

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Flag needs your support

The Flag Committee needs community support to maintain the large flag at the turnpike entrance in Somerset.

We have multiple needs this year. An inspection of the flag pole by The Flag Station of Altoona, has both good and bad news. The pole is in great shape and could last another 24 years. However, the internal hoisting hardware, cables and all outside hardware need to be replaced before we can safely raise a large flag. The estimate for repairs is between \$7,550 and \$8,450. This is our primary need. All funds will be applied to this effort before the following.

We have funds donated specifically for new flags. So those funds are not available for the hardware repairs. We have four large flags. Our 5-year-old nylon flag was destroyed by high winds last year. Our two oldest flags are now 10 years old. They were used and repaired each year. They will be used again this year; but, their color is fading and they should be retired.

These were donated flags and we have tried our best to maximize the donor's investment. Our third flag is 8 years old and the fourth flag was flown last year for the first time. Our two winter flags are 3 years old. Both now need repairs. A new winter flag has been donated and we will try to get it up for Memorial Day. Our preferred flag is polyester. It is lighter than cotton and holds up as well. Nylon flags are less expensive, fly better with low wind, hold their color better; but, do not handle our weather as well. The large polyester flags cost about \$2,000.

The smaller winter flags cost about \$300. We average four weeks of use before repairs are needed.

Our third project is now delayed until after the hardware repairs. We are seeking bids for professional help for site maintenance. We are manpower challenged to fight the weeds and to keep the site clean. Our first estimate for this work is \$5,000.

We hope we can again count on your support. A donation of any amount will be appreciated.

Donations can be mailed to the Somerset County Flag Committee, P.O. Box 1172, Somerset, PA 15501.

Stewart R. Saylor, treasurer

Somerset County Flag Committee

www.somersetflag.org