

December, 2015

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Christina Mihalik, PA CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION



Budget uncertainty and associated priorities continue which does not have much for me to reflect on or share. However, what I do know is PAGR is exploring new ideas for the benefit of its members in 2016.

We are happy to announce that PAGR will host lobbying disclosure training and an open forum with the Department of State the afternoon of February 25, 2015. This training is free to all PAGR members. We encourage you to take advantage of this member benefit and bring your questions. Please stay tuned for additional details. If you have other training ideas for PAGR to explore please let me know. On behalf of PAGR, we would like to thank outgoing board member, Wes Majors, for his time and service on the PAGR Board. Wes' departure has created a PAGR Board opening. Those who are interested in

serving on the PAGR Board, please contact Christine Corrigan at info@pagr.org. Candidates will be considered at the December 7th Membership Meeting.

Speaking of next month's membership meeting...we are collecting contributions and/or non-perishables for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. As you know, social service organizations, like the food bank, are doing their best to meet community demands with limited funding. Let's do our part by showing support of a much needed organization in our region.

Thank you to those who attended this year's Lobbypalooza. It was a well-attended event with substantial content from leadership staff, the Department of State, and representatives from the government relations and media community. If you attended and haven't already done so please provide us your feedback. We want to hear from you so next year's meeting will be just as successful and worthwhile. For those who missed Lobbypalooza, the Department of State provided guidance on the Administration's gift ban. We have included their information on page 2 which may be of interest for those who are attending Pennsylvania Society.

Finally, it's been a fun learning experience as I round out my first year as Board President. I have discovered the diverse sectors our industry represents and the level of integrity we hold in our respective professions. Thank you for your support of making PAGR a strong representative for the government relations and lobbying community. I look forward to working with you all in 2016 and wish you the best this holiday season. ☺

Coming in 2016

DOS Training and Open Forum

Thursday February 25

**This will be a Members Only event
No guest will be admitted so make
sure you send in your 2016 dues.**

Speaking of 2016 dues...

**2016 PAGR Membership
dues will be sent to you in the
next week.**



This document is from Jullia Sheridan, Chief Counsel, Office of the Administration. It is written for employees and officials of Pennsylvania but beneficial knowledge as potential Pennsylvania Society hosts and event attendees.

The annual Pennsylvania Society meeting is December 11-13, 2015 in New York City. The following guidance is intended for any employees or officials who plan to attend.

Gift Ban Compliance

Most, if not all, of the event sponsors at the Pennsylvania Society weekend are covered by the Gift Ban. Commonwealth employees and officials must pay the event sponsors the market value of their participation in any event held by an entity subject to the Gift Ban. Event sponsors are aware of the Gift Ban, and some of them already are assisting officials and employees by including event cost information in their invitations. When exception an invitation to an event, officials and employees should obtain the cost of the event from the host. It is preferable to make payment in advance.

All employees and officials who attend events must be able to demonstrate their compliance with the Gift Ban. Maintain careful records of your participation. Obtain receipts from event sponsors or, at a minimum, pay by personal check and retain a copy of the cancelled check for your records.

Review the Gift Ban to ensure you understand your obligations. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your agency human resources office for guidance. Violations of the Gift Ban are subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

Gift Ban Exceptions

Officials and employees may accept something of monetary value from a friend, parent, spouse, child or other close relative under circumstances that make it clear the relationship with the official or employee, and not his/her Commonwealth employment, is the reason for the gift. For example, a Commonwealth official may attend events as the guest of the official's spouse, who is a corporate executive attending the weekend.

Reimbursement of Expenses

The Commonwealth will not pay for or reimburse officials or employees for these costs, as attendance at the Pennsylvania Society weekend is not a job-related event or work in furtherance of their official duties.

Use of Leave

Employees and officials who will be absent from the office during a work day to attend the Pennsylvania Society must submit either annual or personal leave.

Conflicts of Interest

Remember to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest at all times.

Questions

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your agency HR office for guidance.

2016 DATES



- Thursday Jan 7.....Board meeting
- Monday Feb 1.....Membership Meeting
- Thursday Feb 25..DOS Training/Open Forum
- Thursday Mar 3.....Board Meeting
- Monday April 4.....Membership Meeting
- Thursday May 5.....Board Meeting
- Monday June 5.....Membership Meeting
- Thursday July 7.....Board Meeting
- Thursday Sept 8.....Board Meeting
- Monday Oct 3.....Membership Meeting
- Tuesday Nov 1.....Election Night Party
- Thursday Nov 3.....Board Meeting
- Monday Dec 5.....Membership Meeting

Board Meetings are held at 8:30 am at the Office of our President, Christina Mihalik, PCUA, 4309 N. Front Street, Harrisburg.

Membership Meetings are held at 11:30 am at the Firehouse Restaurant, third floor, 606 N, Second Street, Harrisburg.

DOS Training/Open Forum will be held at the Office of our President, Christina Mihalik, PCUA, 4309 N. Front Street, Harrisburg. This will be a Members-only event. No guests will be admitted.

Election Night Party will be held at the Firehouse Restaurant, third floor, 606 N, Second Street, Harrisburg.

Lobbypalooza 2015



Thank you to all who planned, sponsored and participated in Lobbypalooza 2015. The event, which was held at the Hilton Harrisburg on October 22, was a huge success.

Speakers included Caucus Leaders like Drew Crompton, Ron Jumper, Karen Coates and Mike Schwoyer. A discussion on Open Records was led by Erik Arneson, Melissa Bevan Melewsky and Scott Coburn.

Following a networking lunch which included Past Presidents' Fred Brown, David Tive, Ted Mowatt, Judy Eschberger and Peter Calcara, the Department of State offered a presentation to aid in navigating through the online system and submitting expense reports. Chief Counsel from the Administration also joined us to discuss the ins and outs of the gift ban.

Your colleagues Steve Crawford, Peter Trufahnestock, Peter Calcara and Judy Eschberger took us through a Day in the Life of A Lobbyist and Capitol Reporters Karen Langley (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette), Charlie Thompson (Patriot-News) and Jason Gottesman (PLS) took us to the end of our meeting and the start of our happy hour.

Thank you to sponsors Health Partners Plans and the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association and to the Lobbypalooza Planning Committee: Christine Corrigan, Katie Dotto, Judy Eschberger, Janel Gleeson, Anita Lewis, Christina Mihalik, Ted Mowatt, Mark Richards, Gabrielle Sedor and Pete Trufahnestock.

If you have ideas or are interested in helping to plan next years event, contact Christine Corrigan at info@pagr.org.

Meeting Notice

Monday December 7

11:30 am — 12:30 pm

Firehouse Restaurant

Third Floor

606 N. Second Street • Harrisburg

Speaker:

Will Danowski

Acting Secretary of Legislative Affairs

Please bring a non-perishable item we can donate to the



ALL PAGR MEMBERS ARE FREE! ALL GUESTS OF PAGR MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$25.

PLEASE RSVP BY **December 3** TO 717-939-1900 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.

THANK YOU.

proposed 2016 Board

Officers

President.....Christina Mihalik
Vice President.....Mark Richards
Secretary.....Katie Dotto
Treasurer.....Ted Mowatt

Board of Directors

Association.....Mike Maguire
Corporate.....Peter Trufahnestock
Lawyer.....Judy Eschberger
Independent.....Joan Bradbury
At Large.....Jaynine Warner
At Large.....Justin Fleming

Immediate Past President

Gabrielle Sedor

Executive Director

Christine Corrigan

*Those positions **highlighted in blue** must be voted on by the membership.*

MISSION STATEMENT



The mission statement of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations, Inc. (PAGR) is to promote the purpose and effectiveness of the lobbying profession consistent

with the public interest. Further, association members encourage high standards of personal and professional conduct among all lobbyists. ⊕