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February 8, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | How does PSATS help you do your job better?

PSATS strives to get answers to our members before they can even ask questions. Executive Director Dave Sanko lists five helpful tips that each member township should follow to take full advantage of PSATS' resources. Make sure to email memberservices@psats.org with questions!

Latest News

Townships Urged to Complete Critical Lawsuit Survey

Township officials are urged to complete a critical survey that could help provide the data necessary to keep lawsuits and liability insurance from getting even more expensive for all townships. Due to a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision, the state legislature must determine how the current caps on local and state government lawsuits should be increased, expanded, or adjusted or the court will do so. As part of this, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee is studying the impact of lawsuits on local governments and what would happen if the current \$500,000 cap on damages were to be increased. Even though only a very few extreme cases would suggest increasing the cap, everyone's insurance costs will go up. Insurance premiums would be the newest unfunded mandate and we need your participation in this survey to show that any increase can push communities closer to fiscal distress.

Your input is central to this report. By taking a few minutes to complete this anonymous online survey, you can help ensure that any increases are as moderate as possible and based on real data. [Click here](#) to respond to the survey, which will close on **February 28**.

Today in History.....

On February 8, 1924, the first execution by lethal gas in American history is carried out in Carson City, Nevada. The executed man was Gee Jon, a member of a Chinese gang who was convicted of murdering a rival gang member. Lethal gas was adopted by Nevada in 1921 as a more humane method of carrying out its death sentences, as opposed to the traditional techniques of execution by hanging, firing squad, or electrocution. Lethal gas as a method of carrying out capital punishment was largely replaced by lethal injection in the late 20th century.

Legislation & Policy

Gov. Tom Wolf's 2022-23 budget address will take place at 11:30 a.m. today. [Click here](#) to watch the livestream of the address. Expect to see more state police funding coming from the general fund rather than the motor license fund, allowing for more gas tax funds to be spent on roads and bridges. For the first time in recent years, Governor Wolf will not be calling for a municipal tax for state police.

The Senate and the House will be in session today, February 8. Watch the session live [here](#).

[HB 764](#) would amend the Child Protective Services Law to allow employers to hire employees on a provisional basis on par with the 45-day provisional hiring window that is currently authorized for childcare providers. This would include employees hired for township recreational programs. The House concurred on Senate amendments and the bill will now go to the governor.

[SB 1027](#) would allow a 17-year old to train for an interior firefighting module with live burns if they have permission to engage from a fire chief and a parent or guardian and the minor is under supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor. The bill was reported from the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

Basic Training for Secretaries and Administrators

Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.

[3/22/22 - Cumberland Co.](#)

[3/24/22 - Chester Co.](#)

[4/7/22 - Centre Co.](#)



[QuickBooks Tips and Tricks - Dauphin County - 4/24/22](#)

Join your colleagues from around the state for this newly REVISED class where Diana Patton, who has spent 30 years as a township secretary/treasurer and the last 19 years as a Certified QuickBooks Instructor and Trainer, will show you all the ways you can use QuickBooks to better serve the financial needs of your municipality.



[Demystifying Grant Seeking: Tools & Tips for Success - Virtual Class - 3/10/22](#)

Join fundraising master trainer, Chad Barger, CFRE, for a session focused on seeking grant support for township projects and programs. The session begins with an overview of the role of grant funding in an organization and the prerequisites for seeking grant support.



[QuickBooks for Beginners - Virtual Class - 3/10 & 17/22](#)

This virtual class is broken out into two half-day sessions. It is designed to provide each student with a fundamental understanding and working knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting Software, and is intended to demonstrate the application of QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro to assist in municipal accounting.



[Newsletter Best Practices: Keeping Residents Updated Via Email & Postal Mail- Virtual Class - 4/7/22](#)

We'll examine how print/mailed communications work in tandem with email to ensure our donors are informed and engaged.



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