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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Morgan Township Supervisor Elected President of Pa. State Association of Township Supervisors

EDITORS: A high-resolution photo of Shirl Barnhart is available at www.psats.org under “Newsroom” and then “PSATS Board & Staff Photos.”

Members of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors have elected Shirl Barnhart, chairman of the board of supervisors for Morgan Township, Greene County, to a one-year term as the association’s president. Barnhart, who previously served as president from April 2016 to April 2018, fills a vacancy that occurred in the association’s top post after the sudden passing of last year’s newly elected president.

Barnhart’s election to president took place during PSATS’ 97th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, held April 14-17 in Hershey. This is the largest municipal event of its kind in the state, with close to 4,000 attendees. The conference attracted township officials from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

The president is a member of the association’s executive board with full voting rights. The board, which is responsible for managing the affairs of the state association, is made up of PSATS’ five officers, seven Executive Committee members, and the immediate past president. The board meets frequently throughout the year to conduct business and plan new projects that will benefit member townships.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania’s land mass and represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.

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Barnhart, who had served as PSATS' immediate past president for the past year, was first elected to the association's Executive Committee in 2002. In addition to his prior service as president, he served as PSATS' first vice president, second vice president, secretary-treasurer, and assistant secretary-treasurer. He also served as chairman of the executive board and as a member of the association's Finance, Resolutions-Legislation, Succession Planning, and Conference Planning committees.

He is currently a member of the association's Grassroots Lobbying Network, which addresses legislative issues that affect every Pennsylvanian who lives in a township of the second class, and represents PSATS on the Senate Resolution 6 Commission, which recently released recommendations to help address the emergency services crisis in Pennsylvania. Barnhart also serves as a workshop moderator during PSATS' Annual Educational Conference and was a 2007 recipient of the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

Barnhart is a roadmaster for Morgan Township. He previously served as the township's emergency management coordinator and vice chairman of the board of supervisors. He served on the Governor's Local Government Advisory Committee and is currently a member of the PennDOT New Products Committee. He is chairman of the Jefferson-Morgan Council of Governments, a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company, and a member of the Isaac Walton League and Mather Christian Church.

Barnhart previously served as chairman of the Greene County Planning Commission and the Advisory Committee for PennDOT LTAP (the Local Technical Assistance Program). He was vice chairman of the Greene County Solid Waste Advisory Board and served on the Southwest Regional Planning Commission and the Ohio Valley Water Resource Committee. He also has served the Greene County Association of Township Officials as president and vice president and was a member, firefighter, and emergency medical technician for the Clarksville Volunteer Fire Company. Barnhart resides in Mather.

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