

People in the News

Junior Achievement Volunteer Recognition Night at Fenway Park

Junior Achievement of North America honored 4 outstanding volunteers at the Boston Red Sox Game on September 8, 2014. Among them was Irene Raissis Alton, who has been the Junior Achievement Coordinator for the Clark-Wilkins Elementary School Program in Amherst for the past 5 years. Junior Achievement is grateful to Irene for her commitment to serving our region's youngest citizens.

The mission of Junior Achievement is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy by teaching skills in financial literacy, workforce readiness and entrepreneurship. All Junior Achievement programs are taught by community volunteers, and all programs are provided at no cost to schools.

Through its network of over 2,000 volunteers, Junior Achievement provided over 42,000 local students with a JA program this year in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Volunteers are the hallmark of Junior Achievement efforts, as they share their professional exper-



Emily Neill, president of Junior Achievement of Northern New England; Volunteers - Irene Raissis Alton, Keith Linhart, Marisa Gianino and Steve Powell

tise with students, and transform lessons into relevant messages that connect what is learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

Local Businessman Receives CLTC Designation

Amherst, NH, September 17, 2014 – Randy Lowenberg of Northwestern Mutual has been recognized as a financial professional with an expertise in long-term care insurance by achieving the Certified in Long-Term Care (CLTC) designation.

With the CLTC designation, Lowenberg has received one of the most extensive educations available for financial professionals in the field of long-term care insurance. Graduates of the CLTC designation program from the Corporation for Long-Term Care Certification, Inc. have completed a multidisciplinary curriculum with a detailed concentration on essential information involved in the sale of long-term care insurance. The program, acknowledged by state regulators as an appropriate continuing education means, is a valuable resource for financial professionals desiring to remain up-to-date on industry trends.

As a Financial Representative with the Northwestern Mutual, Lowenberg is part of a network of specialists offering a wide array of insurance, investment products

and services. He is associated with The Christensen Financial Group of Manchester, NH. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint John's University and a Master's of Science in Management Information Systems from Boston University.

The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company – Milwaukee, WI (Northwestern Mutual) has helped clients achieve financial security for more than 150 years. Northwestern Mutual and its subsidiaries offer a holistic approach to financial security solutions including: life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, annuities, investment products, and advisory products and services. Subsidiaries include Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC; the Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company, limited purpose federal savings bank; and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company; and Russell Investments. Further informa-



Randy Lowenberg

tion can be found at <http://www.northwesternmutual.com>.

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More Letters

Voter Takes Issue With NH State Rep's Tax Views

To the editor:

I strongly disagree with statements made in a letter to your paper recently by Amherst Rep. Peter T. Hansen. He implied that business taxes are too high in NH and blamed Democrats for slow job growth.

Rep. Hansen cited figures that business taxes are 60% of total revenues in NH as compared with 35% in neighboring MA. That's not surprising since MA total revenues are greatly inflated by income and sales taxes that do not exist in NH. These figures say nothing about the actual business tax burdens.

The Tea Party mantra that taxes should be reduced across the board does not make sense in NH. We are fiscally conservative already because of our overall tax structure and volunteer legislators that don't get paid enough to cover their expenses. And the mindless reduction in the NH tobacco tax driven by Republicans in 2011 backfired in a decline of \$20.1M in revenues during it's first fiscal year of operation.

Tea Party Republicans took control of our legislature in 2010 after saying they were "laser focused on job creation". Instead they crafted a large number of bills promoting social re-engineering, cutting medical services, reducing education curriculum requirements and cutting the UNH budget by 40%, consolidating power at the State level at the expense of our towns, instituting voter ID and bringing loaded guns and stand-your-ground laws to the streets. After this "bait and switch" and a lot of strange and irresponsible behavior at the Statehouse, we threw a lot of them out of office in 2012.

US businesses who pay wages that would improve the NH economy often complain about lack of a skilled workforce and poor infrastructure as reasons for locat-

ing elsewhere. Hopefully, improvements to I-93, recently approved by Governor Hassan, will address some of the infrastructure issues. But NH needs to figure out a way to attract and retain more college educated people that can provide the needed skills including the entrepreneurial skills to start new businesses here. This will not be accomplished by slashing education budgets.

From his voting record, I conclude that Rep. Hansen's main interests are: (1) Making sure that loaded weapons can be carried anywhere in public and used to apply deadly force with civil impunity to defend oneself or anyone else the shooter "thinks" is in mortal danger; (2) Controlling female reproductive rights; (3) Making it more difficult for some students, poor and disabled citizens, and seniors to vote and (4) Opposing foreign education programs and the UN. He also voted for making mandatory references to elements of the Magna Carta (originally issued in Latin in 1215 A.D.) whenever individual freedoms are discussed in NH legislation. I don't see an emphasis on creating new jobs here beyond a temporary increase in gun shops.

You can examine Peter Hansen's voting record and how he is rated by various organizations at the website smartvote.com. His ratings from outside conservative groups that spend a lot of money trying to influence our elections are stellar. But his ratings from the NH Business and Industry Association are pathetic. Understandably, NARAL Pro-Choice New Hampshire, that specializes in protecting a woman's reproductive rights and access to healthcare, rates Rep. Hansen's voting at 0%.

Sincerely yours,
Jack Conaway
Amherst

Vote for Sanborn, Rowe, Stepanek and Hansen

To the editor:

Thank you to everyone who supported my run for State Representative. I am honored by your votes and your good will. I look forward to running again. In the meantime, I will continue to work to preserve New Hampshire for our children and grand children any way I can.

This November we will face another critical choice between continuing the extravagant policies of the past, which have only gotten us deeper into the mess we are in, or striving for a more limited approach to

government to restore our economy and our individual rights and responsibilities. It is clear to me that we can no longer pursue the former and keep the state and nation that we know and love. I therefore strongly urge that you vote to re-elect Representatives Laurie Sanborn, Robert Rowe, Stephen Stepanek, and Peter Hansen. They will serve us well in Concord.

Best regards,
Nate Jensen
Amherst

SHARE Helps 238 Students With Back To School

To the editor:

With the help of a generous community, SHARE prepared 238 students for the start of the new school year by providing backpacks and school supplies. Working with the guidance counselors at several area schools, we also dropped off boxes of extra supplies to be distributed throughout the year as needed. There are so many people to thank including area churches, businesses, the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, YMCA of Greater Nashua, Amherst Orthodontics, HPM Insurance, Milford Medical Center, and the many SHARE friends who support us all through the year -- no matter

what we ask, they deliver! Thank you.

Even low income parents want their kids to start school with new sneakers, supplies, clothes, and a fresh haircut. This is a daunting task for those who barely scrape by. The community's partnership with SHARE in this venture means so much to them. Thank you. You made the start of school less stressful for many parents and happy and exciting for many students.

Sincerely,
Christine Janson
Executive Director, SHARE Outreach

Governor Hassan's Spending Means More Taxes

To the editor:

Governor Hassan has learned her lessons well from President Obama. His biggest lie, when he said "the ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) is not Islamic,"? Or when he said "You can keep your Doctor and your insurance in Obamacare"? Governor Hassan is doing the same thing. When she tells us she is against an individual income tax and is against a broad based sales tax, she then does everything to force us into those added taxes by spending as if we already have those taxes. As reported in her 2014/15 budget proposals, New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan wanted the state to spend more over the next two years on higher educa-

tion and mental health services, both to be financed by revenue from casino gambling and an increase in the tobacco tax. But, due to bipartisan opposition to casino gambling, the casino money will never be seen, and the tobacco taxes are falling as tobacco use declines. So where is the money coming from? She told a joint session of the House and Senate that her budget will expand Medicaid, freeze in-state tuition at public colleges and begin to restore critical services that were cut two years ago. So with her added spending, she plans to force us into broad base sales or or income tax, or both.

David McConville
Amherst

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YOUR SUPPORT!

"I want to thank each and every one of you for your support in the recent primary. I am truly grateful to all of you."

Peter Hansen, Fiscal Agent, Amherst, NH