

## President's Report

Good evening; I am sure you all enjoyed the social hour and dinner. I do want to thank PISI for once again hosting our social and this year they were hosts for dinner. PISI is also providing box lunches tomorrow. I want to acknowledge Hear in America for their support to offset some of our meeting expenses. We have a full agenda for this evening and I do not want to take too much of your time but do want to give you some information on the "State of PARSE".

Allow me to introduce your state officers. Allan Hansen, Vice President; Vickie Bailey, Secretary; the Regional Vice Presidents, Carol Moyer from the Central Region, Jack Quirk from the Northeast Region, Joe Moliterno from the Northwest Region, Kathy Beitchman for the Southeast Region and Tom Buerkle from the Southwest Region. Craig Staller our Administrative Assistant and John Baughman our Government Relations Advisor are in attendance as is the PARSE attorney Thea Paolini. Also please recognize our Parliamentarians Evelyn Trent and Carol Ranck. I want to thank all these individuals for their dedication to PARSE. I also want to acknowledge and thank all the chapter officers who support PARSE at the local level. Likewise, I thank each of you for your ongoing contributions to your Chapters and PARSE. As announced last year John Class stepped down as treasurer. There were no candidates for that position, but we now have a Fiscal Assistant, Jodi Boal, who has been very ably filling that role.

We continue to try to keep you informed on what is happening at the State Office and hope you have appreciated those efforts. We will do our best to keep you updated. Craig assumed the editor role for the PARSE Newsletter and he has worked diligently to make that publication informative. I also recommend that you regularly check the PARSE website, [www.parseofpa.org](http://www.parseofpa.org). You can always find the PARSE Newsletter posted there. I believe that the Regional Meetings this year were all excellent and I want to thank the Regional Vice-Presidents for arranging them. We had very constructive discussions at all of them. We did not distribute any recognition certificates at the regional meetings this year and I would like to get back to that acknowledgement next year.

Our membership numbers continue to grow. PARSE ended 2018 with 23,144 paid members and as of today we have **24,579** members for 2019. Unfortunately, we still have many who have not paid 2019 dues, but we continue to get some dues with the insurance renewals match we do each month. As we reported previously I had a meeting with SERS and presented two (2) options either of which I hoped would allow them to provide mailing information for retirees. My presentation was received well but, in the end, SERS fell back on the concern of providing information to one organization would place them in a position that other organizations would make similar demands. However, most of you have seen an increase membership. The member growth has in

part been driven by efforts by PISI/AMBA. AMBA developed lists of potential retirees and several mailings were done which resulted in an increase in membership and members taking dental and/or vision insurance. I want to be clear that these mailings were done at no cost to PARSE. As our membership has grown so too have the number of dental and vision policies.

Fiscally PARSE is doing well in part aided by the growth in membership. The proposed budget for FY2019-20, approved by the Finance Committee for presentation to you tomorrow, maintains the dues at \$20 and is a balanced budget. Although it is not an item for vote you should note that the 3-year budget projection (which was included in the package mailed to you) all maintain the dues at \$20 and are likewise balanced budgets.

Last year we implemented a new membership system. As part of that implementation invoices were bar-coded with member ids. The bar-coded invoices allowed us to scan the invoices more accurately and quickly record dues. One problem that resulted from the scanning was that the treasurer was overwhelmed with checks to process. We have adjusted our processing, obtained a second check scanner from our bank and Vice President Hansen is assisting with scanning the checks for deposit to the bank. (Note: the check scanners are provided at no-cost to PARSE). We have also made some enhancements to the system including reporting. We will be piloting this year a read-only access for chapter treasurers. This will enable the treasurer to look up any member from her/his chapter and see if dues have been recorded, check address information and so on. Please note that treasurer's will see only their chapter members and will not be able to make any changes to the data. Once we complete the pilot all chapters will be offered this capability. This year we are adding an online dues payment option for chapters for whom the state office collects dues; the invoices will have the member number and a link to a secure site to pay dues. The online payment is an optional method of payment and does have a small fee, but I believe many will like the convenience of paying this way.

Our bank, Mid Penn, has offered at no cost bill pay/ACH services. We have implemented direct deposit for the State Office staff, and it worked well. I recently sent the chapter treasurer's a letter offering direct deposit for the dues share each month. I hope many of the chapters will take advantage of that service; if not the bank will issue you checks.

In 2020 the State Office will be doing dues collections for most of the chapters. The invoices will be mailed in early October. The Central Penn chapter has agreed to allow us to delay their invoices until the beginning of November. This delay will help the State Office with the heavy processing load each fall. Reminder invoices will also be mailed for those chapters.

The United Concordia Contract will end October 31, 2019. You may recall that this was a 2-year agreement. I requested, thru PISI, another multi-year agreement with no or

minimal cost increases. Vice President Hansen will share the results of that effort with you later.

We have continued to cultivate a relationship with the Office of Administration and Steven Brown has always been most helpful. OA hosted a Benefits Fair last October for active employees and PARSE was invited to attend. We distributed over 100 packets of information to active employees who may be retiring soon. If this event is repeated and PARSE is invited, we will attend. Previously you all received information on the REHP changes for Medicare eligible retirees and OA provided more information this afternoon. I realize that this will be a change for some members but 2 positives from the new contract are (1) the in network and out of network providers is no longer an issue because any provider who participates in original Medicare may be used and (2) the contract represents a \$240M saving. As you know our medical benefits are not guaranteed but a contract such as this with excellent savings help protect our very important medical benefits.

Several years ago, we attempted to get some renewed interest in the Government Relations Committee at the chapter level. We did not have much response to that request. If you have any members in your chapters interested in this committee, please provide those names to your regional Vice President. I recently shared some information on HB13 with the chapters. Legislation such as this demonstrate the value of this committee. If you are not aware HB13 is one of numerous pieces of legislation related to the subject of Property Tax reform. HB13 has as part of the replacement for revenue generated by school property taxes a tax on retirement income of 4.93%. I have been working with John Baughman on this and we have a meeting with Rep. Ryan, the sponsor of the bill, on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Government Relations Committee could assist in helping to oppose this legislation if it appears that this bill is gaining traction. We will discuss more on this subject later in the meeting.

Tomorrow you will be electing all the Regional Vice Presidents, the State Secretary and State President. In the package mailed to you in July were the Candidate Data Forms we had received at that time. Later this evening we will also accept nominations from the floor for any of those positions.

Last year a suggestion was made to share this report and it was posted on the PARSE website under State Office, Annual Meetings. This report will likewise be on the website after this meeting.

We have signed an agreement to have the 2020 meeting at the Best Western Hotel which is off I83 at the Union Deposit exit. I believe you will find that an excellent venue. I would like to propose that for 2021 and 2022 (our 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> meetings) we change the location to Gettysburg. Allan and I have visited the Wyndham hotel there and it is a great location and lots of history available to enjoy. The Wyndham is holding our dates for the 2021 and 2022 meetings.

Finally, let me say that I have appreciated the opportunity you have given me to serve as President. I challenge myself to do more and will continue to push to better PARSE and grow our membership. I assure you that the state officers work diligently every day on behalf of all PARSE members and retirees. We have a lot that we want to work on in the next year and with your support I know we can continue to grow PARSE. I ask you to help with membership retention grow with many new members.

We meet today on the eve of 9/11 a day that took so many lives and changed our world forever. At the beginning of our meeting tomorrow we will pause for a brief moment of silence for those lost on 9/11 and the many members of the military who have made the ultimate sacrifice and all who have served protecting our freedoms.

Last year we had a great meeting and had constructive and civil discussions because people respected each other. It seems in society today a lack of civility is more the norm. Let's be a beacon of hope and civility at our meeting today and always. In keeping with that thought I would like to share a quote I discovered recently, it is from Rev. Desmond Tutu; he wrote "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world".

Thank you