

Voices

The Centre Region's Independent
Community Newspaper

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C'mon in, we've missed you lately

from the desk of the Managing Editor
Suzan Erem

For 14 years, *Voices* has been written, edited, designed and produced by volunteers...people just like you.

If you enjoy what you see here, decide now to be some part of it. Don't be intimidated; we can break any job down to something anyone can do. Too busy? We have jobs that take just two hours a month, promise. Feeling apathetic? Yeah, we know. But there's no better cure than being part of a group creating change every month by putting out a celebratory and provocative issue of this paper.

Our group has grown to 60 people, always changing a bit, who help create this amazing publication. Some help out once in a while. Others are there at every Wednesday meeting, 7 p.m. in the basement of Irving's. Some take photos a few hours a month and bring in a disk. Others spend a day helping lay out the pages. And still others pick up a few bundles every month and put them out for our readers to find at 210 locations across the region. Our distributors

are our lifeblood, and we could always use more to help shorten the routes. All of our volunteers give what they can, and someone always comes through to give the rest if *Voices* needs it. It doesn't do to have a handful of people burning themselves out, so we make sure there's a broad and shallow base of willing hands. Your hands.

Corporate America has co-opted the meaning of teamwork, but at *Voices* we live it every month. It's energizing to be a part of this community-within-a-community. Every week for an hour we throw ideas around, debate, challenge, question and when we're done everyone's got something to do and to come back with the next week. We don't waste people's time, but we do sometimes go out afterwards and keep up the conversations we've begun.

Sometimes, especially when I have to travel, I worry whether the next issue will

get out. Will I be the first managing editor to miss an issue of *Voices* after all these years? But then the crew steps up and it happens, as Ben Brewer so ably did last month. Everyone at *Voices* understands that our very existence is a challenge to a corporate establishment. Our very presence in this community is a celebration of freedom of speech and true democracy. Thankfully, we have many more friends than enemies, but there are certainly people and institutions here that wish we would just go away.

The only way I can be sure we won't is if you step up and take on a piece of the action. You don't have to be political to want a variety of viewpoints—you just have to believe in the American Way. You don't have to dedicate weeks or months to make a difference. You can do it in a couple of hours at your own pace. You can even enlist the kids!

So please, give us a call or write us at voices@voicesweb.org. We'd love to see you.

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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. 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. Letters become the property of *Voices* of Central Pennsylvania. Email to oped@voicesweb.org.

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