



GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

ADVANCING THE MANUFACTURING AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITIES

JULY 2017

SMC Harrisburg Lobbying Trip Report, June 13th, 14th, and 15th

By Eileen Anderson, Director, Government Relations

The purpose of this whirlwind trip was to distribute SMC's 2017 State Position Papers and speak with lawmakers about SMC's top agenda items before the House and Senate passed the 2017-18 budget and voted on any legislation riding along with the budget. Once the budget is passed lawmakers will depart for summer recess.

Several of SMC's issues have seen action recently; state pension reform, regulations, and workforce development. Other issues are longer term but it always pays to bring them to the attention of lawmakers and keep them on their agenda. [Read More>>](#)

WANTED:

The PA House Republican Policy Committee, Chaired by Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, will travel the state on a "Jobs Tour" in late summer and is looking for examples of small and large businesses who have been trying to grow, invest and hire new employees but have been stopped or delayed by PA government. SMC will collect your stories. Just call Eileen Anderson at 412-342-1606, eileenanderson@smc.org

Coming in the August Issue:

- A Comprehensive Look at the 2017-18 State Budget
- The Next Step for State Pension Reform
- Regulatory Relief in 2018?

SAVE THE DATE!

SMC'S Annual Legislative Reception

September 28, 2017

6:00 PM
The Rivers Club, Pgh.

Mark your calendar today for this gala event. It's a great opportunity to network with your colleagues, entertain your clients, and meet lawmakers and staff. Following tradition, a **Small Business Issues Forum**, where all can voice their concerns, will be held prior to the Reception from 5:00-6:00 PM, same location.

SMC Lobbying Results

Does lobbying really work? Sure it does. It's a matter of being at the right place at the right time with the right message, and being persistent. Legislative action on some issues takes years to accomplish. Here's a brief overview of some current successes....

[Read More>>](#)

Contract Issues For Small Business Owners Choice of Law and Choice of Venue – Why These Provisions DO Matter

By Delia Bouwers Bianchin, The Lynch Law Group



Welcome to Part 3 of this multi-article series regarding contract interpretation for business owners. The first article in the series touched on important considerations when reviewing an indemnification clause and in the second article

we focused on warranty language. If you missed them, you can read them here: [Reviewing the Indemnification Clause, Warranty Language - Does it Fit the Situation?](#) [Read More>>](#)

LIVE WELL WORK WELL

Simple Summer Activities Your Kids Are Sure to Love

Summer is often filled with outdoor parties, warm weather and no school. Unfortunately, the arrival of summer can bring stress for many parents as they search for ways to keep their kids happy, healthy, engaged and safe without breaking the bank.

Do You Know the Seizure First Aid?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 10 people may have a seizure in their lifetime. A seizure is a change in the brain's electrical activity that can cause a variety of symptoms, including violent shaking, falling and losing bodily control. However, because there are different types of seizures, symptoms can vary.

Knowing proper seizure first aid is important so that you can help keep a person who is having a seizure safe and prevent further injury.

[Read More>>](#)

House Passes Changes to DOL Overtime Rule

In May, the House of Representatives passed the Working Families Flexibility Act (also known as H.R. 1180). If approved, H.R. 1180 would authorize private employers to offer compensatory time off instead of overtime pay for nonexempt employees who work more than 40 hours per week. H.R. 1180 still needs approval from the Senate and the executive branch before it becomes law. [Read More>>](#)



What Happens if the ACA Employer Mandate is Repealed?

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires applicable large employers (ALEs) to offer affordable, minimum value health coverage to their full-time employees in order to avoid possible penalties. Because this employer mandate has been criticized as burdensome for employers and an impediment to business growth, its repeal has been a central part of Republican plans to repeal and replace the ACA. [Read More>>](#)

COST COMPARISON: ER vs. URGENT CARE

Blocks of dollars are used to show how much more expensive ER visits are compared to urgent care visits. For example, a urinary tract infection (UTI) costs \$700 at the ER and \$70 at urgent care. The following illustrations are estimates of some common illnesses. It provides a comparison between emergency room (ER) and urgent care costs.



Disclaimer: These figures are purely estimates. This infographic is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice. For further information, please contact a medical professional. © 2017 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.



HUMAN RESOURCES

ADVANCING THE MANUFACTURING AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITIES

JULY 2017

Less Is More:

How to Simplify Your Life



Life today is complicated. Most Americans are pulled in multiple directions every day by commitments to their families, workplaces, and communities. Many people have responded to the pressures of modern life by seeking ways to consciously simplify their routines and attitudes at home and work. [Read More>>](#)

Inflection Point Workforce Report 2017 – HR Input



The Allegheny Conference released the Inflection Point report in 2016 which detailed a coming workforce shortage of 80,000 people and a skills misalignment. The report also served as a call to action to solve this challenge as a region.

Since then, we have been working with our members in the business and education community, along with civic and government leaders, to build a better bridge between educators and businesses, and to accelerate efforts to elevate, retain and attract more talent to the region.

As the Conference updates Inflection Point for 2017, we are interested in tracking what businesses are doing since the report’s release to enhance talent elevation, attraction and retention in your member organizations.

[Read More>>](#)

Navigating Pennsylvania’s New Medical Marijuana Act: What Employers Need to Know

The Act contains a number of provisions that retain the rights of employers to maintain a drug-free workplace even as it respects the rights of certified medical marijuana users.

On April 17, 2016, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed the Medical Marijuana Act (“the Act”) into law. The Act, which takes effect on May 17, 2016, legalizes the use and possession of medical marijuana under specified circumstances and provides for a comprehensive program of registration, prescription, dispensing and permitted use of medical marijuana.

[Read More>>](#)



Did you know?

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

COACH’S CORNER



Work good health into your workdays

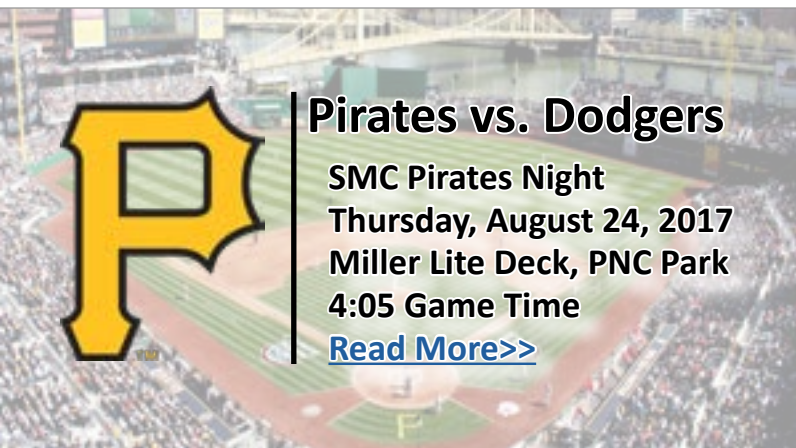
Click here are 10 tips for staying productive and healthy at work!



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

ADVANCING THE MANUFACTURING AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITIES

JULY 2017



Pirates vs. Dodgers
 SMC Pirates Night
 Thursday, August 24, 2017
 Miller Lite Deck, PNC Park
 4:05 Game Time
[Read More>>](#)



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 Legislative Reception
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 6:00 PM
 The Rivers Club, Pgh.
 Watch for Details!

Click here for SMC's 2017 Calendar of EVENTS

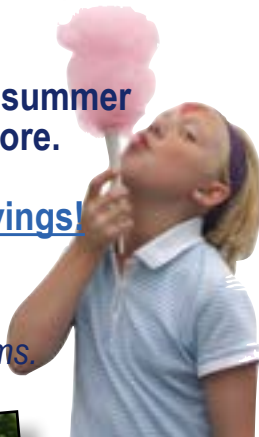



SMC'S SUMMER FUN GUIDE IS BACK!

Get great discounts to popular summer attractions, theme parks and more.

[Click here for your summer savings!](#)

Savings are available to employers and employees of SMC member firms.



Export Opportunities in Mining, Construction and Energy in Peru

Peru is booming and growing at 3.5% annually. Demand for Infrastructure equipment and technology is high. Two of the world's largest copper mines, the expanded Cerro Verde and Las Bambas, located in the south of Peru, ramped up output to dramatically increase the red metal production profile of Peru. Peru's newly elected president, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski will unlock some \$20 billion in investments in mining and energy. [Read More>>](#)



**SMC Charity Golf Outing with Beverly's Birthdays
June 12, 2017 - Birdsfoot Golf Course, Butler, PA**

Thank you to our golf outing sponsors:

- Comfort Supply, Inc.
- Highmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield
- SMC Insurance Agency, Inc.
- United Concordia
- UPMC

- Armstrong Cable
- Basket of Pittsburgh
- Giant Eagle
- NexTier Bank
- United Health Care