

Lancaster General Health conceals date of Annual Public Meeting

The following e-mail was sent from *NewsLanc* publisher Robert Field to John Lines, Director of Communications at Lancaster General Health. Despite being the third request for the information, no response was forthcoming. LGH does not permit the public or media to attend any meetings other than the federally mandated annual meeting. Few know when the annual meeting is held.

Date: 8/29/2010

To: J. P. Lines, Director of Public Relations and Communications, Lancaster General Hospital

From: Robert Field, NewsLanc.com

Copy: Tom Beeman, President

John:

I have asked you via e-mail twice within the past month whether a day and time has been set for the Lancaster General Hospital annual meeting which is to be open to the public.

I have received no response.

If I do not receive a response this time, I will print a story that you refuse to provide NewsLanc with the information.

Kind wishes.

Robert

It is *NewsLanc*'s understanding that LGH is also unresponsive to the Lancaster Newspapers.

Preventing deaths from drug overdoses

The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union's video on Naloxone prescription shows the best way to fight opiate overdoses.

The video focuses on a pragmatic harm reduction tool that can prevent lethal overdoses: Naloxone

distribution. If access is available to this medicine for injecting drug users and they are trained how to use it on others suffering from over dosing, a significant proportion of otherwise non-preventable deaths can be avoided.

Public Pension Crisis Looms for Taxpayers

From the **PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT**:

...The state pension systems are nearing a major breaking point, which will require a significant increase in taxpayer funding by 2012 in order to keep up with rising pension liabilities. According to projections provided by the Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, the average household payment for [Public School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) and the State Employee Retirement System (SERS)] will jump from \$212 in 2010 to more than \$1,500 by 2013.

The pension problem is really two problems, said Knepp. There is the immediate need for cash to pay the \$3.8 billion unfunded liabilities for SERS, and the nearly \$15 billion in unfunded liabilities for PSERS. The second problem is the system itself, which the Commonwealth may be unable to maintain because of the costs involved...

"The state employees and the teachers have been putting their fair share in every year and we have not. Shame on us that it hasn't occurred, we should have been doing this all along," said Rep Mario Scavello (R-Monroe)...

LETTER: 500,000 is the magic number for higher taxes

“When Lancaster’s population hits 500,000 and qualifies for a CLASS 2 rating from Harrisburg, many things will change. Just for starters, the formula for Assessment of property will change which means higher real estate taxes. The transfer tax which is now formulated from Harrisburg will change and guess what, Seller and Buyer now split 2%, but look out my friends: Berks County is 4%!!!”

LETTER: LancTalk.com has replaced TalkBack.com

“Although undoubtedly time consuming and vexing for the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., the re-introduction of LancasterOnLine’s ‘Talk Back’ is an important contribution to the community.” [From NewsLanc]

“This is about money!!! \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Money!!!”

“In the meantime, over at LancTalk.com they have worked very hard and set up a wonderful replacement forum...”

“LNP did a very foolish thing by yanking the forum down suddenly because their moderators didn’t have a clue as to what is acceptable. Now they realize they’ve lost at least 10% of their traffic and thus \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ by taking it down...”

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL: Editorial “Biting the hand...”, pertaining to the Pennsylvania Academy of Music law suit to collect pledges, opines *“It may well be legal to sue donors, but the wisdom of doing so is highly questionable. Will other organizations come after people who, because they may have lost a job, could not finish their weekly or bi-weekly pledges?”*

More to the point, will the lawsuits undermine people’s willingness to give to non-profits for fear of being sued?”

WATCHDOG: According to “West’s Encyclopedia of American Law”, a pledge is *“A solemn binding promise to do, give, or refrain from doing something: signed a pledge never to reveal the secret; a pledge of money to a charity.”* In other words, it is not subject to withdrawal, any more

than agreeing to pay a mortgage on a house or a loan on a car is conditional...

What does the donor receive in exchange? Some like to see their names on things. Others demonstrate their generosity to their friends and acquaintances. Many give anonymously, deriving psychic satisfaction that they are responsible members of a community.

What about the organization to who funds have been promised? If they cannot count on the pledges being fulfilled, how can they move ahead? Furthermore, what bank would lend them money if pledges are subject to being withdrawn?

Perhaps the lesson here is that substantial pledges should be made by contract and, if the donor wishes to set certain conditions, they should be stated.

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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