

April, 2010

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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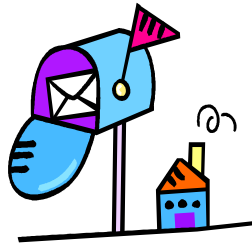
COMING in the fall :



Lobbypalooza 2010

Want to help plan this popular event? Contact Christine at the PAGR office.

Final notices
of your
2010 dues
have been sent.



If you do not send payment by April 9, 2010, you will no longer receive member information, member discounts or member benefits.

Remember, you can pay your dues by credit card.
Contact Christine at the PAGR office with your visa or mastercard number with expiration date!
info@pagr.org or 717.540.4391

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Peter Calcara



Keeping an Eye on the Ball

We live in an ever increasing complex and complicated world. We are inundated each and every day with an overwhelming amount of information—some of it useful, much of it not. Just think about the number

of e-mails alone we receive in a 24-hour period. Keeping track of it all is a daunting task, to say the least.

Fortunately, membership in PAGR has its benefits—both tangible and intangible—that sometime go underappreciated.

As a member of PAGR, you get the benefit of having another set of “eyes” keeping watch on things that might not be necessarily front-burner issues for you, your firm, or your clients.

“It is gratifying to know that PAGR is considered by the General Assembly to be a credible voice in the area of lobbying disclosure.”

Take for example last fall, as we were all still feeling the effects of the infamous 101-day budget debacle, the Department of State proposed a 100% increase in the Lobbyist Registration Fee. The Department was undoubtedly hoping the regulated community was asleep at the wheel when it proposed increasing the registration fee from \$100 per session to \$200. Unfortunately for the Department, someone was watching—PAGR.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Peter Calcara

(continued from cover)

The Department published the adjusted fee increase in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on October 17, 2009--139 days after the statutorily-mandated date of June 1, 2009. Because the Department failed to publish the fee increase by the deadline required by the Lobbying Disclosure Act, PAGR argued that the Department did not have the statutory authority to promulgate the proposed rulemaking. IRRC agreed with PAGR. The next opportunity the Department has to increase the biennial registration fee is on June 1, 2011.

On February 2, 2010, I submitted testimony on PAGR's behalf at a joint hearing conducted by the House Gaming Oversight Committee and the Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development. The purpose of my testifying at the joint hearing was to aid the committee members in their understanding of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. I informed the members of the committee that PAGR has taken the lead in educating its membership and the greater lobbying community about the Lobbying Disclosure Act and will continue to do so in the future. It is gratifying to know that PAGR is considered by the General Assembly to be a credible voice in the area of lobbying disclosure.

Another issue on PAGR's radar is the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC. On March 4, 2010, the Department of State issued a statement entitled "Statement Regarding the Effect of the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in Citizens United v. FEC on Pennsylvania Law." In it, the Department concluded that as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United, any domestic corporation or unincorporated association (including a labor union) may make "independent expenditures" in state elections. This is definitely an issue those of us with PACs will want to review with counsel and our PAC boards—and will undoubtedly be a topic of discussion at an upcoming PAGR luncheon or this fall's Lobbypalooza.

Lastly, the Senate is proposing changes to its internal rules of conduct. Senate Resolution 228 imposes an outright ban on all campaign-related activities by senators and staff on Senate time. The resolution is currently pending in the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. I will keep you updated on the status of this resolution.

Our next membership luncheon is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010. Bring a friend who's not a PAGR member and get them involved in your association. Remember, **if not PAGR then who?** I'm looking forward to seeing you on April 12th. ☪

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lauren Gutshall
APSCUF

Ann Knaus
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Carl Marrara
PA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Jennifer Reed-Harry
PENNAG INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION

Geoffrey Roche
POCONO MEDICAL CENTER

John Saler
STRADLEY RONAN
STEVENS & YOUNG LLP

David Sanko
PA STATE ASSN of
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

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. ☪

Meeting Notice

Monday April 12, 2010
11:30 am—12:30 pm
Firehouse Restaurant
Third Floor
606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg

Our guests will be:

Michael L. Shields, Esq.

Eckert Seamans Cherin Mellott, LLC

and

DOS Staff

Join us as they discuss the US Supreme Court decision on Campaign Finance:

Citizens United v. FEC

and it's impact on PA Election Law

ALL MEMBERS ARE FREE!

ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$25

(which will be deducted from their dues

If they join by April 30, 2010.)

PLEASE RSVP BY April 9 TO

717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.

THANK YOU.

2010 Board of Directors



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