

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

■ Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
 ■ Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.

■ Letters may be edited for space considerations.
 ■ The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor.

■ All letters become the property of The Leader and cannot be returned to sender.

Mail: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE LEADER PO BOX 1017 CORNING, NY 14830
Fax: 607-936-9939
Email: sdupree@the-leader.com

Online at www.the-leader.com/opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Concert Band a local treasure

TO THE EDITOR | My son and I attended the Corning Area Community Concert Band's 40th anniversary concert last Sunday at CMOG. It was outstanding! They performed something for everyone. A touch of symphony, a bit of rock, a little jazz, a couple of soothing vocal numbers. The players come from all walks of life - a retired state trooper, a CCC faculty member, a factory worker, retired teachers, etc. Lee Waterman, former president of Corning Glass Works, played in the Band. Six of the Band members have been in the Band since its beginning. The first conductor, William Peller, started the Band, with Kiwanis Club support, to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial. The Community Concert Band is one of the City of Corning's treasures. Let's support it.

Lee Baldwin
 Corning

Minimum wage hike will hurt

TO THE EDITOR | A high minimum wage is now a state and national issue. Too many of us don't believe in the free market. Minimum wage is socialism. Socialism promises the most and delivers the least. A low minimum wage causes less harm. With a high minimum wage, as in socialist economies of all times, the most vital part of the economy will be the gray and black-market part. The best-qualified workers will have the jobs. Millions of Americans who are less qualified because of lower intelligence, less education, disabilities or age, except for the few who find work in poorly-funded government-subsidized make-work programs, will not be working or will be working in the gray-market part of the economy,

shoulder to shoulder with the illegal-immigrant slaves, the numbers of which will largely increase. Meanwhile, the politicians who actually serve the interests of the well-to-do segment - which profits the most from the illegals - will continue to mislead and be misled with "border-security" talk.

James C. Streeter
 Westfield, Pa.

Get involved in town affairs

TO THE EDITOR | The need for your involvement is very important. I have been told by two council members "we are just part-time positions". You are not "part-time" positions. The residents of this town are expecting you to go the distance as needed, as you promised when you asked for our vote. I believe each Council member should be a liaison for a specific subject matter example, Water Districts, Code Enforcement, etc. It is now clear that the council intends to over-ride the tax cap with the 2016 budget. One reason why we are overriding the tax cap is that we are once again planning on providing benefits to our part-time Workers. In the Town of Corning you can work 18 hours per week and receive full benefits. On the other hand, Council member Stuart Sammis bragged about defunding the vital part-time assistant to our Town Clerk while giving a 2 percent raise to remaining employees at the approximate cost of \$31,000. Is this good business management?

I encourage all of you to come to our Town Council meetings the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please do enlighten yourselves and watch your vote work for you!

Beth Prentice
 Corning

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING....

We've received several comments this week on our Facebook page.

Here are a few:

■ A Good Samaritan donates several bags of food to The Leader's Thanksgiving food drive. "What a great considerate person!!! May you be blessed."
 - **Theresa Hogan.**

■ A woman falls prey to a fake IRS phone scam. "Had 6 of these calls recently and simply hung up knowing the irs does not make phone calls

threatening law suits."
 - **Christine Coyle.**

■ "My mom got these and scared her. I listened to messages and I knew it was a scam. If you listen closely, they say 'Internal Revenue Services' NOT Internal Revenue Service."
 - **Bonnie Sue Smith**

■ "They call every hour of they day and night. They did my cell for 3 days straight. I think they finally gave up it has been quiet for 2 days..."
 - **Rebecca Campbell**

POLITICS | SEN. TOM O'MARA

Bottom-line debate always about jobs



TOM O'MARA

Our debates throughout the coming months and into the new year will run the full gamut of issues that have been critical to the future of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions for a long time. From the future of public education to fair funding for upstate transportation, and from environmental conservation to property taxes, unfunded state mandates and overregulation, these debates have and will continue to dominate the agenda.

At least I believe they should. Because when we get right down to the fundamental challenge, each of these individual debates keeps circling around the key challenge that's always facing the Southern Tier, the one that stubbornly just won't dissipate: the need for jobs. Good jobs that last and that will allow a generation of families to live and work here with at least some decent sense of long-term security.

Whether it's a new contract for the Alstom employees in Hornell, the gradual closure of the Kraft plant in Campbell, or the soon-to-be-determined fate of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council's blueprint for the region's future, we always seem to get back to the fundamental challenge of jobs in the Southern Tier. How do we create jobs? And how do we protect the jobs we have?

American Action Forum which, utilizing what the center calls credible models including one developed by the Congressional Budget Office (one of the economists is a former director of the CBO), unveiled some sit-up-straight-in-your-chair findings, especially if they're viewed within the context of Southern Tier jobs.

According to the Empire Center summary, "The key finding: a \$15 minimum wage ultimately would cost the state at least 200,000 jobs, with proportionately larger employment decreases in upstate regions (emphasis mine)." That's what the economists call the "low-impact scenario." Their study also delivers "medium impact" (432,200 lost jobs) and "high impact" scenarios (588,000 job losses).

None of this can be taken lightly in the Southern Tier. In fact, the report, "Higher Pay, Fewer Jobs," singles out job loss numbers for the Southern Tier under a \$15 per hour minimum wage. On the low end, they estimate 7,000 job losses (2.6 percent). On the high end, it's a staggering 18,800 lost jobs (6.9 percent).

The reports further breaks down the impact of both a \$12 and a \$15 minimum wage, anticipating, I assume, some compromise on the horizon. While the job loss impact would be lessened under a \$12 minimum wage, it would still be

daunting in an economically struggling region like the Southern Tier. After all, we already how difficult it is to attract new employers. We're facing that tough test at this very moment in Steuben County with the closing of the Kraft facility. We already know that New York is one of the toughest places in America to open and operate a small business. Or in the words of Unshackle Upstate, "this new wage mandate will only make the state's business climate more toxic."

From the Empire Center, "Based on national labor force data, the authors of this paper estimate less than 7 percent of the wages generated by a \$15 wage, and less than 6 percent of the wages generated by a \$12 wage, would actually go to households in poverty."

Moving toward January and the next legislative session -- as the volume keeps getting turned up on the "\$15 an hour" minimum wage campaign, the other, legitimate side of the story deserves to be fully aired too.

As I said, the threat of more job losses in the Southern Tier cannot be taken lightly. No region knows that better than we do.

State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 53rd Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.

ANOTHER VIEW



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

VIEWPOINT | THOMAS R. MAYO

When politics trumps truth, reason

The greatly anticipated appearance of former Secretary of State and former NY Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton before the House Select committee on Benghazi has finally occurred and once again politics rules over truth and reason.

I, as equally as possible, split my viewing time among MSNBC, Fox and C-Span. What I observed and heard was simply amazing.

A further example that in American politics, party is everything. Ms. Clinton proved herself to be a serial liar if the

lie benefits the Democratic Party. Ms. Clinton emailed her daughter Chelsea (who used the pseudonym Diane Reynolds) shortly, within three hours of the attack, that the attacks were "undertaken by a 'Al-Qaeda' like group and were attacks". No mention of a "film"

as a causative. Then she called the Egyptian prime minister and advised him of the "Al-Qaeda" like attack. Now why did she lie? Simple. Look at the verbage from President Obama who had made a public statement that

SEE REASON, A5



The Leader (ISSN #10501983)
 The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830
 by Liberty Group Corning Holdings, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817.
 USPS code | 0586-160
 Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830

Advertising
 Heather Falkey | Ad Director
 936-4651, Ext. 388

Classifieds 936-4651, Ext 651
 Retail 936-4651, Ext 653

Postal rates

Steuben County	
One month	\$33.50
Three months	\$100.50
Six months	\$201.00
One year	\$402.00
ELSEWHERE IN USA	
One month	\$43.00
Three months	\$129.00
Six months	\$258.00
One year	\$516.00

Home delivery subscriptions reflect basic subscription rates before additional charges. Due to the added value of special editions there will be an additional charge for each special edition which will accelerate the expiration of your subscription. There will be no more than 12 special editions per year.

Publisher
 Rick Emanuel | Group Publisher
 936-4651, Ext. 303

Editorial
 Stella DuPree | Managing Editor
 936-4651, Ext. 361
 sdupree@the-leader.com

Circulation
 Corinne Mulligan
 Customer Service/ Sales Manager
 936-4651, Ext. 328