



Adams County Association of Township Officials

Coleen N. Reamer, President (Hamiltonban Twp.)

Keith Whittaker, Treasurer (Conewago Twp.)

Marcia Weaver, Secretary (Reading Township)

Hello Members,

May 31, 2014

Here we are again with some more news and dates to take note of! There are several attachments this month to the newsletter on several different topics: Legislative; By Laws; PSATS Youth Awards. *We hope that you will circulate this newsletter among all your Association members (supervisors, managers, treasurers, secretaries, auditors, tax collectors) as well as other township members so that we can keep everyone easily informed.*

Legislative Update

You will find attached to this newsletter a Legislative Update from Bob Gordon, our legislative committee chair. Bob serves a dual role for both the Township Association and the Council of Governments in this capacity. His efforts in keeping us informed of legislative matters is appreciated.

PSATS Conference and Trade Show April 13-16, 2014

Hamiltonban, Germany, Oxford, Reading, Mount Pleasant, Tyrone, Liberty, Straban and Huntingdon Townships contributed to our basket this year and it was won by Supervisor Knapp from Lebanon County. Robert Gordon from Hamiltonban Township was selected to receive the PSATS Presidents Leadership Award and was awarded the commendation and plaque at the Wednesday morning closing General Session. Congratulations to Supervisor Gordon for his exemplary work.

It is the responsibility of the County Associations to distribute and collect applications from its members for the annual **PSATS Youth Awards**. We would like to see more groups from Adams County participate. Attached to this letter are the instructions and application for the Youth Awards. Please distribute this information to the eligible groups in your area. I know that we have some very active Clubs and Organizations that are worthy of this \$500 award.

Adams County Mid-Year Conference Wednesday May 21, 2014:

The Mid-year Convention had a good turnout this year to hear from Attorney Sam Wiser and Attorney Stephen Coccoresse of Salzman Hughes Law Firm. Sam and Stephan addressed the Sunshine Law, Right to Know Law and Executive Sessions. Their expertise on how and when to utilize each and the nuances of how they interact with one another made for a very interesting evening. We hope that all who attended learned a great deal!

We also distributed a proposed change (*attached*) to the **Association Bylaws**. We are suggesting that two of the committees (Programs and Convention) be combined into one committee since they perform similar functions. Please review this attachment. At a later date we will also be presenting a change to the By Laws that governs how changes can be achieved. Both proposed language changes will be presented in a later newsletter by the Resolutions Committee for your consideration at the November Convention. Your input at that time regarding the proposed changes would be appreciated.

Secretarial/Administrative Luncheon and Roundtable July 30, 2014:

2014 will be our third annual gathering of our administrative staff and we hope that we will be able to increase our numbers again this year as we did in 2013. Anyone who did not attend missed a great “meeting of the minds”. We have again invited PSATS Legal Analyst Melissa Morgan and she is very excited to attend for a second time! We expect that Melissa’s attendance will be a great addition to the conversation so put this important date on your calendars *NOW!* Judy Chambers from the Penn State Extension Office will again serve as Moderator. The luncheon will follow an 11:30 check-in with lunch and discussion from 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM. A registration form will be circulated in early July.

Adams County Association 97th Annual Convention November 12, 2014:

The November Convention will be held this year at the SAVES Social Hall on Hanover Road, Hanover. Again, please notify your township officials (**auditors, secretaries, treasurers, tax collectors, solicitors, managers and supervisors**), of the November 12, 2014 date!!!!!! Dinner at 6:00 PM .

Reminders : The next two Executive Committee Meetings will be held June 4, 2014, 12:30 PM at Conewago Twp. AND August 6, 2014, 12:30 PM at Reading Township respectively.

We thank you very much for your participation and support,

Coleen and the Executive Committee

President Coleen Reamer, Hamiltonban Township, 717-642-8509

Vice President - VACANT

Secretary Marcia Weaver, Reading Township

Treasurer Keith Whittaker, Conewago Township,

Nominations Chair, Carol Merryman, Cumberland Township

Legislative Chair, Robert Gordon, Hamiltonban Township

Public Relations, Barbara Underwood, Cumberland Township

Audit Chair, Craig Rockey, Highland Township

Programs Chair, Open.....

Conference Chair, Diane Groft, Mount Pleasant Township

Resolutions Chair, Deborah Brogan, Hamilton Township

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings Members:

May, 30, 2014

Here is a brief report from your Legislative Committee.

Your President (Coleen) and I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D. C. on May 7th and 8th for the first time , as part of the PSATS Delegation to the Annual Conference of NAtaT. (National Association of Towns and Townships)

Please go to their web site for much more information regarding their 2014 Federal Platform, Legislative Priorities, etc. www.NAtaT.org

Many of their priorities coincide with ours; eg; Transportation, Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Fire /EMS, Clean Water Act, Broadband, Protect Local Government in Tax Reform Unfunded Mandates, etc. (please see 2014 Platform)

The PSATS delegation met with Sen Casey and then divided into different groups to visit with Cong. Dent, Cong, Meehan, Cong. Doyle, Cong. Perry, Cong. Barletta, Cong. Murphy and Cong. Kelly. Cong Fitzpatrick spoke to us at Breakfast.

Coleen and I met with the offices of Cong. Perry and Cong. Kelly to talk about all the legislative priorities. We felt they were productive meetings and the overall trip very worthwhile.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly will have a busy month in June. Its Budget Time and they have many important bills before them.

They will be in session on June, 2,3,4,--9,10,11--16,17,18,19,-- 23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30.

In addition to the 2014-15 Budget, they will be considering HB 1671, Executive Sessions, HB 899 Unfunded Mandates, HB 2011, Firearms, SB 707, Volunteers, SB 1182, Medical Cannabis, School Tax Reform, Liquor Privatization, and Pension Reforms. PSATS opposes HB 1671 and HB 2011.

Please review the PSATS Grassroots Week in Review when it comes out.

Any questions on any legislative matter, please contact me at e-mail-robertlg@centurylink.net

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gordon, Chair, Legislative Committee, ACATO

BY LAW CHANGE PROPOSED TO THE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE NOVEMBER CONVENTION

Proposal to combine Committees on Conference and Programs:

Committee on Convention and Programs

Duties shall include the determination of the time and place for the Conference to be held by the Association; making all arrangements for accommodations and meals, determining the cost of the conference, propose an agenda (to include speakers), and present same to the Executive Committee for approval. Upon said approval, the Convention/Programs Committee shall be responsible for the final arrangements and coordination of the Convention. Additionally, any gifts and or prizes are to remain the responsibility of the Committee. Continuing education workshops and or programs consistent with the purpose of the Association as stated in Article III are encouraged, and may be determined by collaboration with other county organizations under the guidance and direction of the Executive Committee. Membership is encouraged to bring to the Executive Committee's attention any topics of interest or concern.

Any and all events will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Current By Laws Language:

D. Committee on Conference

Duties shall be to determine the time and place for the Conference of the Association; to make all arrangements for accommodations and meals; to determine the cost of the Conference; and to report the same to the Executive Committee for approval. This committee shall also be responsible for any door prizes and associated gifts to be distributed during the conference.

E. Committee on Programs.

Duties shall be to report to the Executive Committee for approval a proposed agenda for the Conference, and the names of speakers. Upon approval by the Executive Committee, the committee on programs shall make final arrangements with the speakers and coordinate the program. To solicit from the membership topics of concern and interest, and to arrange and conduct workshops for conference and/or other formal or informal meetings of the membership. The committee is encouraged to arrange a continuing program of such workshops on a frequent basis and to collaborate with other county organizations which may be conducting similar out reach educational programs consistent with the purpose of the Association as stated in Article III.