



**Ken  
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*Owner of Slate  
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*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Mini Split Reality

Everyone seems to really like the mini split heat pumps that have swamped the market in the last 8 or so years. Everyone can now have air conditioning without the noise and inconvenience of a window unit and they can have some heat too. What could possibly be wrong with that? In theory, nothing, in practice there are a number of problems. There are at least a dozen brands that are popular and another dozen that are private label or rebranded units. If it was a toaster and you didn't know where to get parts you could just throw the thing away when it broke and get another one but these units much more complex than a toaster and require special installation. Because they look easy to install many unqualified people tackle them and cause themselves or their customers a world of headaches. Although there are only a few special tools and skills that are required when installing these units, there are problems that will arise weeks or months after a deficient installation job. Some can be rectified and some can be catastrophic. It all starts at the time of purchase. Most manufacturers will not honor a warranty on a unit that was purchased online. And all of them require registration within a short time after installation to make any warranty valid. So if you had a professional supply the unit and register it you should be fine right? Not really. Because these units communicate between the indoor and outdoor unit they are a matched set. If the manufacturer changes something in the progression of models from one year to the next a new indoor unit may not work with the old outdoor unit. We have had problems after a fire that damaged an indoor unit and a new unit to match the old outdoor was no longer available. That meant the whole system needed to be replaced. I have seen units barely 5 years old that parts were no longer available for. In all fairness I believe that probably 95% of all properly installed systems will work for 10+ years before any kind of failure but at that point a complete replacement may be required. The indoor units are also not easy to clean properly. The air filters are not too difficult to wash but in cases where the coil gets dirty, washing that in someone's living room is not a pleasant task. It's always best to do your homework before making a decision on which brand and which contractor to choose. And even then you just have to hope for the best.

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](mailto:Ken@FieldsService.com)

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Scholarship Guidelines and Application

### I. General Overview

Slate Belt Rising (SBR) may at its discretion, award scholarship grants (\$1000) on behalf of individuals (paid directly to qualified educational institutions or for the purchase of tools), which grants may be used exclusively for tuition at post-secondary educational institutions that normally maintain a regular faculty and curriculum, and for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at such institutions, for room and board expenses payable to the institution, or the purchase of tools for a student entering the workforce in a trade. Scholarship grants will usually be administered through scholarship funds as allocated through the Slate Belt Rising Neighborhood Partnership Program. The Slate Belt, Rising Community Engagement Committee, will approve all scholarship programs established by such Scholarship Funds in advance of any solicitation of applications. The Steering Committee will make the ultimate decision regarding scholarship award distributions. Grants will be awarded for one year.

### II. Scholarship Selection Process

#### A. Criteria for Selection

The Committee will develop appropriate scholarship purposes and criteria. The Committee will review the proposed purposes of each scholarship to ensure that such purposes are consistent with the Slate Belt Rising's charitable purposes and its mission. The Committee shall review and shall have final approval authority over the adopted criteria for each scholarship.

The scholarship criteria must be "objective and nondiscriminatory." The selection criteria must also be reasonably related to the purposes of the scholarship. Criteria may include, but need not be limited to: prior academic performance, performance on tests designed to measure ability and aptitude for college work, recommendations from instructors, financial need, and the conclusions that the selection committee might draw from a personal interview or written statement as to the individual's motivation, character, ability, and potential.

All scholarship applicants shall submit an application, which shall include a biographical record and supporting material, including letters of recommendation, grade transcripts, and special awards. The Committee will develop the scholarship application form for each scholarship. The Committee shall have ultimate approval authority over all application forms.

For more information and how to apply go to :  
[www.slatebeltrising.org](http://www.slatebeltrising.org)

## We Stand with Texas

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - This week, I was one of dozens of Republican House members who signed letters urging Gov. Josh Shapiro and Attorney General Michelle Henry to take whatever steps they can to show that Pennsylvania stands with Texas in its ability to combat illegal immigration.

I also plan to support a concurrent resolution to be introduced soon that affirms state sovereignty and supports Texas in its efforts to defend its southern border. The resolution will send a strong message to the Biden administration that the Pennsylvania General Assembly believes in the ability of states to defend their borders when the federal government fails in its obligation to do so, and we will put the safety and security of our citizens first when it comes to enforcing our laws against illegal immigration.

The statistics we're seeing regarding the flood of migrants crossing the southern border are truly astounding. We firmly believe Texas and other states have the constitutional right to defend themselves when the federal government has not provided assistance or actually impeded the ability to defend their borders and sovereignty.

