



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

State Association Office

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President's Report for 2020

Vice President-Treasurer Allan Hansen, State Secretary Vickie Bailey and Fiscal Assistant Jodi Boal join me in wishing all of you a Happy New Year 2021! I know we all hope for a year that will eventually free us from masks and the other strategies to help stop the spread of Covid-19. To any of our members who have lost loved ones or friends to this pandemic I extend our heartfelt sympathy.

As we leave 2020 and for many reasons we might want to say, "Good Riddance!" I would like to review some of the positives for PARSE in 2020.

1. Although we had to close the office per the Governor's directive our IT consultants worked with all staff to transition to a work from home mode. While this was not ideal it did enable us to continue to respond to current and potential members and process dues and applications. In 2021 we will review some of the processes we have and work to make them work remote capable should the need arise.
2. PISI/AMBA initiated several mailings to potential members and these proved very successful and drove much of our growth even when the office was closed.
3. The PARSE membership has grown to over 29,000 members, a new milestone.
4. As our membership increases the use of online dues payment will be vital in managing the volume of renewals each fall. This was the second year of on-line dues payment and over 4,500 members have used that service to date. Last year only about 1,300 members paid dues on-line. I acknowledge that some members had difficulty with this system, and we are looking at enhancements to that process to make it more "user friendly."
5. After John Baughman's sudden passing we engaged a new Government Relations team, Novak Strategic Advisors. This group has staff in multiple locations in PA and we plan to develop strategies to assist local contacts with Senators and Representatives. In November 2020 Novak coordinated introductions for me, representing PARSE, to several Senators, Representatives and staff and I felt these were all positive interactions. At the time of those meetings, we had 28,000 members and I mentioned that number several times during those introductions. Each time the response I received was positive and recognized that as a number to be considered.
6. I realize that most of the Chapters have suspended meetings, activities, and trips but hopefully some time in 2021 these will be able to resume. Once the Chapters do resume meetings and you feel comfortable/safe please attend and become involved. The same officers have served many years in their chapters and would like to take a break; you would be most welcome to take on a leadership position.
7. Another change in PARSE this year was consolidating the Vice President and Treasurer positions. After John Class III retired, we were not successful in filling the Treasurer position. We hired a Fiscal Assistant who has many years' experience using QuickBooks (QB) and was instrumental in our successful migration of QB to the cloud. Consequently, the Executive Committee, per the Bylaws, acted in place of the Governing Board in 2020 and approved the recommendation of the Bylaws Committee to combine the Vice President and Treasurer positions. Allan Hansen was appointed to another two-year term and is now the Vice President-Treasurer. The Fiscal Assistant will continue to

perform the detail work and the Vice President-Treasurer will report on the PARSE financials to the Executive Committee and Governing Board. This change to the Vice President-Treasurer position will need to be affirmed at the 2021 Governing Board Meeting.

8. Craig Staller decided to leave his position as Administrative Assistant and spend more time on some his volunteer activities. We wish Craig well in those endeavors and appreciated that he did come back to help process the dues renewals.
9. We are currently interviewing for a receptionist position at the State Office. We hope to have those interviews concluded and an individual in that position in early February 2021.
10. Another milestone for PARSE in 2020 was moving all our IT to cloud based environments. The closet that housed the server was not environmentally conditioned and was only supported remotely. We had previously moved the PARSE database to the cloud and the final move of QB and the sever completed that migration. All elements that could be moved offsite are now in secure locations with monitoring and professional staff to respond should there be an issue.
11. We are in the second year of a two-year contract for dental insurance currently thru United Concordia. In January with our insurance partners PISI/AMBA we will be issuing an RFP to United Concordia and other dental insurance providers to get the best possible coverage package at the best price.
12. **Please note: PISI is our insurance agent and part of their job is to represent you when you have issues or problems with dental or vision insurance. We highly recommend that if you have a concern call PISI not United Concordia or Davis Vision. PISI's number is 800-382-1352.**
13. While we do not know what 2021 brings there are some goals we have for PARSE:
 - Retain current members and grow membership to over 30,000.
 - Link the online dues payment process to the PARSE website to simplify access.
 - Consider an online application process for new PARSE members.
 - Look at ways to receive files electronically from PISI to avoid duplicate data entry.
 - How to safely hold the Regional Meetings and 2021 Governing Board Meeting.
 - Make plans for a special 50th year celebration in 2022!
14. **Remember your 2021 dues are now due; if you have not paid them yet please do so ASAP.**

Finally, I realize that choosing to get the COVID-19 vaccine is an individual decision and everyone must make that choice. I for one believe that developing a vaccine in this short a time is an incredible accomplishment and a credit to those who worked tirelessly to develop and test a vaccine. I would hope the fact that so many public officials have received the vaccine should further ease concerns. I anxiously await the opportunity to get the vaccine. However, the decision is ultimately an individual choice and your right. In the meantime, continue to be safe and exercise the recommended precautions.

Sincerely,



Tom Judge, President PARSE