

Voices

The Centre Region's Independent
Community Newspaper

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September 2005

BOARD OF EDITORS

managing editor
Suzan Erem
suzan@lastdraft.com

special feature editor
politics and economics
L. Reidar Jensen
politics@voicesweb.org

community & lifestyles
VACANT
community@voicesweb.org

university
Amber Fusiak
university@voicesweb.com

environment
Delia Guzman
environment@voicesweb.org

arts & entertainment
VACANT
arts@voicesweb.org

opinions & editorials
Benjamin Brewer
oped@voicesweb.org

calendar & webmaster
Obi Nwoke
onn101@psu.edu

ART & DESIGN STAFF
graphic designers/layout
Emily Rowlands
Nora Serotkin

CIRCULATION
Suzanne Weinstein and Roxanne Toto
circulation@voicesweb.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
advertising@voicesweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
president
ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT, JR.
artg@voicesweb.org

vice-president
MARY LEE KERR
mlkerr@verizon.net

treasurer
JOHN DALEY
john.a.daley@verizon.net

member-at-large
MIKE CASPER
mcc4@psu.edu

member-at-large
PAUL DURRENBERGER
pauldurren@verizon.net

Workers: The key to any progress

from the desk of Managing Editor
Suzan Erem

This September issue marks the end of my first year as volunteer managing editor of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. We're using it to honor work and respect workers. It started as a celebration of Labor Day, but it extends to so much more. Some of the hardest workers in our country are invisible; their work just isn't recognized or honored. We hope this issue of *Voices* we can all remember and thank the people who keep our community running.

In that vein, I'm taking the opportunity to recognize the workers who have pulled *Voices* together for the last year. Our volunteers – from undergraduate students who get the interviews to our hardworking editors, to our mentors, distribution brigade and others who take time from their full work days and families to donate a few hours a week to keeping *Voices* going and growing.

The September issue is always a particularly difficult one, since so many people are away, so I'd like to point out the hard work of L. Reidar Jensen, our Politics and Economics editor, who kept the stories

coming in while many of us were away.

I also want highlight some successes and challenges of my first year. It was a steep learning curve when it came to running a business, but thanks to our treasurer, the ongoing leadership of Art Goldschmidt and other supportive folks, we were able to put new systems in place to track income and expenses. This work helped get us on a better financial footing than we've been in years, (in other words, we're no longer in debt), but we aren't out of the woods yet. Only the continued support of our current advertisers is keeping us going, so please let them know you saw their ad in *Voices*. It matters!

Second, we have been able to improve our writing and reporting. Our community mentors have been key in helping our reporters find the best stories and the best way to tell those stories. If you're interested, we still have some sections that need mentors, and most people mentor by email.

Third, we went to a full color photo cover that we hope will catch the eye of passers-by and improve our readership numbers. Also on the aesthetic front, this is our first issue printed on standard tabloid paper. Printers tell me the whole industry went to this size a few years ago, but no one bothered to tell us, so we've been paying a premium for our larger page size. Now we can shop our print work around and make sure our advertisers and contributors are getting the most for their money.

We've also rebuilt our Web site to include an interactive calendar and free blogging space. Check it out at www.voicesweb.org.

Finally, we have organized community events to draw *Voices* supporters together for fun, music, good food and great conversation. We will continue to do so, and hope we see you at the next one!

Thank you again for your support of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. We are all volunteer and we are all heart – the heart of the Centre Region. We couldn't do it without the feedback, time and money you donate to this local, community effort.

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Voices encourages letters commenting on our news coverage and editorial policy. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced and a maximum of 250 words. Writers must include address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to reject those deemed beyond the limits of good taste. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication of all letters we receive. All letters become the property of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. Email to oped@voicesweb.org.

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MAILING ADDRESS:

Voices of Central Pennsylvania
103 E. Beaver Ave., Suite 11
State College, PA 16801

TELEPHONE:
(814) 234-1699

ON THE WEB:
editors@voicesweb.org
www.voicesweb.org

Submissions should be directed to the appropriate section editor.

Voices of Central Pennsylvania gratefully accepts contributions and bequests in support of its efforts.