

April, 2008

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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



**HERE'S WHAT PAGR HAD
TO SAY ABOUT THE REGS**

PROPOSED LOBBYING DISCLOSURE REGULATIONS **PROPOSED RULEMAKING-53 Pa.B.435 (January 19, 2008)**

Sections of the Proposed Regulations attempt to expand and amend, rather than implement, certain of the Act's provisions. Those sections of the Proposed Regulations are contrary to law and must be revised.

Contrary to the Act's express provisions, the proposed regulations would expand the definition of "lobbying" to include the monitoring of legislative action or administrative action, without any requirement that there be some effort to influence that legislative action or administrative action.

Contrary to the Act's express provisions, the Proposed Regulations would redefine lobbying to include merely paying a retainer to a lobbyist or lobbying firm "...even if the lobbyist or lobbying firm does not make direct or indirect communications or take any other action."

The Proposed Regulations improperly would amend the Act to add "grants, the release of funds from the capital budget, loans and investment of funds" as part of "administrative action" that is subject to the Act.

The Proposed Regulations need to be clarified to make certain that the names of grassroots supporters are not required to be reported as "lobbyists".

The Proposed Regulations should be clarified to state specifically that accepting the results of indirect communication (such as educational training or publications) does not result in the recipient being a "lobbyist".

The Proposed Regulations should be clarified to state specifically that volunteers are not "lobbyists".

Simplification, bright-line standards and substantial additional examples need to be added to the Proposed Regulations.

The proposed regulations would create an unduly complex regulatory system that will present problems to those who must comply with its provisions. The regulations will be read and followed by individuals and groups who may not have sophisticated legal counsel available to assist them.

The preamble to the Proposed Regulations should be revised to describe the actual fiscal impact on the private sector. ♦

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andy Hill



Spring has sprung, and if your calendar looks anything like mine the next few months are shall we say, full. I will be sending almost half of the month of April on the road for meetings, when I am in town I need to run my associations, represent them at the Capitol and my family mentioned something about wanting to see me. But I am working to clear my calendar to attend PAGR's Lobbypalooza on April 25. We have a great line up for this event, filled with timely information. There will be a post election recap, a panel on campaign finance reform (how many hours would you save a week not sorting through all of those invitations?). We will also have a panel discuss how to use the new Open Records Law to access information for your clients and a session on lobby disclosure from three members of the regulation writing committee. Last but not least everybody's favorite- Happy Hour.

Speaking of lobby disclosure; I would be remiss if I did not thank the board members who took the time to put together PAGR's comments on the proposed regulations. There was a dedicated group that took the time out of their busy schedules to meet to discuss the regulations and then took the time to meet with IRRRC and the legislature. Although many people contributed to this effort over the years, including **Ted Mowatt**, **Judy Eschberger** and **Brian Barno** who provided leadership as we moved through the process; I want to thank **Tony Crisci** for taking the bull by the horns and spearheading our comment effort.

I hope to see you at Lobbypalooza! ♦

Lobbypalooza 2008

Friday, April 25, 2008**Harrisburg Hilton****\$130/members****\$250/non-members***

*Includes 2008 PAGR membership

- 8:15—9:00 am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00—10:15 am **Election Primary Debriefing**
Who Won, Who Lost — What Does It All Mean?
Brett Lieberman, The Patriot-News
John McLarnon, Associate Professor, Millersville University
David Patti, President & CEO, Pennsylvania Business Council
Ray Zaborney, President, State Street Strategies
- 10:30—Noon **Campaign Finance Reform—House Bill 1796**
Ellen Kaplan, VP & Policy Director, The Committee of Seventy
Barry Kauffman, Executive Director, Common Cause/PA
Lora Lavin, 2nd Vice President, Issues & Action Director, League of Women's Voters of Pennsylvania
Rep. David Levdansky, Member, PA House of Representatives
- Noon—1:15 pm **Lunch**
- 1:15—2:15 pm **Right to Know: How To Access Information for Your Clients**
Teri Henning, General Counsel, PA Newspaper Association
Deb Musselman, Director of Government Affairs, PA Newspaper Assn
- 2:30—4:00 pm **Lobby Disclosure: Where Are We, What's Coming & When**
Drew Crompton, Counsel to President Pro Tempore, PA Senate
Richard Gmerek, President & CEO, Wolf Block Government Relations
CJ Hafner, Chief Counsel to Senate Democratic Caucus
- 4:00—5:00 pm **Happy Hour—Open Bar on PAGR**

TO REGISTER, COMPLETE BELOW AND SEND WITH CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFO BY APRIL 21, 2008. PAGR's EIN # 25-1669383

NAME

PHONE

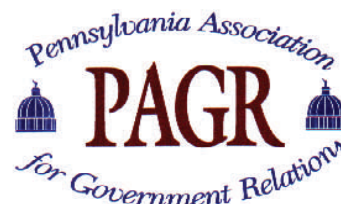
COMPANY

EMAIL ADDRESS

VISA OR MC #

EXP DATE

SECURITY CODE

**PAGR**

Post Office Box 116

Harrisburg, PA 17108-0116

Phone: (717) 540-4391**Fax:** (717) 657-9708**Email:** info@pagr.org

Meeting Notice

Monday April 7, 2008
11:30 am—12:30 pm
Firehouse Restaurant
Third Floor
606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg

Our Guests will be:

T.J. Rooney

Chairman, Pennsylvania Democratic Party
and

Luke Bernstein

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Republican Party

*ALL 2008 MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE LUNCH.
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$20.
Questions can be sent to Christine Corrigan at
717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.
THANK YOU.*

2008 Board of Directors

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Lobbypalooza
2008

Will be taking place on April 25, 2008
at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Please see inside for details and registration form.

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. ☺