

Ol Granny Series **Sent this in Dec for the 2016 first issue (WAS NOT PUBLISHED – NO ROOM)**

Hello all you wonderful people of Pennsylvania.

Someone said to me recently, how do I like my retirement. My WHAT!!!! If I'm retired, someone should have told me. I'd like to settle down and do a little rockin. You know, on the ol rocker, maybe knit a little.

In my younger days, I was a Mary Kay Cosmetics Representative. They sure did teach me a lot. They encouraged everyone to stand up in front of the crowd and tell your stories. Well, that was very hard for me to do. My stomach got so upset with the thought of speaking in front of a crowd that I almost fainted dead away. They should see me now. Mary Kay taught me also that if you want something done, ask a busy person. I guess I'm that busy person now.

Anyway, I look around at the crowd of spectators and focus in on a potential volunteer candidate. I ask many people to help do things and sometimes that's all it takes – just the asking. Most people do not say NO. One thing I found, though, you need a specific chore to ask for help with. If you just ask for volunteers, most people just shy away. A specific task gets response.

We have been knocking on doors in districts far away from Berks County. A lot of people do not answer their doors on a Saturday morning. Those that do, 90% of them sign our petitions. I watch the neighborhoods. When I see a car coming out of a garage, I beeline towards it and get them to sign. Everyone wants Property Tax Elimination. So many people know nothing about it. It's just so much fun to tell them, and see their faces light up – it really would be nice for them to have some extra money in their pockets by not paying the school taxes. So many people tell me they are struggling with mortgages, and utility bills and kids expenses and these darn taxes eat up any hope of getting something extra each month. They are draining the banks, especially the elderly.

I hear stories of elderly retired couples living comfortably on their retirement – their home is paid off and they just have the normal expenses. They're able to get away for a few days here and there and, buy gifts for their grandchildren. Then one of them passes on. Their income is cut in half. Now they can no longer pay their bills. No trips. No gifts. Hardly enough for food. They struggle to pay their taxes so the government doesn't take the house they raised their kids in – the house they made so many wonderful memories in. But, they can't do it. It comes to a choice of food or taxes. No one should have to make that choice. Maybe they have medicines to buy also – meds to keep them alive. Doesn't the government care about these people? These people that supported the schools for so many many years. And, now, just throw them out on the street.

These stories we hear many times as we knock on doors. Either the people themselves are in that predicament, or they know of someone that it has happened to. This should not be happening here in Pennsylvania. We must eliminate the School Property Taxes. And, NO, we don't want it reduced – we all know when it goes down, it sooner or later goes right back up again.

Well, not all stories are so bleak – we run across some really really nice people in our travels. The last several times we canvassed, the weather was in the teens. Real cold. People invited us inside to warm up. We are strangers to them – but still they invited us in. I, being, female can understand that, but hubby, a male, who would ever invite a strange male in? Well, honey, I don't mean you are strange – well – maybe just a little strange - my point – who would invite strangers inside their homes? You read

of lots of horror stories of bad people gaining access to homes by knocking on the door. Well, one of these cold mornings, hubby knocked on a door and inside was an elderly couple. They invited him in because the pen for them to sign with was frozen and would not write. They signed the petition using their nice warm pen and chatted for a few minutes. She was baking cookies in the kitchen. The smell was overwhelming. She asked if he would like to have some. Are you kidding! Not only do I want some, but I have a few other people in the car that would like some also. Take as many as you want, she said. But he wasn't greedy – he took one for me and one for the other person in our car. And, she told him she was making pot roast for supper and if he was still in the area at suppertime, come on back and eat with us. Can you believe it! He begged me to let him go back - you know I told you earlier that I don't cook much now so an invitation for a home cooked pot roast dinner was very appealing to him. No, absolutely not, if I can't come along, you can't go either. And, of course, the other person in the car wanted to get home so - we didn't go back. He sulked all the way home.

Everyone we encounter on the pro 76 side are so very dedicated. We just have the best time. Traveling in the car for hours on end, could get very monotonous if it weren't for the great bunch of Berks County Patriots and other groups that we travel with.

Thanks to all you hard working volunteers that give of your time and give up your Saturdays to help with this effort. This ol granny really appreciates you.

I know there will be many other causes that we'll need to get the boots on the ground. We'll be there. We have to work really hard to get some of these things done. Maybe some of our duties will be to unseat some of these rascals in Harrisburg that care more about their reelection than they do their constituents. It's such a shame that they feel they don't work for us anymore. I wish we had a big fat wealthy sugar daddy that we could tap for some funds to match the funds given by the Unions and other special interest groups. I know the money would talk. Maybe we can all pool our funds to get a few of these bad guys out and let the rest of them know we mean business. I think just unseating one senator or representative would give us a lot of strength. They would know we're that force to be reckoned with.

Maybe we should all, collectively, hold our tax payments. We would need to do this on a huge scale, because if only a few did it, we'd land in jail. They can't jail all of us. Sounds like a real good idea to me. What do you think?

Oh well, we can dream. But, you know, in reality, if school property taxes were eliminated, we'd all have several thousands of dollars each and every year to spend as we wish. Why can't we all give that money one time to force some of these bad guys out! I say, let's do it! Let the money come rolling in. Who will volunteer to collect it? Who would like to run the show? Come on – someone step up. You'll have loads and loads of us folks behind you.

I'll be watching. I'll be praying. I'll be ready to join you.

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