

February, 2006

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

**Post Office Box 116 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108
(717) 540-4391 Fax (717) 657-9708 www.pagr.org**



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Commonwealth ID badge
will expire soon!**

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on how to renew your badge
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IF YOU HAVE NOT
YET DONE SO...



**Please send in your
2006 dues
today!**

**For the week
of January 30th, 2006.
the PAGR office will be**



I will return on Saturday, February 4th.
Leave your weekend number if you would
like me to contact you then.

If it's an emergency, contact President
Brian Barno @ 717.214.2000.

See you Monday, February 6th!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Barno



Happy New Year! Lobbyists are front and center in the news as we begin 2006. Jack Abramoff's guilty pleas to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials, and his plea deal to provide evidence against members of Congress, has sent bi-partisan shock waves up and down K Street. Indictments of Congressmen and staff, executive branch officials and other lobbyists are expected.

I have no sympathy for Mr. Abramoff. He brought discredit to the lobbying profession and to the thousands of legislators, staff members and public servants who work hard everyday to do the people's business. He defrauded his clients, Indian tribes who trusted his advice, out of millions of dollars. Abramoff, and those who broke the law with him, need to be punished. A Justice Department spokesperson said the department is committed to making sure that people know "government is not for sale." Amen.

As we begin this New Year, it's a good time to review the Guidelines for Professional Conduct on the PAGR website and on page three of this newsletter. While we have the privilege of working as advocates in a representative

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page one)

democracy, we also have the responsibility as professional lobbyists to adhere to an exemplary standard of behavior. Believing in representative government, holding high ethical standards and seeking to increase public understanding of government are bonds we share as PAGR members.

In Harrisburg, more than a baker's dozen of House members are not running for re-election. Many faced bruising primary or general election battles. Members have scurried to give back the pay raise. Russ Diamond, Gene Stilp and Tim Potts are mentioned along with Lance Armstrong as Men of the Year. Russ Diamond has become a candidate (surprised?). Senator Vince Fumo is touting major reforms in the legislative process to give lawmakers better opportunities to comprehend public policies and to empower citizens through increased access to government. 2005 taught us that traditional political assumptions (remember, the pay raise vote will blow over) are out the window. We'll see more incumbents knocking on doors this spring than we've seen in years. That's a good thing.

My nephew Gaelan was home on leave from Iraq for a short time over the Holidays. One day we met up at Cabela's to have lunch and to shop. He chuckled when I stressed to him that Cabela's wasn't a store – it was a destination. Our tourism promotion friends can market Pennsylvania as a politico's destination of choice. Look at the menu: the Santorum – Casey race and the Republican primary for the honor of taking on Governor Rendell. We have quality candidates scrambling to run for Lieutenant Governor and, of course, contested Senate and House primary and general elections. Those bus companies planning the spring sightseeing tours out of state and autumn trips for leaf peepers in New England can re-route – if you want excitement, there are plenty of phone banks, precinct map mark-ups, literature drops, county party dinners and candidate pancake breakfasts here in the Commonwealth to make your wildest (political) dreams come true. Hold onto your hats – it's going to be a wild year. ☺

**2006 Meeting Dates****Board Meetings:****Thursday, January 5****Thursday, March 2****Thursday, May 4****Thursday, July 13****Thursday, September 7****Thursday, November 2**

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD
9:00—10:00 AM

AT THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT BRIAN BARNO,
127 STATE STREET, HARRISBURG

Membership Meetings:**Monday, February 6****Monday, April 4****Monday, June 5****Monday, October 2****Monday, December 4****(Holiday Gathering — time/place TBD)**

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE HELD
11:30AM—12:30PM

ON THE THIRD FLOOR
OF THE FIREHOUSE RESTAURANT,
606 N. 2ND STREET, HARRISBURG.



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GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations believes that effective government depends on the greatest possible participation of those being governed. At the state level, such participation focuses on the legislative and executive branches where professional and citizen lobbyists drawn from every major discipline represent literally every segment of society and every sector of the economy.

The Association further believes that the heavy responsibility of the professional lobbyist, functioning in the eye of public opinion, requires standards of ethical behavior beyond those generally accepted by a free and moral society.

The Association therefore, offers the following guidelines which it urges be observed by its members and all those whose professional objectives are to influence state public policy decisions.

- It is the system of representative government we enjoy that makes possible the practice of lobbying. The professional lobbyist, while keeping the interest of employer or client in a position of primacy, will temper the advocacy role with proper consideration for the general public interest.
- The professional lobbyist will protect confidences not only those of the employer or client, and also those of elected and appointed officials of government and professional colleagues.
- The professional lobbyist will always deal in accurate, current and factual information, whether it is being reported to the employer or client, government officials, the media or professional colleagues, and will not engage in misrepresentation of any nature.
- The professional lobbyist will acquire enough knowledge of public issues to be able to fairly present all points of view.
- The professional lobbyist will avoid conflicts of interest, not only with the interests of the employer or client, but also those of colleagues pursuing the same or similar objectives, and where conflict is unavoidable, will communicate the facts fully and freely to those affected.
- The professional lobbyist will comply with the laws and regulations governing lobbying, as well as the standards of conduct applying to officials and staff of the General Assembly and the Executive Branch, and will strive to go one step further and function in a manner that goes beyond these official enactments and promulgations.
- The personal conduct of the professional lobbyist should not bring discredit to the profession, government, or individual colleagues.
- The professional lobbyist will refrain from any form of discrimination which is legally proscribed or simply generally recognized as such.
- The priority goal of the professional lobbyist should be to increase public understanding of the process. This objective should be pursued in every possible way - public appearances, media contracts, articles in company and other publications, and contacts in the normal course of everyday life.
- The professional lobbyist should constantly strive to upgrade the necessary skills by every means available, continuing formal education, attendance at meetings and seminars, and participation in ad hoc groups with like-minded colleagues.

Meeting Notice

**Monday, February 6, 2006
11:30 AM — 12:30 PM
Firehouse Restaurant
606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg**

OUR GUEST WILL BE:

Dave Patti

President & CEO, Pennsylvanians for Effective Government

**Please
RSVP**

*ALL MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$10.
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE
CHARGED \$20. PLEASE RSVP BY
FEBRUARY 3 TO
717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.
THANK YOU.*

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PO Box 116
Harrisburg, PA 17108

**GO
STEELERS!**

The mission statement of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations, Inc. (PAGR) is to promote the purpose and effectiveness of the lobbying profession consistent with the public interest. Further, association members encourage high standards of personal and professional conduct among all lobbyists. ☉