

September, 2007

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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2007/2008 Legislative Directories

PAGR ordered extra copies.
If you would like to order some,
contact Christine at the PAGR office.
They will be sold on a first come basis.

Cost is \$7.50 each for PAGR members.

Schedule Change



Please note that our
next Membership Meeting
is scheduled for
Monday, October 8, 2007,
not October 1
as originally announced.

Please see page 3
for details.
Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andy Hill



Wow, what a summer. Last time I wrote we were awaiting the running of the “fake” budget. The House never ran the “fake” budget.

My family took a vacation this summer to Sea Isle City. We stayed a block from the beach (if you've ever been to Sea Isle you know there isn't much that isn't a block from the beach). It was the second year that we went there, although I spent many weekends there as a kid. See it the town were I grew up you went to Sea Isle, vacation meant “down da shore” and “da shore” meant Sea Isle. Going anywhere else would have been exotic.

**“It’s shaping up to be
an interesting fall for
all of us..”**

We had a great time, the weather was perfect. There was only one problem; we were there the week the budget was finalized. I snuck phone calls to friends on the Hill and checked email on my phone when no one was looking. We had laid a lot of groundwork on transportation funding and things were in motion. There wasn't much I was going to change at that point, but I had to know what was going on. I even dictated a few e-mails to send to members.

We spent lots of time on the beach, and everyone but my wife played in the water. (OK the water was close to

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*by Andy Hilt*

(continued from cover)

freezing and my wife was the sane one). My oldest and I went fishing and, as he was proud to point out, he caught a fish and I didn't. When I got home I found that a friend from high schools whole family had been staying six blocks from us. It would have been nice to see Rob and his family, and I know his mother would not have noticed three extra kids at night while my wife and I took in the night life. We took a couple of trips to Ocean City and walked the Boardwalk. My middle son loves videos games and he was in heaven. My daughter, the youngest, loved playing in the sand. I never realized all the things sand could be, it is a building material AND a baking ingredient.

The other big news of the summer is that in May I was offered, and accepted, the position of **Executive Vice President** at the **PA Design Association Center**. This is the same group that I have worked for the past six years. I started on August 1 but since I was already on the ground I was setting things up all summer. I am excited about this new challenge. The Design Center is an association management company that is owned by our two clients, *The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania* and the *Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors*. We have four employees, including me and my predecessor as EVP, who is staying until the end of the year. I still planning on doing the lobbying for the associations, but will be hiring a fourth person to do our communications and member relations. There is a lot of opportunity for both associations to change and grow over the next few years and I look forward to helping them recognize those opportunities and seize them.

It's shaping up to be an interesting fall for all of us.

And that's what I did on my summer vacation... ☺



PA Legislative
Correspondents'
Assn

**77th Annual
GRIDIRON DINNER**

Monday, October 15, 2007

6:00 PM Cash bar

7:00 PM Dinner and Program

\$80.00 per plate \$800 per table

FOR TICKETS:

Call 717.540.0296

or email pagridiron@gowebway.com



Kudos to
Gretchen Ramsey,
Sherry Bonawitz,
Leah Kithcart,
and their team

for a successful
WPGR (Women in PA
Government Relations) celebrity
caddy auction and golf event. A
great time was had by all
involved and a whopping \$7,500
was raised for the PA Breast
Cancer Coalition.

Meeting Notice

Note new meeting date

Monday, October 8, 2007
11:30 am—12:30 pm
Firehouse Restaurant
Third floor
606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg

OUR GUEST WILL BE:

Congressman Tim Holden

ALL MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$10.
ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$20.
PLEASE RSVP BY October 4 TO
717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.
THANK YOU.

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