



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

State Association Office

5000 Ritter Road, Suite 105, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Website: parseofpa.org



State Office Report – October 2022

Summer has ended and it is getting cooler, and the leaves are changing color. Much has happened since my May letter, and I will bring you up to date. I do hope that all of you are well.

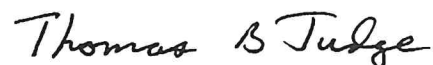
Some highlights since January:

1. In July the PARSE State Office moved. Our new address in 5000 Ritter Rd., Suite 105 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. The new office is in a well-maintained newer building. Prior to our occupying the space new ceiling tiles were replaced, the woodwork and walls were painted, and new carpet and tile were installed. We upgraded the IT wiring to the latest IT standards and now have key IT equipment in an environmentally sound location. We also upgraded the PCs for all staff to laptops which will facilitate working remotely should the office need to close for weather reasons or some other pandemic-like event.
2. As we mentioned previously our current contract with Davis Vision will end in October of this year. Davis Vision proposed a new 5-year contract with a rate hold for the full contract. What that means for you as a PARSE member is that the cost for your eye insurance will remain the same for the next 5 years. This proposal was reviewed by the benefits committee who recommended it to the Governing Board for approval. At the Governing Board meeting the delegates approved the contract. When your current policy ends you will automatically be moved to this new contract with no cost change for you.
3. The 50th PARSE Governing Board Meeting was held in Gettysburg September 12 – 14. Part of the plan for this year's meeting was to have participants arrive early and enjoy some of the history of Gettysburg. At this meeting the Governing Board approved two significant changes to the bylaws. The first change is to allow any PARSE member, either a Chapter Member or Associate Member, to serve as an officer at both the chapter and state level. This change was proposed to expand the pool of candidates for officers because it has been a challenge to find officers. The second change approved by the delegates was to authorize the State Office to perform the dues collection for all chapters. An amendment to the original change was added to stipulate that there would be no charge to the chapters for this service. As a note the State Office has not charged for several years for dues collection.
4. At the Governing Board Meeting a representative of TruHearing (formerly Hear in America) addressed the OTC (over the counter) hearing devices which are now allowed by the FDA. TruHearing will be offering these devices soon (1st quarter 2023). These devices will not be offered in their locations but intended as an online selection. You would go to their website and take a hearing test, answer other questions and then if the test results indicate these could work for you a purchase could be made. As we obtain more information on these devices and how members could acquire them, we will share that information with all members. Online testing and purchasing is not unique to TruHearing, these have been developed for remote testing and purchase.

5. At the Governing Board meeting Paul Sebasovich was elected as the new Vice President-Treasurer. Paul will assume that position in January. Allan Hansen is stepping down after 13 years with PARSE and we thanked him for his long service.
6. Our membership numbers are good and exceed where we were last year.
7. The 2023 dues invoices will be mailed in October-November. We ask that you renew your dues by the end of the year. Over 8,000 members used the online payment option, at no cost to you, and I hope that many of you consider that as a payment option this year.
8. I want to remind all that the PARSE dues are annual and for the period Jan. 1st thru Dec. 31st of the year. We mail invoices in the fall for the next year. Some people think that the dues are due annually in the month they joined, that is not the case.
9. Novak Strategic Advisors, the PARSE Government Relations representatives tracks any pieces of legislation that are of interest/concern to retirees. As noted previously the item of concern is HB13 introduced by Rep. Frank Ryan. However, this remains in committee and is not expected to move forward. In addition, any legislation that has not been approved ends at the end of the session. Since Rep. Ryan is retiring this is not expected to be reintroduced in the next session. On September 20th Novak held the inaugural "Day on the Hill" for some PARSE members. This gave members an opportunity to meet with legislators, some from their districts. The attendees all enjoyed the time, and we will repeat this in 2023 as there will be many changes in leadership after the elections. A Novak representative has and will speak at chapter meetings on request.
10. We will continue our efforts to grow PARSE and work to represent retiree interests. You too can help by volunteering to serve as an officer on your local chapter.

Special Note: Due to a printer error the return envelope enclosed with your 2023 dues (except for Central Penn 1-20 and West Penn 5-40) has the old PARSE address listed. If you have mailed your dues payment the State Office will receive your payment, but it will take longer as the Post Office forwards the mail to our new office. This means it might be longer before you see your check(s) clear. Please be patient and we regret this inconvenience. If you have not yet mailed your payment, please discard the envelope that was enclosed address a new envelope to PARSE, 5000 Ritter Rd., Suite 105 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 with your 2023 dues and invoice card.

Sincerely,



Tom Judge, President PARSE



PARSE TREASURERS



CHAPTER TREASURERS			
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