

April, 2023

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brittany Mako



Dear Colleagues,

The start of this legislative session has been rocky to say the least. With the House & Senate both having large leadership turnover and the House changing party control, we have had our work cut out for us. Amid all of that, it seems as if our jobs are continuing to become more difficult to do.

While my day job is to advocate for high-quality, low-cost health care – my passion project is advocating for all of you and our profession. **Our PAGR board is working tirelessly on several issues impacting government affairs professionals here in Pennsylvania.**

First, I want to let you know that we are reaching out to the Department of General Services in an effort to **reinstate lobbyist badges**. Lobbyist badges make our lives a little less chaotic and subject to delays from school tours and protest groups – especially in June. We believe this is something that can and should be reinstated as we move on from former COVID-19 restrictions.

Next, we are advocating for the ability to use our phones and take our bags into the **House Gallery**. The House Gallery is a place where we can physically watch the House proceedings in real time. In 2023, we all use our cell phones not just for entertainment, but for work. It is a vital part of our job to have access to them. We also support streaming all legislative hearings and committee meetings for those times we cannot be in person.

Please note we are additionally working to make sure we all feel **secure in the Capitol**. All people who advocate in the building should be safe from harassment of any shape or form.

Finally, we are working to bring you several in person and virtual events this year for added value to your PAGR membership. **While a key part of PAGR is advocating for our profession, networking and learning opportunities are also at the forefront of our minds.**

I look forward to hearing from you on these important issues and seeing you at our next meeting on April 14th!

Upcoming EVENTS

Friday April 14—11:30 am
Membership Meeting

Monday May 1—5 pm—7pm
Meet the New Legislators

Friday June 2—11:30 am
Membership Meeting

Friday October 13
LOBBYPALOOZA 2023

Friday December 1—11:30 am
Membership Meeting

New Members



Kara Beem
Keystone Ingenuity

Gary Blumenthal
Invision Human Services

Rachael Choplick
Bellevue Strategies

Catherine Conner
Milliron & Goodman, LLC

Clint Cullison
Greenlee Partners

Lily Guthrie
PA Farm Bureau

Neal Leshner
PA Chamber of Business & Industry

Frank Mazza
County Commissioners Assn of PA

Teresa McCurdy
TD Connections

Carla Parkes
Columbia Gas

Lisa Post
Columbia Gas

Jennie Shade
PA Municipal Authorities Assn

Pete Shelly
Clearpoint Communications

Ryan Stevens
Duane Morris Government Strategies

Andrew Wigglesworth
Wojdak Government Relations



New Legislator

**meet &
greet**

Monday, May 1
Hilton Harrisburg
5 pm – 7 pm

*Free to all
PAGR members*

*RSVP to info@pagr.org
by April 26*

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A Message from our

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

PAGR members, welcome to Harrisburg: 2023 edition.

Spring is in the air, budget hearings are in full bloom, committees are organized, things couldn't be better, *right?* All joking aside, the past three months have been nothing short of monumental in so many ways for Harrisburg's Government Relations professionals. We have seen history made in the House, the Senate, the Lt. Governor's Office, and the Governor's Office. One thing is certain, this is a really exciting time to be part of PA Politics.

Obviously, with so much going on, I bet you're pondering, it's 2023 what's PAGR doing for me? In short, trying to make your job easier.

It's not like our lobbyist badges won't allow us to bypass security, we can't tweet from the galleries, every session poses a new threat of complex lobbying reform, committee meetings aren't all streamed for the public, and pulling someone off the floor doesn't require your contacts to be filled with 253 personal cell phone numbers.

Oh wait, it is like that?

Well then, I'm really happy there is an organization like PAGR that is keeping track and advocating on our behalf!

In all seriousness, there are a myriad of positives and great things to look forward to this session but there are also challenges that our industry faces just like all of the clients and members that you represent on a daily basis. **PAGR is here to be the organization that can advocate for what you do and how you represent your clients, here to help you do your job and ensure that the increasing barriers to our effectiveness are not amplified.**

PAGR is the only association that exists to represent Government Affairs Professionals and advocate on our behalf holistically in Pennsylvania. Rest assured the 2023 PAGR Board is taking this charge seriously.

Here's the skinny:

My name is Amal, I'm your Membership Chair for 2023 and my goal is to retain you as a member and bring 30 new members on board before the end of the year. It is imperative that PAGR works for you and provides member value. What does that mean for you? Send me an email at info@pagr.org and let me know.

- The PAGR board is comprised of your (amazing) colleagues who want to ensure that you are able to work on behalf of your clients and the public to the best of your ability as you do your job in Harrisburg.
- We have an agenda, but we need your engagement as a member to help us. Our agenda is to bring the validity of lobbyist badges back, meet with the chief clerk regarding the lobbyist room, ensure cell phone access in the galleries, advocate for access to amendment language as soon as possible, and request streaming access to committee meetings for all.
- PAGR is fun! Not only do we have bi-monthly membership meetings on the books, with great speakers like Mike Vereb next month, but we also have other events planned, like Meet the New Legislators, Lobbypalooza 2023, and a whole programs committee ready and waiting to hear your thoughts on how we can engage you.
- PAGR has the best job board in town and access to the most qualified talent pool this state has to offer. Our 2023 Board, under the leadership of Brittany Mako, is ready to work to make your PAGR membership one of the best expenditures of \$195 this year.

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts on PAGR's goals, mission, and your membership. Catch us at the next membership meeting on April 14 at 11:30 am via zoom. Cheers,

Amal

“Spring is in the air, budget hearings are in full bloom, committees are organized, things couldn't be better, *right?*”

Meeting Notice

Friday, April 14

11:30 am —12:30 pm

ZOOM

PAGR Membership Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Secretary Mike Vereb

Pennsylvania Legislative Affairs



Additional Guest:

**YMCA Youth and Government
Governor 2023.**

PAGR MEMBERS ONLY

**You must RSVP by
COB Wednesday April 12
to 717-939-1900 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.**

*Meeting materials and meeting coordinates for
the meeting will be sent the evening of
Wednesday April 12.*

2023 Proposed Board



Officers

President.....Brittany Mako
Vice President.....Alex Halper
Secretary.....Jim Willshier
Treasurer.....Ted Mowatt

Board of Directors

Association.....Lisa Schaeffer
Corporate.....Pete Trufahnestock
Lawyer.....Judy Eschberger, Esq.
Independent.....Mary Keenan
At Large.....Amal Mahrouki
At Large.....Mike Maguire

Immediate Past President

vacant

Executive Director

Christine Corrigan

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. ±