

September, 2005

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Barno



The devastation from **Hurricane Katrina** is difficult to comprehend. Much of New Orleans has been wiped out. Residents of New Orleans, Gulfport, Biloxi, Mobile, and countless small coastal towns have witnessed enormous human suffering and physical destruction. The fortunate ones have their families intact, are assessing the damage and taking the first steps to recovery. Too many are still in need of food, water and dry clothing. Thousands of their neighbors - our neighbors, are now refugees. The need for financial and material aid is enormous. Many outstanding organizations and charitable agencies have stepped up to the plate to address the needs of millions who were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. PAGR has made a donation to the American Red

Cross for Katrina Relief. We urge you to consider supporting the American Red Cross: (www.redcross.org/), United Way Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund (<https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/hurricane-katrina/donate/>), or the organization of your personal choice. Please keep the residents of the Gulf Coast in your thoughts and prayers.

The public furor over the **legislative pay raise** has surprised even veteran Capitol Hill watchers. It's more than "filler" for reporters during the summer political doldrums. Families paying nearly three bucks a gallon for gasoline tend to wince when they read of lawmakers voting themselves a 16% raise - at two in the morning. We all know the "clean sweep" theme drives talk show ratings. However, the continued public debate on the pay raise vote may lead to some primary and general election challenges in districts where elections have been on autopilot for years. That's a good thing. It won't be pretty. But, effective government depends on the greatest possible participation of those being governed. Sound familiar? It's the first line in the PAGR Guidelines for Professional Conduct.

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Public attention on the Capitol may inspire additional interest in lobbying disclosure. PAGR addressed **Senator Jubelirer's SB 1 and Rep. Maher's HB 700** before the House State Government Committee in May. We've always supported meaningful, common sense registration and reporting requirements for lobbyists. But if we truly want to improve the process, lobbying disclosure can't be a stand alone; it has to be linked to campaign finance reform. Money is part of the political process. Our clients and associations have political action committees. We raise money. We contribute money personally. But the time expended and energy exerted to raise campaign dollars in this state needs to be examined. The pressure to raise funds doesn't equate to better government. It just drains

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the non-profits, labor unions, associations and small and large businesses that are fueling this fire. For campaign finance reform to take root, the business community needs to step forward. Only business has the gravitas to say "enough is enough." That's when we'll see meaningful change.

Labor Day weekend. The high school sports season is just beginning. College students are back at school. We're all trying to squeeze out a few more hours with family and friends as we transition to the quickened pace and cooler temperatures.

During the hottest part of July, my family had the opportunity to spend a couple of days with a **community of Benedictine nuns** in Southern Indiana. My wife had taught school with a number of these sisters years ago. These incredibly bright, talented women devote their lives to prayer and community service – whether teaching in local schools, caring for the elderly, providing ministry to migrant workers, working in the gift shop, or writing and researching.

I listened to a reading one morning from St. Benedict which addressed humility, a trait as fundamental in this community as "ora et labora (prayer and work)". St. Benedict cautioned artisans about becoming conceited over skills in a craft as if they were conferring a great benefit to the community or the community was indebted to them. He said it was better to have the artisan leave the craft and humble himself than be conceited.

Newspaper headlines featuring Terrell Owens' contract saga and the legislative pay raise provide a stark contrast with the message and humble works of the nuns in Ferdinand Indiana. T.O. isn't on their radar screen. Their lives are full and rich and just seem less cluttered. But that's why we go to the beach (or Indiana) in the summer. To compare and contrast, think, recharge, evaluate and plot out mid-course corrections. Have a great Holiday weekend.

Lobbypalooza: October 6 at BRCC: Plans are shaping up for an exciting 2005 PAGR Lobbypalooza on Thursday October 6, at the Blue Ridge Country Club. Back by popular demand is a Leadership Roundtable – an opportunity for the likes of Brightbill, Bunt, Civera, DeWeese, Feese, Perzel, Sam Smith, and Veon to mix it up in a lively no-holds barred exchange. With Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate race emerging as a main event nationally, and the gubernatorial, Congressional and state races making up a robust under card, Lobbypalooza has responded with a polling session scheduled with the "best of the best" pollsters, political strategists and data crunchers. What political horses will run away from the field or win by a nose? Where's the smart money going? What do the numbers say about political trends in the Commonwealth? Lobbypalooza also features a soup-to-nuts review of an issues campaign. We'll get to go up close and personal with top experts fresh from victory (or defeat) on legislative campaigns. What worked? What bombed? What did you learn? This is a must-see for PAGR's new lobbyists as well as our grizzled veterans. Our final session is a gubernatorial candidates' forum. We'll do our best to ensure it's a "No Spin Zone." The candidates' forum is a perfect segue into the Lobbypalooza reception where we can buttonhole the candidates, network, welcome new members, renew friendship, catch up on politics and chat with our sponsors. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Christine Corrigan at 717.540.4391 or info@pagr.org. ☺

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Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents'
Association

75th GRIDIRON DINNER

Tuesday, September 27, 2005—7:00 PM
\$80.00 per plate \$800 per table

FOR TICKETS:
Call 717.540.0296
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The NewsPAGR

ATTN: PAGR MEMBERS

This issue of The NewsPAGR, and all subsequent issues, will be sent to you electronically. We will continue to send you a hard copy, at least until we have collected all members' email addresses. If there is a note by address label on this newsletter asking for your email address, please send it to Christine at info@pagr.org as soon as you can. This member only email alert system will help PAGR keep our members informed in a timely and cost-effective manner. Please be sure to keep your email current with the PAGR office.

Thank you.



**Starner·Spitalny
Memorial Golf Outing**

It is with great sadness that we announce the end of the Starner-Spitalny Memorial Golf Outing. Due to a number of factors, including the loss of one of our grand sponsors, we will be unable to continue this charity event. PAGR should take pride in the fact that we were able to raise more than \$210,000 over the last 12 years to two very deserving charities, the Central PA Chapter of the National MS Society and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The PAGR board acknowledged with appreciation the incredible efforts and good works of all those who participated in the event over the last dozen years. The PAGR board also realizes how important it is that we continue our charitable efforts in some way. So if you have an idea for a charitable event or want to suggest a deserving charity, please email Christine Corrigan at info@pagr.org.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

PAGR CURRENTLY HAS

316 MEMBERS

FOR THE YEAR 2005...

AN ALL TIME HIGH!

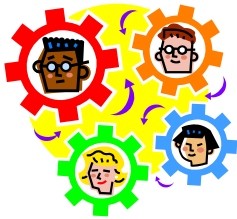
Meeting Notice

Monday, October 3, 2005

11:30AM — 12:30PM

Firehouse Restaurant

606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg



OUR GUEST WILL BE:

Stephen Schmerin

Secretary of Labor & Industry

**Please
RSVP**

ALL MEMBERS WHO RSVP IN ADVANCE WILL BE CHARGED \$5 AT THE DOOR. ALL MEMBERS WHO DO NOT RSVP WILL BE CHARGED \$10 AT THE DOOR. ALL GUESTS WILL BE CHARGED \$20. PLEASE RSVP BY September 30 TO 717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG. THANK YOU.

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PO Box 116
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Lobbypalooza 2005

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005

BLUE RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB • HARRISBURG

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. ☉