

PARSE *newsletter*

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

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PARSE STATE OFFICE

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Office Phone Hours: 9am – 3pm M-F

Thomas B. Judge – President

Allan Hansen – Vice President

John Class – Treasurer

David B. Munch – Past President

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REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

NORTHWEST

Joseph Moliterno: (814) 938-9089

SOUTHWEST

Thomas Buerkle: (724) 836-5412

NORTHEAST

Thomas O’Neil: (570) 593-8261

SOUTHEAST

Kathy Beitchman (610) 252-9912

CENTRAL

Carol Moyer: (717) 652-9270

Winter 2017

By Thomas B. Judge, President

Welcome to 2017 and the Winter edition of the PARSE newsletter. I hope you all had a joyous and safe holiday season with family and friends. There has been a lot of activity since our last newsletter and I will try to bring you all up to date.

The most significant fact is that in December we reached 21,000 members; this represents a growth of over 600 members. When we developed a budget for 2017 we used a 2% net growth as a projection and this exceeds that number. We have also been busy in November and December processing dues renewals. As of the middle of December over 15,000 members had renewed their membership. In early January the State Office will be sending reminder invoices to members who have not yet paid their 2017 dues. Those invoices will only be done for the chapters who have requested the State Office handle dues collection. Let me remind you that your PARSE dues must be current for you to start or renew your dental and vision insurances. We do verify dues payments for PISI before renewal invoices are sent and if your dues are not paid you will receive a notice with your invoice.



Tom Judge

When I was elected president of PARSE I committed to visiting chapters and attending local meetings. I have been able to get out to over half of the chapters and enjoyed meeting the members and hearing first hand from them. At every chapter I visited there has been a warm and friendly greeting and for that I thank all of you. If you do not attend chapter meetings on any regular basis check with your officers and attend a meeting and consider becoming involved with your chapter. As you know the chapters can only function if they have officers and unfortunately one chapter did fold this year because no one wanted to serve. Keep your chapters strong, volunteer don't wait for someone else to step forward.

We had an excellent Governing Board meeting in September at the Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill. As an added item this year PISI hosted a social hour after the first session on Tuesday before dinner. This gave all an opportunity to relax and renew old acquaintances. There was some serious business to discuss at the meeting and some of the highlights were as follows:

- The Office of Administration gave a presentation on the new retiree health plans. The changes for those on Medicare are

Winter 2017 continued on next page

STATE EMPLOYEES

RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS)

Questions on pension checks, direct deposit, for state employees etc.

(717) 787-6293 OR 1-800-633-5461

PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES'

RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSERS)

Questions on pension checks, direct deposit, for school employees etc.

(717) 787-8540 OR 1-888-773-7748

PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES

BENEFIT TRUST FUND (PEBTF)

Questions on state retirees health programs including prescription drugs.

(717) 561-4750 OR 1-800-522-7279

PACE & PACENET

PA's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescriptions medication: 1-800-225-7223

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. (PISI)

Questions for retirees on how to enroll in Dental, Vision, Long Term Care, Identity Theft, Whole Life, Term Life & Medicare Supplemental Insurance (not for claims)

(717) 761-4437 OR 1-800-382-1352

DAVIS VISION PLAN

Names of participating eye doctors:

1-877-923-2847 Client Code: 4054

OR www.davisvision.com

Questions on claims call PISI: 1-800-382-1352

UNITED CONCORDIA

ADVANTAGE PLUS DENTAL PLAN

1-800-332-0366

Names of Participating Dentists

1-800-332-0366

Advantage Network Questions on claims:

PISI: 1-800-382-1352

HEAR IN AMERICA

Questions about our hearing services:

1-800-286-6149 OR www.hearinamerica.com

minimal, a \$5 increase in co-pays was the major change. Changes for non-Medicare individuals were more significant with the introduction of \$300 deductible which only applies to some services, not doctor visits. The deductible under Medicare has been announced (not controlled by the Commonwealth) as \$183 for 2017.

- The Bylaws were changed to clarify some issues. The most significant change was that the grace period to pay dues was changed to January 31st.
- Vice President Hansen and Treasurer John Class were both re-elected for another 2 year term.
- A proposal was introduced to invite retirees from Community Colleges and County workers to become members of PARSE. PISI has had numerous inquiries from some of these people about dental and vision insurance. There was much discussion on this subject but the delegates decided against this action. I will have more on this later in my report.
- The budget for 2017, as recommended by the Finance committee, was approved. I noted that there is the possibility of a deficit in 2017 that would be offset by the use of reserve funds. As I noted above the membership is greater than projected and with some fiscal management we may be able to avoid any deficit. I also provided the delegates with projected budgets for the next three years (2018, 2019 and 2020); this was for informational purposes only and there were no votes on these budgets.

As some of you may have noticed the PARSE website has not been stable in the last half of the year. The vendor we had been using has not been as responsive as we expected. As a result we have been interviewing a number of other vendors and expect to make a decision on a new vendor in January.

We are also changing banks and as a result we will have a check scanner in the office; this is at no cost to PARSE. The scanner will eliminate the need for Treasurer Class to make daily trips to the bank with deposits.

I will be attending the regional meetings in April and look forward to seeing some of you then.

Earlier in my report I mentioned Community College and County workers possibly becoming members of PARSE. As indicated this was discussed at the Governing Board meeting but the delegates decided against taking any action on this idea. I would like to revisit this idea and we will be discussing it at the Regional Meetings but wanted all of you to have some information. Like Commonwealth retirees the

UCCI Increased Dental Benefit

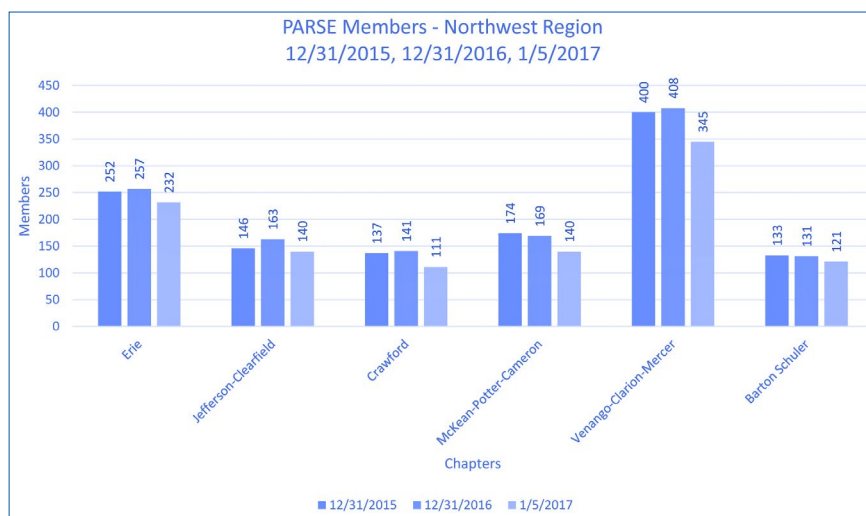
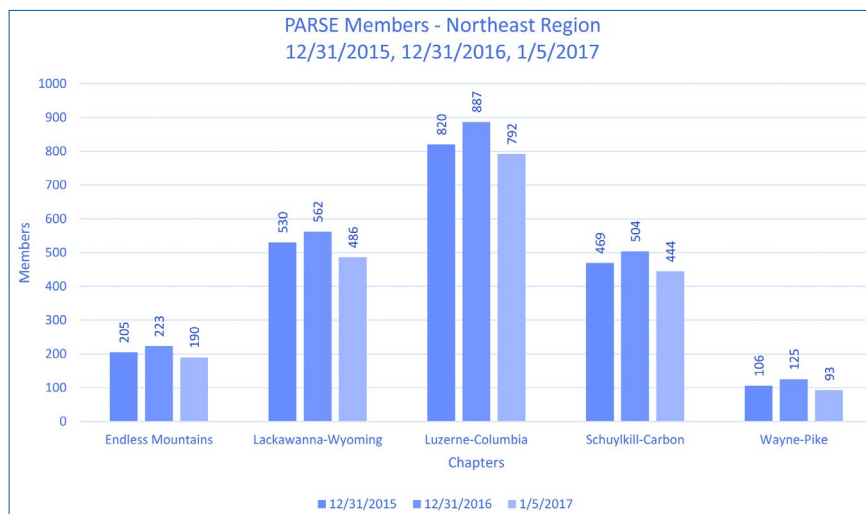
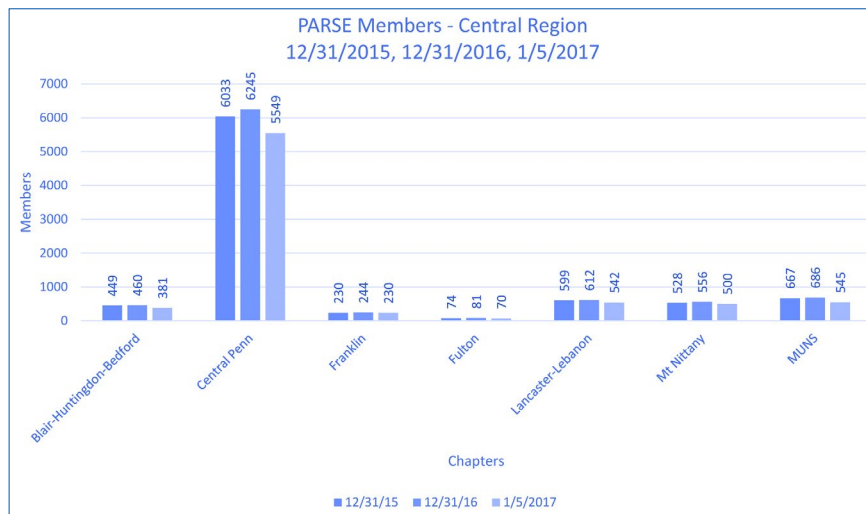
We are pleased to inform everyone that Professional Insurance Services, Inc., (PISI) has notified us that they will continue to keep the Contract Year Maximum at \$1,600 Per Person in the dental benefits program.

Winter 2017 continued

Community College and County workers do not have dental and vision coverage when they retire (many don't get health insurance as do PARSE members). Some workers at the Community Colleges receive their pensions thru SERS (State Employee Retirement System). Some of these individuals have approached PISI (PARSE insurance agent) about dental and vision insurance. Our thought at the State Office was that these individuals, particularly those whose pensions come from SERS could be good additions to the organization. This group would bring more members to the chapters and help grow our overall membership. There were concerns raised about how PARSE would represent these groups and that would need to be part of any agreement to allow these groups to join PARSE. In addition the PARSE Bylaws would need changes although we did have the PARSE attorney review this and he made recommendations. The attorney also reviewed our status with the IRS and saw no conflict in that arena. Please consider this idea and let you chapter presidents know what you think and they can share your ideas at the regional meetings in April.

You will also note that in this issue we have a link to the Central Penn Chapter travel group. The trips and excursions they have are available to all PARSE members and there is information on their website about who to contact, please do not call the State Office because we cannot help you with travel.

I hope you all have a safe and warm winter!

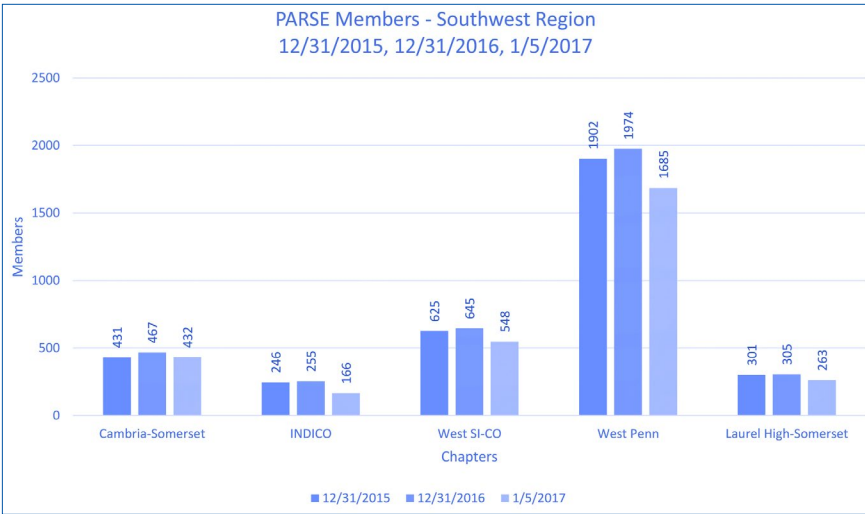
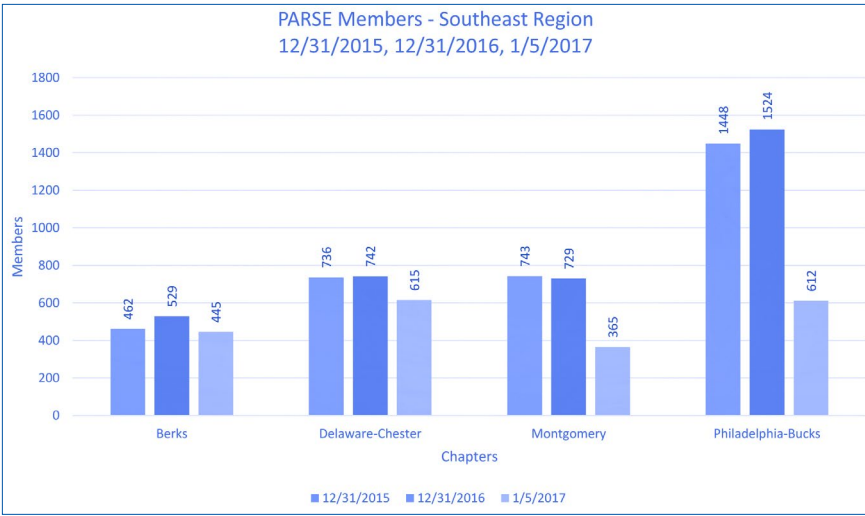


Sam's Club Certificates

PARSE is continuing to offer discount memberships with Sam's Club. The Sam's Club certificate is good for 2017.

Anyone interested in obtaining certificates may do

so by contacting the treasurer of your chapter. Their names and phone numbers are located in this newsletter. Your chapter number is always noted on your dues invoice that you receive each October.



Financial Statement

REVENUE

Year Ending December 31, 2016

Program Services	\$289,048.44
Interest	\$2,624.62
Miscellaneous	\$2,451.50

Operating Revenue \$294,124.56

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$209,674.43
Operational	\$59,924.67

Total Expenses \$269,599.10

Total Cash Excess (Loss) \$24,525.46
Non cash (depreciation) \$0.00

CHAPTER TREASURERS

- 1-10 BLAIR, BEDFORD, HUNTINGDON
H. Eugene Garner: 814-658-3591
- 1-20 CENTRAL PENN
Jan Moran: 717-763-5515
- 1-25 FRANKLIN
Bonnie McMullen: 717-860-1605
- 1-27 FULTON
Barbara Fischer: 717-294-3693
- 1-30 LANCASTER, LEBANON
Joan Matterness: 717-392-4906
- 1-40 MT. NITTANY
Mary Alice Miller: 814-349-5475
- 1-50 MUNS
Sally Kobus: 570-524-0635
- 2-10 ENDLESS MOUNTAINS
Dianne Burman: 570-756-2525
- 2-20 LACKAWANNA, WYOMING
Theodore Chrusch: 570-876-4044
- 2-30 LUZERNE, COLUMBIA
Robert Berkey: 570-696-2907
- 2-50 SCHUYLKILL, CARBON
John Quirk: 570-628-2815
- 2-60 WAYNE, PIKE
Claudia Le Vasseur: 570-937-9093
- 3-10 ERIE
Anita Locanto: 814-460-5010
- 3-20 JEFFERSON, CLEARFIELD
Joe Moliterno (acting): 814-938-9089
- 3-27 CRAWFORD
Evelyn Satterlee: 814-333-8485
- 3-30 MCKEAN, POTTER, CAMERON, ELK
George Barron: 814-837-7182
- 3-40 VENANGO, CLARION, MERCER
Richard Supak: 814-437-3385
- 3-50 BARTON, SCHULER
Wendy Carlson: 814-726-1860
- 4-10 BERKS
Muriel Brookins: 215-669-2493
- 4-30 DELAWARE, CHESTER
George Barron: 814-837-7182
- 4-50 MONTGOMERY
Doll Byrd: 610-584-5035
- 4-60 PHILADELPHIA, BUCKS
Ed Finfer: 215-244-1330
- 5-10 CAMBRIA, SOMERSET
Bonnie Bernardy: 814-255-7888
- 5-20 INDICO
Richard Roberts: 724-465-5295
- 5-30 WEST SCI-CO
Xina Matusa: 724-327-0826
- 5-40 WEST PENN
Georgia Manns: 412-672-8708
- 5-50 LAUREL HIGHLANDS
Carol Kolesko: 814-893-5676

*PARSE operates on a calendar year and cash basis, that is, income and expenses are recorded in the calendar years in which they occur.

Legislative Activities

By John E. Baughman, Ph.D. | PARSE Government Relations Advisor

While the most recent Pennsylvania budget (2016-17) had its difficulties, it was not nearly as contentious as the stalemate that occurred with the previous budget. The 2016-17 budget was completed thirteen days late on July 13th, 2016 as opposed to the nearly nine months late (March 2016) that occurred with the 2015-16 budget. This positive outcome was due to the willingness of Governor Wolf and the Legislature to agree on several items and demonstrate a spirit of compromise.

A few of those compromises that were achieved were the Governor received increases in education and human services, but less than he requested. The Legislature (Republican caucus) got modified liquor reform (not full privatization) and they were successful in that the budget did not include any broad-based tax increases.

Governor Wolf's upcoming budget for 2017-18 may not be resolved as easily. There are going to be many obstacles that the Governor will face for this budget to be resolved and passed on time. He faces the largest Republican majority in recent times and many of these legislators ran on the platform of no increases in broad-based taxes - income tax and sales tax.

The biggest obstacle to overcome is the revenue shortfall. The Wolf Administration is looking at approximately a \$700 million budget shortfall and the Independent Fiscal Office estimates that the deficit could rise to as much as \$1.7 billion. All of the fiscal indicators demonstrate that the state is short on its revenue collections. This indicates that expenditures are outpacing the revenues. This may be a result of overestimating revenues and underestimating expenditures, a practice increasingly common in the budget process. While there are many examples of this, a prime instance is when the state budget included revenue estimates from gambling and subsequently failed to pass all of the legislation necessary to achieve those revenue goals.

With revenue shortfalls and the Republican majority adamantly opposed to any broad based taxes the stage could be set for a very contentious year and yet there is some reason for optimism. Gov. Wolf has announced that unlike his other budgets he will not seek a major increase in taxes. This announcement has been met with positive responses from Republican leaders who say they are ready to look for innovative ways to save money and make government work more efficiently. Both parties believe they can arrive at a budget to produce a more streamlined government. The budget will be released in February 2017.

Another important issue that is sure to be addressed by the Legislature in the upcoming session is pension reform. In the last session, the Senate passed a "pension reform bill" with a defined compensation component. The House was unable to pass the same. Sources report that the House was three votes short of the number needed for passage. None of the Democratic members voted for passage. With the new and larger Republican majority in the House it is very likely that they could garner enough votes for passage without any Democratic members voting for the measure. Therefore, this issue is very likely to be a priority on the legislative agenda.

*It is important to note that this proposed reform is not intended to apply to retirees or current employees. It only affects new employees.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- 1/3/17 Swearing-in Day for the Legislature**
- 1/23/17 Active Session begins**
- 2/7/17 Governor Wolf presents his 2017-18 budget proposal to the Legislature**

Do You Like to Travel?

The Central Penn Chapter of PARSE runs a travel program for their members and anyone who would like to travel with them. The committee has 4 members with Jan Moran (763-5515) and Karen Taylor serving as co-chairs of the committee. They offer travel at reasonable prices. Their trips are always listed on their web site: www.ParseCentralCenn.com with the ability to print off forms needed to sign up

The committee has no less than 12 trips each year. Some trips cover several days but there are a number of 1 day trips also planned. Currently departures are from Camp Hill and Harrisburg. The committee also runs cruises and international trips which are handled by Nancy Lagyak. This years international trip is to Iceland.

PARSE *Calendar of Events at State Office*

January 10, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
January 16, 2017	M L King Jr Day, State Office Closed
February 20, 2017	Presidents Day, State Office Closed
March 14, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
May 9, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
May 29, 2017	Memorial Day, State Office Closed
July 11, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
September 12, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting
September 12, 13, 2017	Governing Board Meeting, Radisson
November 14, 2017	Executive Committee Meeting

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