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Is it time for the Library System to break up?

An *Intelligencer Journal New Era* article “**Library officials fret over funding**” reports:

“The Library System of Lancaster County is looking for new sources of funding.

“But two officials from Lancaster Public Library [LPL], centered at 125 N. Duke St., voiced concerns Wednesday that fundraising efforts by the system will tap resources that might otherwise give to the system’s member libraries.

“There is already confusion in the public’s mind over the breakdown between the system and individual libraries, LPL board treasurer Karen Haley Field said. If both entities begin soliciting funds in the name of library services, she said, the public will become even more confused — and funding opportunities could be lost...

She is rebutted at the end of the article:

“‘Will there be some angst? Absolutely,’ [System board member Terry Kauffman] said. ‘Will there be absolute unanimity? Probably not. But can we come to a consensus? I hope so. But at the end of the day, the system board will make the decision. There will be some happy people and some unhappy people.’”

The bureaucracy has ‘grown like Topsy’, in part because the majority of the libraries serve small populations and they remain somewhat antagonistic towards LNP. They use their one vote per library power to skew state funding in their direction, receiving from two to four times the per capita state funding as LNP.

Recently, when first suggesting that the System independently raise money for its use and to pass through to its members (despite the system consuming most of the county and some of the state funding), Kaufman and cohorts had promised they would not compete for the same sources as the libraries.

So what is among the first thing they do? They solicit LNP’s chief benefactor!

Kaufman and others need to read the contract among the libraries that created the System. Any library can withdraw from the System with a few months’ notice. Why should LPL stay in the System if their funding life line is to be cut off?

NewsLanc’s has long derided the very notion, unique to Lancaster County, of both a County System and autonomous libraries. Lancaster has given birth to a two-headed horse, pulling in opposite directions, thus standing still while consuming energy and funds.

Other communities usually have a countywide library system with individual libraries represented only by advisory boards, or they have autonomous libraries with a small “S” system paid by the libraries, often on a fee for service basis. Lancaster doesn’t need both.

It is a time for the county commissioners to stop playing Hamlet and decide which direction they want Lancaster to go. Either way is far better than the both that we have now.

Full disclosure: Karen Haley Field is the wife of NewsLanc’s publisher. His views are not necessarily hers- far from it.

Milton Hershey's Charity for Children Became GOP Slush Fund

THE NATION: ... What the charity also does, of late, is shovel money and favors to a coterie of prominent Pennsylvania Republicans. MHS's alleged wrong doing is pervasive and well documented, but thanks to the GOP's grip on power in the state—most crucially its iron lock on the attorney general's office—the charity has never been effectively called to account. With the first real possibility of the attorney general's office shifting to the Democrats since it became an elected position thirty-two years ago, all this may change come November...

By the fall of 2010, mounting questions and a probing *Philadelphia Inquirer* series pressured then—Attorney General Tom Corbett, now the state's Republican governor, to launch an investigation. Since then, the attorney general's office has confirmed only that an investigation is ongoing, without releasing any further information about its progress. "Normally, an investigation like this would never take that long," said Randall Roth, a charitable trust and legal ethics expert at the University of Hawaii, who has written extensively on a parallel case in Hawaii involving the Bishops Estate trust. "It's very surprising that it's taking longer than two years."...

Stop misleading State advertisements about voter ID law

SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE Editorial: ...As if to further prove that disenfranchising some legitimate voters is the purpose of the law, the administration has continued with an array of advertising advising people that they need a valid photo ID to vote Nov. 6.

Based on the injunction and the months of controversy surrounding the needless, politically inspired law, the state should advise people that their votes will count regardless of whether they produce a voter ID on Election Day.

So far, the voter ID debacle has cost taxpayers millions of dollars in furtherance of the false premise that the law would guard against vote fraud. The law itself is a fraud, and advertising as if it were still in force compounds it.

EDITOR: *Tom Corbett will do all he can to suppress voter turnout. We heard from a highly placed source that Tom Corbett is quaking in his boots (to put it politely) in fear of Democrat candidate Kathleen Kane being elected attorney general.*

LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS: The lead front page article "**Talking more than trash: Authority gives thousands to its neighbors**" asks:

"Should a public authority whose reason for being is to dispose of Lancaster County's trash also spend hundreds of thousands of dollars helping to build riverside trails and ballfields and contributing to fire companies and historical societies?..."

WATCHDOG: Three wags of the tail! There is room for disagreement as to whether the County Solid Waste Management Authority should be making grants of public money, but there is no question of the thoroughness and exceptional quality of the reporting. The main and related articles take up two full pages while remaining informative! This is what we call "Real Reporting."

The above items have been excerpted from www.NewsLanc.com.
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