

Presidents Report 2024 Governing Board Meeting

Good evening and welcome to the 52nd Governing Board Meeting. I hope you are enjoying the Best Western. I want to thank PISI/AMBA for hosting our reception and dinner, they will also be hosting breakfast tomorrow. True Hearing is also helping to offset some of our expenses, and I want to acknowledge them for that assistance. We have numerous items on the agenda so I will be brief in my "State of PARSE" remarks.

Let me introduce our officers:

Paul Sebasovich – Vice President-Treasurer

Vickie Bailey – State Secretary

Judy Janis – Administrative Assistant

Jodi Boal – Fiscal Assistant

Central Region VP – John Collins

Northeast Region VP – Bill Dunn

Northwest Region VP – Dr. James Godlewski

Southeast Region VP – Mike Gart.

Southwest Region – Judy Lazration.

Evelyn Trent - Parliamentarian.

Chapter Officers and Committee Members.

I would also like to pause for a moment to remember a few individuals who gave much of their time and energy to PARSE and who have passed away since our last meeting, Jack and Jean Quirk, Deanna Buttray and others.

In brief some PARSE highlights:

1. Over 35,000 members at the end of 2023.
2. We are close to the 36,000-member count.
3. We continue to collect more 2024 dues as insurances are renewed.
4. I want to thank PISI/AMBA for their efforts to recruit new members.
5. The regional meetings went very well, and it was good to see so many participants. The State Office paid for all attendee lunches and that was a small gesture of thank you to the chapter leaders.
6. Almost 12,000 members used the on-line option to pay their 2024 dues. The State Office will continue to absorb the costs associated with an online transaction.
7. The Audit Committee did perform an audit for 2023, Tony Frazier will be presenting that report. I thank Tony and his team for their efforts.

8. PARSE finances remain solid, and dues remain at \$20 for next year and the following 3 years as you might note on the projected budgets.
9. A member of the Finance Committee will present the budget, which is balanced, for the next fiscal year.
10. PARSE has surrendered the 2 annuities we had, and those proceeds will be placed into CD's.
11. This November we enter the 4th year of a 5-year contract with United Concordia. United Concordia is exercising the 7% increase that was in the agreement, you will recall that there was no rate increase for the last 3 years. This increase will carry over to the 5th and final year of that contract. The new rates will be between \$3 to \$8 per month, depending on the plan.
12. HB1416, which will provide a COLA for those who retired prior to 2001 remains blocked in the Senate Government Committee. It is frustrating that just as in Washington a chairman of a committee can hold legislation, so it is true in Harrisburg. We and Novak have been working to get that bill moved forward and allow the whole senate to vote.
13. In the next year we will have a proposal to redo the PARSE website and make it more accessible to smart phones and tablets. The design will also include the ability to edit content in a more user-friendly way.
14. We also will have a proposal to have a "Risk Assessment" done at the State Office level. The Audit Committee will report on this when they do their report on the in-house audit.
15. Garrett Mowery from PISI/AMBA will speak tomorrow and one of the items he will discuss is the migration from the name PIS/AMBA to more accurately AMBA.

I am in my 13th year with PARSE and 9th as President; there have been many changes and huge growth in the organization. While some would dispute this next statement but make no doubt about it PARSE is a business and needs to operate as a business.

I want to discuss two important issues, and I believe I have an obligation to provide input before you consider these issues and vote.

The decisions you will make this evening and tomorrow will have a far-reaching impact on the future of PARSE. This reminds me of some of the lines from Robert Frost's poem The Road Not Taken, it begins "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.... " and then later "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference".

As delegates you are to speak for all PARSE members, but do you really hear from that many of your members. Our membership has grown significantly but has participation in chapter events had a proportional increase? I think unfortunately the answer is no. The question therefore is why are these people joining PARSE and what is it they really care about? I know they are joining for dental and vision insurance, and it is paramount that we make that available and convenient for them. Please keep in mind the interests

of all members, not just the ones you see at meetings as you vote on several items/roads during the meeting.

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