

Presidents Report 2025 Governing Board Meeting

Good evening and welcome to the 53rd Governing Board Meeting. I want to thank 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 thank them for that assistance.

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.

Abigail Schappell - Parliamentarian.

Chapter Officers and Committee Members.

I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking several members of the State Office and Executive Committee who will be moving on at the end of the year. Specifically, Judy Janis and Jodi Boal from the State Office and John Collins and Judy Lazration from the Executive Committee. You have all helped PARSE in many ways and you will be missed.

I hope all are enjoying your stay at the Best Western. I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the hotel for all their assistance in planning for and supporting us at this meeting.

I also hope that the Governing Board package prepared by our printer will make it easier for everyone to follow the discussions on multiple topics during the meeting.

Here are some PARSE highlights:

1. Over 38,000 members at the end of 2024. We have already exceeded that number for 2025.

2. We continue to collect more 2025 dues as insurances are renewed.
3. The efforts of AMBA to find new members for PARSE are evident in our growth
4. 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.
5. Almost 14,000 members have used the online option to pay their 2025 dues. The State Office will continue to absorb the costs associated with an online payment option.
6. The Audit Committee did perform an audit for 2024; Tony Frazier will be presenting that report. I thank Tony and his team for their efforts.
7. The Audit Committee helped in the selection of Boyer and Ritter to do a "Risk Assessment" for PARSE. You heard Mark Banks, from Boyer & Ritter, review their report.
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 for our next FY which will begin on October 1, 2025. The proposed budget, which is in your package is balanced, with some surplus.
10. This November we will begin the 5th year of a 5-year contract with United Concordia. The rates for the 5th and final year of that contract will remain the same as they are currently.
11. The Benefits Committee will be working with AMBA to develop an RFP for our next dental contract. The Chapters have been asked to provide input from their members for this RFP. If you have not discussed this at your chapter meetings, please do so soon and submit that information to the committee.
12. We have been working on a new PARSE website which will be demonstrated tomorrow. Several objectives were to have it secure (https) and present better on a smart phone or tablet. One item we are working to add will be a chapter tab. In this tab the chapter will be able to submit information for their members.
13. As you all know PISI formally migrated to using just the AMBA name. There were no changes to any services AMBA provides.
14. 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.
15. As Steven Brown from OA indicated, the Commonwealth will begin the final year of the current medical contract with Aetna. PARSE has no direct participation in the selection process for a new medical provider for retirees, but I will ask Steven to keep PARSE updated on this process and the opportunity to provide input.

I would like to share a few final thoughts.

At the end of this year, I will complete my 14th and final year with PARSE. As you know I announced that I will be stepping down as President. It has been an interesting 14 years, and much has happened during those years. I believe I have helped PARSE on multiple levels but that is not for me to judge. Thank you for allowing me to serve PARSE all these years but it is time for me to move on to a new phase in my life. Please support the new leadership team as they guide and direct PARSE. I see some very challenging times ahead for PARSE and it will take everyone working together for PARSE to succeed. As many of you know I worked in IT for the Commonwealth on many high-profile projects. We often were on the leading edge (sometimes cutting/bleeding edge) technology., I found a saying that helped me during challenging times, it said simply **“What would you attempt to do if your new you could not fail”**. Perhaps it might help the new leadership in the years ahead.

As for my next motivational words -You may be familiar with the song Hallelujah. My favorite and the original version was by Leonard Cohen. He also recorded another of my favorites called Closing Time.

Combined they will become my mantra for the next few months—

Hallelujah! It's Closing Time!