



# PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES

State Association Office

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Website: [parseofpa.org](https://parseofpa.org)



Winter 2024

Dear PARSE Member:

I want to bring you up to date on what has been happening in the PARSE organization and what we will be working on this year.

1. We will continue to monitor the COLA legislation now in the Senate. This will provide a COLA for the members who retired before July 2001. The Senate will not be back into session, other than a few days, until April. Our legislative advisors, however, are working with Senate staff promoting the passage of HB 1416. You can contact your senators and request they support the legislation.
2. Our efforts to get some type of stimulus or COLA for all other retirees continue. You need to understand that this will be a major challenge considering the many demands for available funds.
3. We are involved in a significant review of the marketing agreement we have with PISI/AMBA. That organization is the insurance agent for PARSE and handles the dental and vision policies as well as other insurance offerings. PARSE wants to know the marketing efforts and schedules as well as the processes for some of the other insurance products so Chapters and members will be knowledgeable when meeting with PISI/AMBA representatives.
4. On a sad note, Jack Quirk until recently the Regional Vice President for the Northeast Region passed away. Jack had served his chapter and PARSE for many years in multiple capacities. Please keep his wife Jean in your thoughts and prayers.
5. PARSE membership renewals continue at an excellent rate and exceed where we were at the same time last year. Approximately 1/3 of the PARSE renewals have been via the online payment option.
6. Reminder invoices for anyone who has not paid their 2024 dues will be mailed in late February to early March.
7. The PARSE finances remain positive and membership passing the 35K mark has helped extend that situation.
8. I had previously reported on SB 423 which would allow retirees to return to service part-time as certified fire instructors without stopping their benefits. After passage in the Senate the bill went to the House where it is now pending in the House State Government Committee. We will continue to monitor this bill.
9. You might recall in the Fall 2023 letter I discussed the desire to refresh our membership files with updated email addresses. Let me assure you that we will only use your email addresses for PARSE-related communications. Included in this mailing is a card like the one you receive when we send the PARSE dues invoice in the fall. The card will show the address we have on file if we have one. If the address is correct you need to do nothing. If you want to provide us with your email address or your address needs to be updated, you can list your correct address on the reverse side of the card (we will ask you to list it twice) and then return it to the State Office in the enclosed envelope. The other option is similar to the online dues process and you can go to the site listed <https://parseofpa.org/> email and enter your member number, and the system will display the email address on file (if we have one), follow the instructions on the system to enter your updated email address. Your PARSE member number needed to update online is shown on the card.

10. We are also talking with our IT consultant about redoing the PARSE website. Our goal will be to make the site more user friendly particularly for the many members who use their phones and tablet devices. We also want to make it easier to update the content, the current method is time-consuming and technical in nature. As we are working on this project, we will keep you updated.
11. One final note about information security. PARSE has no confidential information for any member such as social security number, bank information or credit card data. When you pay your dues online you are transferred to a site that has the security safeguards in place so you can provide confidential data and know that it is safe. Similarly, when you apply for insurance, any confidential data goes to PISI/AMBA and PARSE does not see that information. PISI/AMBA has their own security protocols to protect your information.
12. PISI/AMBA has insurance products other than dental and vision insurances available to PARSE members. PARSE authorizes PISI/AMBA to send members information on some of these products and you can respond if you want more information. **I want to emphasize however that because you talk to or meet with an AMBA representative you are under no obligation to purchase a product.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas B Judge".

Tom Judge,  
President PARSE