

December, 2016

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

**Post Office Box 116 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108
(717) 939-1900 Fax (717) 939-7900 www.pagr.org**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Christina Mihalik, PA CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION



2016 is quickly coming to an end. I'm sure many of you look forward to the break from an extremely busy, and hopefully successful, legislative session. PAGR noted many successes this year, whether from hot topics at Lobbypalooza, a variety of great luncheon speakers, and lobbying disclosure training by the Department of State (DOS) exclusively for PAGR members.

We also engaged and educated key House and Senate members on multiple lobbying reform bills. One in particular, HB 1348, would have increased penalties for failure to register or report. In addition, the legislation would require lobbyists, principals, and firms to register and file electronically with the Department of State. Because the legislation did not have the added protection of allowing the lobbying community, PAGR offered an amendment to allow the lobbying community to file by paper in the event the

DOS electronic system is down, and waive any penalty for late filing if the electronic system is down when a filing is due.

As shared in previous communications, PAGR strongly opposes legislation that increases fines on the lobbying community without addressing issues PAGR has raised with the reporting system used by the Department of State (DOS). These concerns put lobbyists, principals, and firms at greater risk of penalties for a mistake they may or may not have made, based on a fault on the DOS end.

We are happy to report that through a combination of our efforts and the Senate's course of business, the legislation did not advance. We would like to thank those PAGR members who contacted Senate offices. We know the last few weeks of session were extremely busy week for our community, and greatly appreciate those who took the time to contact Senate offices. Although the House and Senate have adjourned, members of the PAGR Board and Public Affairs Committee continue to educate key stakeholders on these concerns. They also plan to meet with the DOS in the near future to thoroughly discuss the issues surrounding of its inoperable system in the near future.

The work of the Public Affairs Committee is an example of how strong PAGR can be through the collaborative efforts of our standing committees. As your board prepares for 2017, I urge you to consider taking on a PAGR leadership role. Our ability to grow our organization is contingent on bolstering membership and participation. This will be the PAGR Board's focus next year and ask for your support. There are several committees that are in need of representation from our diverse community. Whether its Membership, Public Affairs, Budget and Finance, Nominating, Professional Standards and Ethics or Program, your involvement is valued and appreciated. Please contact Christine Corrigan at info@pagr.org for more information.

Finally, the year would not be complete without **PAGR's annual party. Please join us from 4 pm – 6 pm at The Firehouse on Monday, December 6. We will be accepting canned goods and other non-perishable items for a Harrisburg based food bank.** I look forward to seeing you next month, if not sooner. ☺

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Orders will be delivered in late March/early April, 2017.

Meeting Notice

New time

Monday December 5

4:00 — 6:00pm

Firehouse Restaurant

Third Floor

606 N. Second Street • Harrisburg



Cocktails and Camaraderie

2017 Board vote

Please bring a non-perishable item we can donate to a local food bank.

Donation = free drink

ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 2016 DUES ARE FREE! ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$25. **PLEASE RSVP BY December 1** TO 717-939-1900 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG. THANK YOU.

2017 Board

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Bolded positions need to be voted on.

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. ☉