

A MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER  
CONTAINING THE  
LATEST  
INFORMATION  
ON LEGISLATION  
AND NEWS OF  
INTEREST TO  
TOWNSHIPS

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**-Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill**

## PSATS Participates in Broadband Hearing

On August 7th, the Senate Communications and Technology Committee held a public hearing to discuss broadband internet access. The hearing featured testifiers and experts who are looking to close Pennsylvania’s digital divide when it comes to high speed internet access. This was the first of several hearings on the subject and focused on local governments perspective and workforce development.

PSATS Director of Government of Relations Joe Gerdes testified before the committee on behalf of the Association and stressed how important broadband internet access is to public safety, commerce, and the overall quality of life of all Pennsylvanians. Talking about high speed internet access, Gerdes said, “millions [Pennsylvanian’s] don’t have the capacity [broadband access] needed to be competitive socially, economically, or academically now or in the future”. He also stressed that many township officials must go to great lengths to be able to communicate with state and federal agencies because those communications require electronic submittal of documents.

Committee Chair Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill said, “The expert testimony presented to the committee today is beneficial in better understanding the scope and magnitude of the problem”. She and members of the Senate Committee on Communications and Technology are committed to help close this gap especially in rural areas of the Commonwealth.

To view these testimonies, go to [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org) and choose “Legislative & Policy” and then “Testimony.”



## PSATS 2019 Salary Survey Plus is Now Open!

PSATS recently opened Salary Survey Plus online platform for townships to enter 2019 wage and salary information! We urge township officials to input their information so that our statewide data is as accurate as possible. Login to [connect.psats.org](http://connect.psats.org) and choose the Salary Survey Plus link. Entering 2019 data will create new results for the 2019 data in time for budget season, as well as provide comparisons for wage changes from 2018 to 2019. **Be sure to have all of your township’s data submitted by September 20th** to ensure full access to the 2019 survey results!

Once enough data has been entered to release the customized reports, we will notify you and townships that have completed all mandatory questions and at least 66 percent of the survey. You will then be able to view and create customizable, personalized reports to compare your township to others most like yours, by budget size, road miles, population, and region, even by similar employee benefits and union status. Questions on the survey can be directed to [salariesurveyplus@psats.org](mailto:salariesurveyplus@psats.org) or (717) 763-0930.



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PSATS has replaced its once-a-month, longer program with four shorter segments, a couple minutes' long, one of which is released each week.

## TVN Gets a Makeover!

Shorter, Fresher Content Arriving Weekly in Members' Inboxes  
After collecting ideas from members and staff, PSATS recently launched the new and improved Township Video News.

“It was time to freshen up the format,” PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko said. PSATS has replaced its once-a-month, longer program with four shorter segments, a couple minutes' long, one of which is released every week of the month. The schedule is as follows:

- **First Tuesday: Training Tuesday**, a snapshot of upcoming PSATS workshops, webinars, and other training opportunities.
- **Second Tuesday: Coffee and the Capitol**, a casual conversation about Harrisburg and Washington.
- **Third Tuesday: DaveTalk**, insights from PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko.
- **Fourth Tuesday: PSATS Roulette**, the lighter side of TVN, where we spin the wheel and see what comes up. Sometimes, the content will be funny, and other times, it will be informative, but you'll have to watch to find out.

In addition, every Thursday, members will get helpful advice with the new TVN Question of the Week. Every new TVN segment and Question of the Week is posted on [psats.org](http://psats.org) and [connect.psats.org](http://connect.psats.org). They are also emailed to PSATS members on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you're not receiving the content, check your spam folder.

The new TVN segments and Questions of the Week are also released on various PSATS social media outlets. YouTube is the primary hub for viewing TVN. Don't forget to subscribe to the PSATS YouTube channel!

PSATS would love to hear what you think about the new TVN, too. Email us at [TVN@psats.org](mailto:TVN@psats.org) or call Jill Ercolino, PSATS digital communications manager, at (717) 763-0930, ext. 125. And remember, if you think others will benefit from the information in TVN, please share the segments with them.

## Trustees Waive Administrative Fee

In a recent meeting of the Trustees of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Pension Trust (Pension Trust), the Trustees approved a waiver of the administrative fee for new 401(a) and 457(b) Plans for the 2020 calendar year. The administrative fee is based on the number of employees participating in each plan, with the minimum being \$200 per calendar year.

If your township is interested in starting a 401(a) or 457(b) Plan for your employees, PSATS will have a representative at each of the Fall Forums to be held in Indiana, Union, Washington, Crawford, Adams, Monroe and Chester counties. For information, visit the PSATS website at [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org) and click on the link for the Fall Forum.

If your township officials would like a representative to visit the township to learn more about the plans, please do not hesitate to contact us at 800-382-1268 or by email at [pension@psats.org](mailto:pension@psats.org). We thank you for your continued support of these valuable employee benefits.