart city initiatives, manages multiple university-led initiatives, and supports activities related to UAS, hyperloop, broadband, mileage based user fees, and electric vehicles.

Madeline Lewis

Police Officer | Lower Merion Township

Madeline Lewis is a patrol officer with the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County, PA. During her tenure, she has been assigned to the Department's Patrol Division, Auxiliary Services Unit, Investigations Unit, and Staff and Inspections Unit.

She has served as agency Accreditation Manager since 2016. As Accreditation Manager her tasks include overseeing both state accreditation (PLEAC) and CALEA accreditation programs, updating policies to ensure compliance with standards changes and best practices, and the development and implementation of required trainings. In addition to accreditation Ofc. Lewis acts as the Department's grant writer/coordinator, is a certified physical fitness instructor, and is a member of the Department's Hostage Negotiations Team. She holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from the University of Valley Forge and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

John P. McLaughlin, Esq.

Attorney | Campbell Durrant, P.C.

John P. McLaughlin has been representing employers in the private and public sector since 1989. In addition to providing daily labor and employment advice to employers, John represents employers in negotiations, grievance and interest arbitration, charges of unfair labor practices and union elections before the National and Pennsylvania Labor Relations Boards. He also defends employers in federal and state court and before administrative agencies involving claims of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Mr. McLaughlin routinely serves as the employer-appointed arbitrator in interest arbitrations under Act 111 and Act 195 and the arbitration of discipline and discharge cases involving uniformed and non-uniformed employees. A specific focus of John's practice is conducting investigations of alleged workplace discrimination, harassment, wrong doing by employees on or off duty, misbehavior by elected or appointed officials and misconduct by police officers or other uniformed employees. John also regularly advises employers in pension and labor matters. He has represented public employers in litigation involving significant pension and labor matters and has drafted legislation and testified before the Pennsylvania legislature regarding those issues. On a day-to-day basis, Mr. McLaughlin counsels employers regarding labor matters under the Pennsylvania and federal law, Heart and Lung Act litigation and disability and pension issues involving police, fire and non-uniformed employee.

John is a frequent speaker for a variety of municipal organization, including the Pennsylvania Municipal League ("PML"), Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors ("PSATS"), the Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA"), the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioner ("PSATC"), and the Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Managers ("APMM") and a variety of other organizations. John P. McLaughlin has published articles in various publications, including the Pennsylvania Township News, University of Pennsylvania Journal of Labor and Employment, The Municipal Reporter, Borough News, Public Management, the Municipal Lawyer, the Ohio Cities and Villages Reporter, and the Municipal Law Newsletter. He also has been interviewed, quoted or consulted on various topics by National Public Radio, the Bond Buyer, Newsday, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Times-Tribune (Northeastern Pennsylvania), the Borough News, and the Township News.

After graduating from the Villanova University School of Law in 1987 (magna cum laude and Order of the Coif), John served as a law clerk for two federal judges in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Joseph L. McGlynn, Jr. and the Honorable Jay C. Waldman. He is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court, Pennsylvania and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Richard Miller, Esq.

Attorney | Campbell Durrant, P.C.

Richard D. Miller is a shareholder with the Pittsburgh law firm of Campbell Durrant, P.C. Mr. Miller practices exclusively as a management-side labor and employment attorney, representing both public and private sector employers. Mr. Miller represents clients in virtually every aspect of the employer/employee relationship including labor-management relations, collective bargaining negotiations, labor arbitrations, personnel and human resource consultations, claims of discrimination and other general employment matters.

A composite background image showing a large steel truss bridge spanning a body of water. Overlaid on this are images of hands using a calculator, holding a pen over documents with charts, and holding a smartphone. The text 'Bridging the gap between financial processes and municipal goals' is written in a white, italicized serif font across the center.

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financial processes and
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A large, dark blue outline of the state of Pennsylvania, serving as a background for the text.

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Speakers

Betsy Kramer

Revitalization Coordinator | SEDA-COG

Betsy came to SEDA-COG March of 2017 with a strong entrepreneur background. For 12 years, Betsy had a very successful business where she was a motivational speaker, professional organizer, and author; and was recognized by Bucknell University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) as a success story in 2007 and featured at the 13th Annual Small Business State Expo in Harrisburg, PA. Betsy's business "Cash in Clutter" has been featured in newspapers, magazines, Sirius Satellite Radio, and a feature segment on the CBS Early Show. In addition, Betsy was a weekly contributor for NBC/WBRE's PA Live! television program from 2014-2017. Prior to starting her business, she conducted customer service and professional performance evaluations and audits as an independent contractor. Her background also includes being a Marketing Coordinator and Account Executive. In addition to the aforementioned, Betsy has strong volunteer experience, including holding the offices of Vice President for 7 years, Treasurer for 4 years, and Program Coordinator for 4 years. Betsy attended Messiah College and Kings College with a focus on Music and Business.

Betsy was hired at SEDA-COG from March 2017 through June 2019 as a Program Assistant for Economic Development. In July 2019 she accepted the position of Revitalization Coordinator, with her primary focus being the City of Shamokin. Betsy's goal is to serve as the facilitator to guide and focus the myriad of organizations (including the staff of SEDA-COG) who are committed to social and economic revitalization in the Shamokin Area. Betsy has led with the Shamokin Area Implementation Plan for Revitalization process from RFP and contract management to implementation of programs and projects focused on strategic development and revitalization for the Shamokin Area; she facilitates communication and collaboration with city volunteer organizations, non-profits, elected officials, the business community, and investors achieving a unified mission to coordinate revitalization efforts.

Toni Murphy

Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing | Comcast Central Division

"On January 10, 2021, Toni Murphy made Comcast history as the first African American female appointed to Top Regional Executive. In her new role as Senior Vice President of the Keystone Region, Toni is responsible for the organization's operational, strategic, and financial performance across 4 states (Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and Maryland)—a \$4B business segment for Comcast. Based in Pittsburgh, she leads an incredible team of 2,500 sales, marketing and operations professionals who delight consumers with our residential and business data, phone, television, home automation / surveillance products and services.

In addition to these core responsibilities, Toni leads the Keystone Region Diversity & Inclusion Council and serves as the Executive Sponsor for the Northeast Division Veteran's Network Employee Resource Group (VetNet ERG). For both organizations, she is implementing strategies to hire, retain and develop the next generation of diverse leaders within Comcast. Toni has been an executive with the Keystone Region for 7 years. Most recently, Toni has served as the Vice President of Sales & Marketing, where she led customer acquisition, growth, and retention for 2+ million residential customers. Prior to this role, Toni was the Vice President of Comcast Business, and she joined the Keystone Region in 2015 as the VP of Project Management Office and Customer Experience."

Jerry Ozog

Executive Director | Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute

Jerry is a professional advocate, educator, communicator, and program manager dedicated to administrative and operational excellence in emergency services. He is an innovative leader responsible for coordinating efforts to improve and sustain Pennsylvania's emergency services organizations. He is passionate about teaching, research, analysis, and breaking down problems so better decisions can be made in crisis and routine situations. Jerry has developed several innovative educational programs and courses designed to improve relationships between local governments and emergency services organizations and administrative effectiveness. Jerry has lead teams and provided consultation, facilitation services and strategic advice to emergency services organizations and local governments.

Jerry has been serving in the volunteer and career emergency service sectors for the past 35 years. He is an active Volunteer Firefighter for the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company and formally served as a Chief Officer and line officer for 16 years. He is a member of the Command and General Staff for the South-Central Task Force All Hazards Incident Management Team and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Incident Management Team. Jerry currently serves full time as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute, a statewide advocacy and education organization. He previously served as an Education Specialist for a national provider of emergency services insurance, a Director for a Community College Public Safety Training Center, Executive Director for a Regional EMS Council and Paramedic Coordinator for a Community Hospital. Jerry is also an Adjunct Instructor in the Integrated Emergency Management Program at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and National Fire Academy.

Jerry is a graduate of the prestigious Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy and the Master Exercise Practitioner Program at the Emergency Management Institute. He is a nationally certified Firefighter 2, Fire Officer 4, Fire Instructor 2 and Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic. Jerry has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. In 2004, Jerry graduated from Leadership Harrisburg Area, which is a community leadership-training program. In 2012, Jerry was awarded the Platinum Award for Servant Leadership from Leadership Harrisburg Area. In 2020 Jerry became credentialed as a Certified Association Executive from the American Society of Association Executives. Jerry was awarded the Perry Albert Distinguished Service Award by the Capital Region Council of Governments for the vision for regional collaboration that resulted in a 2.2-million-dollar Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention SAFER grant that will be shared by 21 VFCs

Alka Patel, JD, MBA

Vice President, Government & External Affairs | Comcast Keystone Region

Alka Patel, JD, MBA, currently serves as Vice President of Government and External Affairs for Comcast in the Keystone Region focusing on advancing digital equity, having accrued over 20 years of experience working at the intersection of technology, business, and law, across private, academic, and government sectors. Prior to Comcast, Patel was employed as the inaugural Chief of Responsible AI for the

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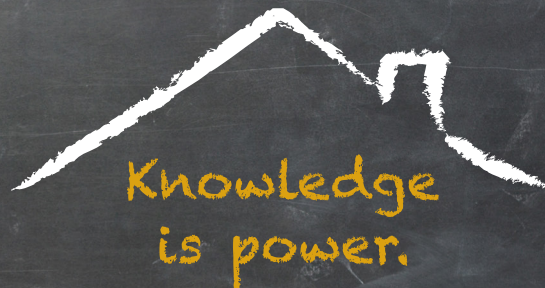
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Speakers

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (and across the federal government) where she led strategic creation, development, and implementation of an enterprise-wide Responsible AI program, providing key leadership and support to drive AI innovation, and advancing national and foreign policy for Responsible AI in defense. Previously, Patel was the inaugural Executive Director of the Digital Transformation and Innovation Center at Carnegie Mellon University, sponsored by multinational professional services provider, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Patel was directly responsible for the operational start-up of this exciting private industry-meets-academia initiative, as well as managing research projects in the field of artificial intelligence, data analytics, and cybersecurity/privacy. In addition to her current role at Comcast, Patel's previous private sector roles include Managing Director and Senior Counsel for The Bank of New York Mellon as well as Senior Intellectual Property Counsel while in private practice. Patel has also been applauded for her social conscience and professional contributions, serving on numerous non-profit boards advocating for gender and racial diversity.

Patel holds a Juris Doctorate and Masters in Business Administration from Duquesne University, and a Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

Christian Peck

Principal | AT&T/First Net

Christian Peck serves as First Net Principal Consultant for the AT&T First Net team throughout southwest PA. Christian has worked with public safety teams and their wireless needs for over a decade and serves as primary liaison for customers. Christian holds a BA from Penn State.

Venus Ricks

Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | Office of Advocacy and Reform, Governor Tom Wolf's Office

Venus L. Ricks is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from Susquehanna University and a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her work is focused on leadership through the lens of civic responsibility, equity, inclusion and trauma informed practice. She uses a socialization to liberation model in creating equitable spaces for minoritized bodies to thrive. Her experience crosses several sectors—higher education, workforce development, psychological research, and the nonprofit sector—working with groups and individuals in being more inclusive in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

Sarah SanGiovanni

Program Manager | Sustainable Pittsburgh

Sarah SanGiovanni joined Sustainable Pittsburgh in 2020 to manage workplace performance programs and education. In addition to her role as Program Manager at Sustainable Pittsburgh, Sarah is a fifth-year PhD Candidate in Clark University's Graduate School of Geography. Her dissertation research examines the extent to and means by which neighborhood governance initiatives shape sustainable development in the Pittsburgh region, with a particular focus on ecodistricts.

In her neighborhood, Sarah enjoys community gardening and serving as a board member for the Millvale Community Library.

Josh Shapiro

Attorney General

Throughout his career as a public servant, Josh Shapiro has taken on the status quo, brought people together to solve tough problems, and delivered results for the people of Pennsylvania. Since 2017, he has served as the People's Attorney General, working every day to stand up to powerful institutions and protect Pennsylvanians' rights. Now, Josh is running to be Pennsylvania's next Governor — to move our Commonwealth forward and tackle our biggest challenges.

Josh grew up in Pennsylvania, watching his parents serve their community — his father was a pediatrician, and his mother was an educator. Their example inspired Josh to enter into public service, and from a young age, Josh recognized that standing up for others was how he wanted to spend his career.

That's why, after graduating from the University of Rochester, Josh began working in government while putting himself through law school at night.

After marrying his high-school sweetheart Lori and welcoming their first child, Josh returned to his hometown and successfully ran for State Representative. As Representative, Josh helped write and pass some of the toughest ethics laws in state history. His work earned him a reputation as a rare public servant willing to take on the status quo — “a blast of oxygen in the smoke-choked back rooms of quid-pro-quo Harrisburg.”

Then, as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania's third-largest, Josh led a fiscal and ethical turnaround. Before he took office, Montgomery County had a \$10 million budget deficit and an underfunded pension for county employees. Josh put the county back on solid financial footing, took early steps to combat the heroin epidemic, helped the first LGBT couples in Pennsylvania marry, and fired Wall Street money managers to save taxpayers and retirees millions.

In 2016, Josh successfully ran to be Pennsylvania's Attorney General. As AG, he has restored integrity to an office badly in need of reform and taken on big fights for the people. He has proven to Pennsylvanians he can bring people together to solve tough problems, and is unafraid to enforce the law without fear or favor.

Josh exposed the Catholic Church's decades-long cover up of child sexual abuse, identifying 301 predator priests and thousands of victims — and spurring investigations across the United States. He forced an agreement between two of the Commonwealth's largest insurance companies, protecting health care access for 2 million Pennsylvanians, and he has repeatedly gone to court to defend Pennsylvanians' reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose.

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Decarbonization

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Ethics

foster a culture of trust, adhere to ethical standards, and handle data with care

Governance

apply state-of-the-art systems for effective and responsible business conduct

Resource efficiency

achieve circularity and dematerialization

Equity

foster diversity, inclusion, and community development to create a sense of belonging

Employability

enable our people to stay resilient and relevant in a permanently changing environment

A clear framework for sustainability

Sustainability is an integral part of our business – it is part of our DNA. We are taking our ESG commitment to the next level with our DEGREE framework. It constitutes a 360-degree approach for all stakeholders – our customers, our suppliers, our investors, our people, the societies we serve, and our planet. In addressing the three aspects of ESG, we are building a better future that helps us stay within the planetary boundaries, helps us foster a culture of trust, empowerment, and growth, supports inclusive economic opportunities, and ensures that our people and businesses remain resilient and relevant for whatever the future holds.

The DEGREE framework is based on six fields of action that drive sustainability and are dynamic and continuously evolving. We have set clear priorities and ambitions for key ESG issues, which we are driving within our own operations and together with our customers and suppliers. The DEGREE framework applies to all Siemens-affiliated companies excluding Siemens Healthineers (SHS). The sustainability concept of SHS follows the same basic principles, which reflects our expectations as majority shareholder.

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Speakers

He has held more than 90 public officials, Republicans and Democrats alike, accountable for breaking the law. Working with law enforcement partners at the local, state, and federal level, he's arrested thousands of mid- and high-level drug dealers while getting thousands of illegal guns off our streets.

During the 2020 presidential election, Josh protected the right to vote and defended Pennsylvania's election result, winning in court dozens of times before and after Election Day. He continues to call out the dangerous lies that undermine our democracy and provide steady, strong, and competent leadership to protect voting rights in Pennsylvania.

In January 2021, Josh was sworn in for his second term as Attorney General, and he continues to stand up for Pennsylvanians, take on big fights, and deliver real results.

Josh is fighting the opioid epidemic head on. He's arrested more than 6,000 drug dealers while investigating and suing pharmaceutical companies and the CEOs who knowingly perpetuated the crisis to line their own pockets. He's standing up for everyday consumers, seniors who've been scammed, and students preyed upon by private lenders by returning over \$116 million to Pennsylvanians who have been ripped off. He is leading on criminal justice reform, bringing activists and law enforcement together to launch a new statewide police misconduct database, taking on employers who steal from Pennsylvania workers.

Josh Shapiro knows Pennsylvanians need a Governor who will take on the biggest fights and solve our most pressing problems. As long as Josh is serving our Commonwealth, he will continue to defend Pennsylvanians and deliver results.

Josh and Lori live in Montgomery County with their three school age sons, and their eldest daughter attends the University of Pittsburgh.

Ashley Shiwarski

Director of Business Development | NLC Service Line Warranty Program / HomeServe

Ashley is a graduate of Robert Morris University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics with a concentration in Secondary Education. Her diverse background includes customer service, financial sales, insurance and education. Prior to joining USP, Ashley was a Licensed Medicare Sales Agent with Aetna, where she helped establish the Medicare Supplement Inside Sales Department and was also chosen to lead a retention project in Dallas, Texas.

Ashley was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and loves taking in all the city has to offer. Outside of work, Ashley enjoys spending time with her family and friends, who she believes are her life's greatest treasures. She is a Six Sigma Yellow Belt and keeps busy by playing softball, biking around the city and volunteering with the Pittsburgh Chapter of Best Buddies.

Matthew Shortall

Senior Business Development Manager | Constellation Energy

Mr. Shortall joined Constellation as a Senior Business Development Manager in 2008. Mr. Shortall has extensive experience working with Pennsylvania communities and customers across the Mid-Atlantic to manage energy costs and procurement. Additionally, Mr. Shortall also helps customers utilize renewable energy and energy solutions to meet sustainability goals.

Mayor Danene Sorace

League President & City of Lancaster

Danene Sorace was elected to serve as the City of Lancaster's 43rd Mayor in 2018, the second woman to hold this post. Before serving as Mayor, Danene served on City Council, chairing the finance committee. Her first taste of local government came while serving as executive director for an environmental organization that was actively partnering with the City of Lancaster to launch the City's first-ever green infrastructure plan.

Danene brings more than twenty years of non-profit and philanthropy experience to the role of Mayor. She has a proven record of developing and implementing strategies to advance shared goals among public/private partners. Now in her second term as Mayor, she has set forth a vision to build a stronger, more equitable Lancaster, block by block. The City of Lancaster, under her leadership, is laser-focused on four strategic priorities: strong neighborhoods, safe places, sustainable economy, and sound government.

Danene spent her early years in Lancaster County and later moved to Juniata County, where she graduated high school. She graduated from Albright College and received her Master's in Public Policy from Rutgers University.

John Spagnola

Managing Director | PFM Asset Management

John is a managing director based in the Philadelphia office. His responsibilities include providing investment advisory services to Public, Non-Profit Endowment and Foundation, and Taft-Hartley fund clients. He serves on the Multi-Asset Class Investment Committee and oversees the multi-asset class discretionary and non-discretionary practices.

In 1983, John began his career in the financial services industry working for the First Boston Corporation in New York and Philadelphia. In 1992, he co-founded Spagnola-Cosack, Inc., an independent investment consulting firm focusing on public sector pension funds. Over a 10-year period, assets under advisement grew to more than \$3.5 billion, leading to PFM Asset Management's acquisition of Spagnola-Cosack, Inc., in 2003.

A graduate of Yale University, John played professional football in the NFL for 11 seasons, including nine with the Philadelphia Eagles and one year each with the Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks. He also served as a player representative and executive vice president of the NFL Players Association.

John taught courses on managing public funds for the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. He serves on the Board of Directors of Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, the Buckley Institute at Yale University and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of

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Commerce. He also serves on the Advisory Committee of St. Rose of Lima Parish in West Philadelphia and the Investment Committee of the Jefferson Health System in Philadelphia. John was inducted into the Eagle Scout Hall of Fame by the Cradle of Liberty Council of Philadelphia.

Amy Sturges

Deputy Executive Director - Advocacy | Pennsylvania Municipal League

this year, Amy marked 23 years with the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League). She currently holds the position of Director of Governmental Affairs. In this capacity, she represents the interests of municipal government before the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Administration. Amy is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Widener University School of Law.

Neva L. Stotler, Esq.

Neva Stotler Law

Attorney Neva Stotler has decades of experience assisting public and private sector employers navigate the challenges that come with having people work for you. She serves as municipal solicitor, special counsel, and provides adjunct human resource support, for small and mid-sized public and private employers, in a wide range of areas including, all aspects of personnel management, human resources, and land use and zoning.

Neva is the SMART Coordinator for the new PM L program, Statewide Municipal Administrative Resource Team, in place to assist Pennsylvania municipalities in addressing key position vacancies with short term solutions and long-term plans. The SMART program endeavors to cultivate untapped human resources within municipal government, encourage succession planning, and support administrative gaps resulting from retirements, separations, and transitions with a highly experienced team of professionals.

Jesse Suders

Manager of Community & Economic Development | Dawood Engineering

Mr. Suders is an economic development and community planner with diverse experience, ranging from strategic community planning to developing technology solutions and emergency operations. His specialty is in the integration of spatial data and planning methods with a focus on stakeholder input and regional geographic composition. Mr. Suders provides planning support for clients in the government and private sectors. Project support includes land use planning, technical report writing, stakeholder engagement, comprehensive planning, analyzing data using complex GIS programs, reviewing environmental regulations, and project implementation. "

Mayor Matthew Tuerk

City of Allentown

Mayor Tuerk was born in East Stroudsburg in 1975. He spent his first nine years under the watchful eye of his Pop-Pop and Mimi (an immigrant from Cuba) while his parents dedicated themselves to their education. In 1984, the family moved to Boulder, Colorado, where his parents continued their studies. Daily life in a progressive college town taught him the value of equity and diversity. Mayor Tuerk's brilliant "second mom", Nana Kathleen, reinforced that message, saying "value your whole self, be grateful for your blessings, and there is no difference in people simply because of color; racism is a human-generated distinction, cruel and wrong.

The Mayor's education after high school started in Philadelphia, where DIY punk rock and liberal arts education set the foundation for discovering the value of community and trusting people to develop ingenious solutions to the challenges that they face. Love and curiosity pushed him around the world over the next ten years, including stints in Bellingham, WA; Charleston, SC; Havana, Cuba; Columbia, SC; Managua, Nicaragua.

In South Carolina with his now-wife, Karen, he pursued his love of global commerce by completing his Bachelor of Science in International Business at the College of Charleston before earning an MBA at the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina.

Mayor Tuerk had always wanted to return to his Eastern Pennsylvania roots, so in 2004, he and Karen moved to Allentown because they were attracted to the energy and diversity of the city. After taking time off to care for their two daughters, Karen became a lecturer in Environmental Science at Muhlenberg College in 2011. They have two daughters, Amelia and Margot.

In 2008, Mayor Tuerk took a position with the Allentown Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) where he learned the power of building coalitions to solve problems. He helped to establish the Urban Manufacturing Alliance, which is a national coalition of cities dedicated to strengthening their manufacturing economies. He also worked diligently to develop resources at the Bridgeworks Enterprise Center, helping AEDC earn a grant from the Economic Development Administration and a visit from the US Secretary of Commerce in 2012. Additionally, he cofounded the Lehigh Valley's first coworking space and first community-operated "hackerspace," where individuals with shared creative pursuits can meet and collaborate.

In 2013, he joined Don Cunningham to transform the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC). Starting as the Director of Research and Innovation, he led a data initiative to contextualize the region's economy for local stakeholders and national developers. As Vice President of Administration, he rebuilt LVEDC's internal systems and finances, and established a Salesforce platform for managing economic development projects.

After becoming LVEDC's Vice President of Economic Development in 2015, he led the group in attracting billions of dollars in economic growth in the Lehigh Valley and creating thousands of jobs for its residents. His success in this role led him to become the nationally known spokesperson for economic development in the Lehigh Valley. LVEDC was recognized as a Top 20 Economic Development Organization by Site Selection magazine in 2019, and then again in 2020.

In 2020, Matt stepped down from his position at LVEDC to run for Mayor. He hopes to bring his fresh ideas and experience to the city, build coalitions, and serve all of Allentown's residents with a government that reflects the city's incredible diversity.



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Speakers

In his spare time, Mayor Tuerk is a lover of languages and a runner of marathons. He speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and has spent the past three years learning Chinese. His next challenge is Arabic. He began running marathons in 2013 and has completed the distance 18 times, including New York and Chicago. He has run in the Boston Marathon twice, and his personal best of 3:06 in Chicago makes him eligible for the 2021 Boston Marathon.

Commissioner Sam Valenza

PSATC President | Upper Moreland Township

Sam Valenza was born in Abington Hospital in 1956 and is a 61 year resident of UM Township. Over the years, Sam has crossed paths with almost everyone in Upper Moreland Township through his involvement in UM Little League, Soccer, Football or WG Rotary. In 2007, Sam was elected to serve his community as a Commissioner in Ward 6 of Upper Moreland Township. Sam was elected President in 2010 and has been the Chairperson of the Finance and Administrative Committee since 2008. He continues to serve his constituents in the following ways:

President of the Montgomery County Association of Township Commissioners (MCATC) which is a group of peers that represent all Montgomery County 1st Class Townships. President of Eastern State Association of Township Commissioners (ESATC) which is a group of peers that represent all Montgomery County and Delaware County 1st Class Townships. Sam also served on the Executive Board the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) as their Secretary/Treasurer.

Rick Vilello

Deputy Secretary, Community Affairs & Development | DCED

Rick first joined the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in March of 2015 as the Executive Director of the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. He was appointed as Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs and Development in February 2017. As Deputy Secretary, Rick oversees the work of the entire deputation including: The Governor's Center for Local Government Services; The Center for Community Enhancement; The Center for Community and Housing Development; and The Center for Community Services.

Before coming to DCED, Rick served four terms as Mayor of Lock Haven and was previously President of the Pennsylvania Municipal League.

Senator Kim Ward **will no longer be speaking*

Senate Majority Leader

Senator Kim Ward currently serves as the Senate Majority Leader for the Senate of Pennsylvania. She is the first woman in the history of the Pennsylvania Legislature to serve as Majority Leader in either the Pennsylvania House or Senate.

In 2008, Senator Ward won the Pennsylvania 39th Senatorial District seat and was the first woman ever elected to that seat. She was re-elected in 2012 & 2016, and most recently in 2020. During the 2019-2020 legislative session, she was appointed to the Majority Caucus Administrator position in the Senate. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served as a Westmoreland County Commissioner in 2008, and on the Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors from 2002-2007 where she was Chairwoman of the Board for the final three years.

Senator Ward's legislative accomplishments include laws reducing spending on state subsidized methadone treatment transportation; implementing the federal E-Verify program to ensure workers on publicly funded construction projects were legally permitted to work; and re-authorizing the emergency services grant program. She led the effort to enact legislation reforming Pennsylvania's child abuse laws and providing greater protections for children against abuse. Her Ready to Succeed legislation created one of the most successful higher education grant programs that helps middle-income families. Senator Ward helped to extend benefits to the families of campus police officers who die in the line of duty, championed efforts to ensure continued access to quality eye care for patients, and added more crime victim representation within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), so policy and funding priorities for crime victim assistance are being decided by a more diverse representation of Pennsylvanians affected by crime.

Most recently, Senator Ward has had several of bills she introduced to address the COVID-19 pandemic pass the General Assembly. Signed into law was her legislation requiring the Pennsylvania Department of Health to share the location of COVID-19 positive cases with emergency responders so they can better protect themselves and their communities. Senator Ward's amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution, prohibiting the Governor from extending an emergency declaration beyond 21 days without legislative approval, received the first of two legislative approvals needed before it can be placed on the ballot at the next election. The amendment, if approved by voters, will restore equity among of the three branches of state government – executive, legislative and judicial – during times of emergency.

She is a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Hempfield Township, the Italian Sons and Daughters of America and the NRA. Senator Kim Ward is a native southwestern Pennsylvania resident who grew up in Meadowlands, Washington County. She attended The Community College of Allegheny County Respiratory Therapy program, the University of Pittsburgh, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Before entering politics, Kim worked as a Board-Certified Respiratory Therapist at Allegheny General Hospital, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Hershey Medical Center.

She and her husband, Dr. Thomas Ward, have three sons, Tom, Michael, and Matthew and three beautiful grandchildren, Josie Jane, Thomas and Roman.

Judge Wrenna Watson

Judge Wrenna Watson's roots run deep in Allegheny County. Her father, the Honorable J. Warren Watson, was one of the first African American judges and was elected in 1965. Ms. Watson was born in Homewood before moving to the Hill District. After graduating from

Speakers

Howard University in Washington, D.C., Wrenna Watson worked in various industries before becoming a probation officer. As a PO, she came face-to-face with both the highs and lows of the justice system, seeing the inequalities empowered her to go to law school and make a difference.

"I was destined to be a public servant. What drives me is knowing that I have the ability to make a difference in the lives of others," says Watson. "I will never forget the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. I was driven through my neighborhood in the Hill District by my dad, looking at all the businesses that had been ravaged by riots. It was in that moment that he told me I was intelligent, and someday it will be my responsibility to help people and uplift our community."

Watson has represented thousands of children, families, business owners, and community members who needed sound counsel. Representing them in Court and assisting with myriad legal matters, Watson has fulfilled the passion and purpose her father instilled in her by serving people in her community every single day. She continues to demonstrate equal justice for all in her courtrooms and has a reputation of being fair and treating everyone with respect.

Governor Tom Wolf

Before he was governor, Tom was the owner of the Wolf Organization, a distributor of lumber and other building products. Tom bought this family business and grew the company — eventually more than quintupling the business in size. He did this with smart leadership and by treating his employees fairly, even sharing the company's profits with workers.

Since he took office in 2015, Tom has fought to change Harrisburg. On day one, his first actions as governor were signing a gift ban prohibiting administration employees from accepting gifts from lobbyists and reforming legal contracting to end pay to play. Tom also donates his entire salary to charity and refuses a state pension.

When Tom took office, he inherited an education system that had been cut by one billion dollars that led to teacher layoffs, cuts to programs like pre-k and tutoring, and larger class sizes. Tom made our children and our future his top priority. He has invested 1.8 billion dollars in education, leading to improved graduation rates and more children in pre-k.

By expanding Medicaid, Tom provided quality, affordable health care to 720,000 Pennsylvanians. He has also given more than 50,000 seniors the opportunity to age in their homes and made Pennsylvania a national leader in fighting the opioid and heroin epidemic by expanding treatment options and ensuring law enforcement and first responders have the resources they need.

Tom is working to grow our economy by making it easier for small businesses to start and expanding career and technical education opportunities. He is fighting to make sure wages keep up with the cost of living, focusing on skills training for kids who do not go to college, helping small businesses, and rebuilding Pennsylvania's infrastructure.

Tom grew up in a small south central Pennsylvania town in York County and still lives in the house he was brought home to from the hospital.

Tom left York County to attend college at Dartmouth, but he interrupted his studies to join the Peace Corps and served two years in a small village in India before returning to finish his undergraduate degree. He later earned graduate degrees from the University of London and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While finishing his PhD, Tom worked as a forklift operator and warehouse worker in the family business, the Wolf Organization, a distributor of lumber and other building products based in York, Pennsylvania. After graduating, his first full-time job was running a Tru-Value hardware store in Manchester, Pennsylvania. He later went on to buy his family business.

Tom's leadership philosophy is an extension of his lifelong investment in community development. In addition to serving on and leading the boards of numerous organizations dedicated to education, health, welfare, economic development, culture, and the arts, Tom has rolled up his sleeves to help build a Little League baseball field in his community, volunteered in soup kitchens, and painted a local school. Tom and Frances, his wife of over 40 years, still live in York County and have two grown daughters, Sarah and Katie.

In 1985, Tom and his cousins took a risk by securing a loan to buy the family business. Over the course of 25 years, they grew the Wolf Organization into a successful business — eventually more than quintupling the business in size.

In 2006, Tom sold the business and took the job of secretary of revenue in Governor Ed Rendell's cabinet, where he instituted reforms that grew and strengthened the state lottery and laid the foundation for millions of dollars in additional benefits for Pennsylvania seniors.

In early 2009, in the depths of the recession, Tom returned to the Wolf Organization — the family company he had spent more than two decades building and growing — when it was on the brink of bankruptcy. Tom immediately ended his 2010 gubernatorial campaign, bought back the business, and got to work reinventing the company.

Through innovation and smart investments, Tom was able to turn the company around. He changed the Wolf Organization's business model, transforming it from solely a supplier of other businesses' products into a company that sources its own American-made cabinets and competes directly with overseas manufacturers. Tom also made stronger investments in his employees because he knew that it was their work that truly made the Wolf Organization successful. So at a time when many businesses were cutting benefits, Tom continued to provide his employees comprehensive health and retirement benefits and continued returning 20 to 30 percent of the company's profits back to workers.

On January 20, 2015, Tom was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 47th governor. Since taking office, Tom has taken a number of steps to make Pennsylvania a better place and is fighting for Pennsylvanians in Harrisburg every day."

Summit Code of Conduct

The Pennsylvania Municipal League holds professional summits and meetings to enable its members to receive continuing education, build professional networks, and discover new products and services for professional use. To provide all participants – members and other attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, staff and volunteers – the opportunity to benefit from the event, The League is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone. All participants are required to comply with the following code of conduct. Organizers will enforce this code throughout the event. We expect cooperation from all participants to help ensure a safe environment for everybody.

The Summit is dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), or technology choices. We do not tolerate harassment, deliberate intimidation, stalking, or sustained disruption of participants, talks or other events in any form. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate for any Summit venue, including talks, workshops, parties, Twitter, Facebook and other online media. Summit participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the Summit without a refund at the discretion of the organizers.

Participants asked to stop harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

If you are being harassed, notice someone that is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the Summit staff immediately. Summit staff can be identified by their lanyards and/or badges.

Summit staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the Summit. We value your attendance.

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Best wishes for a great 2022 conference!