

NEWSLETTER

Coming to You from the Left Side of the House and Senate

Worcester County Democratic Club to Meet Thursday, June 27th in Ocean Pines

WCDC will hold its June meeting on Thursday, June 27th in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. A social begins at 6:30 pm followed by a business meeting at 7 pm. The guest speaker will be State Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R). Come and bring a friend.



WHO'S WINNING? PROBABLY NOT YOU

"We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of the few, but we can not have both. - Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court justice 1916-39

Americans have long been sold on the idea that "what is good for business is good for America." If that were true, the average American, the once middle-class American, would be doing much better than he/she currently happens to be doing.

While wages are slowly rising, corporate America fights tooth-and-nail to stymie wage growth while at the same time handsomely rewarding itself. The Trump Tax cut, which was supposed to create jobs (TCJA = Tax Cut and Jobs Act) has

not lived up to its promises. One fear from economists was that corporate executives would use their tax wind-fall to buy back their own stock.

There was nothing written into the tax bill to prevent this particular accounting gimmick which raises the pay of CEOs who have done nothing to earn it. A company receives a tax break worth millions of dollars and uses it, not to create jobs, but to buy its own stock, thus inflating the stock shares' value. Top executives are then awarded large chunks of company stock as a part of compensation packages. They sell the shares they've been awarded at inflated prices and make a huge profit. *(continued on page 3)*

Summer 2019 CALENDAR

June 27 Democratic Club

DCWC General Meeting, 6:30 Social, 7 pm business meeting, Assateague Room, Community Center, OP

June 29 DCOCB Annual Picnic

Fiesta Park, 141st Street, OC, MD

July 4 Drinking Liberally

West-O Bottle Shop 5 - 7 pm

July 17 J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake 12 - 4 pm Somers Cove Marina, Crisfield, MD

July 25 Democratic Club

DCWC General Meeting, 6:30 Social; 7 pm business meeting, Assateague Room, Community Center, OP

July 31 Kayak Social

Frontier Town, 10 am
\$10 per person to benefit WCDC

August 1 Drinking Liberally

West-O Bottle Shop 5 - 7 pm

August 22 Democratic Club

DCWC General Meeting, 6:30 Social; 7 pm business meeting, Assateague Room, OP



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Good News for Advocates of Sensible Gun Control Measures

by Steve Cohen

Gun control activists joyously celebrated a court decision, claiming that the ruling will be a massive step towards ending gun violence. The Supreme Court in Connecticut ruled that victims in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting can sue Remington Arms for wrongful death. The plaintiffs argued that Remington improperly marketed the rifle used in the shooting.

The case was originally dismissed by the Connecticut court citing a federal law that protects gun manufacturers and distributors from being implicated if the weapons are used in criminal activity. The lawsuit claimed that Remington violated Connecticut law against unfair trade practices. The plaintiffs argued that the rifle used here was a military weapon and should not be marketed and sold to the general public. The argument was that the rifle used here, a Bushmaster AR-15 style rifle, is too dangerous for the public and Remington glorified the weapon in marketing it to young people, including those with mental illness. The case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

113, 108 people are shot each year in
the United States.

76, 725 survive their injuries.

36,383 people don't.

Everytown for Gun Safety

WHO'S WINNING? PROBABLY NOT YOU

(continued from page 1) In the February 2019 issue of the *Hightower Lowdown*, the following examples are cited from a July 2018 *Politico* report which shows that fears of buybacks were warranted:

Two weeks after **AbbVie**, a pharmaceutical giant, announced a \$10 billion buyback in February, its stock price soared and 8 top executives cashed in \$27 million in stocks.

Eight days after cigarette-maker **Altria** announced a \$1 billion buyback, its CEO cashed in nearly \$1 million in stock.

The day after **TJ Maxx**'s stock price was boosted by a February buyback, a top executive sold \$11 million in shares.

After **Mastercard**'s \$4 billion stock buyback, its CEO cashed in for a personal payday of \$44 million.

After **Oracle** jacked up its stock price with a \$12 billion buyback, its co-CEO cashed in a whopping \$250 million in shares.

Hightower Lowdown., February 2019

The *Lowdown* also reported a study by the Associated Press that prior to the passage of TCJA, major corporations were paying between 28 and 31% of their annual income in taxes, taxes which support the work of the federal government in serving the needs of the nation.

After the TCJA, corporate tax rates fell, thus reducing the amount of money going into the US Treasury. JP Morgan effectively paid only 18.3% of its annual profits to the US Treasury. Goldman Sachs paid 17.2% and Citigroup paid 23.7%. "The tax cuts saved the Big Six banks a combined \$3.6 billion in the first quarter of 2018 alone, boosting their net profits by an equivalent amount."

At the same time that corporate profits and CEO incomes are climbing, the federal government has maintained the federal poverty level for a family of four at \$23,850. (CBS News) Yet the least expensive metropolitan area to reside in within the US is Morristown, Tennessee, where it requires an income of \$49,114 to meet just basic needs. It is certainly arguable that a family in Morristown, Tennessee, may be earning more than \$24,000 a year but still live in poverty. Though the official US poverty rate in 2017 was 12.4% (Census.gov), some estimate that nearly a third of Americans are living in or near poverty levels.

So who's winning? With a minimum of 39.7 million Americans officially living in poverty, the answer is not the average US citizen, the typical US citizen, the ordinary US citizen. The TCJA not only did not provide the promised jobs throughout the country, but it did not provide tax relief to many Americans. Some citizens reported their taxes as being higher, some reported receiving less in their returns, and some reported paying rather receiving a return for the first time in years.

So who is winning? Not the country and probably not you.

**GRAB 'EM
BY THE
FACTS**

POOREST STATES IN THE NATION

Louisiana
Mississippi
New Mexico
West Virginia
Alabama
Arkansas
Kentucky
South Carolina
Arizona
Georgia

Source:

Friends Committee on National Legislation.

RICHEST STATES IN THE NATION

Washington
Virginia
California
Alaska
New Hampshire
Connecticut
Massachusetts
Hawaii
New Jersey
Maryland

(In order from 10 to 1)

Source:

US News & World Report.

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

So there was another mass shooting. I can't even remember where - oh, Virginia Beach, just down the way from here. Not that far. Been there. Fun place. Nice beach.

It was on the news for a few minutes. How many was it, twelve this time? Not sure how many wounded. Shooter dead. End of story. A thinning of the population, I guess. How else can we see it? We're not New Zealand, after all, or its cousin Australia. Nor are we Scotland, though we appreciate a good Scottish accent. No, we're America, good old US of A, the best country in the world. Number 1! First! America First! Always has to be first. No where else in the world are 52 women shot to death each day by an intimate partner. Nope, just here. And that's the way we like it. Unless, of course, you happen to be a woman living with a man with a gun who has anger management issues.

Thirty-six thousand three hundred and eighty-three (36,383) Americans die from gun violence each year inside the U.S., not abroad. Here. Right here. Where they live. Or used to. And we seem to be okay with this. Just after the horrific Virginia Beach mass shooting, everyone, except people in Virginia Beach, forgot to be horrified. Only one Democratic presidential candidate, Corey Booker, even mentioned it during their appearance before the California State Democratic Committee's forum. ONLY ONE and there are twenty-three, twenty-four, a hundred and sixty-eight, who knows, of them. Only one spoke up!

I have come to understand that this is who, what, we want to be. This is the America we are. This is the America we accept. We have decided we can live with no place being free from the possibility of gun violence - not our schools, not our movie theaters, not our fast-food joints, not even our churches. Guns have come even before God. And we are okay with that, or we would do something about it.



EVERY DAY, 100 AMERICANS ARE KILLED WITH GUNS.



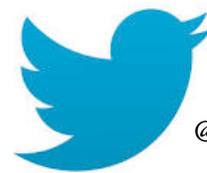
SOURCE: CDC, FATAL INJURY REPORTS, 2013-2017.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS 2009 - 2019

Source: CNN

United States	288
Canada	2
France	2
Germany	1
Japan	0
Italy	0
UK	0

The US has 57 times as many school shootings as the other major industrialized nations combined. CNN/Chip Grabow & Lisa Rose



Tweet of the Month

@realDonaldTrump

For all the money we are spending, NASA should NOT be talking about going to the Moon - We did that 50 years ago. They should be focused on the much bigger things we are doing, including Mars (of which the Moon is a part). Defense and Science!