

September, 2006

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

Post Office Box 116 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108
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Election Results Party

Tuesday, November 7

Firehouse Restaurant, 3rd fl,
8:00 PM—?
606 N. 2nd Street—Harrisburg

- TV's, phones, computers to monitor action
- Semi-immediate, mostly accurate results
- Open Bar & Munchies
- \$10 for all PAGR members
- \$25 for PAGR guests
- **Reservations and payment are requested by 11/3/06**
(717-540-4391 or info@pagr.org)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Barno



Just like squirrels preparing for winter, everyone is scurrying around this month to get things done. The construction crews on State Street are working overtime to spruce up the neighborhood before the Capitol Centennial Celebration. While we miss the row of trees down the middle of State Street, the street lights, brick sidewalks and new trees are going to look great. On Capitol Hill, there's a sine die atmosphere. Everyone is pushing their agendas before the General Assembly breaks for the election. It's anyone's guess whether they'll come back at all in November. The political upheaval from the pay raise and primary election is front and center on everyone's mind. Every incumbent with an opponent is concerned about November 7. The electorate is uneasy. There is a cloud of anxiety hanging over the State Capitol. Even in this town of political fortune tellers, no one knows how this will translate at the ballot box. Stay tuned.

There was a recent front-page story about legislation to cut the distance school districts can ask students to walk to school. Many of us remember, or at least tell our kids we remember, walking a mile each way to school, uphill, in waist-deep snow. In the colder months, my uncle was the first one at his one-room schoolhouse in rural Susquehanna County – he lit the stove

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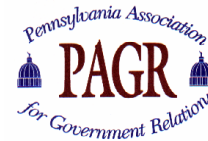
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so school would be warm when the kids and teacher arrived. Things were different in the 1930's. . . The time from now until Election Day will go like a flash - block out some time with family and friends now.

Lobbypalooza: Everything else being equal, betting at the beginning of this Session that we would have some form of lobbying reform legislation passed would have seemed like a good bet. However, that bet, and many other assumptions about electoral politics in the Commonwealth, has gone topsy-turvy. So, featuring a detailed analysis of the new lobbying reform bill as the headliner for a fall Lobbypalooza is out.

If there is lobbying reform legislation passed, PAGR will provide members a detailed analysis and a "how to comply" course at Lobbypalooza in early 2007. In addition, the PAGR Board discussed the idea of using Lobbypalooza as an opportunity to educate our members on the Budget Process. There is not a corporate, social service or association client unaffected by the budget. How do you secure funding from state government? What is the process? What are the timelines? Who are the players? We think a session or two to shine a light on the Budget/Appropriations process might be great addition to Lobbypalooza 2007. What are your thoughts? What can PAGR do to make you a more valuable advocate for your clients? Let us know.

Field Work: The political shock waves from the primary election are still reverberating in the Commonwealth. There are more members, including long-time incumbents, going door-to-door than at any time in memory. Even legislators without strong opponents are concerned. They're worried about the "throw the bums out" drumbeat and voters looking for anybody but the guy/gal on the ballot. Leadership is concerned about staying in the majority - every seat counts. Members are working their districts like never before. It's a good thing that legislators are re-connecting with voters. But legislators deal with many issues (gaming, tax reform, land use, environmental quality, education, crime, etc.) that require heavy lifting and don't lend themselves to sound bites, 30-second ads and banner headlines. I hope in the desire to reconnect with voters, legislators don't shy away from digging into the tedious, complex issues that take time and focus and will pay long term benefits. ☉



2006 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, November 7
Election Night Party
Firehouse Restaurant

Monday, December 4
Membership Meeting
And Holiday Gathering
(time/place TBD)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Bobersky

PA CHAMBER of BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Kari Huntsinger

PA CHAMBER of BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



Kudos to
Gretchen Ramsey,
Sherry Bonawitz
and their team
for a successful WPGR
(Women in PA
Government Relations) celebrity
caddy auction and golf event. A great
time was had by all involved and a
whopping \$10,000 was raised for the
PA Breast Cancer Coalition.

Meeting Notice

**Monday, October 3, 2006
11:30 AM — 12:30 PM
Firehouse Restaurant
606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg**

OUR GUEST WILL BE:

Steve Crawford

Legislative Secretary for Governor Rendell

**Please
RSVP**

*ALL MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$10.
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE
CHARGED \$20.
PLEASE RSVP BY September 29 TO
717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.
THANK YOU.*

2006 Board of Directors

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**PA Legislative Correspondents'
Assn**

**76th Annual
GRIDIRON DINNER**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2006
6:00 PM Cash bar
7:00 PM Dinner and Program
\$80.00 per plate \$800 per table**

**FOR TICKETS:
Call 717.540.0296
or Email pagridiron@gowebway.com**



**Thank You
Stephanie Larkin**

**For your five years of
contributions and commitment
as a Member of
PAGR's Board of Directors
2002 -2006**

**We will miss you ...
Good thing we know where to
find you!**

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. ✦