

M E M O R A N D U M

DOCKET COPY REQUEST

DATE: June 23, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

TO: Dockets

JUN 25 1997

FROM: William H. Johnson
Deputy Chief, Cable Services Bureau

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Ex parte notice filing

Please include the attached in Docket 95-196.

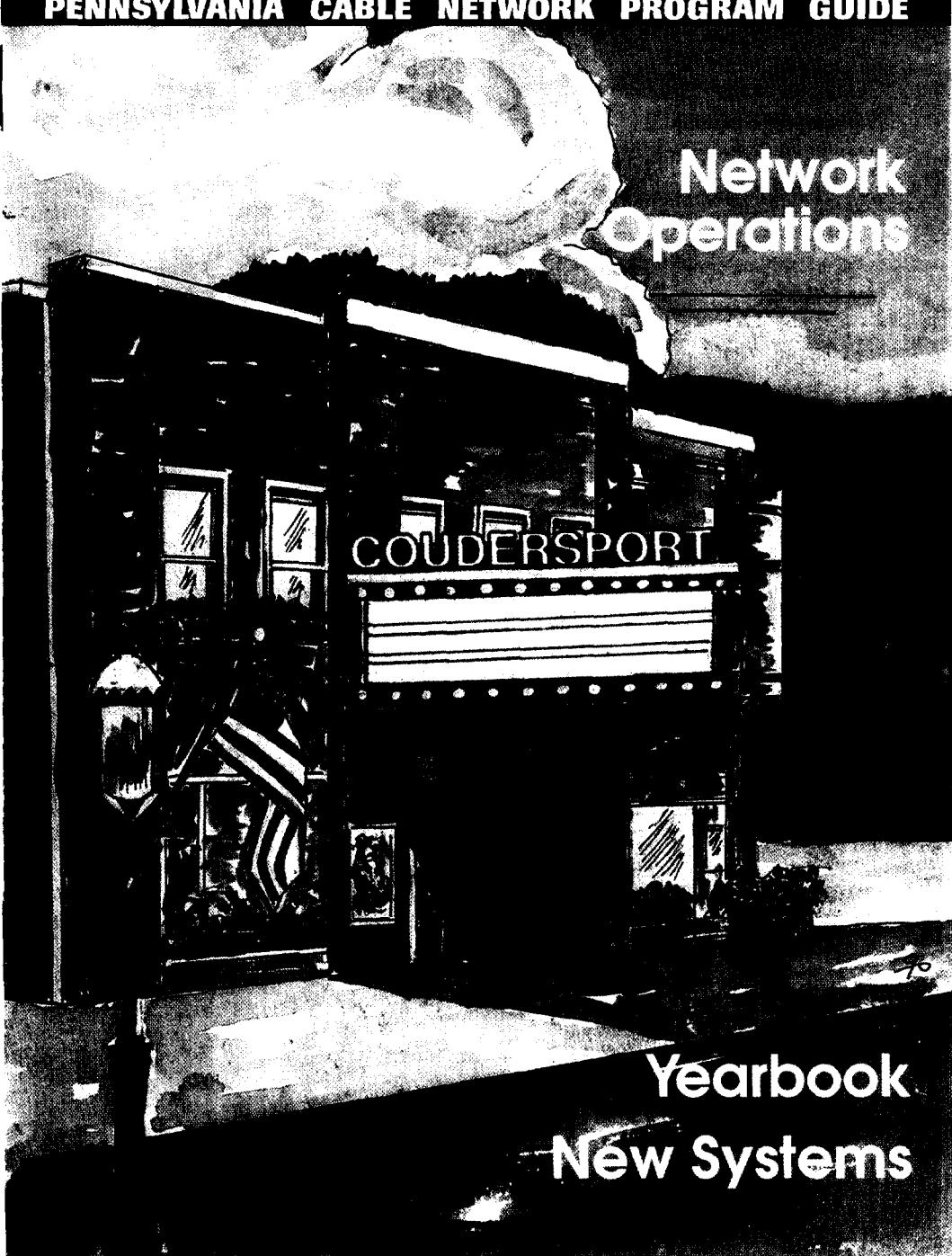
95-196

0
0 of Copies
1000000

PCN VISION

SUMMER • 1996

PENNSYLVANIA CABLE NETWORK PROGRAM GUIDE



**Network
Operations**

**Yearbook
New Systems**



Yolane G. Barco

On September 1, 1996, the responsibility of The Pennsylvania State University for educational programming on the Pennsylvania Cable Network will come to an end.

We take pride in the unique partnership between PCN for the cable industry and Penn State for higher education that has worked effectively since September 1979 to provide college credit courses, literacy training, and other educational programs to cable subscribers in their homes. We especially commend Penn State for its leadership and commitment to the utilization for education of the distribution system of PCN, the first educational cable network in the United States and perhaps anywhere.

As of September 1, 1996, PCN will be in control of, and have responsibility for, the channel overall. The lead article of this issue of *PCNvision* describes the elements and workings of the master control and related systems that will manage the programming distribution.

On the educational programming itself, the next year will be a time of rededication, transition, innovation, and comprehensive channel integration.

COVER PHOTO: COUDERSPORT MOVIE THEATRE, Coudersport, PA. Watercolor by Maxine Shear. Coudersport is home to Adelphia Cable Communications, which proudly carries PCN on local cable channel 28. **PCNvision** (ISSN 1071-2046) is published seasonally four times a year by the Pennsylvania Cable Network, 401 Fallowfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Founding Editor: Bradford N. Hammer. Issue #4. For information, or to request additional copies of this publication, contact PCN by phone: (717) 730-6000, or electronic mail: pcntv@pcntv.com.

At a recent meeting of the PCN Board of Directors, the commitment to educational programming as a part of the PCN mission was confirmed.

Included will be continued availability of channel time to higher education for college credit courses, but with emphasis on supporting and advancing participation by institutions of higher learning that demonstrate interest and commitment for the aggressive use of PCN for statewide distribution of relevant formal educational courses. In the next several months, appropriate lines of communication will be developed directly between PCN and participating institutions of higher learning with guidelines and procedures for use of channel time.

In addition, PCN will be looking into participation by a broader range of educational and training entities, including public systems, with emphasis on identifying and establishing existing learning resources which are suitable for utilization by way of PCN in the home and workplace. Literacy training and basic skills are expected to be included in this programming.

In the area of innovation, explorations will include the adaptation of the "events coverage" concept of PCN public affairs programming to educational programming; the utilization of existing statewide support and coordinating educational systems; and the use of other technologies with PCN's delivery system to enhance effectiveness.

The integration of the Pennsylvania Cable Network channel, which now is possible with PCN overall management, will be of substantial benefit to the look of the channel; to on-air promotional support for all of the programming; and for PCN identification and effectiveness as a cable network responsive to the interests and needs of Pennsylvania as a community, and featuring educational and public affairs programming.

Full-Time Operational Control of PCN Moving to Camp Hill Facility

In September, the Pennsylvania Cable Network facility in Camp Hill will assume 24-hour control of the PCN channel, marking the completion of a profound change in the management and organization of programming for distribution on the network.

PCN programming was originally managed in University Park, where The Pennsylvania State University scheduled educational telecourses for Commonwealth citizens. In 1993, the network responded to a growing need for public affairs programming by building an uplink facility in Camp Hill (five miles from the State Capitol Building) which allowed for timely coverage of state government activities.

By January 1995, arranged educational programming and PCN public affairs programming were being processed through the uplink facility. A direct fiber-optic link between the Capitol and PCN complexes was established later that year, allowing for live carriage of Pennsylvania Senate and House floor proceedings.

Currently, PCN staff members at Camp Hill are responsible for assembling 86 programming hours weekly—a total which will nearly double in September with the assumption of full-time operational control.

In advance of this development, network engineers have constructed a new automated tape playback facility consisting of videotape recorders and monitors directed by a computer and a tape playback controller. Once programmed, the playback unit can roll videotapes and address receive sources without direct supervision.

At midnight, the unit will televise a satellite feed from Deutsche Welle, featuring international news and information. Six hours later, the automation system is scheduled to air the first videotape in a series of PCN educational offerings ranging from literacy training programs to college-level instruction from state institutions of higher learning.

Although the automated facility can also re-air scheduled public affairs programming,

when the network engages in live event coverage—and every weekday evening—PCN staff members assume manual control of network operations.

Fiber-optic lines, satellite transmissions, microwave feeds, and videotape machine signals converge at PCN Master Control, where an operator selects the appropriate source and then adds on-screen graphics about the programming, location, topic, speaker, and schedule information—all while the event is being televised. PCN's commitment to live and same-day state government coverage often requires playback operators to reference names and add contextual information while witnessing the event for the very first time.

Manual playback also allows for last minute programming changes in an effort to bring viewers the most current and relevant events of the day. The Master Control operator keeps the network going until midnight, when playback duties are again placed upon the automated facility.

While technically challenging, establishing 24-hour operational control of PCN in Camp Hill will enable the network to respond more readily to programming, production, and promotional opportunities in the months and years to come.

Viewer Comments Being Published

PCN is getting set to unveil its first collection of viewer comments on proceedings, hearings, and events covered by the network in the past twelve months.

Entitled "PCN Yearbook," the chronicle is developed primarily from viewer phone calls to the network on public affairs programming. Select letters to PCN are also included.

continued...

PENNSYLVANIA CABLE NETWORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SUMMER 1996

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12A				European Journal: The News Magazine (in Spanish)		
12:30				Deutsche Welle Programming (in Spanish)		
1				European Journal: The News Magazine		
1:30				Deutsche Welle Programming		
2	Ethics in America	Public Presidency	World of Chemistry	The Earth Revealed	Rural Communities	Destinos
2:30						French in Action
3						
3:30						
4						
4:30						
5						
5:30						
6A	Art of the Western World	Ethics in America	World of Chemistry	Western Tradition	Race to Save Planet	Rural Communities
6:30						Out of the Past
7	Rural Communities	Public Presidency	To the Contrary	The Earth Revealed	Rural Communities	The Earth Revealed
7:30			Open Mind			World in Review
8						European Journal
8:30			Destinos: An Introduction to Spanish			
			French in Action		On Your Own	European Journal SP
						Asia Now
9	Out of the Past	Computer Chronicles	World of Chemistry	Western Tradition	Race to Save Planet	Public Presidency
9:30		Technopolitics				Alles Gute
10	Art of the Western World	Public Presidency	To the Contrary	The Earth Revealed	Rural Communities	World of Chemistry
10:30			Open Mind			Schauplatz Deutschland
11						Art of the Western World
11:30			On Your Own			French Hexagone, or France TV Magazine

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12P 12:30	PA Political Caucus Report	Live Coverage of Events in the State Legislature, or Pennsylvania Public Affairs Programming from the Previous Evening			Unique Continent	Out of the Past
1 1:30	Pennsylvania Factory Tours				Race to Save Planet	World in Review
2 2:30	Pennsylvania Public Affairs	Specific program information is available on-screen at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m., as well as on the lower portion of the screen during public affairs coverage.				European Journal
3 3:30					Rural Communities	European Journal SP
4 4:30		PCN also distributes detailed schedule listings each weekday evening by electronic mail. For information on this free service, contact the network at pcntv@pcntv.com .				Asia Now
5 5:30	PA Political Caucus Report				Firing Line	Schauplatz
6P 6:30	Monday's State Legislature Coverage	Tuesday's State Legislature Coverage	Wednesday's State Legislature Coverage	Pennsylvania Public Affairs	Inside Washington	Deutschland
7 7:30					Market to Market	Pennsylvania Parade
8 8:30					Computer Chronicles	
9 9:30					Pennsylvania Parade	Parade
10 10:30						Libri
11 11:30					Select Events from This Week in the State Legislature	

More Cable Companies Add PCN

New carriage agreements and continuing corporate commitments have increased the availability of PCN service, providing citizens of the Commonwealth with a greater opportunity to see their state government in action.

In late May, TCI of Pennsylvania added PCN to its Aliquippa and Baden systems. The launch of the network's educational and public affairs programming to more than 28,000 households in Allegheny and Beaver counties was concomitant with TCI's expansion of PCN carriage on a number of suburban Pittsburgh systems.

"TCI recognizes the value and importance of state government programming on the Pennsylvania Cable Network," said Shawn McGorry, General Manager of TCI of Pennsylvania's Pittsburgh Supersystem. "As part of this agreement, more of our customers than ever before will have access to the network's full schedule." The company delivers PCN to approximately 225,000 suburban Pittsburgh households.

Customers of TV Cable of Carlisle also have access to live and same-day television coverage of the Pennsylvania Senate and House (along with Commonwealth events such as the State Farm Show), thanks to an arrangement with the Pennsylvania Cable Network. TV Cable serves 17,000 subscribers in the Carlisle area—many of whom are associated with state government.

...VIEWER COMMENTS

"It is generally accepted that only a small percentage of viewers will call in about a program—especially if there are long-distance charges involved," commented PCN Vice President Brian Lockman. "Nevertheless, we have been overwhelmed by the response to public affairs programming."

Highlighted state issues include welfare reform, sabbatical leaves, and workers' compensation.

"Knowing the tremendous impact of the state legislature on Pennsylvania residents—and our customers in particular—we are proud to join in support of the Pennsylvania Cable Network," proclaimed L. Michael Reynolds, Vice President of Raystay Co., the parent company of TV Cable of Carlisle. "PCN's public affairs coverage, and its ability to offer educational opportunities to local citizens, make it a unique and valuable addition to our system in Carlisle."

Carlisle is also home to Dickinson College, which has hosted several public forums televised by PCN. In November, the network provided same-day coverage of a town meeting with Governor Tom Ridge and Education Secretary Eugene Hickok on the governor's education reform proposal. PCN also aired Governor Ridge's 1996 commencement address at the college.

Clearview CATV has also joined the ranks of participating systems through carriage of the Pennsylvania Cable Network in Delta and Fawn Grove; as well as in Chanceford, Fawn, Lower Chanceford, and Peach Bottom townships. Clearview CATV provides cable television service to 2,000 subscriber households in the Commonwealth.

Later this summer, Adelphia Cable Communications will roll-out Pennsylvania Cable Network service on its Plum Borough, Nanty Glo, Adams Township (east of Johnstown), and Portage systems; as well as adding the network to its expanding channel line-up in New Bethlehem. PCN is also increasing its Adelphia subscriber base in Montgomery County, as Lansdale and other suburban Philadelphia systems begin receiving PCN's signal. Growing support from Adelphia is part of that company's commitment for statewide carriage of the nonprofit network.

PCN VISION
ON THE WEB

<http://www.pcntv.com>

GET TO KNOW YOUR PENNSYLVANIA!

Created by an Act of Legislature which was signed into law by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker on May 2, 1905, the Pennsylvania State Police was the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States.

The State Police Force and its members are authorized and empowered to make arrests without warrant for all violations of the law which they may witness, and to serve and execute warrants issued by the proper local authorities. These powers are extended throughout all the political subdivisions of the Commonwealth.

Members of the force additionally have all the powers and prerogatives conferred by law upon police in first class cities and upon constables of the Commonwealth, and may

act as game protectors as well as forest, fish, and fire wardens.

Criminal investigation and administrative service consume approximately 40% of the total on-duty time of the State Police, while the remaining 60% is devoted to traffic and other public safety services.

The Pennsylvania State Police Department is headed by a Commissioner of State Police, who is appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. The Governor also appoints three Deputy Commissioners.

PCN recently aired the Pennsylvania State Police annual service awards ceremony, State Police Memorial Day observance, and State Police Department budget hearings before the Pennsylvania House and Senate appropriations committees.

Battlefield Tours in Gettysburg Shown on PCN

In commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg anniversary, PCN aired five special walking tours given by park rangers at Gettysburg National Military Park during the first week in July.

"Guts and Good Leadership," the initial battlefield tour, focused principally upon the action involving Cutler's Brigade, the 6th Wisconsin, and Davis' Mississippi Brigade on the morning of July 1, 1863—the first day of the conflict.

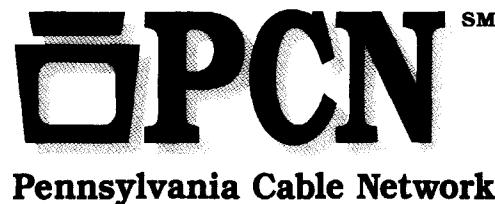
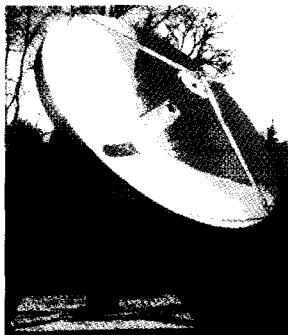
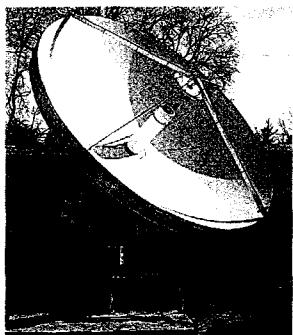
Guided tours at Gettysburg National Military Park televised the following evening were titled "The Wounded and the Dead," and "A Desperate Effort." The first detailed the collection, evacuation, and treatment of the wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg; the second replayed the assault on East Cemetery Hill following Avery's and Hay's Confederate brigades.



Park Ranger Scott Hartwig explains the circumstances leading up to Pickett's Charge as part of a special Battle of Gettysburg walking tour.

Commentary on July 3, the final anniversary battle date, began with an exploration of the artillery bombardment that preceded Pickett's Charge from the perspective of Cemetery Ridge. The Pennsylvania Cable Network concluded its coverage with the attack and repulse of Garnett's Brigade of Pickett's Division (the final walking tour), and a presentation of this attack from the Union perspective of Alexander B. Hay's Division of the 2nd Army Corps.

A public service of Pennsylvania
cable television companies

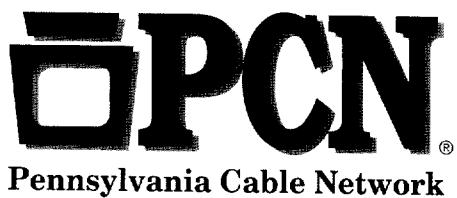


Pennsylvania Cable Network

Non-Profit Corp.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Meadville, PA
Permit No. 411

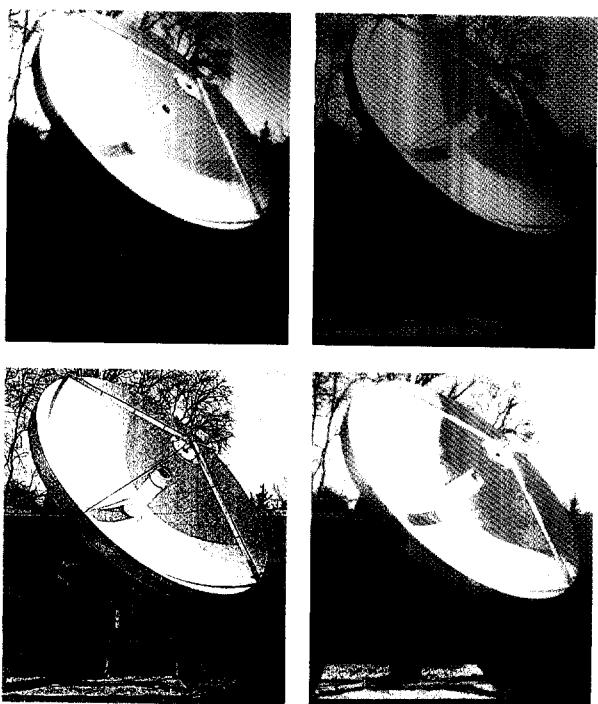
401 Fallowfield Road • Camp Hill, PA 17011

A public service of Pennsylvania cable
television companies



Pennsylvania Cable Network

Non-Profit Corp.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Meadville, PA
Permit No. 411



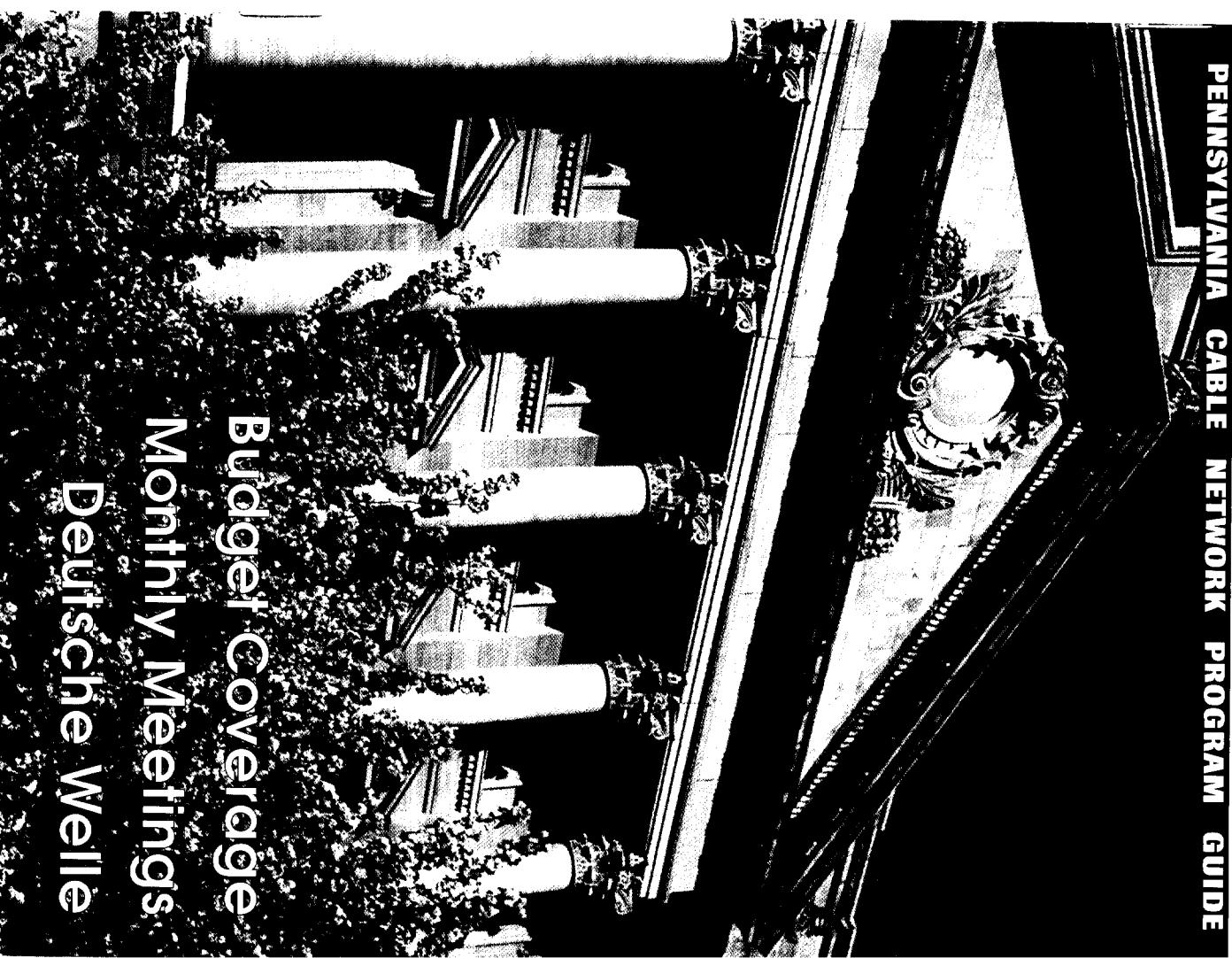
401 Fallowfield Road • Camp Hill, PA 17011

PCNvision

SPRING • 1997

PENNSYLVANIA CABLE NETWORK PROGRAM GUIDE

Budget Coverage
Monthly Meetings
Deutsche Welle





In the last edition of *PCNvision* we took stock of the performance of PCN as a cable network responding to the interests and needs of Pennsylvania and its people. By every measure, including

- The dramatic increase in cable participation and subscriber count;
- The striking growth and enhancement of public affairs programming;
- The creation of Pennsylvania-specific weekly series; and
- Response to major economic and cultural interests of the Pennsylvania community (such as the State Farm Show), the performance has been impressive.

PCN clearly has come a long way with its satellite delivery and its public affairs initiatives, but the stark reality is that until substantially all of Pennsylvania cable subscribers receive PCN, the network cannot truly fulfill its mission, no matter how significant and worthwhile the programming.

Today, PCN is available in a little more than half of the 3.4 million cable subscriber households in the state, including much of

suburban Pittsburgh, the Harrisburg area; significant population centers like Scranton, Allentown, and Reading; and parts of central and suburban Philadelphia. In view of the deregulatory and financial burdens which have faced cable companies in the last two years, the participation and support for PCN have been remarkable and a credit to cable's responsiveness to the public interest.

Our immediate goals are to secure carriage in the rest of Greater Philadelphia, in downtown Pittsburgh, and in Erie. PCN would then cover all of the state's most densely populated centers and—in doing so—establish the reality of a statewide network.

Of course, full participation in PCN by the cable industry is a requirement for the financial soundness of this undertaking under its adopted business plan. Also, the credibility of PCN and the cable industry are at risk if the expectation of state-wide coverage for public affairs programming is not met soon. In fact, a number of governmental leaders have been emphatic at expressing disappointment that PCN is not carried in various areas.

Above all else, it is absolutely essential that the linkages be completed which will transform a fragmented distribution system into an integrated state network with dynamic interaction on governmental, political, educational, economic, and cultural matters directly affecting the quality of life. Only then can PCN realize its full potential as a unique and effective system of citizen communication, participation, and empowerment for the Pennsylvania community.

COVER PHOTO: NORTH FAÇADE OF LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Wilkes-Barre. Photograph by Ralph C. Vivian. Wilkes-Barre is proudly served by Service Electric Company, which carries PCN on channel 56. **PCNvision** (ISSN 1071-2046) is published seasonally four times a year by the Pennsylvania Cable Network, 401 Fallowfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Founding Editor: Bradford N. Hammer. Issue #7. For information, or to request additional copies of this publication, contact the Pennsylvania Cable Network by phone: (717) 730-6000, or electronic mail: pcntv@pcntv.com.

Extensive Coverage of 1997-98 State Budget Process Shown on Network

Commencing with live coverage of Governor Ridge's Budget Address and continuing through Senate and House appropriation committee meetings, floor debate, and the signing of the approved spending plan; the Pennsylvania Cable Network is providing state citizens with an extensive and unfiltered view of the 1997-1998 budget process.

Governor Ridge's proposed allocation of Pennsylvania's \$16.9 billion dollar General Fund addresses education funding, day care monies for the poor, senior citizen services, and taxes paid by small businesses. In February and March, his plan was taken up in 70 separate budget hearings conducted by members of the Senate and House appropriation committees—all 70 of which were aired on PCN.

Once reviewed by the appropriation committees, Governor Ridge's budget proposal, along with any suggested amendments, is placed before the General Assembly for debate. If the two chambers cannot pass the original or amended version of the spending plan, the budget is then placed before Senate and House leaders in a joint conference committee—a scenario which was played out before PCN viewers in 1996. Following approval by the General Assembly on a spending plan, the budget is returned to Governor Ridge for his authorization.

According to the Pennsylvania Constitution, the governor holds line-item veto power over the state budget. And while there exists no formal deadline under which lawmakers must approve the allocation of funds, the Commonwealth's fiscal year ends on June 30, after which the state (in the absence of an approved budget) loses its authority to spend money.

PCN's coverage of the 1997-1998 budget process follows its unedited coverage of the state's 1996-1997 spending plan, when 196 hours of budget-related hearings were carried on the network.

Foreign Language Programs at Night

Late-night PCN watchers can receive news and information in several languages, thanks to the network's carriage of the "Deutsche Welle" international programming service during overnight hours.

Originating in Cologne, Germany, "Deutsche Welle" programming hours generally consist of a thirty-minute newscast followed by spotlights on business and industry, people, sports, and travel. Most programs air in either German or English, although news in Spanish is also telecast.

"We have heard from a number of Pennsylvanians in support of foreign language programming on the network—especially from viewers of German descent," noted PCN Director of Marketing Bradford Hammer. "Carriage of 'Deutsche Welle' programming is another way in which the Pennsylvania Cable Network is responsive to the interests and needs of state residents."

"Deutsche Welle" programming is available on PCN from midnight until 7:00 a.m. weekdays, and from midnight until 6:00 a.m. on the weekend. During spring and summer (when daylight saving time is employed), Spanish-language programs

continued...

PENNSYLVANIA CABLE NETWORK PROGRAM SCHEDULE
SPRING 1997

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12 AM 12:30	Deutsche Welle Programming: Spanish 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., English 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., German 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., English 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., German 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. A monthly Deutsche Welle program guide is available without charge by writing D.W. Programming, P.O. Box 803, Corvallis, OR 97339						
6 AM 6:30		Deutsche Welle Programming (in German)					Paid Programming
7 AM 7:30		Learn to Read Workbooks for all 30 episodes can be ordered at (800) 354-9067					
8 AM 8:30		GED on TV Workbooks for all 43 episodes can be ordered at (800) 354-9067					
9 AM 9:30	America in Perspective (ends May 26) Western Tradition (begins June 2)	Against All Odds Engaging primer on statistical method and inference using practical application. Twenty-six episodes.	Public Presidency Examines the use and impact of electronic media on the office of the US President. Fourteen programs.	Sociological Imagination (ends May 29) Discovering Psychology (begins June 5)	Economics U\$A Comprehensive telecourse in macro and micro economics. Twenty-eight half-hour episodes.		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10 AM 10:30	PA Caucus Shows PA Public Affairs	Live Coverage of State Legislative Activities and Events, or Pennsylvania Public Affairs Programming from the Previous Evening					Paid Programming
11 AM 11:30		Specific program information is available on-screen at 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., as well as on the lower portion of the screen during public affairs coverage.					
12 PM 12:30						Learn to Read (800) 954-9067	America in Pers./ Western Tradition
1 PM 1:30	PCN Tours						Against All Odds
2 PM 2:30	PA Books	PCN also distributes a detailed schedule listing each weekday evening via electronic mail. The updates contain public affairs programming listings for a 24-hour or weekend period. For information on this free service, contact the network at pcntv@pcntv.com.				GED on TV (800) 954-9067	Public Presidency
3 PM 3:30	PCN Profiles		Viewers are welcome to leave program comments at (717) 730-6004. PCN's Web site is www.pcntv.com.				Sociological Im./ Discovering Psych.
4 PM 4:30	PA Public Affairs						Economics U\$A
5 PM 5:30	Monday's State Legislative Activities and Events	Tuesday's State Legislative Activities and Events	Wednesday's State Legislative Activities and Events	Pennsylvania Public Affairs Programming		PA Cable Showcase	PA Caucus Shows
6 PM 6:30				Includes same-day coverage of State Legislative Activities, along with Pennsylvania Events		This Week in the State Legislature	PA Public Affairs
7 PM 7:30							PCN Tours
8 PM 8:30							PA Books
9 PM 9:30							PCN Profiles
10 PM 10:30							PA Public Affairs
11 PM 11:30							

Press Club, Reporters Forum Monthly

Responding to viewers' needs for additional insight into the people and policies which shape Pennsylvania laws, the Pennsylvania Cable Network has scheduled Pennsylvania Press Club coverage and its "PA Journalists Roundtable" forum on a monthly basis.

The programs join PCN's three original weekly series, "PCN Tours," "PA Books," and "PCN Profiles," as regularly scheduled public affairs offerings on the statewide cable television network.

Modeled after the National Press Club in Washington, DC, the Pennsylvania Press Club invites guest speakers to address members of the media and then field questions from the audience. The monthly luncheons, held at the prestigious Tuesday Club in Harrisburg, are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Cable & Telecommunications Association, the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association,

...FOREIGN LANGUAGE

air on the network from 12:00 midnight to 1:00 a.m., followed by features in English from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., news and information in German from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., English-language news and information from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., and continual programming in German starting at 5:00 a.m. When daylight saving time is not in effect during fall and winter, PCN's live carriage of the international feed does not include the Spanish programs.

A complete monthly guide of "Deutsche Welle" programming is available without charge by writing the international service in care of P.O. Box 803, Corvallis, OR 97339.

the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, and the Pennsylvania Public Relation Society.

Pennsylvania Press Club luncheons which have aired on PCN include a pilot meeting in November featuring State Republican Committee Chairman Alan Novack and State Democrat Committee Executive Director Kerry Kirkland, as well as the organization's first official gathering (in January) with Senator Vincent Fumo. Governor Tom Ridge and Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendell have also addressed the club.

"PA Journalists Roundtable," the second monthly addition to PCN's programming schedule, is a one-hour open discussion between capital correspondents on issues facing the state. Conducted at PCN facilities in Camp Hill, the forum features a rotating cast of reporters from radio, television, and print media; each roundtable is moderated by the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

"These additions to our schedule provide PCN viewers with an opportunity to hear directly from prominent Pennsylvanians on issues of the day, as well as from the people who cover them," said PCN Vice President Brian Lockman. "For some Pennsylvanians, the programs may assist in placing the activities of the General Assembly in context."

Pennsylvania Press Club meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month and generally air that same evening. "PA Journalists Roundtable" airs at 7:00 p.m. on the last Sunday of the month.

PCN VISION
ON THE WEB
www.pcntv.com

GROUNDHOG DAY IN PENNSYLVANIA

Correctional institutions in Pennsylvania are divided into five security classifications: community, minimum, medium, close, and maximum. Most of the 22 prisons run by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections are medium security, four are minimum security, four are close security, and two house maximum security inmates. Prisoners in medium security facilities may be housed in multiple occupancy cells; close security institutions have single and double occupancy units. Maximum security prisons contain only single cells.

State Correctional Institute-Pittsburgh, a close security prison, dates back to 1882,

when the facility was known as the Western Penitentiary. The institution has a capacity of 1,200 prisoners, but presently houses a population of 1,800.

On January 8, six inmates escaped from SCI-Pittsburgh; all six were later recaptured. Three weeks later, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a five hour public hearing inside the facility on the escape, and in March, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Commissioner Martin F. Horn gave a tour of SCI-Pittsburgh to members of the House Judiciary Committee. Both the public hearing and the prison tour aired in their entirety on the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Punxsutawney Phil Prediction Shown on PCN

On February 2, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, population 6,700, once again held the attention of the state and the nation as the town's most popular prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil, greeted the rising sun and made his annual forecast.

For the third consecutive year, PCN provided extensive same-day coverage of the event at Gobbler's Knob in Sportsman's Park, where local residents, regional college students, state weather services, and national celebrities have gathered for the climatological celebration. Phil's prediction—a shadow portends six more weeks of winter while the lack of a shadow signifies an early spring—is now made part of the US Congressional Record and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives minutes.



Gobbler's Knob, named for the feast which followed a week-long hunt for wood chucks prior to the eighteenth century discovery of their predictive powers.

The notion of Candlemas Day (February 2) was brought to America by German immigrants who settled in the land.

Prior to PCN's coverage of the Groundhog Day festivities, an early spring had been forecast only ten times in 108 years. Since the network began televising the gathering in 1995, Phil has called for an early spring twice in three years—including this year, when approximately 20,000 people gathered in Punxsutawney for the proceedings.



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

401 Ballou East Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 730-6000
Fax 730-6005

Docket 95-196

June 19, 1997

Mr. William H. Johnson
Federal Communications Commission
Cable Services Bureau
2033 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUN 25 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you very much for your time yesterday. I appreciate the opportunity to tell the story of the Pennsylvania Cable Network and our public affairs mission.

While much attention in the closed captioning issue is focused on the large satellite delivered networks or the small local origination channels, it is important that you remember PCN, which is not part of either group. We are a non-profit network with a public service mission doing a very large volume of programming on a very small budget.

As I pointed out at our meeting, the network's \$1.5 million annual budget works out to only about \$170 per hour of air time. While I anticipate growth over the next several years, with a total potential subscriber base in Pennsylvania of 3.2 million homes, PCN will always be, in financial terms, fairly marginal. Under such circumstances even the low-end captioning rate of \$300 or \$400 per hour will continue to be simply unaffordable for non-profit, regional public affairs networks such as ours.

Since it is clearly in no one's interest to make networks like PCN financially inviable, I trust that your rules, when adopted, will reflect that belief.

Sincerely,

Brian Lockman
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



Pennsylvania Cable Network



Pennsylvania Cable Network

401 Fallowfield Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 730-6000
fax 730-6005
pcntv@pcntv.com

401 Fallowfield Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 730-6000
fax 730-6005

Brian Lockman

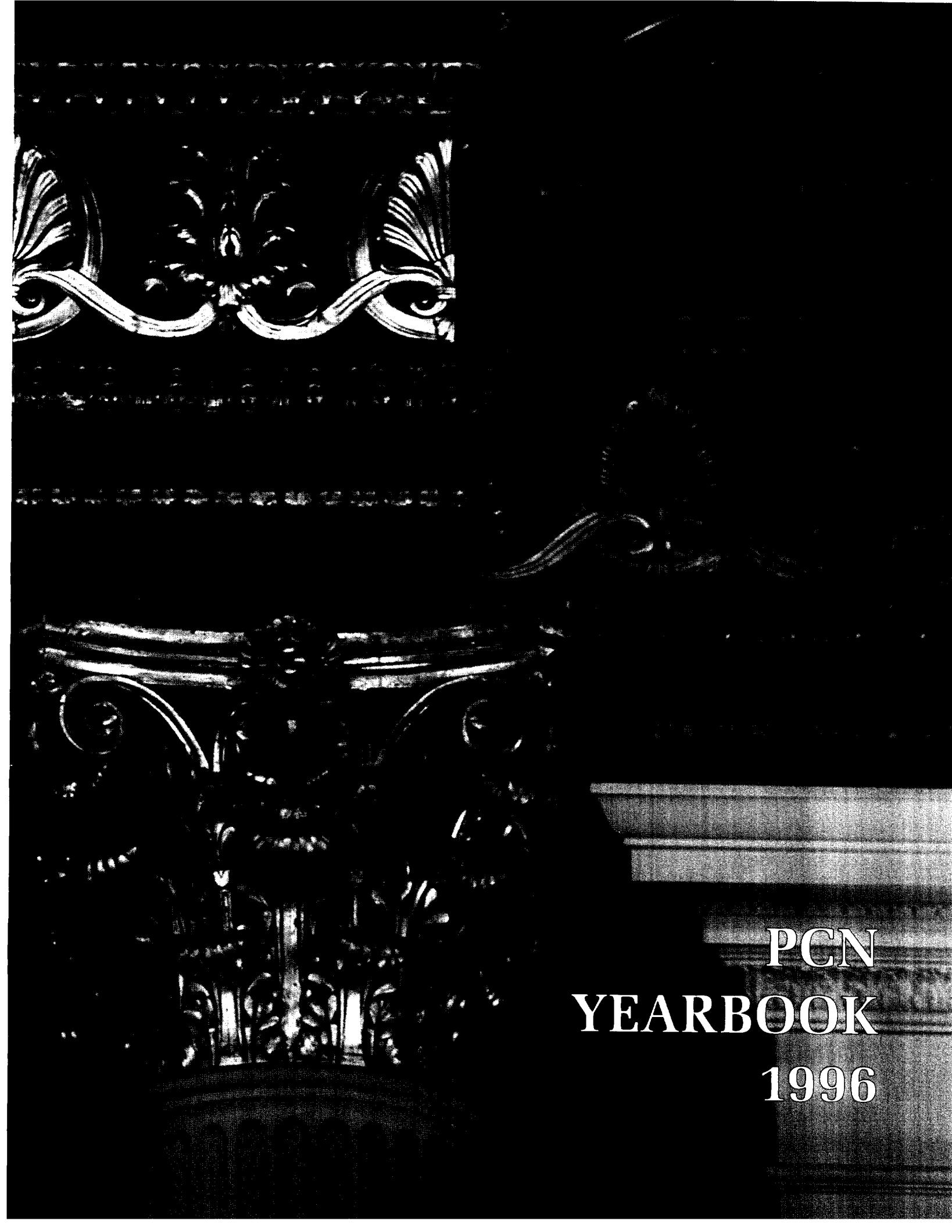
Vice President
Chief Operating Officer

The PENNSYLVANIA CABLE NETWORK is...

- A statewide version of C-SPAN, with unedited live and same-day coverage of Pennsylvania House and Senate floor proceedings. PCN also televises committee hearings, press conferences, speeches, and other public forums and events where the business of the state is debated, discussed, and decided.
- Concerned with economic, cultural, and historical aspects of the Commonwealth. PCN airs important business forums and meetings, along with covering state events such as the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. PCN also tours museums and manufacturing facilities in the Commonwealth, and conducts weekly one-on-one interviews with prominent Pennsylvanians.
- Utilizing the power of cable television to promote social and economic progress in Pennsylvania. PCN distributes literacy training programs and college telecourses from state institutions of higher learning. These programs air throughout the week.
- Pennsylvania's only statewide cable network, connecting small towns with urban areas, and Pennsylvania city with Pennsylvania city. PCN's signal is delivered by satellite to all areas of the Commonwealth.
- Owned by Pennsylvania cable television operators. Created in 1979, PCN was the first educational cable television network in the nation. PCN is funded by a monthly fee paid by participating cable companies to cover network capital and operating costs, and receives no government or foundation funding.
- A true public service. Pennsylvania cable operators created PCN as a nonprofit nonpartisan network for education and community service because it was the right thing to do. No state or federal regulations required it.
- Valuable to citizens, educators, community leaders, and state government officials. PCN promotes basic and higher education, and provides Pennsylvanians with a better understanding of the operation of their state government.

For additional information:

Yolanda G. Barco, President and CEO, Corporate Offices, Meadville (814) 337-8841
Brian Lockman, Vice President and COO, Camp Hill (717) 730-6000



PCN
YEARBOOK
1996

Welcome to the Pennsylvania Cable Network's first annual Yearbook, a review of some highlights of the network's public affairs programming over the past twelve months presented in the words of PCN viewers.

In 1995, we established the Viewer Comment Line, giving Pennsylvanians the opportunity to respond to network programming, and offer views and opinions on the people, issues, and events presented on PCN. Since then, we have been continually impressed by our callers; by their breadth of understanding of the issues, the clarity of their comments, and the depth of their feelings.

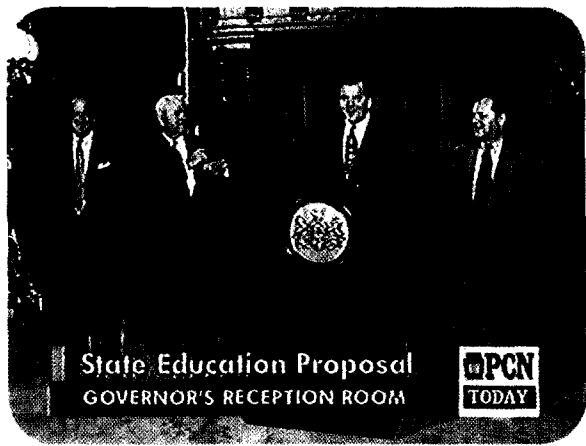
We have learned that our viewers are watching PCN not only because of an interest in politics, government, and the events in their state, but also because they are touched very directly by the events they see on the network.

When the Pennsylvania House and Senate debated workers' compensation, we heard from countless workers who were themselves on disability; when the topic was prison reform, we heard from viewers who had served time in Pennsylvania's prison system, or who had worked as guards in those same prisons. The debate on welfare reform brought calls from welfare recipients, and the debate on hospital maternity stays brought calls from pregnant women or women who had recently given birth. Even a topic as specific as insurance coverage of the horse training industry registered calls from viewers whose very livelihood depended on the passage of a bill being considered on PCN.

While viewers were learning about the state's political process through network coverage, we of PCN were continually being educated—through the personal stories relayed by our callers—that indeed, all politics is local.

Included here is a small sample of the issues and events we have covered in the past twelve months, and corresponding calls from PCN viewers. We hope you find it interesting.

— Brian Lockman, PCN Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



Education Reform

Early in his administration, Governor Tom Ridge proposed a package of reforms to Pennsylvania's educational system. Among these changes was a controversial "school voucher" plan, which proposed allowing parents to use state-provided stipends toward the non-public school education of their child. PCN's coverage included hearings, press conferences, rallies, town meetings, and heated debates in the Pennsylvania Senate and House.

I'm absolutely opposed to school vouchers, they're nothing more than a tax break for the rich. It's Tom Ridge paying off the religious right for getting him elected.

Lititz

I am not in support of the voucher system because of the religious schools being included. This is a way for religious schools to get money from the public.

Stroudsburg

I'm totally for Governor Ridge's education package. Choice should be in the hands of the parents.

Peters Township

I support school choice. I am very sick and tired of greedy unions and the poor quality of education we get in Pennsylvania because our tuitions are too low and our standards are too low in our state teachers college.

Clarks Summit

Those who wish to pay for their children to go to another school district or to a private school have always been free to do so. Why should the taxpayers pay extra and take away from the school districts we already have?

Reinholds

I'm definitely not in favor of funding private schools with taxpayer money.

Berwick

There's no provisions made for home-schoolers. All we would require is enough money to buy our educational materials.

Huntingdon

If parents are upset about the schools, they have the ability right now to do something about it. Evaluate the schools in the state that are doing well in scores and see what kind of programs they have.

Lititz

As a 23-year veteran public educator, I am concerned that the public does not know—nor do these legislators—that there are no certification requirements for teachers in private school. Do parents understand that the children they are sending to those schools may be with people who do not have four-year degrees?

Mechanicsburg

The public schools get almost \$7,000 per child and it doesn't cost anywhere near that to send them to a private school, so the state would in turn save money.

Huntingdon

Why not give the public schools the same opportunity that the private schools have to challenge and not accept students who do not fit the mold? Then, perhaps, vouchers would work.

Palmerton

Governor Ridge is not aware of anything other than the teachers and the union that represents them and how he can tear that down. He has one agenda, and that is to destroy a union.

Camp Hill

In this country, it is long overdue that parents have the right to select the school. This garbage about public schools being open to everyone—Whitehall [school] is only open to residents of Whitehall. If you want to go there from another district you cannot.

Whitehall

I feel very disappointed that top officials in our government would talk about helping the children of our Commonwealth out of one side of their mouth and then, out of the other side, discuss ways to pull money out of public education.

Scranton

Governor Ridge is talking about not having enough discipline in the public schools. The public schools aren't permitted to impose enough discipline. There are parents, and the ACLU won't permit discipline.

Harrisburg

The education reform town meeting in Carlisle...we're watching it, we're taking notes, and we're going to write to our representatives and take the appropriate action.

Dauphin County



Sabbatical Leaves

The practice of allowing teachers in the state the opportunity for a year-long paid leave from the classroom was debated in the Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, which considered eliminating sabbatical leaves or authorizing local school boards to approve (or deny) a requested leave. The spirited floor proceedings were met with equally vociferous phone comments from PCN viewers, including perspectives from educators, parents, school board officials, and administrative staff.

In my own district, teachers take a sabbatical and they're on the golf course for the whole year. It's abused, it's too expensive for the taxpayers, and I think Governor Ridge is headed in the right direction trying to get real and lean like the rest of the world. These sabbaticals have got to go. *Dalton*

I am a teacher, I've been on a sabbatical, and the educational travel is extremely important. It should not be taken out of the law. Those teachers who abuse it, they should be called on the carpet. Other teachers who have used it...their classes have experienced wonderful lectures and lessons from a teacher who travels. *Town withheld*

Teachers getting sabbatical leaves is one thing that nobody else gets. They oughta have it the same as everybody else. You can't go out in business and the rest of the world and have this situation. *Harrisburg*

It's time that the sabbatical leave is put back into the hands of the local school boards. We're in an economically depressed area and we're finding that sabbatical leaves are very expensive, hard to keep up with, and really putting us to a severe financial test. Putting the sabbatical leaves back in the hands of the local school boards could be the best way that we could save money and still control our school districts. *Greene County*

I don't understand why the school board should have the right to decide if a person should be allowed take a sabbatical leave and for what purpose. I live in a rural area, and I took a sabbatical leave last year to be an exchange teacher in Japan. I benefited greatly, but I am sure my little rural area would not have approved this sabbatical leave. You have to realize what kind of people you have on school boards throughout this entire country—and certainly in the rural areas. *Greene County*

If you can let it go within the school board (the decision-making on sabbatical leaves), you'll have nothing but a political mess in which decisions are made for political favor as opposed to the betterment of education. *Jefferson*

Sabbaticals are costing the school districts a lot of money that could be better spent. [Teachers] can go to night school, they can get tapes to view at their house, they have all summer to go to school. *Sharon Hill*

As far as sabbaticals for education, teachers have seminars that go on throughout the year, they have educational leaves, they get tuition reimbursement, they are not limited to opportunities for education. It's just incredible that there's any question about it. *Delaware County*

Public education teachers, myself included, work every period every day—and at night. We don't have time to keep our heads above water, let alone do professional development reading. The school boards in this state have failed to recognize that professional development and preparation are part of a teachers responsibility, and that's why it should be denied to them to have control over sabbaticals. *Palmerton*

It's a typical example of teachers, when they take these sabbaticals and negotiate their contracts, they're always putting themselves first before the children. It's about time they start thinking about the kids before themselves. *Humlocks*

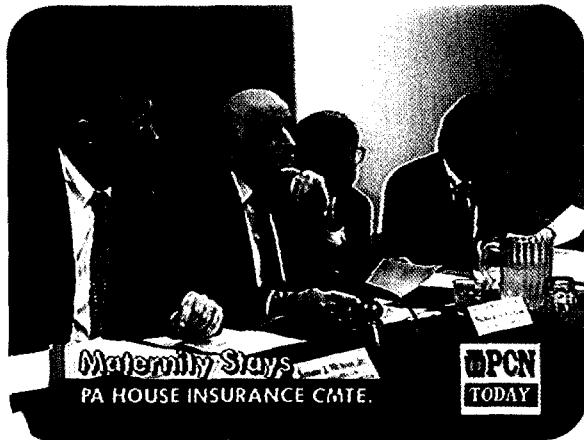
I sit on a school board. In the past three months, six people put in for sabbatical leaves costing our school district over \$150,000—that's not counting the money for long term subs that we're going to have to pay. Our people get reimbursed for going to college to get extra credits and [then they] come back and demand more salary. I think it's ridiculous. *Mather*

There are school boards in this state that are running multi-million dollar businesses and the majority of members on some of those school boards barely have a high school education. When are they going to [address] that instead of trying to screw teachers?

Stroudsburg

Teachers should not be able to take sabbaticals, and teachers should not have tenure. I do not feel that anybody should be guaranteed a job for life, and once a teacher does get tenure it is very hard to get rid of them.

Allentown



The hospital got a letter from my wife's insurance company stating that she had to be out (following a vaginal birth) in twenty-four hours, no more. The nurses didn't have time to show her anything that had to be done.

Wilkes Barre

I had my baby at two o'clock on Thursday, and on Friday someone came in and said, "You have to leave today, your insurance won't cover it." I think that's terrible, and I don't think insurance should mandate that.

Town withheld

I'm getting sick and tired of how [legislators] protect the teachers and how education goes completely down the tubes and they don't want to do anything about it.

Milford

In our school district sabbaticals are greatly abused. We had a business education teacher travel to Florida and work as a bartender for a sabbatical, and I fail to see how that benefits students. We had a home economics teacher and a mathematics teacher travel on cruises and whale watching tours during their sabbatical time, and I fail to see how that benefits students either.

Huntingdon

It's totally ridiculous that teachers get sabbatical leaves. They should run that just like a regular corporation would run. I don't think you should leave it to the local government either because they'd probably cave into pressure. [Sabbatical leaves] should be totally eliminated.

Coudersport

On post secondary or higher education teaching personnel, I am in favor of maintaining sabbaticals. However, I would like the public school sabbatical system reviewed. I think there's more abuse in that than in the secondary level of higher education.

Mechanicsburg

Maternity Stays

State agency hearings on maternity stays followed stories of local insurance companies who had established a policy of allowing only one day of hospital care for mother and newborn following a normal, and uncomplicated, delivery. Signed into law on July 2 by Governor Ridge, the Health Security Act mandated insurance coverage for a minimum of 48-hours following a normal vaginal birth, and 96-hours for cesarian birth.

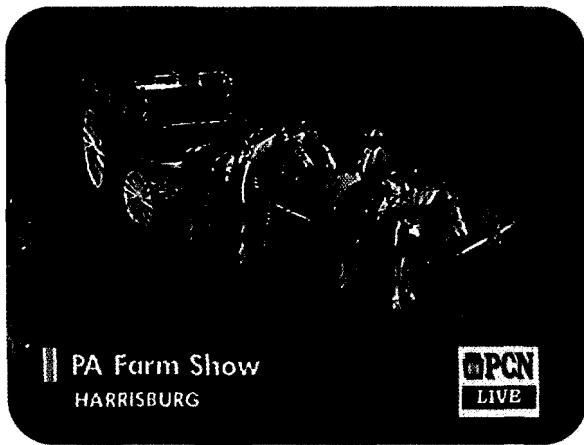
Being a mother of four children myself (when I was allowed to stay in the hospital five days years ago), I know that anybody in the hospital today getting sent out in twenty-four hours is definitely not enough.

Hazleton

I'm pregnant right now. My sister had a baby last year. She had not even twenty-four hours in the hospital and couldn't tend to the baby and felt like she didn't bond. I think it's very important that we do have the forty-eight hours.

Bensalem

All the insurance companies are doing is scaring the hell out of everybody, kicking them out of the hospital before they're ready. *Town withheld*



PA State Farm Show

Between January 7 and January 12, PCN offered state residents unprecedented live coverage of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. More than 61 hours of programming was telecast, including draft horse competitions, horse pulling contests, poultry and livestock judging, and two high school rodeos. Even when the "Blizzard of '96" closed all roads leading to the agricultural showcase, PCN continued its coverage of events and activities at the Farm Show Complex.

We're in the middle of a blizzard here and it's really nice to be able to watch the Farm Show because we're not going to be able to make it this year. It's not the same as being there but at least we do get to see what's going on—even though we don't get to eat and get chocolate milkshakes and things like that.

Lehighton

I am watching the Pennsylvania Farm Show on a snowy day and I just want to say that I enjoy it immensely. They're doing a beautiful job. It's very educational, and I enjoy watching the horses and the rodeo.

Clarks Summit

I was considering having my cable taken out until I ran into the PCN channel. I want to thank you for the wonderful Farm Show programming which has been very enjoyable, entertaining, and educational. It's amazing to see the young people and how hard they work to participate in all the competitions. Not enough is said about the young people who do achieve and excel. The Farm Show has been wonderful, and I can't wait for the next broadcast.

Uniontown

It's really great that you're [showing] the Farm Show for those people that are shut-ins and those across the state of Pennsylvania that can't get to the Farm Show. A wonderful idea.

Harrisburg

We sure did your appreciate televising the Farm Show. We are a house full of senior citizens—retired farmers—and we are enjoying the cable. Thank you very much.

Hummelstown

I appreciate you showing the Farm Show events. Since the weather is so bad, we haven't been able to get there yet. My children have enjoyed seeing the animals and watching the events on TV. I know it's not the same as being there, but at least it gives them an idea of what the Farm Show is all about.

Middletown

Regarding the Farm Show, it was really heartwarming to see some folks from the Oil City and the Guys Mills area, just around the corner from here. It's good to see our local folks on TV.

Cochranon

Thank you for putting the Farm Show on, we've watched it every night. We really thank you for showing us the draft horses and the high school rodeo, and we really need to thank those people for braving the weather and taking those wonderful horses to Harrisburg.

Bethel Park

As an exhibitor of cows at the Farm Show, this is a nice way to get to see everything, because I didn't get to see everything all week. You're doing a great job, and your coverage of the dairy derby was really nice.

Harrisburg

Thanks for carrying the Pennsylvania Farm Show. For us die hard county fair and farm show fans who are having withdrawal at this time of year, it's a great thrill to have the biggest and best being televised. Perfect family entertainment—educational and fun—and a great tribute to the hard-working farm families in Pennsylvania.

Munhill

We were down at the Farm Show yesterday and this morning. We had to leave because of the bad weather, and we just want to thank you very much for putting it on so that we could see some of the things that we had missed. We really enjoyed the show.

White Oak

I'm enjoying your coverage of the Farm Show since my allergies prevent me from going in person.

Town withheld

I'm in the snow here in Fishing Creek Valley, and I just love that organ music. The variety and the sound is just right in the arena. It's just beautiful. I want you to tell that piano player that he is just delightful and I'm so glad they made it in the snow. *Harrisburg*

I really appreciate the Farm Show being on the cable. With the weather and all, I couldn't get there this year (and my work schedule didn't permit it) so I'm taping it, and then I can watch it when I get home. *Reading*

A big thanks for putting the Farm Show on this week. I'm disabled that there's no way I could walk around to see it. Great job. *State College*

I was going to take my son to the Farm Show today, but I don't agree with them tying up the calves and the goats. I don't think that's fair to the animals. *Town withheld*

Great today that you're able to broadcast the Farm Show. I live in Carbon County and I was unable to get out today to attend the horse show due to the blizzard conditions that we're having. Thank you. *Jim Thorpe*

Your coverage of Farm Show horse events...it's the greatest thing. If only I would have known sooner. Because of the weather I can't get there—so thanks a lot. *Allentown*

I just want to say this is the only way I could have possible been to the Farm Show in this Blizzard of '96. I really appreciated seeing the rodeo last night and the hitched draft horses tonight. *Morrisville*

Thank you so much for broadcasting the Farm Show. Horses are my favorite, they are so beautiful. I wish them all a safe trip home after the blizzard.

Mechanicsburg

The Governor closed the roads and there are still people at the Farm Show. I'm not sure whether the Governor should extend the Farm Show, but you've got a full crowd and we're under snow emergency. I don't quite understand this. *Town withheld*

This Farm Show coverage has been so wonderful. No money that could buy that kind of enjoyment for me. Thanks so much. *Harrisburg*

I'm certainly enjoying the horse show. My husband is 85, I'm 78, and we certainly couldn't go over in this foul weather. It's great. *Town withheld*



We're watching the Pennsylvania Farm Show goat tying and I completely am opposed to anything like that. We had goats, they sure as hell don't need to be thrown on their sides. They're not like cattle. *Williamsport*

Thank you for the excellent coverage of the Pennsylvania Farm Show this year. I have loved coming year after year. Obviously, because of the weather, I was not able to make it. You have brought the Farm Show home to me and I am deeply grateful for it.

Bethlehem

We're now watching the horse team obstacle course—been watching it most of the day. Appreciate it very much. Just had to call and tell you how much we appreciate it. *Mechanicsburg*

Thank you for your presentation of the heavy horse classes. One sees eventing and racing on television, but you never get to see the heavy horse classes. We appreciate it, and we are faithful viewers. *Bethel Park*

The Farm Show is really really good. All the horses deserve blue ribbons. But could you have someone comment on how these things are judged? We city people don't know anything about this judging, and we would like to have some more information. *Scranton*

Thank you for carrying the Farm Show the way you are doing it—just the way it's happening, without someone having to do a lot of talking. Keep up the good work. *State College*

We are very much impressed with the [ladies perch] program that's going on, but we don't understand it. We'd like to have some commentary. We are grateful for this, but it's just horses and pretty women. *New Cumberland*

My sincere thanks for the fine way in which you presented the major events at this year's State Farm Show. We called several friends who we knew would enjoy the program, and let them know it was on.

Summit Hill

We were just watching the horse pull—we've never seen it before. For us city folk here in Philadelphia, it would be interesting to get a little more commentary about what's going on, what the criteria are for the horses.

Philadelphia

I just finished watching the 3,200 [lb.] horse pulling contest. First place was all of \$355. That's terrible. As much work goes into this, and the first place money is \$355? There should be some adjustment made on that. The horse pulling was interesting, it was very much Pennsylvania, these are hard-working people, and the money should be greater.

Town withheld

We are very pleased with the same-day coverage of the pony pull. My brother is pulling ponies in the middleweight [division] and we live on a farm, so we're unable to be there. This way we can be there through TV.

Westmoreland County

I enjoyed the Farm Show very much until the horse pulling. That practice is a bit barbaric. I thought it was okay until I had met with a girl who was a farmer, and her father was involved in it, and she said the horses aren't treated very well. I also found it very sad that animals win first prize and then end up going to the slaughterhouse. Farm animals should be treated with more respect—especially the beautiful horses.

Conygham

Programming like this is really a wholesome thing for a family today. With the things that you see on TV, it's a pleasure to see something like this pony pulling contest. Thank you.

Allentown

I'm watching the pony pulling contest from the Farm Show out in Harrisburg and it's barbaric what they are doing to the horses. How would you like to go out there and pull 6,000 pounds? These people ought to be shot.

Scottdale

We've enjoyed watching the festivities at the Farm Show all weekend long. We saw chickens and heavyweight horse pulling and the pony pulling and certainly enjoyed it all.

Kutztown

The pony pulling contest from the State Farm Show is such a cruel event. The horses are being made to strain and practically break their leg and chest for no reason other but for humans to sit around and be entertained. I'm just horrified...and ashamed to live in a state that treats animals like this.

Altoona

The pony pull...it's ridiculous to see them pulling that weight. Let them people who own them horses start pulling them. It's cruel to animals as far as I'm concerned.

Dixon City

Thank you so much for showing the draft horse competition from the Farm Show. You're talking to an old old competitor for the horse show in Pennsylvania. I'm so glad to see it back on TV, it's been missed for many years.

Town withheld

We attend the Farm Show every year, but since we are busy with events ourselves, we don't get to see many of the other things at the Farm Show. We really enjoy watching the recaps and the events on cable.

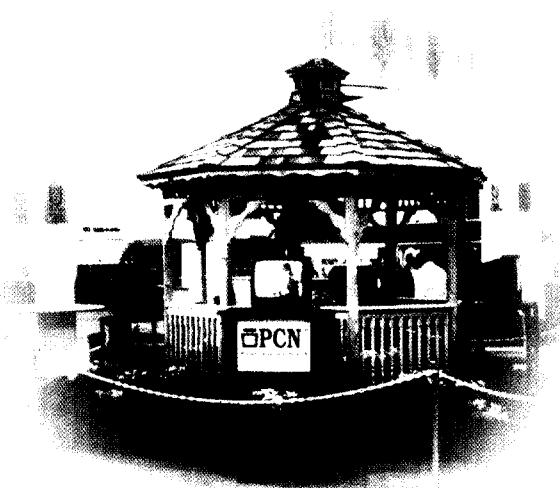
Grindstone

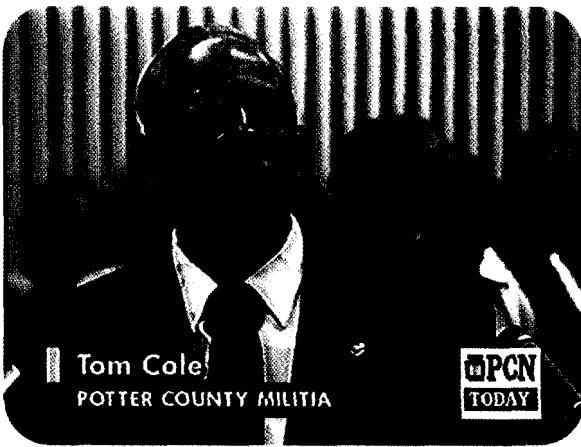
Due to our work schedules, my husband and I weren't able to go to the Farm Show this year, but thanks to PCN we've been able to watch most of our favorite events. We appreciate the coverage.

Altoona

I'm sitting here watching the Farm Show fashions, and I'm having a ball.

Harrisburg





Militia in Pennsylvania

Following the Oklahoma City bombing by members connected with a militia organization, the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee held a day-long hearing on militia groups operating in the Commonwealth. Militia members from Potter and McKean counties testified before legislators and explained their goals and beliefs.

I can't believe how these Senators badger these patriots. If you're a logical person and you've read all the things that the ATF and the FBI have been doing—they're running amuck. They've been acting like thugs. I'm not a radical person, but you can just see who's right and who's wrong here. *Berks County*

Last week in court my township convicted me of sitting in a chair on my own property. They said that sitting constitutes occupying. That's why we have militias—because this stuff is allowed to go on. These people have pushed me and pushed me and used the law to do it with. *Saylorsburg*

It's okay if the militia is helping the fire department or the local police, but—in forming their own opinions and acting upon them—they could be very dangerous to the local and national public. We need to keep an eye on such groups. *Harrisburg*

As a 56-year old woman who isn't affiliated with any [militia group], I think the legislators are laughing at these people. I don't like it. I think these people have a point. I do believe the public has the right to keep and bear arms, and they have the right to be safe in their homes. And if anyone breaks in, they have the right to shoot them. *McMurray*

Militia in Pennsylvania are quoting all these constitutional rights that took place back in the day when we had troops from other countries invading our land. I think things have changed drastically in the last 200 years. When they talk about federal agencies breaking down doors; it's once in a million that these mistakes happen. [Militia] are the nuts we've got to worry about. These are the guys that blow up federal buildings. *Town withheld*

Taking guns away from civilians that have no criminal background is not going to help with stopping the crime rate...criminals will always have weapons. The Constitution gives you the right to protect yourself and your family and your property from physical harm. *Centre County*

I thank God for the militias. They're not doing anything wrong. They're there to protect us from what our federal government is trying to do to us, and I wish our Senators would listen and listen good. *Nescopeck*

This [militia] guy oughta be hung. What he needs is a couple of sheets and a hood over his head because this man is a communist. *Town withheld*

The government writes the laws and they're above the laws. Why can they get away with writing bad checks and breaking the law and nothing gets done to 'em, when a regular citizen writing a bad check would get thrown in jail?

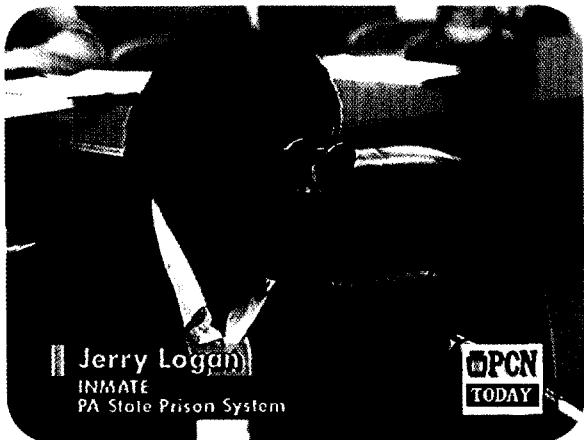
Bethlehem

People asked me to join militias and I had not wanted to join. Well, I [recently] realized that we're being taxed to death in this country. In my father's day, he bought and sold three different homes. I make more in two weeks than he ever made in an entire month, however, I never bought one home. *Mechanicsburg*

We need militia because of when the government kills women and children, like what happened at Waco and what happened at that farm. Rights and privileges of the people are being denied. We are overtaxed, overworked, and hardly can support our families because the government wants more from us.

Town withheld

It is a shame that the militia people, after taking so much effort to carefully explain legitimate concerns, were only mocked by legislators. *Pittsburgh*



Parole Reform

Chaired by Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R – Montgomery), the Senate Judiciary Committee held a series of hearings on the parole of Pennsylvania inmate Robert “Mudman” Simon, who was later charged with killing a police officer in New Jersey. At one hearing, four prisoners testified before the committee and spoke of employee corruption at State Correctional Institute–Graterford, where Simon was incarcerated. Shortly after the hearing, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections raided the Graterford facility—the largest shakedown of a prison in US History.

As a former employee of the Department of Corrections, I agree with the inmate who is speaking this evening. There is a lot of intimidation done by the security officer in the prison system. There is devious mistreatment of the inmates, a lot of things that need to be corrected. This inmate is speaking the truth—I have seen it first hand.

Meadville

We have the wrong people behind bars. It's intolerable that officers, that I pay money for, are buying and selling drugs and controlling the situation when there's absolutely no authority. I fully intend on contacting my senator and representatives.

Clarks Summit

I'm a corrections officer at State Correctional Institute–Albion. The things going on in the Department of Corrections should be brought to somebody's attention. I have been told by people that come from Camp Hill and Graterford they do beat the hell out of inmates at Camp Hill on a frequent basis and take pride in it.

Meadville

As far as the prisoners rights are concerned, I see where they have some rights, but some of the stuff that they are coming up with is totally crazy. Guards have rights also.

Washington

I'm watching Jonathan Brown, inmate PA state prison system, and you'd better listen to him. I know some of the people that work in these prisons and I want to tell you what: the boy's not lying. I'm out of the system; I got out to keep my integrity. Where I worked at a state hospital, there was a forensic unit and trust me—it's crooked. You'd better listen to this boy, and you'd better protect his life.

McKees Rocks

I spent years at Graterford and the guards are crooked and they do beat inmates.

Scranton

I worked in a prison for 25 years and I saw many inmates like Jonathan Brown also trying to convict me on charges...they're a bunch of damn liars. The guards probably wrote 'em up for disciplinary action and this is how they retaliate against the officers.

Reading

I don't know what kind of deal prisoner Jonathan Brown has made with the people he's talking to, but I really suggest that he needs protection or parole because the information he's given us is vital and I don't think he'll live to see tomorrow.

Town withheld

These Senators on the panel need to wake up and they need to listen. I think it's going to be what you call "lip service." Sure, they're on a panel, they're on TV, everybody's watching it; I don't really think anything is going to be done. I don't think it's going to get any better.

Town withheld

I'm really glad you are showing those hearings on Pennsylvania prisons. It's really important that people know that these kinds of corruptions and brutality happen.

Lewisburg

Everything that is being said by these inmates I have dealt with when I was in State Correctional Institute–Retreat. I dealt with [guards] taking items out of my cell; taking monies that was sent to me as an inmate.

Williamsport

My husband worked there [State Correctional Institute–Graterford] and he came home and told me every night that there was stuff going. I can't believe how naive the Senators are. There are more drugs in the Graterford prison than on the streets of Philadelphia.

Berwick

Why would these guys have the same allegations and the same story? They've been separated in different prisons—why would they lie? I was an inmate at Camp Hill prison. I believe these brothers. I heard that Graterford is a corrupt place.

Harrisburg

I know people who work in Graterford and these inmates that are talking don't have the right story.

Tobynanna

I'm a retired correctional officer and a retired police officer in Philadelphia. This one inmate, Jonathan, is a known liar. I just can't believe that the Senate is allowing this bogus testimony to go on.

Philadelphia

I worked in a prison myself, and I can't understand that these Senators don't have exact understanding and knowledge of what's going on. They're not streetwise at all, or else they're getting kickbacks from what's going on at the prison.

Dunmore

I don't think these Senators are getting the message. I wish they would do something to try to protect these people. This has been going on for a long time, and these people sitting in these offices can't tell me that they don't know this is going on.

Reading

I have a brother that is presently incarcerated in Graterford and I need to know how to get him out of that madness.

Harrisburg

I'm a correctional officer at a county prison. It's sad to say, but what the inmates are saying are true. It's not also in state, it's in county, it's in every prison system, and it starts with administration.

Town withheld

I worked as a prison guard in Florida. Everything this inmate is saying to this committee is basically the same thing that goes on down in Florida. It's very believable and it's very truthful.

Altoona

These black men that you've interviewed seem very honest. Why is it that all those white men sitting up there act like they can't believe 'em. Please wake up and stop looking at the color, and realize that just like black men, white men make mistakes and are dirty and guilty too.

Town withheld

My husband is an inmate in prison and he is being tortured. I know what these guys are talking about on TV.

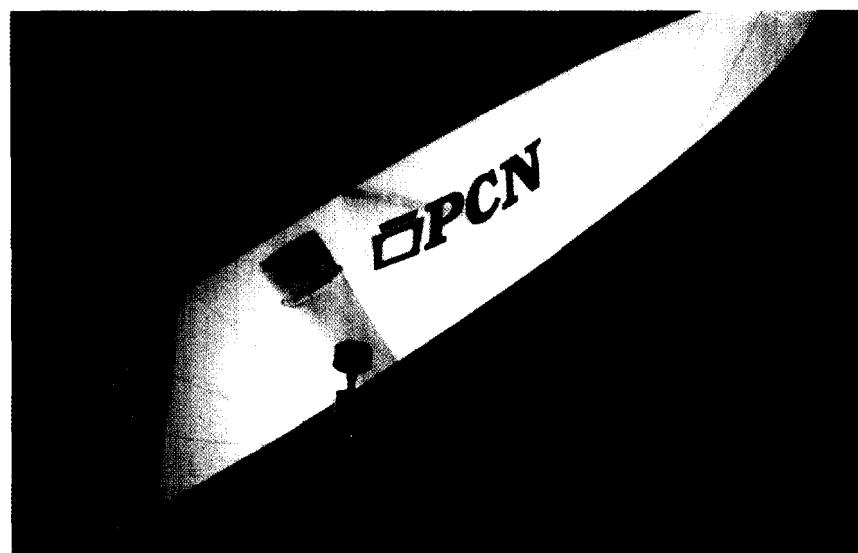
Harrisburg

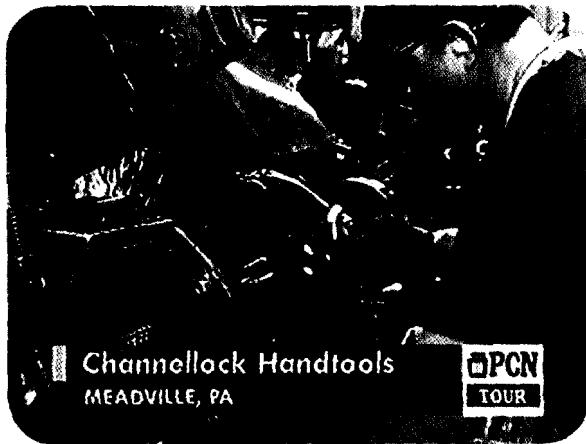
I'm recently retired from the Department of Corrections after 32 years in the system. Senators O'Pake and Greenleaf—I don't know if these guys are as naive as they're pretending to be—but I heard for years how corrupt the system was in Pennsylvania. Why all the attention now?

Town withheld

I did love, and still do, a lifer from Philadelphia. When you televise shows pertaining to the prisoners, you have all of the relatives, friends, associates, Christian brothers and sisters, and perhaps even preachers as viewers. Thank you so much.

Mount Pleasant





I am a special education teacher in Lancaster County. The spotlights on business that you show on PCN are of great interest to me. My students learn best by hands-on experiences. The second best way is by watching people do interesting things and by watching how things work.

Lancaster County

Last night my wife and I watched the Martin Guitar factory tour and thoroughly enjoyed it. The Harley-Davidson tour was likewise fascinating. It is great to see Pennsylvania businesses highlighted as it inspires a bit of Commonwealth patriotism.

Hummelstown

I am watching the Straub Brewery tour and it is fascinating. I never knew all of this went into making beer, and I am finding it very interesting.

Birdsboro

We're watching PCN from Hershey Medical Center and just enjoyed the Seltzers' Lebanon Bologna tour. It was really interesting, and made us understand why we have to pay the price [we do] for Lebanon Bologna.

Hershey

I'm watching your PCN tour of Just Born Candy. It's Good Friday, and it's fabulous—especially to watch candy being made at Easter time.

Reading

Factory and Museum Tours

A popular feature, PCN Tours showcase museums and manufacturing facilities in the Commonwealth. In the past year, network viewers have travelled inside the Eisenhower Farm in Gettysburg, the York County Fire Museum, the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, and the US Brig Niagara. Factory tours on PCN have included Martin Guitars, Chaddsford Winery, Zippo Lighters, Just Born Candies, Channellock Tools, Walnut Acres Organic Farms, and the Straub Brewery, among others.

You aired a show on anthracite coal; my son and I watched. I always felt down being from Scranton; we were called "Coal Crackers." This got me mad at times, because we are pretty cool. After seeing the show, I felt a little proud. I did not know we are the only anthracite region. I will be sure to act proud of our history from now on.

Plains



I tuned into the program on The Martin Guitar Company. My son is a musician in New Mexico who plays a Martin. He would be fascinated to see the elaborate steps which go into the production of these fine guitars.

Town withheld

Wonderful and fascinating program about the Straub Brewery. It would be very interesting to see more profiles of breweries in Pennsylvania, especially since the brewing renaissance is growing at a rapid rate with all the micro-breweries.

Mechanicsburg

PCN's Thanksgiving night show on the Middletown & Hummelstown short-line railroad was excellent. This was the first in-depth presentation I'd ever seen on the day-to-day operation of short-line, and it was fascinating.

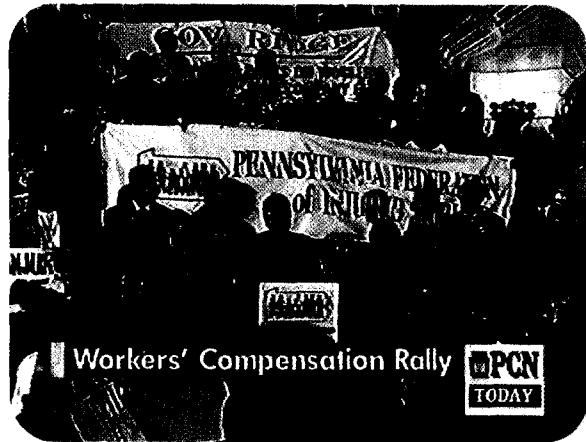
University Park

I saw some really interesting shows about the manufacturing of various industries. The one that you had on Harley-Davidson; I toured the factory last summer and I thought it was just as well to watch your show.

State College

The video of the Coolspring Power Museum in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, is excellent programming. I'd like to see more, my family would like to see more. There is support there for this kind of television, so keep up the good work.

Camp Hill



Workers' Compensation

In 1996, the Pennsylvania Legislature addressed the high cost of workers' compensation in the Commonwealth with a new law designed to legitimize claims and eligibility, offer alternative dispute resolution, and speed up the return of recovered workers to the workplace. Debate on the bill and hearings with insurance companies, employers, and employees in the state sparked numerous calls to the Pennsylvania Cable Network; most of which came from state residents who had been injured while on the job.

I've been an employer for the past fifteen years. In the early nineties I had one employee go out on workers' compensation—it's the only employee that ever went out. My rates by the insurance company went up five percent. I was told that if I could help get him off workers' comp, I could get a reduction in my rates. Why am I being penalized for one worker in fifteen years?

Hershey

Everyone seems so concerned about the employer and business rights. What about the worker? They are going to [make] it so that the actual injured party is the one who suffers.

Town Withheld

The legislation on workers' compensation reform is overly needed. There is so much abuse. Much of these people on so-called disability are just milking the system and robbing the taxpayers, robbing the companies and causing a lot of economic problems throughout the state. The people that are injured have nothing to worry about. The abusers will be taken care of.

Luzerne County

The workers' compensation system is totally out of control. The reform that the present administration wants is not the reform that's needed. We need to get back to basic, essential benefits.

East Freedom

It is absolutely horrendous that these politicians who have never been on compensation and have no idea what it's like to try and take everything from the poor working man. You get two-thirds of your pay, no vacation, no chance of advancement, and no hospitalization whatsoever when you're on workman's compensation—and yet they want to take that away from a guy who's worked all his life.

Town Withheld

I am just calling to express my outrage about the legislation on the workers' compensation. [As] a person on workers' compensation, I have to pay people to take care of my yard, shovel my sidewalk, food shop, and everything else.

Nanticoke

Hard working taxpayers who become victims of injury should not be reduced to a subclass that is treated in a slave-like manner by the rest of the Commonwealth. We need fair and fundamental change on workman's compensation that protects the rights of business and the rights of workers and this bill is not it.

Harrisburg

This bill is trying to cut workers' compensation by sacrificing injured employees rights. It will also complicate court cases.

Delaware County

The doctors don't care what your injuries are, they try to force you back to work. I [was] forced back to work in 1994 after I had major back surgery and I couldn't last even 45 minutes on my job.

Palmyra

Why are they trying to push this so quick without having any public response? I have been on workers' comp for the last four years and all I have been doing is just fighting, fighting, and fighting just to get my injuries taken care of.

Penn Hills

I think people who are injured at work are getting the dirty end of the deal. The law has got to change because the insurance companies are just doing whatever they please. I have been disabled for the rest of my life. I also developed mental depression and had to have shock treatment. It was a horrible six years, and the insurance company wants to offer me pennies.

Steelton

As a recipient of workman's compensation, I would like to go on record saying that I have outstanding medical bills in excess of three years that have never been paid. With workman's comp [they] are supposed to be paid. What provisions [address] employers do not play fairly?

Lake Ariel