



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

State Association Office

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Website: parseofpa.org



October 2025

President's Report - Fall 2025

Dear PARSE Member:

The arrival of Fall is a prelude to how soon 2025 will come to an end. I would like to update you on various initiatives at the State Office.

1. I am pleased to announce that the new PARSE website has gone live but the link remains the same www.parseofpa.org. The first thing you will notice is that this new site is secure (<https://>) and the "the site not secure" should no longer be displayed by your browser. The new site has also been designed to be compatible with smart phones, tablets and your laptops or desktops. The new site will also make it easier to find and select the "Pay Dues Online" option. Although much of the content remains the same it is presented in a new and fresh view. A new feature on all pages is an "Accessibility Menu" feature which among other options will allow you to increase the size of the print for easier viewing. We are exploring several additional new features for the site, and you will be advised as they are implemented. I want to acknowledge AMBA who underwrote the costs of developing this new website, certainly a testament to our partnership.
2. The Office of Administration (OA) made a presentation on the retiree health plans; the entire presentation can be found on the website. One of the most notable items is that the Aetna contract has been extended through 2027. As a reminder we are now in the season of constant advertisements for Medicare coverages with \$0 dollars a month cost and the plans include dental and vision. Please review these carefully, look at the whole picture. Many have very high deductibles before the plans pay anything. If you are thinking about dropping your Commonwealth coverage, I recommend you contact OA (717-787-9872) and they will review your options.
3. We engaged Boyer & Ritter, an accounting firm, to perform a SOC (System and Organization Controls) assessment. The goal was to review operational procedures at the State Office such as application processing, dues collection, dues recording, check deposits, QuickBooks processes and chapter share payments. Other procedures reviewed included how PARSE pays bills, develops a budget, monthly bank reconciliation, IT support, and a process when new staff join PARSE or actions when someone leaves. All staff met with the B&R team and their assessment is that we have done what is possible with a small office to mitigate risk. The summary report from B&R is included in this mailing.

4. The annual Governing Board meeting was held September 15th to 17th. A few minor bylaw changes were made, and the FY2025-26 budget was approved. Elections were held and below is the leadership team effective January 1, 2026.

State President – Vacant

State Vice President-Treasurer - Paul Sebasovich

State Secretary – Vickie Bailey

Central Region VP – Joan Matterness

NE Region VP - Bill Dunn

NW Region VP - Jim Godlewski

SE Region VP - Mike Gart

SW Region VP - Sharon Lydic

While not elected positions both Judy Janis, our Administrative Assistant and Jodi Boal, our Fiscal Assistant, will be leaving at the end of the year and on your behalf, I thank them for their service and wish them well.

5. I would like to have some information to report on the PA State Budget and COLA initiatives but as of this writing the impasse on the PA State budget remains at an impasse. The COLA bill approved by the House remains a hostage of the budget impasse. NOVAK Associates, our Government Relations Advisor, are monitoring these issues. PARSE and NOVAK still believe that once a budget is passed if the COLA bill is moved to a vote there is a good probability it will pass. Another extremely important role NOVAK plays is ensuring the appropriation of funds for the Governor to provide retirees with medical insurance continues. As I have noted previously, our pensions are guaranteed but our medical insurance is not and requires funding to be approved for the Governor to provide medical insurance for retirees.
6. PARSE membership has continued to grow, and as of the end of September exceeded the membership level at the end of 2024, more than 38k members. Our financial situation is sound, and the Internal Audit Committee reported on the PARSE finances at the Governing Board meeting in September.
7. A few notes on dues, invoices and online payments. The PARSE dues will remain at \$20 and are projected to remain at the level for the next 3 years. Invoices for 2026 will be mailed in October and November. This year almost 14K members used the online payment option. As I noted above that link is easier to locate on the new website, there are no fees for using online payment and you save yourself the current \$.78 postage.

8. The current contract PARSE has for dental with United Concordia has 1 year remaining. PARSE will be doing an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the next provider of dental insurance. That could be United Concordia or another company, but the Benefits Committee will work to get the best overall contract for PARSE members. Rest assured PARSE will continue to have dental insurance for our members.

On a personal note, 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 (no pun intended). 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. I enjoy quotes as motivation and would like to share two. Dorothy Day wrote "It does not matter where we come from or who we are. It only matters by the ways we love others." Also, from Mother Theresa "Do ordinary things with extraordinary love, and a great big smile."

Share a smile, your love and compassion with someone today!

For the last time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas B. Judge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Judge, President PARSE