

# PARSE newsletter

## DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

### PARSE State Office

2929 Gettysburg Road, Suite 1  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

717-731-9522

Toll Free: 1-888-809-7429

Office Phone Hours:

9am – 3pm M-F

Website: [www.parseofpa.org](http://www.parseofpa.org)

Thomas B. Judge – President  
Allan Hansen – Vice President  
Vacancy - Treasurer  
Vickie Bailey – Secretary

## REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

### NORTHWEST

Joseph Moliterno: (814) 938-9089

### SOUTHWEST

Thomas Buerkle: (724) 836-5412

### NORTHEAST

John Quirk: (570) 628-2815

### SOUTHEAST

Kathy Beitchman (610) 252-9912

### CENTRAL

Carol Moyer: (717) 652-9270

## President’s Message - Spring 2019

*Thomas B. Judge, President*

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of the PARSE newsletter. You will notice some changes to the newsletter and the first change is that I will begin grouping items of interest with a heading for easy access to information on different aspects of PARSE.



*Tom Judge*

### Membership

Once again, in 2018 PARSE broke new ground by ending the year with 23,114 members! We finished 2017 with 21,996. This represents more than 5% net growth. Thank you for your membership and support! Our voice is stronger the more members we represent!

Please continue to spread the word about PARSE to any of your retiree friends and help sustain this growth.

### State Secretary

I am pleased to tell you that Vickie Bailey began as the State Secretary in November 2018. The position had been vacant for over a year. Vickie has been a great addition to the office. See the article on p. 3 in this newsletter about Vickie.

### Governing Board Meeting

The 2018 Governing Board Meeting, held at the Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill, September 11 and 12, began with an informative presentation from the Secretary of State Robert Torres on insuring elections are secure.

A significant change that delegates approved was to begin the PARSE fiscal year on October 1st and end on September 30th of the next year. This means no change to you as members. From an accounting perspective, it better aligns with the fiscal year when most of our revenue is generated. Another change

## Capitol Hill Update

By John E. Baughman, Ph. D., PARSE Government Relations Advisor

In November 2018, Pennsylvanians elected a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, all 203 House members, and one-half of the Senate. Governor Tom Wolf, a Democrat, was re-elected to four more years as Governor, with John Fetterman replacing Mike Stack as Lieutenant Governor. While the Republicans retained a majority in both the House and the Senate, the Democrats gained seats in both chambers. The gains by Democrats means that compromise will be needed for legislative decisions in the 2019-2020 Session.

Several proposals designed to eliminate the property tax have been introduced for the 2019-2020 Session. At the end of the last Session, bills on this issue did not make it to final passage.

One piece of important legislation that did become law in the 2017-2018 Session was Act 5 of 2017. This Act includes the establishment of the hybrid provision that calls for a mixture of Defined Contribution and Defined Benefit for retirees. It also called for the establishment of the Public Pension Management and Asset Investment Review Commission. While the legislation was passed earlier, the Commission has just released the findings of its report. This report includes many important elements for the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) and the State Employees Retirement System

(SERS). The general recommendations of this Commission include the actions necessary to achieve better efficiency and actuarial savings. The report also outlines the procedures necessary in this effort including the General Assembly, the Administration, and the Boards of the Retirement Systems.

The wide-ranging ideas in the report and their implementation will be the subject of much discussion and legislative proposals for legislators and the Wolf Administration in the coming months. Important recommendations include:

- The General Assembly must continue to make its required contribution (obligation) to the funds. Failure to make these contributions is one of the major causes of the unfunded liability.
- To save duplication and increase clout on Wall Street, PSERS and SERS must merge their in-house investment fund management.
- The in-house investment fund staff for PSERS and SERS must be held to a test of success and disclose their success or lack of success.

The complete report of the Public Pension Management and Asset Investment Review Commission can be found online: <https://www.patreasury.gov/pdf/2018-PPMAIRC-FINAL.pdf>.

### THANK YOU, JOHN CLASS!

A huge **THANK YOU** to John Class for his dedicated and dependable service as State Treasurer with PARSE for the past eleven years. Prior to joining the PARSE staff, John was with the Comptroller's

Operations staff in the Office of the Budget with oversight responsibilities for the budgets of the Department of Aging and the Department of Public Welfare.

John and his spouse, Nancy, plan to travel more in the days ahead.

Again, **THANK YOU**, John, for keeping the books and helping us to laugh!

## WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS!

Your elected officials need to hear about what is happening in their districts and want to be kept informed of how government is impacting their constituents' lives. Writing them a brief and effective letter about a specific issue is important.

Some tips:

1. Do not use a form letter.
2. Include your home address to identify yourself as a resident of the area the elected official represents.
3. State the topic or specific legislation about which you are writing and your position on the topic or legislation.
4. Limit your letter to one issue and one page at most. A short concise letter on one topic is most always best.
5. Personalize your letter by telling how the issue is important to you and how it affects you, your family, and your community. Base your letter on your own experience.
6. Be courteous and polite in tone.

Here's a general outline of what the letter should look like:

Date

The Honorable  
(Governor, Senator, or Representative)

Address

Dear (Governor/Senator/Representative):

1st Paragraph: Identify yourself and the topic about which you are writing.

2nd Paragraph: State clearly why you feel strongly about the topic.

3rd Paragraph: Personalize how this issue impacts you and/or your family.

4th Paragraph: Repeat your position and request a response.

Sincerely yours,

Sign the letter and include your home address on both the letter and the envelope.

A directory of state legislators is on the PARSE website, [parseofpa.org](http://parseofpa.org), under the Legislative Activity/Government Relations Advisor link.

Should you need further assistance in finding addresses, contact the PARSE State Office at 1-888-809-7429.

## New Sam's Club Discounts

As of this writing (3/7/2019), we do not have a new discount certificate for Sam's Club. The current certificate expired on January 31, 2019. William Dunn, Chair of the PARSE Benefits Committee, has contacted staff at Sam's Club and is waiting for a response.

When Sam's Club does provide the certificate, we will distribute it to all chapter treasurers for distribution to PARSE members.

## Important Primary Election Dates

Last day to REGISTER  
before the primary - April 22

Last day to apply for a civilian  
absentee ballot - May 14

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots - May 17

MUNICIPAL PRIMARY May 21

**VOTE! IT'S YOUR RIGHT  
AND PRIVILEGE!**

## CHAPTER TREASURERS

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

State Office: 888-809-7429

- 1-10 **Blair, Bedford, Huntingdon**  
Shirley Kurtz-Flaugh: 814-832-3195
- 1-20 **Central Penn**  
Jan Moran: 717-763-5515
- 1-25 **Franklin**  
Bonnie McMullen: 717-860-1605
- 1-27 **Fulton**  
Barbara Fischer: 717-294-3693
- 1-30 **Lancaster, Lebanon**  
Joan Matterness: 717-392-4906
- 1-40 **Mt. Nittany**  
Mary Alice Miller: 814-349-5475
- 1-50 **MUNS**  
Sally Kobus: 570-524-0635
- 2-10 **Endless Mountains**  
Dianne Burman: 570-756-2525
- 2-20 **Lackawanna, Wyoming**  
Christopher Doherty: 570-521-4549
- 2-30 **Luzerne, Columbia**  
Robert Berkey: 570-239-0908
- 2-50 **Schuylkill, Carbon**  
John Quirk: 570-628-2815
- 2-60 **Wayne, Pike, Monroe**  
Claudia Le Vasseur: 570-937-9093
- 3-10 **Erie**  
Anita Locanto: 814-460-5010
- 3-20 **Jefferson, Clearfield**  
Joe Moliterno (acting): 814-938-9089
- 3-27 **Crawford**  
Kathryn W Parks: 814-337-0673
- 3-30 **McKean, Potter, Cameron, Elk**  
George Barron: 814-837-7182
- 3-40 **Venango, Clarion, Mercer**  
Richard Supak: 814-437-3385
- 3-50 **Barton Schuler (Warren, Forest)**  
Carolyn Moynihan: 716-720-1527
- 4-10 **Berks, Lehigh, Northampton**  
Muriel Brookins: 215-669-2493
- 4-30 **Delaware, Chester**  
Roxanna Liberace: 610-678-3745
- 4-50 **Montgomery**  
Doll Byrd: 610-584-5035
- 4-60 **Philadelphia, Bucks**  
Ed Finfer: 215-244-1330
- 5-10 **Cambria, Somerset**  
Francis Skala: 814-535-4380
- 5-20 **Indico**  
Richard Roberts: 724-465-5295
- 5-30 **West SI-CO**  
Xina Matuza: 724-327-0826
- 5-40 **West Penn**  
Georgia Manns: 412-672-8708
- 5-50 **Laurel Highlands**  
Carol Kolesko: 814-893-5676

## Meet Vickie Bailey, New State Secretary

Welcome to Vickie Bailey, who began her position as State Secretary in November 2018.

Her initial employment with the Commonwealth was with the PA State Police. She took a break to be a full-time mother and then returned to employment in the temporary clerk pool. She closed her service with several years as a Liquor Purchasing Technician with the Chairman's Selection Program of the Liquor Control Board.

Vickie applied for the position because she liked the part-time hours and the variety of tasks listed in the job description. She enjoys helping members resolve any problems they present and welcomes all challenges. Tom Judge says she excels in listening to and engaging members and responding to their concerns and questions.

Again, welcome Vickie! We're glad you're here!

## Dental & Vision Insurance Benefits Update

The United Concordia Preferred (PPO) Dental plan remains the same with no deductible for Class 1 Services – Diagnostic/Preventive Services. Each member has \$1,900 for Class 2 and Class 3 Services.

We entered into a new 4-year contract with Davis Vision from November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2022 providing the following rates for that time:

### Annual Vision Premiums:

	<i>Standard Plan</i>		<i>Enhanced Plan</i>
Member Only	\$74.00	Member Only	\$90.00
Member + 1	\$131.00	Member + 1	\$162.00
Family	\$190.00	Family	\$242.00

Added vision insurance benefits are:

- Members have a 20 percent discount on Non-collection Frame coverage.
- Members have a 15 percent discount on Non-collection Contact Lens coverage.
- Copayment for Scratch resistant Coating reduced to \$0.00.
- Members will have access to the Premium Contact Lens Formulary.
- Members have \$50.00 non-plan frame allowance at Visionworks up to \$110.00.



approved by the delegates was to allow an Associate Member to serve as the State Secretary.

Vice President Allan Hansen was elected to a new 2-year term of office.

Treasurer John Class had announced he was stepping down after 10 years of service to PARSE. John's excellent tenure was acknowledged at the meeting. Unfortunately, there were no candidates for the treasurer position, and the Executive Committee must address this vacancy.

The 2019 budget was approved with no dues increase.

I admit that I am not often left speechless. However, Professional Insurance Services, Inc. (PISI) stopped me cold at the Governing Board meeting. PARSE had been working on a new member system (see the Information Technology section below). PISI said they wanted to assist financially in PARSE's system improvements and presented us with a check for more than \$11,000 which covered the development costs to update the system. Thank you, PISI!

### **State Office**

We have a new 4-year lease for the PARSE State Office space in Camp Hill. In conjunction with the new lease, the walls were painted, the carpets cleaned, and the HVAC systems serviced.

### **PISI-AMBA**

PISI (the PARSE insurance administrator) merged with AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors) the end of 2017. To grow our membership, PISI, AMBA, and PARSE sent a mailing to potential PARSE members, which produced over 150 new members. The PARSE Benefits Committee will meet with PISI/AMBA to review other benefits programs of potential interest to our members. Vice President Hansen coordinates this activity.

### **Information Technology and PARSE**

The State Office implemented a new membership management system in early September. As with

any new system there were some hiccups, and we were able to work through those in conjunction with the consultant, Sidium Solutions. The significant change for most of you—the addition of bar codes to your membership invoices—enabled us to process invoices faster and more accurately. The ability to process faster had a downside with a backlog in getting your checks deposited. We are developing mechanisms to avoid that problem in the future.

Additional items for implementation with the system include the ability to pay dues online for the 2020 membership and allowing individual chapter treasurers to look at chapter records related to dues. I will keep you updated on these and other initiatives in future newsletters.

### **Shingles Vaccine**

I am sure many of you received the shingles vaccine when it was released several years ago. I got mine 6 or 7 years ago. There is a new 2 dose vaccine that is more effective. Currently, it is difficult to get but I encourage you to get on a list to receive it when it becomes available.

### **State Office**

PARSE no longer uses the Verizon email addresses and I want to remind you of our new addresses:

President

Tom Judge                      [tjudge@parseofpa.org](mailto:tjudge@parseofpa.org)

Vice President

Allan Hansen                  [ahansen@parseofpa.org](mailto:ahansen@parseofpa.org)

Secretary

Vickie Bailey                  [vbailey@parseofpa.org](mailto:vbailey@parseofpa.org)

Administrative Asst.

Craig Staller                  [cstaller@parseofpa.org](mailto:cstaller@parseofpa.org)

**Finally**, thank you to Craig Staller, our Administrative Assistant, who is now the PARSE newsletter editor.

# PARSE *Calendar of Events at State Office*

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- May 14: Executive Committee Meeting
- May 21: Primary Election Day
- May 27: Memorial Day, State Office Closed
- July 4: Fourth of July, State Office Closed
- September 2: Labor Day, State Office Closed
- September 10: Executive Committee Meeting
- September 10 & 11: Governing Board Meeting
- October 14: Columbus Day, State Office Closed
- November 5: General Election Day
- November 11: Veterans Day, State Office Closed
- November 12: Executive Committee Meeting
- November 28 & 29: Thanksgiving Holiday, State Office Closed

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