

Problems and Issues ascertained by WFRM are addressed daily and weekly through a series of local newscasts, public service announcements, editorials and special public affairs programs. These include the following:

AG RADIO NETWORK FARM NEWS: 6:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday

AG RADIO NETWORK CONSUMER NEWS: 12:06 p.m., Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m., Saturday

LOCAL NEWS: 7:28, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., Monday through Friday

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Included in Daily Local Newscasts

LINCOLN RADIO JOURNAL: 9:00 a.m., Sunday

RADIO PA ROUNDTABLE: 9:30 a.m., Sunday

LEGISLATIVE REPORT with STATE REP. MARTIN CAUSER: 10 a.m., Sunday

**LIST OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS and ISSUES**  
**July 01 to September 30, 2023**

**1. ECONOMIC:**

- a. Local retail base is dying or being replaced by corporate chain stores
- b. Lack of good paying jobs, especially for new graduates, outmigration
- c. Lack of job opportunities in general, except for a few select industries

On the plus side...while drilling for natural gas has slowed measurably, new efforts are being focused on tourism, including promotion of the PA Wilds, PA Route 6 Corridor, and Dark Skies at Cherry Springs state park. Most recently the PA DCNR reached an agreement with 3 local families to create a 4-season recreation destination at the long-dormant Denton Hill state park. Meanwhile, the local hospital, a carbon manufacturer, a telemarketing firm and regional cable company continue to contribute with new job opportunities and positions. County government has also signed-on in strong support of numerous revitalization efforts in area communities.

**2. TAXES:**

- a. Excessive property taxes due to ever-increasing school budgets
- b. Large amounts of state land removed from the tax base

On the plus side...county commissioners have formed a growing regional coalition to lobby state legislators for increased payment-in-lieu of taxes for the large amounts of state land which is tax-exempt and puts additional pressure on local property owners. Their efforts have paid off, in part, with an increase in the PILT, although funding of school budgets remains a challenge for local property owners, especially with declining student enrollment, combined with ever-increasing school staffs.

**3. SOCIAL:**

- a. Drug and alcohol abuse and its negative consequences on society, most notably the opioid abuse crisis that continues unabated.
- b. Lack of recreation and opportunities for young people
- c. Local organizations struggle with lack of volunteers and members

On the plus side...county commissioners and the local judicial board have created award winning programs to address and provide treatment and early-intervention for drug and alcohol offenders, for men and for women who have entered the justice system. Local law enforcement officials and drug and alcohol specialists continue to hold a series of meetings to inform and educate the public on the opioid epidemic afflicting the region.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL:

- a: Concerns that fracking and related gas & oil industry activities may pollute the ground water supply, as will the run-off from out-dated rural roads and infrastructure.

On the plus side...several local conservation groups have formed and are working together to monitor water sources for changes, pollution and water quality countywide, creating a data base for municipalities, local users and developers.

#### 5. GOVERNMENT:

- a: Zoning and planning for development while maintaining rural roots

On the plus side...county commissioners have been fiscally responsible in maintaining and improving services by utilizing available technology, creative solutions to problems through outreach and inter-agency cooperation and streamlining local government operations, all with a minimal increase in taxes.

#### 6. HUMAN SERVICES:

- a: Many low income and elderly citizens continue to lag behind
- b. Lack of affordable housing for incoming residents and job-seekers

On the plus side...county commissioners have worked to develop and advance services for veterans, transportation options have improved and senior centers are thriving with activities for the elderly. Housing remains an issue with low-inventory and excessive rental rates, making it difficult for those needing long-term accommodations.

#### 7. HEALTH and SAFETY:

- a: West Nile virus, Lyme disease prevalent across rural north central PA.
- b: Poor roads and bridges always a concern for motorists

On the plus side...several area hospitals and clinics provide a wide variety of health-care services. Health insurance has become more available and affordable as a result of the ACA. PennDot infrastructure spending has increased, and with federal and state grants, more roads and bridges are being repaired or replaced.

#### 8. EDUCATION:

- a: State and federal mandates stretch and burden school district budgets and staff

On the plus side...the local education council in conjunction with area technical schools and universities provide a wide array of educational and learning opportunities, credits and degrees for students from high school through adult. The local hospital is also the site of an intern program for medical students, in cooperation with a regional university.



## **Radio Pennsylvania Network Roundtable Public Affairs Issues/Clearance Report Third Quarter 2023**

### **July 1, 2023**

#### **Segment 1 Topic: Traffic Safety/Public Safety**

Guests: Col. Christopher Paris, Commissioner, Pennsylvania State Police; Dr. Robin Engel, Senior Vice President, National Policing Institute

#### **Segment 2 Topic: Elder care**

Guests: Lisa Durkin, Chief Operating Officer, United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA; Governor Josh Shapiro

#### **Segment 3 Topic: Transportation**

Guests: Lt. Governor Austin Davis; Senator Jim Brewster (D-Allegheny/Westmoreland); Michael Carroll, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Transportation.

### **July 8, 2023**

#### **Segment 1 Topic: Property Tax**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro

#### **Segment 2 Topic: Click It or Ticket/Traffic Safety**

Guests: Karen Leonovich, Director of Policy and Programs, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging; JR Reed, Director, Lehigh County Office of Aging; Tim Arthun, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services, PA Department of Banking & Securities

#### **Segment 3 Topic: Agriculture**

Guests: Russell Redding, Secretary of Agriculture, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Governor Josh Shapiro

### July 15, 2023

#### **Segment 1 Topic: Women's Health**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro; Senator Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland); Senate President Pro Tempore; Rep. Joanna McClinton (D-Delaware/Philadelphia), House Majority Leader.

#### **Segment 2 Topic: Expanded Broadband Access**

Guests: Marty Qually, Adams County Commissioner; Jacob Liebenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, US Treasury Department

#### **Segment 3 Topic: Work Zone Awareness/Highway Safety**

Guests: Mark Compton, CEO, Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority; Cheryl-Moon-Sirianni, Executive Secretary, PA Department of Transportation; Major Robert Krol, Director, Bureau of Patrol, Pennsylvania State Police

### July 22, 2023

#### **Segment 1 Topic: Opioid Addiction/Public Safety**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro; Dr. Latika Jones-Davis, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs; Quetcy Lozada, Philadelphia City Council (District 7)

#### **Segment 2 Topic: Property Taxes**

Guests: Lt. Governor Austin Davis; Representative Peter Schewyer (D-Lehigh); Pat Browne, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Revenue

#### **Segment 3 Topic: Financial/Elder Abuse/Banking Scams**

Guests: Karen Leonovich, Director of Policy and Programs, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging; JR Reed, Director Lehigh County Office of Aging; Tim Arthun, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services, PA Department of Banking and Securities

### July 29, 2023

#### **Segment 1 Topic: Small Business**

Guests: Lt. Governor Austin Davis

#### **Segment 2 Topic: Child Safety/Child Abuse**

Guests: Maryann McEvoy, Commonwealth Child Advocate; Bree Hood, Youth Advocate; Duane Price, Youth Advocate; Dr. Debra Bogen, Acting Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Segment 3 Topic: Agriculture**

Guest: Russell Redding, Secretary, PA Department of Agriculture; Governor Josh Shapiro

**August 5, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: State Budget/Property Taxes**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 2 Topic: Politics**

Guests: Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster), House Republican Leader; Rep. Tim O'Neal (R-Washington), House Republican Whip

**Segment 3 Topic: Financial Education**

Guests: Timothy DeFoor, Auditor General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Kerry Woodward, Executive Director, Philadelphia Financial Scholars

**August 12, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Property Tax/Renters Relief**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 2 Topic: Voter Access**

Guests: Representative Christopher Quinn (R-Delaware); John Updike, President, Open Primaries; Representative Craig Staats (R-Berks)

**Segment 3 Topic: Elder Financial Abuse**

Guests: Robert Torres, PA Secretary of Aging; Lt. Adam Reed, PA State Police

**August 19, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Politics**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro; Senator Nikil Saval (D-Philadelphia)

**Segment 2 Topic: Mental Health Awareness**

Guests: Nick Miller, Student, Hempfield Area High School, Greensburg; Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 3 Topic: Public Safety/Gun Violence**

Guests: Senator Steve Santarsieo (D-Bucks); Michelle Henry, Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**August 26, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Education**

Guests: Katona Miller, STEMM Program Supervisor, Scranton High School

**Segment 2 Topic: Senior Citizen Health**

Guests: Lisa Durkin, Chief Operating Officer, United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA; Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 3 Topic: Agriculture/Produce Month**

Guests: Russell Redding, Secretary, PA Department of Agriculture; Ashley Fehr, Bureau of Market and Business Development, PA Department of Agriculture

**September 2, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Mental Health Awareness**

Guests: Kristen Houser, Deputy Secretary, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, PA Department of Human Services; Dr. Denise Johnson, Physician General, PA Department of Health

**Segment 2 Topic: Veteran Services**

Guests: Maj. General Mark Schindler, PA Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

**Segment 3 Topic: Environmental Education**

Guests: Bert Myers, Director, Environmental Education Specialist Program Supervisor, DEP

**September 9, 2023**

**Topic 1: Politics/Budget/Public Funding**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 2 Topic: Child Abuse**

Guests: Maryann McEvoy, Commonwealth Child Advocate; Bree Hood, Youth Advocate

**Segment 3 Topic: Agriculture**

Guests: Russell Redding, Secretary, PA Department of Agriculture

**September 16, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Abortion/Mother Safety**

Guests: Sara Goulet, Special Advisor, PA Department of Human Services

**Segment 2 Topic: Clean Energy**

Guests: Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, US Department of Energy

**Segment 3 Topic: Medicaid/Health Care**

Guests: Dr. Val Arkoosh, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Human Services; Mike Humphries, PA Department of Insurance

**September 23, 2023**

**Segment 1 Topic: Education/Budgets**

Guests: Dr. Tamara Sanders Woods, Principal, Colifax K-9, Pittsburgh; Congresswoman Summer Lee (D-12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District); Mayor Ed Gainey, Pittsburgh; Governor Josh Shapiro

**Segment 2 Topic: Education/Teacher Shortages**

Guests: Dr. Tanya Garcia, Deputy Secretary, Post-Secondary and Higher Education, PA Department of Education; Laura Boyce, Executive Director, Teach Plus

**Segment 3 Topic: Jobs**

Guests: Governor Josh Shapiro



## **Lincoln Radio Journal**

### **2023 Q3 Program Notes for Public File**

(September 30, 2023 - October 6, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association in joined by **Rebecca Oyler** of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and by **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation for a *Capitol Watch* look at threats to our energy supply; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on how everyone in Harrisburg wants to legislate - except legislators.

(September 23, 2023 - September 29, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with Pennsylvania House Republican Leader **Bryan Cutler** about what must happen to get the House back to conducting business; **Joe Geiger** has **Gordon May** of Concern 4 Kids in the *Community Benefit Spotlight*; And, **Emily Greene** has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on customizing health care.

(September 16, 2023 - September 22, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation have a *Capitol Watch* discussion on Pennsylvania's energy potential; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on a two-faced approach to public education funding.

(September 9, 2023 - September 15, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Nathan Benefield** of the Commonwealth Foundation about their new report *Back to School: Public Education Trends*; **Frank Gamrat** and **Eric Montarti** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* analysis of the 2022-23 fiscal year state budget; And, **Emily Greene** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on the need to protect our free speech rights.

(September 2, 2023 - September 8, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association and **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association have a *Capitol Watch* look at issues affecting the trucking industry; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on why the long House legislative recess is a dereliction of duty.

(August 26, 2023 - September 1, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Greg Wrightstone** from the CO2 Coalition about the real impact of climate change on weather-related events; And, **Emily Greene** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on the importance of economic issues in the upcoming Presidential election.

(August 19, 2023 - August 25, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** hosts a *Capitol Watch* look at the unfinished state budget with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on why Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are no longer shining cities on a hill.

(August 12, 2023 - August 18, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Guy Ciarrocchi** of the Commonwealth Foundation for an update on the status of the Lifeline Scholarship Program; **Eric Montarti** and **Scott Cross** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* on Corporate Net Income tax collections; And, **Emily Greene** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on why gas prices are rising.

(August 5, 2023 - August 11, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** hosts a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation the Yellow Freight bankruptcy and the latest on the state budget stand-off; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on why we still need AM radio.

(July 29, 2023 - August 4, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with Dr. **Mark W. Hendrickson** from the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College for a dose of climate change reality; **Joe Geiger** has **Ameesh Vakharia** of USAA in the *Community Benefit Spotlight* with Part two of a two-part interview on a new program to cut the rate of suicide among veterans; And, **Emily Greene** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on a threat to the "gig" economy.

(July 22, 2023 - July 28, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation have a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion on the state budget stalemate with House Republican

Appropriations Chairman **Seth Grove** (R-York); And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on how the Left changes the rules.

(July 15, 2023 - July 21, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Chris Nicholas** of Eagle Consulting about his new podcast series *Taking a Stroll Through the Annals of Pennsylvania Political Corruption*; **Frank Gamrat** and **Eric Montarti** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* on the ripple effect of a \$15 per hour minimum wage; And, **Emily Greene** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on "Bidenomics."

(July 8, 2023 - July 14, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association is joined by **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation for a *Capitol Watch* look at the latest developments in the state budget battle; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on education issues dominating the Summer of 2023.

(July 1, 2023 - July 7, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with State Representative **Eric Nelson** (R-Westmoreland) about his proposal that funds students, not universities; **Joe Geiger** has part one of a two-part *Community Benefit Spotlight* with **Ameesh Vakharia** of USAA about their new project to reduce the suicide rate among veterans; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on resolving the nation's illegal immigration crisis.