

December, 2006

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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



IMPORTANT 2007 DATES:

Th	Jan 4	Board Meeting
Mo	Feb 5	Membership Meeting
Th	Feb 15	Budget 101 Seminar
Th	Mar 1	Board Meeting
Th	Mar 29	Lobbyalooza 2007
Mo	April 2	Membership Meeting
Th	May 3	Board Meeting
Mo	June 4	Membership Meeting
Th	July 12	Board Meeting
Th	Sept 6	Board Meeting
Mo	Oct 1	Membership Meeting
Th	Nov 1	Board Meeting
Mo	Dec 3	Membership Meeting

Membership meetings are held
11:30 am—12:30 pm on the 3rd floor of the
Firehouse Restaurant, Harrisburg

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. ✦

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Barno



The Pennsylvania General Assembly begins its 2007-2008 Session with a totally new look. On November 7, Commonwealth voters continued what they started on Primary Election day – they completed a full-body make-over. District by district, voters passed judgment on their representatives in state government. With the unprecedented number of retirements and the tidal wave of primary surprises (including the toppling the Senate leadership), the General Election confirmed that voters had no interest in cosmetic nip/tuck surgery – they demanded major organ transplant work.

Joe Scarnati, the newly-elected Senate President Pro Tem, stresses that his caucus will work to deliver Republican principles through the budget process and continue to advocate for reform. Scarnati heads a young Republican leadership team that needs to treat some internal bleeding from the leadership fight before unifying members around the GOP principles of lower taxes and smaller government. . Senate Republicans' relationship with the House during the 2005-2006 Session often resembled a Hatfield-McCoy family gathering. It will be interesting to watch the conservative Senate Republican leadership team build a relationship with a Democratic House Speaker who comes out of the blocks pushing poker, blackjack and craps at casinos.

The razor-thin margin in the race for Chester County's 156th district seat puts the House back in Democratic hands for the first time in twelve years. While legal challenges may last for awhile, Barbara McIlvaine Smith's victory in the 156th has political pundits scratching their heads. Chester County has been a Republican stronghold forever. We know about voter angst on national issues, but we need to analyze what role discontent with state government and shifting demographics played in the upsets that have switched control of the House. It's safe to say that with a 102-101 Democratic margin in the House, little of substance will get done without some horse trading from players on both sides of the aisle.

We welcome 5 new Senators and 50 new House members in the upcoming session – a diverse, talented group that will bring energy to the Capitol. We know that state government

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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has an impact on every Pennsylvanian. As these legislators acclimate themselves to Harrisburg and find out what committees they're assigned to, the responsibility falls on PAGR members to educate them about our clients. It's our job to ensure that the clients we represent, whether wearing hardhats at the construction site, punching the clock at the warehouse or stepping into the office tower, are represented by skilled lobbying professionals adhering to the highest ethical standards. That's our trust and why we're PAGR members.

Lobbying Disclosure: Governor Rendell has signed HB 700 which restores a statute governing lobbying disclosure which the Commonwealth has been without since the 1998 Lobbying Law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2002. HB 700/Act 134 requires that:

- Any lobbyist who is paid more than \$2,500 in any quarter must register with the Department of State as of January 1, 2007;
- Any corporation or trade group that spends more than \$2,500 in any quarter on a lobbyist must register with the Department of State;
- Every quarter, lobbyists and those that hire them must disclose spending for lobbying. These spending reports must categorize how money was spent for any sort of communications, gifts, salaries and benefits. The reports must also identify the general subject matter or issue for which they were lobbying;
- Lobbyists must report the names of any state officials to whom they gave gifts worth more than \$250 in a year or entertainment, such as tickets to an event, meals, transportation and other forms of hospitality worth more than \$650 in a year;
- All lobbying disclosure reports will be available on-line and random audits of lobbyist's reports are required.

HB 700/Act 134

- Makes it illegal for lobbyists to charge a fee with the understanding that any part of that fee would be converted to a campaign contribution;
 - Makes it illegal for a lobbyist to serve as a political committee's treasurer; and lobbyists or corporations that violate this law may be fined and lobbyists may be prohibited from lobbying for up to five years (Fines - Lobbyist \$2,000 and Principals \$25,000).
- .A Committee, made up of the following, will be charged with promulgating the regulations:
- Chairman of the State Ethics Commission;
 - Attorney General
 - General Counsel
 - Senate member appointed by President Pro Tem

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presents

Budget 101: Demystifying the State Budget Process

Thursday, February 15, 2007
9:00 am—1:00 pm
Hilton Harrisburg

Look for a registration form with your 2007 dues statement.

Save the date....

Lobbypalooza 2007

March 29, 2007

**At the Hilton Harrisburg
Learn the new law from the
people who know it best.
Registration details will be
sent soon!**

Does PAGR accept credit cards?

As of January 1, 2007 we will!

Finally, PAGR has moved into the 21st century. As of the first of the new year, PAGR will be able to accept visa and mastercard credit cards. Pay your dues, pay for lunches and events too, using your good old American plastic.

The membership has asked for it and PAGR has answered the call. Look for the spot on your 2007 annual dues invoice for you to include your credit card information or contact Christine with the information at the PAGR office.

FYI, 2007 dues invoice will be sent later this month. ☺



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Order your

2007/2008

Legislative Directories

today through PAGR.

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry's convenient, pocket-size quick reference is available to all PAGR members for just \$7 a copy.

There's no minimum to buy.

Order 1, 10 or 100 and it's just **\$7.50 a copy!**

(Non-members may order for \$12.50 per copy)

The cover of the directory will feature a beautiful full-color photo of the capitol and the PAGR logo.

Please send in orders by January 31, 2007 .

(Payment by check or visa or mastercard due by March 1, 2007)

Please complete the following and return to PAGR prior to the deadline.

PO Box 116, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0116

(ph) 717-540-4391 • (fax) 717-657-9708 • (email) info@pagr.org



NAME:

PHONE:

COMPANY:

EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

OF DIRECTORIES ORDERED

X \$7.50 = \$

(non-members x \$12.50)

Orders will not be delivered until April, 2007.

All questions can be directed to Christine Corrigan at 717-540-4391.

Meeting Notice

Monday, December 4, 2006

4:00—6:00 PM

McGrath's Pub

202 Locust Street • Harrisburg

- We will be voting on 2007 Board of Directors
- We will be honoring two departing Board Members
- HOLIDAY CHEER (complimentary beer, wine & munchies)

ALL MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$10.
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$20.

PLEASE RSVP BY December 1 TO
717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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- Senate member appointed by the Minority Leader
- House member appointed by the Speaker
- House member appointed by the Minority Leader
- Two lobbyists appointed by the Governor.

PAGR has requested the Governor's Office appoint a PAGR representative to the committee. The committee, which hasn't been named yet, isn't expected to have guidelines released until near the end of the first quarter of 2007 – the first quarter the statute mandates reporting.

Lobbyist Registration and Expense Reporting forms will be available for downloading from the Department of State's Lobbying Disclosure Website (Link not yet available) or at the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, 210 North Office Building. The forms are currently being prepared. The Lobbyist Registration form will be ready prior to the January 1 registration period. Registration forms will be able to be submitted through the mail, in-person or electronically. A \$100 fee is required for the biennial registration as well as a recent photograph. Lobbyist Expense Reporting forms will be ready prior to the end of the first reporting period (January 1-March 31).

PAGR will notify members as soon as additional information becomes available.

Budget Seminar: PAGR is hosting a Budget Seminar for Lobbyists to be held on February 15. We hope the seminar will provide a State Budget 101 for PAGR members unfamiliar with the process and provide effective strategies and helpful hints for even the most grizzled budget veteran. Our goal is to remove some of the mystery around the state budget process to develop your skills to make you even more valuable to your clients or employer. Your feedback on the session is critical as we continue to explore ways for PAGR to meet your needs.

2007 Slate of Candidates

Officers

President.....Andrew Hilt *
 Vice President.....Peter Calcara *
 Secretary.....Deb Kisela *
 Treasurer.....Gregg Taylor *

Board of Directors

Association.....Brinda Carroll Penyak *
 Corporate.....Kris Snader
 Lawyer.....Tony Crisci
 Independent.....Ted Mowatt *
 At Large.....Judy Eschberger *
 At Large.....Mark Richards

Immediate Past President

Brian Barno

Executive Director

Christine Corrigan

** must be voted on by membership*



Thank You Amy Leader

**For your four years of
contributions and commitment
as a Member of
PAGR's Board of Directors
2003 –2006**

Sign-Off: It's been an honor to serve as PAGR President and follow the talented individuals that served before me. Remember, PAGR is your organization. Your input, feedback and involvement are critical. Thanks to Andy Hilt for stepping up as the new PAGR President, the PAGR Board for its support, our great program committee, and Director Christine Corrigan for her tireless efforts. I look forward to seeing you on the Hill. ☺