



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Dirty Jobs

I was on a complicated furnace repair job last week and the customer pulled up a chair to observe. After about an hour or so she said "you never have to worry about your job being replaced by AI". She was right because some things just require dexterity, hand eye coordination and sheer strength. I don't necessarily find this comforting because all of those things diminish as a person gets older. I can no longer bear hug a water heater and get it into the basement. I may be smarter because of all the problems I have solved in the past but if I don't share that information with someone, it will die with me. I don't know what the real numbers are but it seems like there are not many young people taking interest in jobs that require common sense and physical labor.

It hasn't reached epidemic proportions yet but the decline is apparent to employers and there is no amount of adjustment that can be done to replace a labor force. When I discuss this topic with other employers I hear stories that curdle my blood. One friend said they received 20 or so applications for a job opening and less than half responded to their request for an interview. Of those they interviewed there were only a couple that came close to being qualified and the one they hired never showed up for day 2 of training. Somewhere along the line something changed and whatever it was is going to have a major impact on the workforce in the next generation. My friends used to joke about me smelling like oil after a day on the job. A few of them didn't work on oil systems for that reason and because it is a dirty job. Neither of them are still in business. I might take some heat for saying this but work wasn't meant to be fun. It was meant to be a way for a person to earn income so they could become independent and self-sufficient. Life is more expensive now than it ever was in the history of the country so I'm not sure how young people get by being so selective about taking on a job. My dream is that people who are still willing to get dirty and do physical labor become the ones who can demand higher salaries and get them. If this takes place the public will need to prepare for much higher cost of having that kind of work done in the future. Fast food restaurants may turn to AI to replace workers but those of us with dirty hands are safe.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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JULY 13, 2024 • 12 - 6 PM

BROADWAY STREET IN BANGOR
(BETWEEN SOUTH FIRST & SOUTH MAIN)

Slate Belt LGBTQ+ Pride 2024

By Joshua Biechy / Slate Belt LGBTQ+ Community Assoc.

SLATE BELT - I am writing to you on behalf of The Slate Belt Pride, a community-driven initiative aimed at fostering inclusivity, awareness, and support for the LGBTQ+ community in the Slate Belt region of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Our event, scheduled to take place Downtown Bangor, Pennsylvania. Between South 1st & South Main St. on July 13, 2024, from 12 pm to 6 pm, aims to achieve two primary objectives. Firstly, we seek to promote awareness, education, and the cultivation of a more cohesive and supportive community within the Slate Belt. Secondly, we aspire to raise funds to establish an LGBTQ+ Community Center in our region.

The Slate Belt, comprising ten boroughs and townships, is a tight-knit community nestled between the picturesque Poconos and the vibrant Lehigh Valley. However, despite its charm, our community lacks essential resources and support systems for LGBTQ+ individuals, especially youth. Therefore, the establishment of a dedicated center would provide crucial services such as medical assistance, safe spaces for social interaction, and potential shelter for those facing homelessness.

To accomplish our goals, we are seeking sponsorships. Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,000. Your contribution would not only demonstrate your commitment to diversity and inclusivity but also directly impact the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in our community. Additionally, we are actively seeking vendors and entertainment for our event. While our budget for entertainment is limited this year, we welcome any individuals or groups willing to volunteer their time and talent.

We are proud to be partnered with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, further solidifying our commitment to community engagement and collaboration. Attached to this letter, you will find our sponsorship and vendor forms for your consideration. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or the chamber directly.

Thank you for considering our request for sponsorship & vendors. Your support will play a pivotal role in realizing our vision of a more inclusive and supportive Slate Belt community. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals.

For more info go to Slatebeltlgbtpride@yahoo.com.