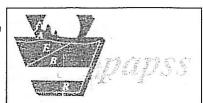
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Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists Volume XXV. No.1 www.papss.org P.O Box 61035, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1035 March 2001

2000 Annual Meeting

The 2001 PAPSS Board was elected at the Annual Meeting and Urban Soils Technical session on December 1, 2000. Our Board Members for 2001 are:

Joseph A. Valentine

President

Darryl L. Fritz

Vice President

Nancy P. Sansoni

Secretary

Bruce P. Willman

Lew R. Auchmoody

Treasurer

John D.Chibirka

Board Member

Board Member

Mark S. Mills

Board Member

Board Members can be reached by phone or by e-mail.



New 2001 PAPSS Board at the Annual Meeting From left to right Joe Valenting, Lew Auchmoody, Nancy Sansoni, Daryl Fritz, Bruce Willman, Mark Mills (John Chibirka not present)

At the annual meeting, Richard Fox, Staff Director for Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for Senator Musto explained the process of getting a State Soil bill legislatively enacted. The easy part is to get the bill introduced, the hard part is to get the attention of 205 legislators in the general assembly, 50 senators, and the governor. Mr. Fox said that if PAPSS is serious, they have to generate the interest and enthusiasm. He suggests we strategize to see who will do what, the sooner we start the better. He has drafted a bill based on what we have done and other state soil bills. It needs to be reviewed by PAPSS. Need to have letter writing campaigns, individual contact with

legislators asking for their cosponsor ship and contact other organizations for their help (farm organizations, etc.). Harrisburg is now controlled by Republicans. The Legislators need to see a reason why they need to do it. Senator Musto has agreed to sponsor the State Soil Bill. He can take the draft bill down to

In this Issue 2000 Annual Meeting Review New PAPSS web site: WWW.PAPSS.ORG 2001 PAPSS Committees **Upcoming Training** National Hydic Soils Workshop Pennsylvania State Soil Status Penn State to Host National Soil Judging Contest Earth Day is April 22 **Hazleton State Soil Status**

the Reference Bureau as soon as we are ready. Then we need to contact our local legislators as ask for their support. Contact other associations for support.

Scholarship Committee Report- Two applications were received by the due date (one application was received after the due date and not considered). The on time applications were from Elizabeth Gore, Delaware Valley and from Brian McMullen, PSU. Brian McMullen was awarded the PAPSS Scholarship. Any student who applied for the scholarship is given a student membership for the coming year.

Editorial Report- A report with recommendations was presented. Better communications to members is needed. Members need to keep e-mail addresses current.

Fund Raising Committee- Shirts and Hats are about even as of the meeting. We need to sell more of the existing Hats

SAC Committee Report- Joe Valentine- PAPSS has been appointed a seat on the Sewage Advisory Committee which has been beneficial. Bruce and Joe share these duties. Committee will put items in PENNSOIL.

Old Business- Thanks were expressed to John Chibirka and Jake Eckenrode on the outstanding 25th Anniversary Celebration. The PAPSS Board meet 6 times last year.

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

The Board (through Bruce Willman) is dealing with tax issue of nonprofit and filing the needed information.

New Business- Topics for upcoming Technical Meetings were suggested including Digital Mapping, Soil Judging at Penn State (National Contest in 2001), World Soil Congress in Philadelphia in 2006. A fall NE Pleistocene Meeting will be held in Pennsylvania. Members were asked to volunteer for PAPSS committees for the coming year.

A very informative Technical Session was presented. The first speaker, Chris Smith, NRCS, New Jersey, spoke on Urban Soil Properties and there effect on the environment. Dr. Del Fanning, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, spoke about the classification of Urban Soils. Luis Hernandez, Soil Survey Project Leader, New York, covered the topic of mapping urban soils and developing mapping legends for urban areas.

PAPSS Now at WWW.PAPSS.ORG

PAPSS has obtained its own Internet domain name and a new web site. We hope to improve communication of pertinent soils information to a wider audience. At this time, the site gives an overview of the organization, allows visitors to print membership applications, the Soil Science Consultant's print membership applications, the Soil Science Consultant's list, and provides some information on the PAPSS display at Olewine Nature Center and the Hazleton soil series. Over the next few weeks the site content and design will be improved to target specific visitor needs and increase the amount of information available.

Visit the web site periodically to keep in touch with PAPSS and find out the latest news and events. Members are among the specific audiences to be targeted by site changes. Currently, an " Upcoming Events" feature is being developed. The PAPSS Board, web administrator and committees intend to put out many announcements of upcoming meetings, events and current communications to members through e-mail. It is very important that you provide PAPSS with an e-mail address where you can be reached. Members with e-mail addresses listed in the current directory will be notified via e-mail when an upcoming event is posted on the Web site. Please note that all members will still receive notices of PAPSS events in the regular mail. If your e-mail address is different than indicated in the latest directory, or changes during the year, contact Nancy Sansoni. All members are asked to take a look at the site and provide suggestions for features, links, or general improvements. The web site administrator is Nancy Sansoni. Members

interested in helping with additions to the web site can contact Nancy Sansoni at NSANSONI@aol.com.

Once the upcoming changes are complete, the site will be submitted to popular search engines to encourage more visitors. Members are also asked to help promote the site. Please remember to mention www.papss.org to students, colleagues, government agencies, clients, and other organizations. We hope to maximize the effectiveness and success of the site with your help.

2001 National Collegiate Soil Judging to be Hosted by Penn State University

Penn State will host the 2001 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest on April 12th and 13th. Teams from 22 colleges and universities will compete in the contest. Teams qualify for this national contest at regional competitions held in seven regions across the country. The national competitions have been held since 1961. This is the second time that Penn State has hosted the national contest; the first was in 1972.

Students will compete to describe the soil morphology, site characteristics, soil classification, and site interpretations of five contest pits. Jake Eckenrode will lead the panel of official judges. The official judges will be Jake, Tim Craul, John Chibirka, Bill Packer, Alex Dado, Jason Fellon, Vicki Wertz, Charles Klinger, and Lester Rothermel. Hopefully the students can match the keen wits of this distinguished group of field soil scientists.

Joe Valentine is putting together a Pennsylvania specific site interpretation system for on-lot sewage disposal. Joe will also give a presentation to all the judgers about the role of soil science in on-lot sewage disposal system siting and design.

The organizers of the contest are seeking volunteers. Our greatest need is for people to assist with the grading of the scorecards on the afternoon of April 12th from around 1:30 until 5:00.We can use your help for the whole afternoon, or any part of it. And of course, we will provide good snacks throughout the day! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kate Butler at (814) 865-2119 or katebutler@psu.edu.

For additional information, please contact Brian Needelman at Penn State (814) 865-0297 or ban127@psu.edu

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

National Hydic Soil Workshop

A National Hydric Soil Workshop is being held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, March 27-29, 2001. The first two days are presentations on the fundamentals of hydric soils and research reports on hydric soil studies. The third day is a field trip to the Pine Barrens. A registration, agenda, and hotel information is on the EPA web site:

www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/hydricsoils

The field trip is limited to the first 150 people and is filling up quickly. Contact Ralph Spagnola at spagnola.ralph@epamail.epa.gov.

Treasurer's Report

Federal Tax Request for Exemption Application for Non-Profit Organizations.

PAPSS has submitted a request for exemption of federal taxes under the classification of a Section 501 (c)(6) organization defined as "Business Leagues, etc." This classification includes an association of persons having some common business interest, the purpose of which is to promote that common interest and not to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit. Trade associations and professional associations are considered business leagues.

An accountant, David Huffman, from Hamilton & Musser reviewed the application and his comments were provided to me on December 28, 2000. Only minor comments were recommended and the application was forwarded to the IRS on January 8, 2001. On January 24, Mr. John McGee of the IRS contacted me and said that we needed to submit a *signed* copy of our Constitution and Bylaws. I said that was unlikely since the Constitution and Bylaws were adopted 25 years ago. In lieu of a signed copy, a statement signed by two current officers of the organization basically affirming that the copy of the Constitution and Bylaws submitted with the application are the documents that the association was originally created under. Mr. McGee stated that everything else was in order and he was going to forward his recommendation of approval of the exemption request. We are still waiting for the final decision.

Additional Notes:

Annual Filing: None required unless (until) gross receipts of the Organization exceed \$25,000.

Public Inspection: The Organization's application and any supporting schedules along with any letter or any other document issued by the IRS with regard to the application must be available for inspection by any outside entity. I suggest that a

complete copy of the application be made part of the minutes of a future meeting and kept with the Secretary's documentation.

Deductibility of Dues Due to Lobbying Expenses: If the Organization participates in certain political or legislative activities in excess of \$2,000 per year, a portion of the membership dues may not be deductible on the corporate tax return of any member organizations. However, an organization that is exempt under section 501(c)(6) may work for the enactment of laws to advance the common business interests of the organization's members.

Deductibility of Contributions: Contributions made by individuals are not deductible as a charitable deduction on their personal tax returns. Membership dues may be deducted as a trade or business expense if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business.

<u>Current Treasurer's Report.</u> Several Unpaid Dues for 2001

Late Fee

12 of 92	\$35
2 of 11	\$30
2 of 8	\$25
7 of 19	\$30
	2 of 11 2 of 8

TOTAL 23 of 130

The S10 late fee was added to second notices sent to the members that have not paid. Until their 2001 dues are paid, they are not considered in good standing with the association. If their payment is not received by May 1, 2001, membership will be canceled.

Invoices for payment:

Hamilton & Musser \$122,50

P & J Printing \$529.86

YTD Income - \$4,916.20; YTD Expenses - \$4,034.92; CD - \$6,500; Total Assets - \$7,585.56

PAPSS COMMITTEES FOR 2001

Constitution and Bylaws Bruce Willman Programs Joe Valentine

Scholarship Mark Mills and Mal Gilbert

Nominations Lou Auchmoody

Editorial Ed White and Nancy Sansoni

Legislative Laurel Mueller

Fund Raising Joe Valentine

Contact any committee person to offer your assistance and ideas. Help our association achieve our goals for the year.

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

CONSULTANTS LIST COMMITTEE

The soil science consultants' list for the year 2001 has been sent to all municipalities in Pennsylvania in addition to our normal list of SEO's, DEP and NRCS, and neighboring state associations. The purposes for the wider distribution are to further promote the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists to the local governing bodies, provide more access to our consultants list, and provide more name recognition for upcoming legislative activities.

The lists were directly mailed to 403 individuals or positions within the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources, and the state Natural Resources Conservation Service. For your reference, this list was compiled from the DEP, Commonwealth of PA and the NRCS directories with most of the information available to download over the Internet. Another 1,103 were directly mailed to certified Sewage Enforcement Officers in Pennsylvania from a database that the DEP also maintains on their web site for SEOs.

Trivia questions: Do you know how many municipalities (cities, boroughs, and townships of all classes) there are in Pennsylvania? (2,425) Do you know which DEP region has the most and which has the least number of municipalities? Ranking as follows:

Southwest Region - Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties - 592

Southcentral Region - Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York - 493

Northwest Region - Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forrest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Warren, and Venango - 403

Northcentral Region - Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union -398

Northeast Region - Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming - 297

Southeast Region - Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia - 242

Total 2,425

This information is available to download from the state web site under the Governor's Center for Local Government Services - Local Municipal Statistics. The listing has only been updated in June of each year when it was available as a publication, and therefore, the names of contacts may not always be correct.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Basic Wetland Identification and Delineation

Gunpowder State Park, Days Cove, Baltimore County

March 12-16

This course consists of basic instruction for the individual with little or no training/experience in wetland identification. Half of the time is spent in the lecture room reviewing basic wetland information and half of the time will be utilized in the field. An evaluation test on wetlands is given for the benefit of both the instructor and the participant. Information in the course will cover hydric soils, hydrology and basic vegetation identification relating to wetlands. Wetland functions and values and their significance will also be discussed. Contact: Jeff Thompson @ (410) 631-8071

Jthompson@mde.state.md.us

Advanced Wetland Delineation

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Talbot County

April 16 - 20

This course is designed for the individual who has basic training/experience in wetland identification and delineation, but wants to increase their skills. A portion of the time is spent in the lecture room, yet most of the time will be spent in the field. Students will act as consultants; spending most of the field time delineating wetlands and writing detailed wetland reports. Information in the course will cover hydric soils, vegetation intentification and hydrology. Contact: Ralph Spagnolo ② (215) 814-2710 Spagnolo.ralph@epamail.epa.gov

Wetland Restoration and Creation

Irvine Science Center, Baltimore County

May 21-25

This course will provide students with training in wetland restoration and creation. Lectures will provide a technical background regarding plants, soils, hydrology and their significance in mitigation. Students will be divided into teams and design a realistic 10 acre mitigation site. Additionally, permit conditions, design requirements and mitigation success criteria will be incorporated into the course requirements.

Contact: Ralph Spagnolo @ (215) 814-2718

Spagnolo.ralph@epamail.epa.gov

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Anne Arundel County

June 18-22

This course covers a narrow range of topics relating to herbaceous plant identification (ID) for use in wetland ID and delineation. The course is structured with half classroom lecture and half field practice. Heavy emphasis is placed on the use of botanical manuals, field ID, and other

botanical features.

Contact: Jeff Thompson @ (410) 631-8071
Jthompson@mde.state.md.us

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

Advanced Soils

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Anne Arundel County July 9-13



This course will cover soil development, describing and classifying soils, identifying soil hydrology and identifying hydric soils. Fifty percent of the time will be spent on lectures introducing topics such as soil morphology and genesis, soil physical properties, soil hydrologic processes, soil chemical processes, soil taxonomy, hydric soils, problem soils and soil surveys. The other half of the time will be spent in various field locations using the concepts taught in lecture to describe soils and identify features related to soil hydrology and hydric soils. Field sites are located from western Maryland throughout southern Delaware: some traveling is required.

Contact: Lenore Matula-Vasilas @ (215) 814-3306

Lenore.vasilas@md.usda.gov

Plant Identification

Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Talbot County

September 10-14

This course covers a broad range of topics relating to plant identification (ID) for use in on-site wetland ID and delineation. The course is structured with half classroom lecture and half field practice. Heavy emphasis is placed on the use of botanical manuals, field ID, and other botanical features.

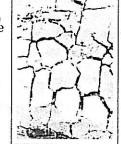
Contact: Ralph Spagnolo @ (215) 814-2718

Good Deals for Members

(Don't Let these deals dry up)

Deal No. 1 - PAPSS 25th

Anniversary T-Shirts Purchase the perfect summer field wear. The tan T-Shirts are still available and at a discount price of \$10.00. Contact Joe Valentine, (215)345-6474 or



jvalentine@delvalsoil.com

Deal No. 2 - PAPSS 25th

Anniversary Meeting Guides. The last of these 115 page books contain all materials from the fragipan technical session, an 18 page history of PAPSS with photos, and the field trip guide with color photos. The last few of these are available from Bruce Willman (717) 901-8838 (e-mail:

bruce.p.willman@saic.com) for a discount price of \$15.00. If you missed the meeting this is your last chance to catch up on PAPSS and Fragipan Soils.

Deal No. 3- PENNSOIL accepts ads approved by the Board, submit your request for advertising in PENNSOILS to the Board.

Spagnolo.ralph@epamail.epa.gov

Anyone interested in participating in a course should contact the person listed at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the course. Questions about the course should be directed to the contact person as well.

64th Northeastern Friends of the Pleistocene to Meet in Quebec

The 64th Annual Northeastern Friends of the Pleistocene meeting is June 1-3, 2001 along the north shore of the middle of the St. Lawrence Estuary between Quebec City and Tadoussac Canada. The trip and conference will focus on the new glacial, marine, estuarine and fluvial units discovered in the area. Registration due May 1. Addition information can be obtained from Najat Bhiry (najat.bhiry@cen.ulaval.ca) or from a web site that will be available in March: www.geo.uqam.ca/fop2001/fop2001.htm

Earth Day -April 22, 2001

This Earth Day: Contact your state legislator and ask for their support of the Pennsylvania State Soil Bill. Let the legislators know how important soils are to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all our citizens. To find out who your legislators are and even see their photo go to:

www.legis.state.pa.us

Then go to the House of Representatives, then click on "Find Your Legislator." You can contact representatives by phone, letter or e-mail. PAPSS has developed a "Hazleton greeting card" with the Hazleton State Soil information that can be sent to your legislator, for a copy of the card to send to a legislator, contact pennsoils@aol.com and include your name and mailing address.

Correction:Penncrest High School won the 2000 National Envirothon

Correcting the last issue of PENNSOIL, Penncrest High School in Media, PA captured the 2000 Canon National Envirothon championship in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Forty-nine teams from 41 states and 8 Canadian provinces competed in the 13th annual event held at Arcadia University. The Penncrest Lions scored an impressive 534.6 out of 700 possible points, bettering the second place Idaho team by 30 points. Pennsylvania has won 7 of 13 Environthon championships. PAPSS congratulates the students and teachers of Penncrest High School and apologizes for the mix up.

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

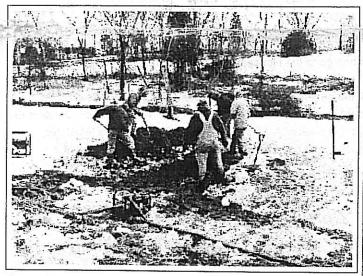
Editors Note: The 2001 County Envirothons are held in late April and early May. Contact your county Conservation District if you want to offer your expertise or assistance, I am sure they would be glad to have it. The Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be on May 20-21 at Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County.

PAPSS Soil Science Scholarships

PAPSS gives a \$500.00 scholarship annually to a college student majoring in soil science or with a soil science interest and courses work. All applicants for the scholarship will receive a student membership in PAPSS for the year. It is a great opportunity a future soil scientist to get some help with college costs. Please inform any soil science student you know of this opportunity.

Hydric Soil Monitoring Sites installed in Montgomery County, PA

PAPSS, NRCS and Delaware Valley participated in the installation of soil monitoring equipment and the sampling and describing of soils for a Mid Atlantic Hydric Soil Monitoring study of the TF2 Hydric Soil Indicator. Three sites were described and sampled, a piezometer monitoring tube (3-inch



diameter PVC pipe) was placed adjacent to the soil pit. This pipe will take shallow water table and soil temperature readings daily for two years. Data from the piezometer will be downloaded twice yearly. After two years the tubes will be removed.

These will monitor shallow seasonally wet (perched) water tables within the upper 20 inches of soil.

The data generated from the piezometers will test the Hydric Soil Indicator TF2- set up for Red Parent Material soils. These red soils may not form the characteristics associated

with wetness due to some intrinsic chemical process. It has been speculated that these soils are iron-rich and the gray iron depletions that one identifies with seasonal



saturation do not form as readily. Up to ten other sites will be involved in the study covering the states of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Soil Biology Planners

The 2001 Soil Planners mailed with this issue are developed by USDA-NRCS and the Soil Science Society of America. If you have received a 2001 Soil Planner from another source, the PAPSS board requests you pass this planner on to a school, legislator (in support of a Pennsylvania State Soil Bill), or other worthy use.

PAPSS Display

The PAPSS Display needs you help. The Display is meant to be flexible in its use and design. It can be loaned to ad used by members at any public event. To improve the usefulness of our display, members are asked to submit any photographs or slides to Mark Mills, who will have the photos copied (and enlarged) for use with the display and return the originals to the owner.

Other ideas for the display can be sent to the PAPSS Board as can requests for its use.

Articles or Announcements for
PENNSOIL can be submitted anytime
by e-mail to:pennsoils@aol.com
Announcements or information for the
PAPSS web page can be submitted (in
word, text or html format) to:

NSANSONI@aol.com

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists

PAPSS Events in the Planning Stages

These events are in the planning stages for this year.

Late April- Describing Soils in the Field- using the
National Soil Judging sites, around State College, PA

June 1-2 Quantifying Soil Hydromorphology
Digital Soil Surveys- At the Fall Annual Meeting
Small Regional Soil Workshops- Planed to be held when
a PAPSS member can set up informal Soil Training sessions
using soil pits.

Golf Outing (and woodland soil tour!)- Being planned as a fall fund-raiser.

Something to Think About

"Governor Ridge has continued his commitment to Pennsylvania's environment with a proposed \$4.6 million for the first full year of Growing Smarter." -DEP Update 2/9/01.

What can Soil Scientists offer to help Pennsylvania Grow Smarter? How can smart growth happen without a knowledge of the soil and how it effects the use and management of the land? What types of technical assistance can soil scientists offer to counties, townships and other municipalities? Pennsylvania is holding a Land Use Conference, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, March 18-20, 2001, contact DCEC/Event coordinators at 1-800-822-3063 for more information or http://www.dced.state.pa.us

Hydrophobic Soil

Soils that repel water are considered hydrophobic. A thin layer of soil at or near the surface can become hydrophobic after intense heating. The hydrophobic layer is a result of a waxy substance that is derived from plant material burned during a hot fire. Fire induced repellency can affect the soil and a watershed by; reducing infiltration and increasing stream flow, increasing steam erosion, increasing gullying, decreasing water available for plant growth. Water repellency can last for more than a year. For more information on soil quality, visit the soil quality web site at

http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/survey/SQI

Summer Jobs for Soil Science Students

Pennsylvania USDA-NRCS has summer soil mapping positions available for students with soil science college course work. The soil mapping jobs are in areas with NRCS Soil scientists and are at the GS 3 or 4 level depending on course

work. Students will gain experience in soil mapping, soil genesis and soil morphology with practical field work under the supervision of a soil scientist. Possible locations are West Chester, Greensburg, Plymouth, Mill Hall, Leesport, and Franklin, PA.. Jobs are also available for map compilation and digitizing at the NRCS office in University Park, PA. Contact Ed White, State Soil Scientist, 717-237-2207.

Hazleton State Soil Legislative Update

The groundwork has been laid for the submission of two bills recognizing Hazleton as the Official State Soil. Draft legislation has been prepared for a bill to be introduced into both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Senator Musto of Luzerne County has circulated a draft bill for co-sponsorship in the Senate. Presently, seven senators are listed as sponsors of this legislation. Representative McNaughton, Dauphin County, is also seeking co-sponsorship for a bill to be submitted to the House, and 10 representatives have agreed to sponsor the draft legislation.

According to Representative McNaughton's office, a House Bill draft will be assigned a Bill Number on or before March 19th. Once it is assigned to a committee (such as State Government), it is important for our membership to contact the Committee Chairperson and request that the bill be moved out of committee. "Bombard him" is the phrase the Representative's office manager used. PAPSS will keep you informed of the bill number and committee status, by means of separate mailings and e-mail. It is important to do your part.

Senator Musto's bill will be introduced on March 12th, the first day of the legislative session. After it has been reference to committee (most likely, the State Government Committee), PAPSS members will be notified for further action. Once we have the House and Senate Bill Numbers for this proposed legislation, we can contact the Committee Chairperson and our corresponding Senators and House members to encourage their support. As progress is made, PAPSS will notify you and request your help. A strong response by our membership is the ONLY way to assure that this legislation gets the attention needed for approval in both the House and Senate. For further information contact Mark Mills.