

April 2012

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

**Post Office Box 116 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108
(717) 540-4391 Fax (717) 657-9708 www.pagr.org**

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brinda Carroll Penyak



When One Door Closes...

I'm sure that many PAGR members have noticed recent changes in the ways that non-state officials or state employees can access the capitol building and other office buildings within the capitol complex. The post-9/11 changes that brought about metal detectors at the front entrance to the capitol building are viewed as routine by most of us now, even if you remember unfettered access to the building up until that time. Access to other rooms within the capitol building have been made off limits over time, or have been converted to other uses. Whatever the reason, access to some parts of the complex are changing once again, and being aware of those changes can potentially save you some frustration.

While many use the front entrance to the capitol building, there are times when our travels may take us closer to

“...the ability of citizens to interact with government is something that must be preserved.”

entrances at the rear of the capitol, or the north and south office buildings. Recently, the times those doorways are available have been changing, and when security officers are not present, visitor doors are not accessible. In some buildings, security procedures have changed. For instance, when visiting the Department of Public Welfare, a new security desk in the lobby is the first stop, and frequently, visitors are asked to provide some evidence of the meeting or office to be visited - an appointment confirmation, for instance. During the years when the Health and Welfare building housed vital records offices, public traffic in and out was fairly heavy. Those services have been moved to the Forum building.

President's message continued on page 3.



Member Dental & Vision Benefits

PAGR

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Three unique options

Use a network dentist or any dentist

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Simple online enrollment and administration

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This policy includes limitations, exclusions and terms under which the policy may be continued in force or discontinued.

We Work For Your Benefit.



Meeting Notice

Monday April 2, 2012

11:30—1:00 pm

Firehouse Restaurant

Third Floor

606 N. Second Street • Harrisburg



Our Guest will be

**Lt. Governor
Jim Cawley**

*ALL MEMBERS WHO PAID 2012 DUES ARE FREE!
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$25.*

*PLEASE **RSVP BY March 30** TO
INFO@PAGR.ORG.
THANK YOU.*

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

*Due to the Lt. Governor's schedule,
we will begin the meeting promptly at 11:35 with his
presentation. Upon completion of his presentation
(approximately noon), we will hold our brief business
meeting and enjoy lunch.*

Please keep this in mind when planning your arrival.

2012 Board

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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. ☼

President's message continued from cover.

Another issue has made the news recently, when the Department of General Services discussed a policy during budget hearings, explaining that access to offices above the main floor during rallies would be limited. I've been in the building many times when loud rallies have taken place, and when the crowds are so thick it seems to take considerable time to move from one side of the rotunda to another. It's not only common, but somewhat expected that a building where the people's business is conducted will be the setting for events where interest groups make their points on policy or funding issues. The rule was explained as needed to ensure safety, and while that may be the case, it causes some concern that limiting access to policy makers could create significant barriers for the lobbyists community. I've not heard of lobbyists being denied access to offices within the capitol, and it doesn't seem that the work we all do was the catalyst for this policy decision. I'm hopeful that continues to be true.

I also hope that those needing to interact with legislators and the administration are able to do that without unnecessary barriers. While we live in a changing world with new threats and safety concerns emerging regularly, the ability of citizens to interact with government is something that must be preserved. ☼