



January 2009

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

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PSAB Update

From the Desk of the Director of Communications

Membership renewal information was recently sent to boroughs. Being a PSAB member gives you regular benefits such as access to our Research Department for when you have questions and our Government Affairs Department for when you need to pursue a legislative change. If you have questions, or didn't receive renewal information, please contact Deb Janney, Assistant Director of Membership & Programs, at 800-232-7722 ext.25 or djanney@boroughs.org.

2009 Annual Conference

Did you know that the 2009 Annual Conference will be held March 22-25 at the Hershey Lodge? PSAB is merging two conferences into one and creating one main event during the spring. Watch your mail for more details or check out www.boroughs.org/conferences. If you have any questions, contact Mary Weller, Director of Conferences & Meetings, at 800-232-7722 ext.26.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Webinars

January 21 – Effective Meetings

January 28 – E-liabilities

Borough Officials Training & Update

January/February – Erie County, Chester County, Dauphin County, Beaver County, Lehigh County, Lycoming County, Fayette County, Lackawanna County

How to Plan a Festival or Special Event

January/February – Montgomery County, Dauphin County, Lackawanna County

Marketing Your Municipality

February/April – Dauphin County, Montgomery County, Butler County

For specific details visit the Training page at www.boroughs.org/training or contact Terri Dickow, Assistant Director of Education & Meetings at 800-232-7722 ext.42 or tdickow@boroughs.org.

Unemployment Compensation

Did you receive your UC quarterly report? The filing needs to be completed by January 31. The 2009 employee withholding remains the same at .06 percent. For more information, visit the Labor & Industry web site at <http://www.dli.state.pa.us/landi/cwp/view.asp?a=362&q=237597>. If you have questions, please contact Deb Janney, Assistant Director of Membership & Programs, at 800-232-7722 ext.25 or djanney@boroughs.org.

Infrastructure Application Deadline Quickly Approaching

On December 9, 2008, the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) approved the final guidelines for the H₂O PA infrastructure grants. \$800 million is being made available for flood control projects, high hazard dams, water supply, sanitary sewer and storm water projects. The guidelines are now posted on the CFA web site with a link to apply electronically through the Single Application for Assistance. Please review the program guidelines for the specifics regarding application requirements and evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.newpa.com/find-and-apply-for-funding/commonwealth-financing-authority/index.aspx>. To discuss your project, contact Sandy Orth, the DCED contact, at 717-720-7337. The next deadline to apply is February 13, 2009.

Effecting Policy

Individual member boroughs and county associations (CBA) have the ability to submit suggestions for legislative changes to PSAB through the form of resolutions. These issues will be debated during the Annual Conference in March, and the resolutions that pass will be among the issues that your PSAB Government Affairs team lobbies the legislature for. Resolutions are due to PSAB by February 5.

In addition, CBAs have until January 9 to identify an official to serve on the Resolutions and Policy Committee. This committee reviews the resolutions and makes recommendations for passage to the membership.

If you have questions, please contact Ed Troxell, Director of Government Affairs, at 800-232-7722 ext.21 or etroxell@boroughs.org.

Capital Budget Requirement Survey

PSAB recently mailed members the 2009 Capital Budget Requirement Survey (CBRS) whose purpose is to establish an inventory of desired and necessary capital projects sought by boroughs throughout the Commonwealth. This inventory will serve a variety of purposes and become an excellent tool when engaging legislative leaders at the state and federal levels. If your borough has not done so already, please fill out the CBRS, which can be found at www.boroughs.org, and return it to PSAB. If you have questions, please contact Ed Knittel, Director of Events & Information Services, at 800-232-7722 ext.27 or eknittel@boroughs.org.

IRS Mileage

Effective January 1, 2009, the IRS mileage reimbursement rate will be reduced from the 58.5 cents per mile established in the second half of 2008 in response to record high gasoline prices. The new rate will be 55 cents per mile.