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April 12, 2022

Learn

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

[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.



[Effective Township Administration: Steering Your Township Through Difficult Situations - 4/24/22](#)

Elected and appointed officials are often asked to solve problems that are either not within their authority to solve or where the proposed “solution” might create negative unintended consequences for the municipality. Navigating these difficult issues requires skill, diplomacy and, often patience.



[2022 Solicitors Spring Seminar - 4/25/22](#)

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from experts and network with your peers from around the state.



[LL - Media Relations 101\(Learning Lab\): Tips to Improve Communication - 4/25/22 - Dauphin County](#)

During this hands-on training session, Gavin's team of senior PR strategists will teach you ways to better leverage social channels to communicate with your constituents. This session will also focus on communications planning and media coaching, including on-camera practice, to help you more effectively communicate with the public and leverage the news media. **PSATS Conference Registrants only. Limited seating available. Please bring your cell phone.**

[1:00 pm](#)

[2:45 PM](#)



[Leadership: Five Things Empowering Leaders Do - 5/12/22 - Butler County](#)

This class will cover the five quintessential elements of empowering leadership and guide listeners to overcome common barriers to empowering others. Along with any practical application points, participants will understand how and when to give away control and consider questions they should ask before empowering others.



Township Video News



TVN's DaveTalk | It's a whole new digital world!

In this episode of TVN, PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko shares how members can make the most of technology with the Association's unlimited web of digital resources.

Latest News

Highest Inflation in a Generation

The costs of supplies, goods and services continue to spiral out of control for townships and families alike as a result of the highest inflation rates in 6 presidents and over 40 years. The inflation rate of 8.5% is the highest in 40 years. The consumer price index is driven by all costs (not just energy). It will cause wild increases in road maintenance this year impacting township budgets and likely cause the scaling back of road repair projects to do less work at higher costs. After decades of doing "more with less", this has not been anything townships or residents have had to deal with for over a generation.

Wolf Authorizes OSHA Study for Unfunded Mandate on Government

Gov. Tom Wolf announced that the state Department of Labor & Industry and the Office of Administration are partnering with the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to study the feasibility of imposing the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards on local and state government workplaces. The study is set to be completed this fall. [Click here](#) to learn more.

PSATS has long opposed such an unfunded mandate due to the costs on taxpayers, while urging townships to follow best practices to protect workers and receive decreased insurance rates.

Reminder: Congressional Earmarks Are Back! WAMs from Washington...

Your Washington representatives have access to more money for your community. Sen. Bob Casey and many members of the PA Congressional delegation are accepting competitive FY23 appropriations requests for congressional earmarks before the end of this month. Stakeholders across Pennsylvania may submit community projects and programmatic requests to be considered for the 2023 fiscal year. This is an opportunity to request funds for important projects.

Township officials are encouraged to reach out to their member of Congress for more information and to request support for their project.

There are two kinds of requests: Community project requests, sometimes called earmarks or congressionally directed spending, tend to be for a specific project in a specific location. These projects must fit within [committee guidance](#) and are subject to rigorous review.

Programmatic requests are general funding requests for national and regional programs and/or bill and report language requests that direct, encourage, or urge an agency or department to carry out an action. Programmatic requests tend to be at a higher level and not specific to a community.

Interim guidance for applicants can be found [here](#). Links to applications can be found below.

- [FY23 Programmatic Request Application Form](#)
- [FY23 Community Projects Application Form](#)

Reminder: PSATS to Hold Town Hall on American Rescue Plan Form Today

PSATS staff will host a Town Hall on Filing the ARPA Project and Expenditure Report this afternoon at 2 p.m. and again tomorrow, April 13, at 10 a.m. During these virtual sessions, PSATS staff will demonstrate the most efficient way to file the forms, while ensuring that townships take the standard allowance for lost revenues — a one-time option that will provide maximum flexibility for use of the funds. The session will include troubleshooting tips. [Click here](#) to register for the 2 p.m. session on April 12, and [click here](#) to register for the 10 a.m. session on April 13.

Today in History...

On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began when Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. It would be known by various names, including the War Between the States, War of Northern Aggression, War of the Rebellion, Great Rebellion, War for Southern Independence, and Freedom War. Four years later it would end on April 9, 1865, after dividing the country and 620,000 soldiers died.

Legislative & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, April 12. Watch the session live [here](#).

[HB 1790](#) was approved by the House yesterday. The bill would amend the **Uniform Construction Code** to require code officials to perform all required inspections and include a written description of any items not in compliance, including references to the applicable codes.

The bill would require the state Department of Labor and Industry to investigate complaints about code administrators and take corrective action for just cause, including remedial education and decertification. It would also require permit applications to include a notice to this effect. HB 1790 is now pending committee assignment in the Senate.

[HB 221](#) was approved by the Senate yesterday. The bill would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act (*Act 511 of 1965*) to authorize local governments to use up to 25% of revenue from the open space tax for maintenance and development of open space regardless of the method of acquisition or purchase. HB 221 was previously approved by the House and will now go to the governor for his signature.

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