

Legislative Report

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Val Coluni

1. Legislation vs. Social Media. Have we entered an information crisis which requires legislation?? A recent news analysis found that 20 fake election stories generated more Facebook "Hits" than did real news from 19 major sources combined! What does this tell us? Some believe these results are because many people have lost faith in the traditional media. What can we do? Insure that your personal sources are reliable and that their information can be independently checked. Legislation may make the situation worse.

2. Personal meeting with our Delegate Joseph Yost and his 2017 General Assembly Legislative Objectives. Not yet finalized but certainly will include mental health issues. Also he is deeply concerned about the training of our post high school dorm counselors and academic counselors in our community and four year colleges. Are they proficient to recognize the early stages of a student's depression and critical maladjustments? With this population, early intervention is so important.

3. The law (Eminent Domain) and the pipelines. This issue has generated much controversy in our State and bitter verbal and physical battles in North Dakota and many confrontations with law enforcement. What are your feelings about this proposition: "It's OK for private property to be condemned for a private company's benefit if it also serves and is necessary for the greater good of society." Follow this issue closely thru readings and public meetings and share your conclusions with your political representatives. It's an issue that affects some of the core beliefs of our democracy.

4. Social Security increase for 2017. Recipients will receive a 0.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment in 2017. About 65 million people in the program will receive the increase. Many experts in the field feel that future adjustments will be required in the future if this program is to be an essential safety net for so many of our citizens. Much controversy about how this should be done.