

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

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 2020

Thomas B. Judge, President

2020 Dues Collection

The dues collection has gone smoothly this year at the State Office. We enhanced some processes from last year, which made processing (bar code scanning) and depositing checks faster.

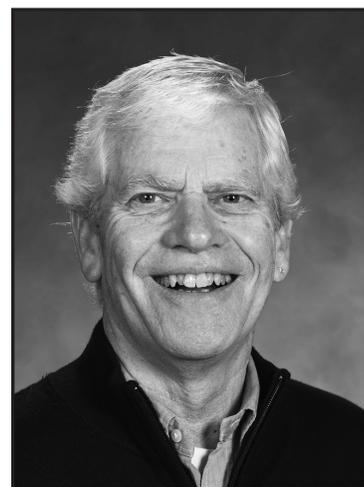
Over 1,200 members used the convenient online option for dues collection this year. Please note that if your chapter does its own dues collection this option is not available. There were 25,748 PARSE members in 2019. As of the end of February 2020, over 23,000 members have renewed their membership.

Reminder invoices went out in mid-February to those who have not paid their 2020 dues. This is for the chapters who have the State Office collect dues.

Address Updates

Undeliverable mail continues to be an issue when we mail invoices and newsletters. Because PARSE is a non-profit, we have a reduced postage rate and the Post Office does not always forward mail.

If you move, please call us so we can keep your records current.



Tom Judge

Dental Insurance

At the Governing Board meeting in September 2019, the 1-year contract with United Concordia was approved. The proposed 2-year contract had conditions that were considered unacceptable.

The plan was to begin an RFP (Request for

Continued on page 2



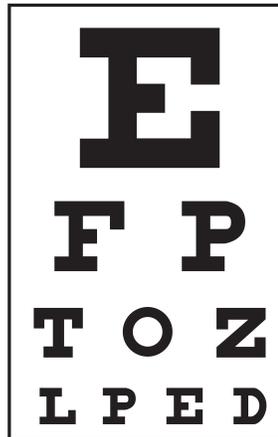
Proposal) from multiple insurers. Through PISI/AMBA, we notified United Concordia of the RFP process and offered them the opportunity to extend their contract for an additional year without the conditions originally proposed for the second year.

United Concordia accepted the offer to extend the contract so that the contract is in effect now a 2-year contract.

Davis Vision

PISI/AMBA is reviewing your complaints about vision insurance services with Davis Vision Insurance. A meeting has been scheduled and we will provide updates after that meeting.

The current contract with Davis expires October 31, 2022.



Property Tax Legislation

Both the House and Senate are engaged in much talk about the multiple proposals on property tax legislation. No one piece of legislation has emerged as a consensus.

John Baughman our Government Affairs Director,

has been monitoring this issue. The State Office will keep you up-to-date on developments and request your advocacy assistance when necessary.

Real ID

A "Real ID" will be required after October 1, 2020 for domestic flights and access to some federal facilities unless you have an acceptable alternative (i.e. passport, military id). You can get information on what you need to get your Real ID at <https://www.dmv.pa.gov>. Plan on spending 30 minutes at your local PA Dept. of Transportation center to get your Real ID.



Reducing Costs for Chapters

Because the PARSE financial situation is sound, I recommended to the Executive Committee two (2) changes that would impact the chapters for 2020. First, the State Office would pay the entire insurance bill which is normally proportionately shared with the chapters.

The second is to reduce the cost for dues collection (for those chapters who chose to have the State Office do that for them) from \$.60 per invoice to \$.50 per invoice. The Executive Committee approved these changes with the understanding that these items could be reviewed yearly.

Financial Report

For the Period

October 1, 2019 thru February 29, 2020

REVENUE

Total Income: \$299,186.27

EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$85,070.98

Capitol Hill Update

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

The beginning of 2020 provided an interesting start Legislative Session with the retirement announcements of both top leaders of the House and Senate. First Rep. Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny), Speaker of the House, expressed his intention to leave at some point this term. Shortly thereafter Sen. Joseph B. Scarnati (R-25th District in north-central PA), President Pro Tempore of the Senate, announced that he would retire when his term is up at the end of the year.

Scarnati's and Turzai's departures will be a loss to the Legislature. Both are respected and adept in their ability to manage the legislative process.

There are a number of names being mentioned as replacements for each of these leaders.

If it is Spring, it is time for the budget process to begin in earnest. Governor Wolf presented his 2020-21 budget on February 4, 2020. His \$36.1 billion spending plan was well-received by the Democrats in the Legislature while the Republicans had concerns with portions of the proposal. The 2019-2020 budget was, for the most part, a non-controversial document. In the proposed budget Governor Wolf has not put forward any broad-based tax increases.

The Governor has not proposed any broad-based tax increases but other revenue raising proposals are included in his budget such as:

- Tax on Marcellus shale extraction: A similar proposal in the 2019-2020 budget was defeated.
- Increased municipal waste tax of \$1 per ton
- State Police fee for municipalities without their own police force
- Restructuring of Corporate income taxes

Major areas of revenue distribution include:

- Higher Education: an increase of \$58 million (3%) for a total of \$1.8 billion



- Pre-K and K-12 Education: an increase of \$170 million (2%) for a total of \$9.2 billion
- Debt: an increase of \$6 million (0.5%) for a total of \$1.15 billion
- Human Services: an increase of \$1.2 billion (9%) for a total of \$14.4 billion
- State Police - an increase of \$45 million (4%) for a total of \$1.4 billion

These and other proposals will be discussed in detail during the budget process.

Important legislative issues for **PARSE** members include many bills that address property tax elimination. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Joseph Scarnati, announced that he will try to get an up or down vote on one of these proposals.

Another significant issue for **PARSE** members is the unfunded liability of the retirement fund. The good news is that the state has put up their constitutionally required payment to the fund, and the bad news is there is still a considerable shortfall in the fund, which must be considered.

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**
Diana Ewing: 814-778-5182
- 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**
Frances 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

Toys for Tots

The last newsletter highlighted PARSE chapter support for local food banks and concerns around food and nutrition for Pennsylvanians. The emphasis in this newsletter is Toys for Tots, another charity supported by many local PARSE chapters.

Toys for Tots began in 1947 in Los Angeles when a retired Marine attempted to donate a doll to a needy child and could not find any organization to help. He and his family gathered a group of Marine reservists to collect and distribute toys. Through their efforts, over 5,000 toys were collected and Marines in other communities took up the cause. Marine reservists across the nation began gathering toys in their own areas.

In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reservists. The program received support from First Lady Michelle Obama, who placed the first collection box at the White House in 2009.

The mission of the program is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible productive, and patriotic citizens. New, unwrapped toys donated during October, November, and December each year are distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community where the campaign is conducted.

According to the Toys for Tots website, <https://www.toysfortots.org/>, one of the major impacts of living in poverty is low self-esteem. Children are one of our nation's most valuable resources. If we want to build tomorrow's civic, business, and social leaders, we must raise the self-esteem for children to give them hope for the future and help guide them toward being productive members of society. The simple new toy which millions of needy children received each Christmas through the Toys for Tots program, delivers a message of hope.

Toys for Tots has received notable achievements as Reader's Digest Best Children's Charity and high ratings from Charity Navigator, a charity assessment organization.



BUILDING PARSE FOR THE FUTURE

By Thomas B. Judge, President

As I think about the future for PARSE, I want us to take steps that build our organization and make it more relevant for Commonwealth retirees. Here are some areas where we need to grow:

Connecting to Social Media



We are looking at multiple ways to spread the message of PARSE. With the aid of PISI/AMBA, we will develop a Facebook page for PARSE. Many

Commonwealth employees who are approaching retirement are very connected to social media and a Facebook presence will be a first step to promote our message. The PISI/AMBA relationship will provide ways to keep the account up-to-date and fresh.

Applying for Membership Online

The new PARSE application provided the ability to offer online dues collection for 2020. We hope that next year even more members will select that option.

PARSE does none of the processing. The website you use for online payment is a secure and safe site. (https). PARSE is notified



of your payments, and we do not see or have in our system any financial information, i.e., credit card data. We also have no bank account or Social Security numbers in our records. In this year we want to offer online applications for new members. We will also review the potential exchange of information with PISI.

Expanding Our Outreach

A new five (5) year marketing agreement with PISI /AMBA has been finalized with input from

the PARSE staff attorney. This agreement further defines what PARSE can expect from PISI/AMBA and what PARSE must provide in return.

Several key elements of the agreement are PISI/AMBA's support in growing PARSE, assistance with social media (i.e., Facebook, etc.) outreach, and continued support for our annual meeting.



Building Chapter Leadership

Chapters are vital to the future of PARSE and we encourage you to attend chapter meetings and become active. In many chapters, the same persons have served as officers for many years and we are grateful for their dedicated service. However, no one is coming forward to replace them. If you value PARSE, make a personal commitment to your chapter. Being an active participant in your chapter will not require a great deal of your time and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are advancing the work of PARSE.

**REMEMBER YOUR
VOTE IS IMPORTANT.**

**The Primary Election is now
scheduled for June 2, 2020!**

CORONAVIRUS

and PARSE

Per the Governor's directive the PARSE office is closed and will remain closed until the Governor allows us to open.

We trust that you are all well and taking precautions such as social distancing and frequent hand washing. The State Officers are connected remotely, and work is being processed.

If you need to reach us, the most effective method is to use the "Contact Us" section on the PARSE website (www.parseofpa.org). You may also email me at tjudge@parseofpa.org. If you contact us via phone at 1-888-809-7429, please speak clearly when giving your name and telephone number.

At this time the Central, Northeast and Southeast Regional meetings have been cancelled. If you have any questions about your chapter activities, please contact your chapter officers directly.

In these difficult times, regardless of our personal situations, remember our blessings. Please pray for those in the frontlines caring for the sick.

Tom Judge, PARSE State President

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