

Letters to the editors

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Retired state trooper and former fire fighter respond to letter writer featured in this "Columbia news, views & reviews" article: <http://columbianewsandviews.com/2011/12/30/lights-and-sirens-and-what-to-do/>

When drivers must yield

In response to Shelley Crider's letter, "Fire-truck driver's arrogance," Ms. Crider, as well as some other drivers, should review the Pennsylvania manual for drivers.

In particular, Section 3325 of the Pa. Vehicle Code requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles and immediately drive to a position as close as possible to the right-hand edge and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

On one-way roadways, a driver may comply by driving to the edge or curb which is nearest to the lane in which he is traveling.

Lt. Romaine Edwards (Ret.) Pennsylvania State Police, East Donegal Township

Law says "Yield"

As an ex-volunteer fire engine driver, I must reply to the recent letter by Shelly Crider chastising the fire engine driver on Route 30.

Perhaps Crider should review the Pennsylvania drivers handbook. Paragraph 3325 of the Pa. Motor Vehicle Code requires that on the approach of an emergency vehicle with lights and siren, all other vehicles are to yield right of way and move to as far to the right on the shoulder as far as possible.

In other words, the emergency vehicle owns the road.

Rather than the fire engine driver acting illegally, Crider could have received a ticket for failure to yield right of way.

Paul C. Long, East Hempfield Township

Aument: My position on reducing Legislature misrepresented

Unfortunately, public officials have earned a well-deserved reputation for shifting positions when it suits them politically and benefits them personally.

Like most citizens, I believe that constituents deserve better from those they have elected to serve them. This is why I am writing to set the record straight regarding two recent letters to the editor that call into question my integrity as a lawmaker regarding my position on reducing the size of the General Assembly.

Let me be clear: I support downsizing our state Legislature.

In recent letters to the editor, my position on making the General Assembly more efficient and cost-effective by reducing its size was misrepresented.

Mr. E.F. Eggert of Landisville wrote that when I was questioned, I said that, "... the savings (by reducing the legislature) would be insignificant so there is no need to do it." This is simply not true.

When Mr. Eggert contacted me, I expressed my support for downsizing the Assembly, but I

wanted him to understand that the actual savings will not be as extensive as he believes.

I also let him know that, while reducing the size of the Legislature, I will work to preserve the Assembly's rightful place between the branches of government --- so that the governor or judicial branch could never foreclose on the "Peoples' House," which is the truest form of citizen government.

Subsequently, Mr. Eggert's letter spurred another letter comparing my alleged "shifting position" on this issue to another elected official's announcement that he has changed his position on taking a state pension. I cannot allow my positions to be misrepresented and then lumped with the issues of other elected officials.

Growing up in Lancaster County and then serving our nation on the battlefields of Iraq, I learned many valuable lessons, including this one: Your word is your bond.

I am very willing to engage in dialogue with any constituent regarding issues, but we need to start from a place of common respect and honesty. The facts are relevant. Personal integrity matters.

State Rep. Ryan P. Aument, Landisville

Enforce the law

I agree with Grace Ott, Jan. 2, "Raining? Drivers, turn on your lights."

I thought Pennsylvania drivers must use lights. Why don't police issue warnings to drivers? It might eliminate accidents. I have seen many cars without their lights on.

Wilbur Ragan, Lititz