PSAB 100 Years of History
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHS (PSAB) DEDICATES ITS WORK AND THIS PUBLICATION TO THE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ANSWERED, AND CONTINUE TO ANSWER, THE CALL TO PUBLIC SERVICE. WITHOUT THE DEDICATION OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOROUGH OFFICIALS AND THE SUPPORT OF THEIR FAMILIES, LOCAL GOVERNANCE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. AS BOROUGH OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY’S INTERESTS, PSAB WILL CONTINUE SEEKING NEW WAYS TO EASE THE GOVERNING PROCESS THROUGH EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY.
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Foreword

Appreciation of the history of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) requires an understanding, first and foremost, that the organization would not exist without the dedication to public service of thousands of men and women who live and work in the Commonwealth’s 958 boroughs.

Beginning in 1682, the founders of the colony of Penn’s Woods brought with them a desire to develop a form of government that was close and responsive to its citizens. The word “borough” derives from an Old English term for “a fortified place.” Over time the word also came to mean a place where markets and other commerce and activity took place. From the earliest days, Pennsylvania’s boroughs were community centers where commerce, education, worship and socialization took place. These centers of community life also served the agriculture-based townships surrounding them.

At the state government level, the importance of local borough government and the responsibilities of borough officials were soon recognized, and state laws that regulated these governments, giving them specific powers and duties, were enacted.

In 1911, borough officials began to gather on an annual basis to discuss common concerns. By 1915, the General Assembly authorized PSAB to represent the collective interests of borough governments in Harrisburg. In addition, PSAB was charged

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with providing education, training, and other services to borough officials across the Commonwealth.

Over the 100 years since 1911, boroughs have been confronted with war, economic crisis, social and cultural issues, changing technology and increased service expectations. Borough officials have risen to meet those challenges. As borough officials have adapted to change, so, too, has PSAB. This history is intended to lend the perspective of our joint heritage of service and dedication to the inevitable and desirable changes yet to come.

In 1915, Governor Martin Brumbaugh signed House Bill 1179 as Act 392, which authorized the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs to represent the collective interests of the Commonwealth’s boroughs in addition to providing education and other services.

Shortly after the 100th anniversary of the first gathering of borough officials, PSAB hosted its centennial conference in Hershey, which was an energized, educational event attended by hundreds of borough officials.
When William Penn began the settlement of Pennsylvania, he and his first settlers brought with them from England a concept of local government that itself had roots as far back as the time of the Roman occupation. “Burgs” evolved into “boroughs,” walled settlements that provided protection to the local population and that further evolved into centers of trade.

The first borough of record in Pennsylvania was Germantown, now part of the City of Philadelphia. Germantown obtained a charter from Penn that became effective in 1691. Germantown was a “closed” corporation, and the right of full citizenship was limited to a few residents. The charter provided for the election of a bailiff (or mayor) and four burgesses. Six more burgesses were to be chosen as council members. Together, these men constituted the General Court of the borough.

Over time, borough governments were given authority to raise money for the building of roads and bridges, market houses, workhouses, jails and other public facilities. Full citizenship and the right to vote was still limited to a very few mostly landowners and those few elected assessors to set tax and assessment rates. Constables collected the taxes. The term “constable” derives from the Latin “comes stabuli,” a person charged with “the count of the stable,” which evolved into one who supplied horses and other goods for the military. A treasurer reported on finances to the burgesses and to the public at periodic public meetings.
Following the American Revolution, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth laid out a number of “county towns,” which were to be the seats of county government. By 1795, Erie, Franklin, Waterford and Warren were made ready for settlement by commissioners who were appointed by the governor. The law creating county towns included boundaries and a physical layout. Once settled, the county towns became boroughs, using the borough form of government, which is why the phrase town council is still heard today. Some 40 county seats in Pennsylvania are still boroughs today.

There has been a state code for the governance of boroughs since 1834, necessitated by a rapid increase in the number of boroughs being established across Pennsylvania. Under the 1834 law, incorporation of boroughs became the responsibility of the Court of Quarter Sessions (later the Court of Common Pleas) rather than the legislature in the Capitol. The pattern of borough government set forth in the law included a burgess, town council of five, secretary, treasurer, town clerk, collector of taxes, constable, an assessor and two assistants, three auditors and two overseers of the poor.

In 1851, a comprehensive borough code was enacted that set the powers and duties of borough officials. Council could regulate such issues as fire protection, burial grounds, street paving, markets, night watch, nuisances and noxious trades. There was a maximum tax on property set at one-half cent on the dollar of the county’s assessment.

Under this law, the Courts of Quarter Sessions could incorporate boroughs with the concurrence of the grand jury; an application to the court for incorporation was supposed to be signed by a majority of freeholders. No borough was to be less than three hundred inhabitants, and the inhabitants were entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly as long as they had six months residence within the boroughs. Residents were enfranchised to select borough officials so long as they had paid a tax to the borough within one year of the election. Interestingly, there was a $10 fine for refusing to serve if elected to office, but it could not be levied more than once in four years.

However, many laws passed by the legislature in Harrisburg that applied to local governments were piecemeal “special” legislation that applied to individual municipalities, leading to a sometimes confusing and conflicting patchwork of local laws. Some of these laws had the effect of eroding the powers of borough councils. The Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1873 addressed this problem by prohibiting “special” legislation and adopting an
article that established uniformity in issues such as formation of new political subdivisions, property tax exemptions, and more. The General Assembly made it clear that local government units were creatures of the state and as such were authorized to perform only those functions specifically granted to them by the state.

At this time, cities, counties and townships were classified according to population, with variations in rules that recognized differences. Boroughs were not classified, however, and still today operate under the same system whether the population is 1,000 or 30,000. In a brief period of time after this classification occurred and prior to the turn of the century, governance changes shifted boroughs to resemble 19th century cities with a weak burgess and strong council.

After 1920, significant economic, political and social developments had an impact on boroughs. Pennsylvania was becoming more urbanized, and there was growth in the need for local governments to ensure delivery of essential services, including safe water, treatment of waste, fire and flood protection and police protection. Boroughs responded with public water and sewer services, expanded police forces, and the growth of volunteer fire companies. A population boom for boroughs transpired along with a corresponding boom in infrastructure and services.

Following World War II there was a trend toward outmigration from urban areas to more rural and suburban areas, as housing developments went where land was available. Roughly half of boroughs with populations of 10,000 or more were affected. Cooperation among neighboring units of local government became necessary in order to meet the needs of an educated and mobile citizenry. Higher costs for wages, materials and equipment increased the burden on real estate taxes, the basis of local government funding. Legislation enacted in 1947 expanded revenue sources for local governments and included earned income, real estate transfer, per capita and occupational privilege taxes.

The 1968 Constitutional Convention allowed municipalities to adopt home rule or optional plan charters which allowed for council-manager and strong mayor forms of governments. In addition, the convention also encouraged intergovernmental cooperation through joint administration and councils of governments (COGs), and thus more flexible and regional administration of services.

From this U.S. Historical Archives 1982 panoramic view of Archbald Borough, Lackawanna County, it is possible to see community development take shape through transportation routes and infrastructure.
The Local Government Unit Debt Act of 1972 provided a means to limit the indebtedness of political subdivisions based on a valuation of taxable property. Another significant development was enactment of the Public Employees Relations Act of 1970, authorizing collective bargaining for borough employees. Act 111 ensured fairness for workers, but not without a significant fiscal impact on local governments.

The federal government recognized increasing demands on local governments across the nation, and in 1972 enacted the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act, which provided federal aid on an annual basis throughout the 1970s. This money, known as “revenue sharing,” could be used for needed improvements in public safety, environmental protection, public transportation, health, recreation, libraries and certain capital expenditures.

Borough governments have adopted the creed of “adapt, react and overcome” to meet the challenges of the new century. Modern administrative practices, professional managers, increased regional cooperation—all have been embraced by borough officials as they strive to provide services and programs required by their citizens.

Borough governments have adopted the creed of “adapt, react and overcome” to meet the challenges of the new century. Modern administrative practices, professional managers, increased regional cooperation—all have been embraced by borough officials as they strive to provide services and programs required by their citizens. Boroughs continue, and will continue, to offer Pennsylvanians a home town, a sense of identity and a secure and congenial place to live and work for this century and beyond.

Sitting at the crossroads of honoring heritage and embracing the future, Pennsylvania’s boroughs continue to be community centers, enhancing residents’ quality of life and maintaining service demands.
Association Governance & Management

PSAB is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members who are appointed by their county or regional association and the Association’s officers. The Board represents all boroughs within the Commonwealth through a number of actions including determining general association policies; supervising and directing officers’ activities; adopting an annual budget; determining necessary committees; and developing and maintaining programs. In addition, the Board is responsible for selecting and working with an Executive Vice President (EVP) who is responsible for the daily administration of functions and activities.

To accomplish the tasks identified as board responsibilities, the governing body meets three times per year and empowers an Executive Committee for intermittent decision making. The Executive Committee is made up of the officers and eight additional Board members. To ensure equitable geographic representation, the state is broken into east and west regions with three districts in each region; a Board member is selected from each region to serve as a member-at-large in addition to having one selected from each of the six districts. With the Board of Directors and Executive Committee acting in concert, decisions are made with the Association and its members as priorities.

THE BOARD REPRESENTS ALL BOROUGHS WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH THROUGH A NUMBER OF ACTIONS INCLUDING DETERMINING GENERAL ASSOCIATION POLICIES; SUPERVISING AND DIRECTING OFFICERS’ ACTIVITIES; ADOPTING AN ANNUAL BUDGET; DETERMINING NECESSARY COMMITTEES; AND DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING PROGRAMS.

PSAB is governed by its Board of Directors which is comprised of borough officials appointed by their CBAs to represent their county or region in a statewide capacity.
The Board of Directors is comprised of individuals appointed by their colleagues at the local and regional level through single and multiple county associations, known as county boroughs associations — or CBAs — that represent the majority of communities in Pennsylvania. A CBA, as outlined in the Borough Code and PSAB Constitution, is a group of elected and appointed officials in five or more boroughs in one county or contiguous counties that organize to advance the interests of the participating boroughs and enhance the lives of their residents and taxpayers.

The first organized CBA was York County in 1929, but several others formed shortly thereafter. Currently, there are 37 CBAs with 38 board representatives. A 1966 amendment to PSAB’s constitution permitted any CBA with 60 borough members to have two board representatives, and to this day, Allegheny County remains the only county with this eligibility.

Each CBA has its own leadership structure with officers and appointees to PSAB’s Board of Directors and Resolutions and Policy Committee. CBA members are required to elect officers including a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and both a board representative and alternate board representative. Items such as officer elections, membership, meetings, terms, vacancies, and committees are addressed in the CBA’s bylaws.

CBAs meet anywhere between one and 11 or 12 times per year, and these meetings are used to network with one another as well as to bring in speakers on a specific topic. How meetings are structured and organized is a decision each CBA makes. The meetings are a forum for officials to address municipal issues and discuss current events. The members of a CBA have the ability to call for legislative change and action through PSAB’s resolution and policy process. A CBA may submit a resolution that brings forth a specific problem and suggested legislative change to the Association for consideration by the membership during the Annual Conference. If the members support a resolution, then it becomes part of PSAB’s policy, and the Government Affairs Department pursues legislative changes or remedies through the General Assembly.

Association officers are sworn in each year during the Annual Conference thus signifying a ceremonial changing of officers by having a new 2nd Vice President take office and a passing of the gavel from the current President to the incoming President.

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

Association members, known as “voting delegates,” elect officers to serve and represent the members. Since 1964, officer elections have rotated between regions of the Commonwealth to ensure better geographic distribution of leadership. Through the years, a few additional adjustments were made to the leadership structure, and they included the elimination of a third vice president in 1967 and having the immediate past president be considered an officer and member of the executive committee in 1972.
Any council member, mayor, manager or secretary from a PSAB member borough is eligible to run for a leadership position. Elections occur on an annual basis during the Annual Conference with each candidate for office being provided the opportunity to address members in attendance during a general session. The candidate selected by the voting delegates will serve a one year term as 2nd Vice President, then a one year term as 1st Vice President, and will culminate the leadership experience as PSAB President for a year. The borough official will also remain a member of the Board and leadership while in the position of Immediate Past President. Being an association officer calls upon borough officials to represent the collective interests of the membership through speaking at CBA meetings, advocating positions with the General Assembly, presenting testimony to legislative committees, speaking during PSAB conferences, and helping to continue the rich legacy of the Association.

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENTS**

Operational management and leadership of PSAB is vested in the EVP, who was known as the Executive Director prior to 1972. The EVP is appointed by the Board of Directors and is also responsible for staff oversight. Since its inception in 1911, PSAB has had only six EVPs, with Mr. Chrostwaite being the first. This continuity of leadership has provided PSAB with the strength and experience to guide it and its member boroughs through challenging times.

**Thomas F. Chrostwaite (1911-1957)**

The man in the photograph with the focused eyes and determined expression is Thomas F. Chrostwaite, the driving force behind PSAB for nearly half a century. Born in Ashley Borough, Luzerne County in 1873, Chrostwaite attended Bloomsburg Normal School (now Bloomsburg University) in Columbia County, with a teaching career in mind. But after a few years in the classroom, Chrostwaite decided to pursue further education, and ultimately graduated from Harvard.

Chrostwaite then returned to Pennsylvania, having been appointed Superintendent of Schools in Hanover Borough, York County. While holding this position, he also achieved a degree in law. After becoming an attorney, he served as borough solicitor in Hanover for several years. This experience gave him a vast knowledge base in — and passion for — local government and municipal law.

After four years with Hanover, Chrostwaite initiated the publication of the *Municipal Law Reporter* in 1909, which was the first of its kind directed toward Pennsylvania municipalities. The publication was the precursor to the formation of PSAB and acted as the clarion call for borough officials who convened for the first time BEING AN ASSOCIATION OFFICER CALLS UPON BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO REPRESENT THE COLLECTIVE INTERESTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP THROUGH SPEAKING AT CBAMETINGS, ADVOCATING POSITIONS WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESENTING TESTIMONY TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, SPEAKING DURING PSAB CONFERENCES, AND HELPING TO CONTINUE THE RICH LEGACY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

It was the vision of one man, Thomas F. Chrostwaite, that brought borough officials together to increase their legislative strength and enhance local governing capacity through education.
two years later in the state Capitol. The Municipal Law Reporter was soon joined by the Borough Bulletin, a monthly newsletter Chrostwaite used as a means to unify borough governments in the Commonwealth, and the Association has maintained a flagship publication since that time.

Through the Municipal Law Reporter, Thomas F. Chrostwaite invited interested borough officials to assemble in Harrisburg to meet and discuss the potential of building municipal strength with a unified voice. When Chrostwaite called the first gathering of borough officials together in 1911, he set the meeting’s priorities as establishing a legislative committee, selecting officers, and appointing a committee to draft bylaws and plan the following meeting. The major purpose of the initial meeting was to establish the Association with a mission of advocacy, representation and service for the Commonwealth’s boroughs. Through this mission, PSAB, through Chrostwaite, was directed to develop policy related to local governments with the intent of pursuing legislative action and providing a unified response to specific legislation.

Chrostwaite visited the capitol in Harrisburg regularly, where he had a desk at the Bureau of Municipal Affairs. He maintained a presence in the Capitol until 1958, even after PSAB established an office at 506 State Street. From 1950 through 1957, the secretarial duties of PSAB were assigned to the executive secretary of the Penn State Institute of Local Government, but Chrostwaite continued to serve as president of the Association.

During his years of leadership, membership grew, legislative platforms were developed, and educational opportunities were offered to borough officials. Today, PSAB represents the 958 boroughs in Pennsylvania, the direct result of the life work of a man dedicated to education and good governance.


By 1957, the activities of PSAB had become increasingly complex, and the Board of Directors determined that there should be a staff consisting of a full-time EVP, a full-time secretary, a part-time secretary and a part-time lobbyist, with a three room office suite in Harrisburg to house them. Charles F. LeeDecker was appointed to head the organization beginning January 1, 1958. LeeDecker was educated at Penn State University (PSU) and Syracuse University, ultimately earning a doctorate in public administration at PSU. The addition of full-time staff made it necessary for PSAB to seek new office space outside of the Capitol, which is where Chrostwaite kept a small office for a number of years. As Lee Decker began his tenure in January 1958, the Association opened an office in conjunction with the League of Cities in the State
Street Building, which is across the street from the Capitol. After a few years in the State Street Building, the Association again grew out of its office space, so PSAB purchased a building at 2415 North Front Street to accommodate for continued growth. During that period of time, the Local Government Conference began convening. As LeeDecker recalled, “[It] was composed of the boroughs, cities, first class townships, school districts and counties and met weekly to discuss items of mutual interest and concern.”

With the concept of the Local Government Conference in mind, PSAB purchased its current property at 2941 North Front Street in 1968 to serve as the Association’s headquarters as well as the Local Government Center. The vision behind the concept of the Local Government Center was to help “Unify local government associations under one roof to foster cooperation and collaboration,” as LeeDecker said. However, as time passed, other associations sought individual headquarters, and PSAB maintained ownership of the riverfront property in Harrisburg.

Prior to taking the post at PSAB, LeeDecker served as executive secretary to PSU’s Institute of Local Government. In reflecting on his years of service to local government and PSAB, he said, “My first knowledge of PSAB came when I joined the staff of Penn State’s Institute of Local Government in 1941. At the time, none of the local governmental associations had full-time staffs, and the Institute furnished secretariat services to most of them. My boss, Dr. Harold Alderfer, was the secretary of the Boroughs Association; the Institute had a closer connection with PSAB than it did with the other groups.”

LeeDecker was also an Associate Professor of political science at PSU. He held staff positions with the Municipal Authorities Association and the Municipal Assessors Association of Pennsylvania. LeeDecker was frequently called upon as a consultant on local government affairs to Pennsylvania governors, the American Municipal Association and various state agencies. In addition, he published many books and articles on local government issues, and served three terms on the borough council of State College.

Dr. LeeDecker possessed an unusual combination of qualities — being a scholar, a talented businessman, both organizationally and administratively skilled, practical, and a forward-looking visionary — ultimately, he was the perfect selection for the Association’s first EVP. After more than two decades of service, Dr. LeeDecker retired in 1981.

As the Association continued to grow in staff and members as well as diversified programs and services, a larger office was sought. For a brief period of time, PSAB shared office space at 2415 North Front Street in Harrisburg.

In 1968 PSAB purchased its current home — a 1925 limestone building facing the Susquehanna River.
Gerald Godwin served as the Association’s executive for two years after a dedicated government career, having served the Bureau of Municipal Affairs as well as PSAB.

THE ROLE OF PSAB IN PROVIDING EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO BOROUGH OFFICIALS IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT, ACCORDING TO EDWARDS, WHO NOTED THAT THE ISSUES FACED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE EVER CHANGING AND EVOLVING.

For 12 years Robert Edwards served as PSAB’s EVP, and speaking to officials today, he commented, “If I could tell boroughs one thing, it would be that government needs to be more efficient – this includes police departments and fire operations. Efficiency would help hold the line on taxes.”

Gerald C. Godwin (1982-1984)
On January 1, 1982, Gerald C. Godwin was introduced as the new EVP. Mr. Godwin was the Association’s Government Affairs Liaison prior to this promotion. The announcement was made at the Board of Directors meeting on June 20, 1981. Mr. Godwin came to PSAB after a long and distinguished career with state and local government. In 1966, Mr. Godwin was appointed Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Municipal Affairs.

A graduate of the University of Denver, CO, Mr. Godwin had a bachelor’s degree in public administration and a master’s degree in government management from the same university. He was a member of the American Society of Public Administration. Mr. Godwin passed away in 1985.

Before his appointment as PSAB’s EVP, Robert C. Edwards held several positions within the Association and was the manager of several PSAB service contracts. Edwards came from a journalism background, having been an editor at several newspapers in the capital region, including the Harrisburg Patriot News.

In 1966, Edwards was named editor of the Pennsylvanian, which was the precursor of the Borough News. Within three years, he was made assistant director of PSAB. Edwards also held the post of secretary in Lemoyne Borough, Cumberland County, allowing him to gain a hands-on perspective on borough government. Edwards received a bachelor’s degree at East Stroudsburg University and a master’s degree at Shippensburg University. After 15 years of employment with PSAB, Edwards was appointed EVP and assumed the position on February 23, 1985.

In a recent interview, Edwards recalled that the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was the state agency with which PSAB had the most contact, followed by the Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Significant funding for local government education came through DCA, and PennDOT’s Bureau of Municipal Services focused on providing various programs and training opportunities for municipal government. Edwards noted that the 1980s were a time of growth and prosperity for PSAB and its member boroughs.

“The Association was able to make money on its investments; employee benefits were improved during times of prosperity; membership dues were frozen for almost a decade; and PSAB’s Unemployment Compensation program was providing dividends to members,” he remembered. The role of PSAB in providing education and training to borough officials is critically important, according to Edwards, who noted that the issues faced by local
governments are ever changing and evolving. Officials who are abreast of the issues are best equipped to lead, and PSAB is and will continue to ensure that solid educational programs are available.

Though Mr. Edwards retired from PSAB in December 1997, he continues to serve as a council member in New Cumberland Borough, Cumberland County, and he believes the Association continues to fulfill its purpose and serve members.


Thomas A. Klaum came to PSAB in 1986 from the directorship of the Cambria-Somerset Council of Governments (COG). Klaum had additional local government experience in the Cambria County Planning Office. Born in Lorain Borough, Cambria County, Klaum graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and achieved a master’s degree in public administration from Shippensburg University.

Interviewed recently, Klaum stated that he first became aware of PSAB while in the County planning office, noting the Association’s value as a resource for local governments. At that time, Klaum became acquainted with Cecil Leberknight, a past president of PSAB and council member from Dale Borough, Cambria County, from whom he learned much about the needs of municipal officials for information and assistance. Klaum stated that he moved from the county planning office to the COG because the position offered opportunity to work more directly with local officials. Klaum recalled the development of a building codes inspection program to serve the 19 municipalities in the COG as a highlight of his time there.

It was his mentor, Cecil Leberknight, who suggested Klaum apply for a position at PSAB, and he was subsequently named Director of Membership Services. He held that position for the next twelve years, working with the various programs that PSAB operated to serve the needs of members.

Klaum said the one word he would choose to best describe borough government is “resilient.” Through good economic times and bad, years with plentiful grant money and years without, borough governments get the bills paid while ensuring that residents have clean water, good roads, recycling, recreation and so on. When a new mandate comes down from the state or federal government, often unfunded, borough officials step up to the plate and get the task done.

Klaum is very much opposed to the concept of “bigger is better” where local government is concerned. He acknowledged that there is a school of thought that Pennsylvanians would be better served by fewer, larger municipalities. But Klaum’s experience has been that the responsiveness of borough governments, in reflecting back on his early days of PSAB employment, Thomas Klaum commented that “Much of my first six months was spent studying and reviewing all the programs and services that PSAB established and put into operation through the efforts of Robert Edwards and Dr. Charles LeeDecker. Many of these programs help generate revenues for the Association while providing services to the members.”

“IN THE YEARS AHEAD,” SAID KLAUM, “ONE ISSUE THAT BOROUGHS WILL CONFRONT IS LEADERSHIP.” HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT BOROUGH LEADERS MUST BE MORE THAN SIMPLY WILLING TO SERVE; THEY MUST BE EDUCATED IN THE ISSUES OF THE DAY AND THEY MUST HAVE VISION AND A WILLINGNESS TO STEP OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE.

On his first day of work, Klaum was presented the distinct honor of attending a bill signing with Governor Thornburgh and a number of distinguished local government servants for a piece of legislation that expanded intergovernmental purchasing powers.
because they are small and close to the citizens, makes Pennsylvania’s unique system of local government successful.

At a time when state and federal government are engaging less with local officials, Klaum proudly notes that PSAB has increased its outreach efforts. Technology combined with the personal touch has enabled PSAB to reach into the 900 plus member boroughs.

“In the years ahead,” said Klaum, “one issue that boroughs will confront is leadership.” He went on to comment that borough leaders must be more than simply willing to serve; they must be educated in the issues of the day and they must have vision and a willingness to step out of the comfort zone. Klaum believes that PSAB will be there to help.

Christopher Cap (2012–Present)
As Mr. Klaum announced his retirement to coincide with the conclusion of PSAB’s centennial anniversary, the board both started and ended its search for a new EVP with current, interested, invested staff members. Cap previously served as Deputy Executive Vice President for over eight years and managed such staff functions as federal and state lobbying, municipal research, police and non-uniformed pension servicing, collective bargaining unit relations, communications, member-field outreach for 37 county chapters and administrative operations. He concurrently served as Chief Financial Officer of the Chrostwaite Institute and as Chief Operations Officer of the PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust.

Prior to joining PSAB in 2001, he worked in wholesale banking for eight years and had the honor of serving in the office of a U.S. Congressional member in Washington, D.C. Cap earned a bachelor’s degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree from East Stroudsburg University in political science. In 2008 he earned the distinguished Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential from the American Society of Association Executives in Washington. In addition, Cap serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Political Science Department of Harrisburg Area Community College where he teaches the national political system and state and local politics.

In looking towards the future of the Association, Mr. Cap said, “I want PSAB to continue achieving new heights, and there should be no doubt that we can all work together toward common goals as Mr. Chrostwaite envisioned in 1911. I can assure you that we all have a lot to be proud of in our present roles and should believe the future success of this Commonwealth will directly correlate with the success of our distinguished borough communities.”

The announcement of Klaum’s successor occurred during the 2011 Fall Conference, and Christopher Cap addressed members for the first time as EVP, noting his enthusiasm for PSAB and its members.
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<td>1927</td>
<td>January 25-26</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>June 4-7</td>
<td>Richard McAllister Hotel, Hanover</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>February 19-20</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>June 11-13</td>
<td>General Brodhead Hotel, Beaver Falls</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>February 17-18</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>June 21-23</td>
<td>Conneaut Lake</td>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>February 7-8</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>June 19-21</td>
<td>Penn-Stroud Hotel, Stroudsburg</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>February 19-20</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>June 16-18</td>
<td>American Legion, Shamokin</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>June 16-18</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>June 20-22</td>
<td>“See and Bee” Cruise Ship, Erie</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>February 23-25</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>June 24-26</td>
<td>Campus, State College</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>February 27-March 1</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>June 22-26</td>
<td>“City of Detroit III” Cruise Ship, Erie</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>June 25-27</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>June 22-24</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>June 20-22</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln/Berkshire, Reading</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>February 27-March 1</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>June 22-26</td>
<td>“Greater Detroit” Cruise Ship, Erie</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>February 10-12</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>June 26-28</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>June 19-21</td>
<td>William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>May 27-29</td>
<td>Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>June 28-30</td>
<td>William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>June 27-29</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>June 27-30</td>
<td>Penn-Sheraton Hotel, Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>June 23-26</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia</td>
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</table>
Past Presidents

1958  June 15-18  Penn-Sheraton Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **Gus D. Houtman**  Media, Delaware County

1959  June 14-17  Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Clarence H. Clasper**  Oakmont, Allegheny County
      *Progress Through Home Rule*

1960  June 26-29  Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **D. William Arndt**  Berwick, Columbia County
      *Strengthening Local Government in the 60’s*

1961  June 18-21  Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Kesnie C. Acton**  Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County
      *Fiftieth and Forward*

1962  June 24-27  Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **Ralph L. Gessler**  Blairsville, Indiana County
      *Retaining Rights - Recognizing Responsibilities in our 2nd Half Century*

1963  June 23-26  Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Robert C. Keim**  St. Marys, Elk County
      *Boroughs - Partners in Progress*

1964  June 28-July 1  Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **Myron F. Boyer**  Kutztown, Berks County
      *Home Rule - What Is It?*

1965  June 27-30  Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Michael A. Shust**  Latrobe, Westmoreland County
      *Renewal, Redevelopment and Revitalization - The 3 R’s of Borough Government*

1966  June 26-29  Penn-Sheraton Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **John S. Buchanan**  Everett, Bedford County
      *The New Look in Boroughs*

1967  June 25-28  Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Ernest K. Bossert**  Quakertown, Bucks County
      *Away with Waste*

1968  June 23-26  Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia
      **George F. Mahaney**  West Middlesex, Mercer County
      *Local Government of Tomorrow*

1969  June 22-25  William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **Arthur M. Zeiders**  Mifflin, Juniata County
      *Intergovernmental Cooperation*

1970  June 28-July 1  Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia
      **Carl W. Fuehrer**  Ephrata, Lancaster County
      *New Horuer’s for the 70’s*

1971  June 20-23  William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh
      **Cecil K. Leberknight**  Dale, Cambria County
      *Out of the Past Comes the Future*
Past Presidents

1972 June 18-21 Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia
**Robert H. Steward**
**Home Rule**

1973 June 11-14 Tamiment, Poconos
**John L. McManus**
**The Challenge of Change**

1974 June 23-26 Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
**Willis M. Houck**
**New Localism/New Challenges**

1975 June 22-25 William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh
**Gerald R. Shuster**
**Keeping Local Government Local**

1976 July 18-21 Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
**M. D. Fulton**
**Independence for Local Governments**

1977 June 26-29 Hershey Motor Lodge
**Arnold Addison**
**Local Governments Are In(ter)dependent**

1978 June 25-28 Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia
**Judson Laird**
**The Borough’s Role in the Intergovernmental System**

1979 June 24-27 Hershey Motor Lodge
**William H. Higgins**
**Proposition I - Local Government**

1980 June 29-July 1 William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh
**Harry P. Schrum**
**Challenging the 80’s Together**

1981 June 21-24 Hershey Lodge
**Anthony J. Defilippi**
**Local Government - Pulse of the People**

1982 June 27-30 Hershey Lodge
**Carmon O. Flynn, Sr.**
**New Freedom . . .New Challenges**

1983 June 26-29 Hershey Lodge
**Bernard G. Kubitza**
**Attempting To Do More . . .With Less**

1984 July 8-11 Adam’s Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
**Abram R. Clemmer**
**Striving for Excellence**

1985 June 23-26 Marriott Expo Mart, Monroeville
**Robert J. Tomasic**
**United Effort Through Association**
Past Presidents

1986 June 22-25  Hershey Lodge
   **Samuel W. Worley**  Chambersburg, Franklin County
   *75 Years of Building Better Boroughs*

1987 July 26-29  Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
   **Mary Ripley**  Wesleyville, Erie County
   *The Spirited 76th*

1988 July 24-27  Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers
   **Frank P. Fisher**  Steelton, Dauphin County
   *PSAB - A Legacy of Leadership*

1989 June 25-28  Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
   **Dr. Raymond Keffer**  New Wilmington, Lawrence County
   *PSAB - Challenge, Growth and Excellence*

1990 June 24-27  Mount Airy Lodge, Mount Pocono
   **Richard DiPrimio**  Malvern, Chester County
   *Preparing Local Government in the 90's*

1991 July 21-24  Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
   **John V. Thompson**  Saxonburg, Butler County
   *Local Government - The People's Voice*

1992 June 29-July 2  Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers
   **Howard W. Eckert, Jr.**  Sellesville, Bucks County
   *Local Government '92' - Courage, Foresight, Dependability*

1993 June 27-30  Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
   **Steve M. Perovich**  Trafford, Westmoreland
   *Borough Officials - Public Servants*

1994 June 19-22  Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers
   **Samuel H. Black**  Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County
   *Progress Through: Programs, Service & Benefits*

1995 June 25-28  Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
   **Isador Steiner**  Port Vue, Allegheny County
   *Boroughs - Responsible, Accountable, Efficient*

1996 June 23-26  Pittsburgh Hilton & Towers
   **Marion Alexander**  Hummelstown, Dauphin County
   *85 Years of Meeting the Challenges*

1997 June 22-25  Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
   **Harold L. Brungard**  Mill Hall, Clinton County
   *Pennsylvania Spirit Alive in Boroughs*

1998 June 21-24  Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
   **Ralph P. Moore**  Prospect Park, Delaware County
   *PSAB - Proud History, Bright Future*

1999 June 20-23  Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia
   **Carol Sambol**  Baden, Beaver County
   *Boroughs: The Next Century’s Winning Team*
Past Presidents

2000 June 18-21 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Barbara Breininger Robesonia, Berks County
Discover the Magic in Boroughs

2001 June 17-20 Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
Richard Brine Wesleyville, Erie County
Saddle Up with the Boroughs - Together We Can Ride Into the Future

2002 June 9-12 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Sterling E. Smith Red Lion, York County
Proudly Sail Along with the Boroughs

2003 June 22-25 Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
John Dorin Montoursville, Lycoming County
Proudly Saluting All Boroughs

2004 June 6-9 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Helen E. Jackson New Beaver, Lawrence County
Soaring to New Heights

2005 June 19-22 Hershey Lodge
Ross W. Watts Palmyra, Lebanon County
Education - Key to Our Future

2006 June 11-14 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Thomas R. Stanton Wheatland, Mercer County
Pennsylvania’s Boroughs - Rediscovering Our Rich History

2007 June 24-27 Radisson Valley Forge & Convention Center
Ann Simonetti Marysville, Perry County
Valley Forge - Cornerstone of American Leadership

2008 June 8-11 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Thomas M. Oliverio Zelienople, Butler County
Patriotism: Boroughs Supporting Those Who Protect America

2009 March 22-25 Hershey Lodge
Donald E. Carman (In Memoriam) Elkland, Tioga County
New Challenges for Local Government - Energy, Effectiveness, Efficiency

2010 April 25-28 Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh
Robert “Doc” Orr Girard, Erie County
Boroughs on Track

2011 April 10-13 Hershey Lodge
James W. Felmlee Lewistown, Mifflin County
100 Years of Excellence

2012 April 29-May 2 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Ronald E. Evanko Blairsville, Indiana County
It’s A Wonderful Life in Pennsylvania Boroughs
Evolution of PSAB

There are three pillars that define PSAB – education, information and advocacy. Within these overarching areas, there are numerous programs and services offered to members. The scope of services provided to PSAB members has evolved over time from those first offered in 1911. Though changes have occurred, many of the services very clearly resemble the intent of what the General Assembly endorsed through its legislative support of PSAB in 1915. One such service that has maintained consistency is legislative representation and advocacy, and another is the educational and networking opportunities provided through conferences. The development of programs and services throughout PSAB’s century of service reflect the municipal environment. The Association’s focus has been – and continues to be – advancing the interests of boroughs while providing tools to help officials effectively govern their boroughs.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Education, through the exchange of ideas and networking, may very well be the first service PSAB provided its members. When the Association first met on February 14, 1911 in the Capitol’s Senate Caucus room, it was to share information. The ninety-plus borough solicitors, managers, secretaries and elected officials met to hear from their counterparts and to exchange ideas. Since that time, borough officials have gathered at conferences throughout the state with the express purposes and goals of educating borough officials, ensuring the growth and

THE ASSOCIATION’S FOCUS HAS BEEN – AND CONTINUES TO BE – ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF BOROUGHS WHILE PROVIDING TOOLS TO HELP OFFICIALS EFFECTIVELY GOVERN THEIR BOROUGHS.
development of the Association and its officers as well as building and strengthening the bonds between borough officials.

With the exception of a very few years, boroughs have been gathering at conferences since 1911. Since the conferences were held in the Capitol during PSAB’s formative years, the conferences scheduled for 1912 and 1914 could not be held due to the fact that the General Assembly was not in session during the specified dates. For a brief period of time in the early 20th century PSAB worked with certain government offices for conference planning issues. One such example was the Office of Municipal Statistics and Information which was established by Act 314 of 1915 and was the forerunner of today’s Department of Community and Economic Development. The Office of Municipal Statistics and Information participated in the promotion and planning of the 1916 conference through mailing announcements, securing speakers and preparing programs, and the state Department of Labor absorbed the majority of the expenses. Chrostwaite and PSAB members quickly exerted the Association’s autonomy and significantly reduced the state’s input on conference activities.

The Annual Conference has historically been the platform at which member boroughs help develop the Association’s agenda, vote for leadership, and address any proposed Constitutional changes. For example, during the 1926 event, dues were established for boroughs based on population categories, and borough officials agreed on a range from $4.00-$10.00. Throughout the years a number of Constitutional amendments have been brought up for the members’ vote and have dealt primarily with clarification items related to the Board of Directors and officers. These
discussions, held during the Business Meeting, are a forum for boroughs to find common ground on issues and make decisions in terms of what legislative remedies to pursue. Member guidance is an essential component of PSAB governance, and without the discourse of public officials, the Association could not effectively pursue its mission on behalf of boroughs.

It was obvious to state and borough officials that the establishment of PSAB would serve as a means of providing education municipal officials on issues and topics that were continually changing. Whether it was water services, road repair and maintenance of preparation and management of their budgets, education on a regular basis was essential. Though the Education and Development Department has only officially been integrated since 1997 when the state's Department of Community Affairs merged with the Department of Commerce, the Association has been educating officials since its inception, and a cornerstone initiative that remains a constant is the effort to educate newly elected officials. Today, PSAB embraces education and development for municipal officials through a blended approach with traditional classroom sessions to one-on-one assistance through the use of Webinars. Offered since 2008, Webinars are computer-based training that utilizes the internet to reach each borough in the state with the same quality programs.

Municipal official can receive recognition of their education and development success through the completion of the Certified Borough Official (CBO) Program. This voluntary program recognizes the official’s completion of six significant areas of professional development: leadership, intergovernmental cooperation, infrastructure management, municipal services,
municipal personnel and finances. A borough official earns credits in different categories for participation in conferences as well as other educational sessions. For those officials successfully completing the program, the CBO Certificate of Achievement is awarded during the Annual Conference.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Early efforts in the arena of research and information have grown into a well-established membership service identified by professional experience, institutional knowledge, and an exceptional knowledge of municipal laws. Although the Association does not provide legal advice, staff advises borough officials in areas such as the Borough Code, proposed legislation and enacted legislation. This practical advice helps boroughs make informed decisions and increase governing capacity. Efforts to further assist boroughs efficiently operate are constantly being evaluated in order to ensure boroughs receive the maximum benefit for their membership.

Publications produced by PSAB are a keystone resource made available to boroughs and other interested municipal stakeholders dating back to 1909 – two years prior to the Association’s establishment. The variety of publications is intended to inform and educate, be communication tools, increase networking capacities, and exemplify the capabilities of boroughs. Chrostwaite first published the Municipal Law Reporter as a monthly publication highlighting legislation and legal proceedings of municipal interest, and it was a pamphlet-sized, black and white document. Technology has come a long way since that time, and today, PSAB produces a four-color monthly magazine and now also makes a number of publications available online.

There has been an official Association publication since 1917 when the Borough Bulletin was issued as a supplement to the Municipal Law Reporter. It served as PSAB’s main publication until 1962 when the Pennsylvanian was introduced as a monthly magazine and included coverage on issues pertaining to boroughs, assessors and townships of the first class. Shortly thereafter, in 1983, the Questions and Answers column was introduced as a regular feature, and it continues today as the most regularly read column in the magazine. The current incarnation of the Association’s magazine, Borough News, was introduced in 2001 as the only publication dedicated solely to boroughs. An important feature of the magazine is the legislative newsletter, now known as The Front Line, which updates members on activities of the Government Affairs Department. Since the recent transition,
Borough News has received multiple awards and continually seeks the most effective ways to reach borough officials.

Maintaining regular communication with boroughs is imperative for PSAB to achieve its mission, so in addition to a monthly magazine, a number of additional publications are produced. The Municipal Yearbook and Annual Report, initiated in 196?, served as an outlet to provide members with an overview of the prior year’s activities in addition to contact information for member boroughs. The “Yearbook,” as it is commonly known, is a resource for borough offices, just as is the Borough Planner. The Borough Planner is a calendar that includes dates and events of municipal significance and was developed to be an asset to secretaries and managers. Another annual publication provided as a planning tool is the Budget Bulletin, which includes the background and tools for practitioners to develop the borough’s annual budget and was made available online starting in 2010. The creation and distribution of these publications occurred over the course of time as proactive strategies to help alleviate administrative pressures.

However, these are not the only communication tools available to boroughs through the Association. As a way to update borough officials on timely and important items in between magazine issues, the “PSAB Update” started as a broadcast fax, but is now offered via fax or email depending on the most effective way to reach members. To help enhance the connections between borough officials, the Boroughs Discussion Group, or BDG, was established as an email based question and answer forum in 2003. Borough officials as well as staff members participate, and the BDG provides the opportunity for officials to confer with colleagues across the Commonwealth in order to resolve local issues. In addition, the Association’s website, www.boroughs.org, is yet another instrument that is available to all interested individuals and provides a diverse range of information. As PSAB enters its second century of service, it continues to examine ways in which it can communicate with members in the most effective and efficient manner.

ADVOCACY

From PSAB’s inception, there has been a focus on providing boroughs a voice in both the state and nation. Developing a legislative platform advocating for change through a unified voice began with Chrostwaite and continued gaining strength and momentum through the years. Today there is a dedicated
government affairs department responsible for daily promotion of legislative activities.

PSAB maintains an emphasis on the fact that a local issue can affect all boroughs throughout the Commonwealth and that a collective effort results in effecting change. Resolutions from a borough or CBA have resulted in PSAB’s advocacy for updating the Borough Code, training for police officers, tax reform and many additional legislative issues.

The government affairs process at PSAB is guided by resolutions that call for legislative change. Submitted by boroughs and CBAs prior to the conference, the resolutions are first analyzed by the Resolutions and Policy Steering Committee which is a small, focused group dedicated to formal resolution endorsements, determining legislative priorities, and overseeing the implementation of resolutions. This committee vets the resolutions received prior to the Resolutions and Policy Committee meeting during the Annual Conference. Members of the Resolutions and Policy Committee are appointed by their respective county association, and this body makes recommendations such as adoption, amendment or rejection to the voting delegates. In turn, the decision is made by the majority of the voting delegates. Once a resolution passes, the Government Affairs Department pursues its intended change.

Even with dedicated staff members pursuing member interests, the Association looks to boroughs and their officials to contact
legislators. Through the cooperative efforts of local people requesting change and their affiliated statewide organization calling for change, legislators gain a better perspective of the collective value and impact of proposed legislation. This exchange and collaboration only further strengthens PSAB’s legislative efforts.

**PROGRAMS AND OTHER SERVICES**

Since the beginning, PSAB has sought to identify programs that would meet the continually changing needs of members. During the past century, many programs have been developed and made available to the municipal officials, and while some are no longer relevant, many are in place today. As needs arise in the future, new programs will be made available. Today, PSAB offers a wide range of programs that meet the needs of individuals as well as groups. The following is a brief description of the various programs offered.

PSAB has been proudly sponsor of the AFLAC Supplemental Insurance Program which provides borough employees the option of a voluntary payroll deduction for insurance programs such as accident, short-term disability, hospital intensive care and cancer specific-disease coverage.

The Borough Elected Officials Program (BEOP) this program provides a unique group insurance program for the official and their dependents. Benefits include term life insurance and accidental death coverage.

The Borough Management Caucus (BMC) was designed to help borough managers and secretaries by providing professional career development programs and services, which includes term life insurance.

In 2010, PSAB approved and established the Cable-Telecom Alliance of Municipalities (CTAM). This program is designed for boroughs that need experienced legal counsel to assist them in dealing with the complex and expanding regulations associated with cable and telecommunications issues.

The Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) is an approved 457b employee benefit plan that allows employees to save up to 20% of their yearly income as a payroll reduction which reduces federal income taxes until the employee's retirement or the funds are withdrawn.

The Employee Drug and Alcohol testing Program (CDL and Non-CDL) This program provides all the drug and alcohol
testing required by federal and state law, including: random, pre-employment, post-accident, reasonable suspicion/cause, return-to-duty, and follow-up testing. This program is administered through a third party selected by PSAB.

The Guaranteed Issue Life Insurance Program (GIL) provides for your municipal employees to supplement their individually owned life insurance coverage. This program is 100% voluntary, and elected officials when in the employment of the borough are eligible for program, as well as part-time employees although certain restrictions may apply. The program is designed to provide living benefits for emergencies and death benefits. GIL is administered by the Keystone Insurers Group, a long-time partner of PSAB who understands the insurance needs of borough officials.

PSAB introduced and promoted its Junior Council Person (JCP) Program to encourage greater civic involvement from students. This program is designed to introduce high school students, who reside in any of the 958 boroughs, to seek appointment as non-voting council members, thereby providing a valuable link and often different perspective on issues affecting borough residents of all ages. Started in 1999 with Wesleyville Borough, Erie County, the Junior Council Person Program is one more way in which PSAB carries out the vision of Thomas Chrostwaite, to educate and communicate the borough officials.

Through the partnership of PSAB with the Keystone Insurers Group, borough officials are able to provide their members with both workers compensation and property/casualty insurances (WC/PC). Loss control, safety awareness and risk management are all keys to the success of both borough operations and insurance services. It has always been PSAB goal to provide the service and programs that are need by its members and the Killed-In-Service Insurance Program is an example of such. In response to Act 30 of 2002 which requires municipal police pension plans as governed by Act 600 to provide a death benefit of 100% of an officer salary to their beneficiary, this program protects the boroughs pension plan against an unexpected claim.

In recognition that borough officials, their employees and families are all seeking ways to address medical as well as heath care needs PSAB established its Long Term Care Education and Planning Program (LTCEPP) which is administered through the Professional Insurance Services Inc. (PISI). Long term and extended health care insurance helps by providing plans include home health, assisted living and other facility care as well as a life and long term care combination option. The Municipal Retirement Trust (MRT) was created as a state-of-the-art pension program for members in 1972. Its goals were to
provide first-class investments, ease the administrative burden on local governments and to be affordable. The Trust was a turn-key approach to pension plans with two distinct components that made it exceptional — administration and investments.

In 1981 PSAB took the lead in establishing the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) which provides a vehicle for local governments to invest temporarily idle funds in interest bearing accounts. Now, more than 2,700 local governments enjoy the privilege of investing funds through an organization directed by the local governments themselves. Additionally PLGIT offers boroughs the use of a Procurement Card (P-Card) which allows the borough to maintain control and authorization of purchases. In a time of changing energy procurement and management PSAB has developed the PSAB Energy Procurement Program (PEPP) by partnering with Affiliated Power Purchasers International (APPI) to provide the Powerful Solutions Program an exclusive member benefit that assists borough officials in managing and reducing their energy expenses. With APPI members are able to manage and understand the affects of energy deregulation and to negotiating favorable “real-time” pricing and contract terms and conditions with competitive energy suppliers across the country.

The Employment Alliance of Municipalities (TEAM) was established by PSAB to assist borough officials with labor contract negotiations and employee issues. In partnership with the law firm of Eckert Seamans, LLC this program provides legal services regarding police contract negotiation, arbitration hearings and all matters of public sector labor law.

PSAB provides municipal members the Unemployment Compensation Plan (UC Plan) to minimize the immense cost associated with unemployment compensation. Through the UC Plan PSAB is able to offer municipalities a stable budget figure, a third party claims administrator to assist with disputes of any claims. UC Plan has been a proven cost saver since the program began in 1981 and the plan has provided over $6 million in dividends to its members.

Addressing the Association’s core pillar of information, the Board recognized the importance of enabling boroughs to communicate with their residents and taxpayers, which is why the service of Web Design and Maintenance Program began. With this program, PSAB offers members the ability to develop a custom-made website for as well as storage capacity and email addresses for a fixed, annual fee.
Past President Samuel Worley with Genevieve Blatt who was the first woman elected to a statewide political office in Pennsylvania and became the first woman to sit as a Pennsylvania appellate judge.

Congressman George Gekas, pictured here speaking at a PSAB conference, represented Pennsylvania’s 17th District from 1983-2002.

Former Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel took the time for a picture with an active borough official and Past President Robert Tomasic, pictured right.

The legislative component of PSAB conferences has been a staple since 1911, and pictured here is Senator J. Doyle Corman during a panel discussion.

Pictured from left to right are: Past President Sam Worley, Past President Mary Ripley, Governor Richard Thornburgh, Department of Community Affairs Shirley Dennis, an Past President Bob Tomasic.

Governor Richard Thornburgh sits amidst local government representatives during a bill signing ceremony.

Governor Mark Schweiker participated in the annual Local Government Day activities when he served as Lieutenant Governor.

Governor Robert Casey assumed the podium during a press conference in the Capitol’s rotunda.

Senator Bob Robbins from the 50th District has participated in numerous legislative panels for PSAB during his tenure.

Jonathan Johnson from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, pictured here speaking during a conference, has also been a regular contributor to Borough News through the By the Numbers column for a number of years.

President Marion Alexander discussing legislative issues with Senator David “Chip” Brightbill (48th Dist.) and a colleague.
Budget Secretary Robert Bittendender addressed borough officials during a conference.

Born in Pennsylvania, Newton “Newt” Gingrich served as the U.S. Speaker of the House from 1995-1999, and while in the Commonwealth, he visited with borough officials in Hummelstown.

Representative Camille “Bud” George, serving the 74th District, was elected Mayor of Houtzdale in 2011.

Governor Tom Ridge spoke during his tenure at an Annual Conference.

During a legislative conference, Mayor Marion Alexander from Hummelstown introduced a panel of legislators that included Senator Jeffrey Piccola (15th Dist.), Representative Terry Van Horne (54th Dist.) and Representative Dave Steil (31st Dist.)

Prior to his 2010 election, Lieutenant Governor James Cawley spoke to borough officials and had a photo opportunity with Past President Robert “Doc” Orr.
Governor Edward Rendell spoke during PSAB conferences both while serving as Mayor of Philadelphia and Governor of the Commonwealth.

While at the Capitol for an advocacy event, Governor Mark Schweiker spoke on behalf of boroughs in the rotunda.

A Pennsylvania resident, Doreen Welsh, who is best known for her service as a flight attendant during the “Miracle on the Hudson,” regaled borough officials of the experience during a conference.

Representative Mauree Gingrich (101st Dist.) served as a Borough Council Member in Palmyra prior to seeking office in the House of Representatives.

As a co-anchor for PBS NewsHour, Judy Woodruff has a breadth of experience covering politics, and as a PSAB keynote speaker, she engaged the audience in a political questions and answers session.

Dubbed “lobby days,” a key PSAB service includes assembling staff and borough officials to speak with their legislators as advocates for local government.
PSAB staff offers expertise on legislative issues as borough officials seek to engage their legislators on policy issues.

Prior to the gubernatorial election, Borough News interviewed the candidates.

While participating in a press conference for the FHLBank, Senator Robert Casey, Jr. spent time discussing economic development issues with PSAB staff.

In 2011, the General Assembly increased the bidding thresholds for the Borough Code, and pictured from left to right in the front during the bill signing are: Senator Bob Robbins (50th Dist.), Governor Thomas Corbett, and Representative Mark Keller (86th Dist.).

Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll attended a number of PSAB conferences, and here she can be seen with Past President Ross Watts (left) and Past President Thomas Stanton.

In 2008, a number of municipal officials and local government association representatives were present for the bill signing of H20 PA, which provided significant for infrastructure funding; pictured in the two rows from left to right, starting with the front row are: Senator Patricia Vance (31st Dist.), Governor Edward Rendell, Senator Raphael Musto (14th Dist.), and Representative Gene DiGirolomo (18th Dist.), Representative Scott Conklin (77th Dist.), and Representative Glen Grell (87th Dist.).
Accompanied by the Local Government Commission (left) and PSAB staff, Scott Sistek, Chair of the Borough Code Revision Committee, testified about House Bill 1702 – “the Borough Code bill” – to the House Local Government Committee.

During PSAB’s 100th anniversary events, former Ebensburg Mayor Charles Moyer and his wife Rose; Marlin “Mud” Moore, Coudersport Borough Secretary; and Patricia Rinebolt, Council Member from Saxonburg spent time speaking with Senator John Eichelberger (30th Dist.).

After a conference session, Barry Denk, Director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, took time to answer borough officials’ questions.

Pictured here from left to right are: Past President Thomas Oliverio, Past President Ross Watts, Past President Helen Jackson, Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll, Past President Thomas Stanton, Congressman Tim Holden (17th Dist.) and Past President Ann Simonetti.

While speaking during a legislative panel, Representative Mark McNaughton (104th Dist.), Representative Mauree Gingrich (101st Dist.), Representative Robert Freeman (136th Dist.) and Representative Will Gabig (199th Dist.) were jovial while discussing local government matters.

Members of the Resolutions & Policy Steering Committee and PSAB staff met with Lieutenant Governor James Cawley to present issues of legislative importance to borough officials.
Borough officials and PSAB staff gathered after a Local Government Day luncheon.

After a meeting with local government officials and associations, Department of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolf spoke with Past President Helen Jackson.

During the 2010 Annual Conference, PCN taped its journalists roundtable program in front of a live audience of borough officials.

Department of Transportation Secretary Allen Biehler answered questions from borough officials regarding transportation infrastructure.

As a general session speaker during PSAB’s 100th anniversary events, Mary Matalin and her husband, James Carville, debated political issues.

Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick welcomed borough officials from across the Commonwealth to the county, and he was pleased to do so as he was a former elected borough official in Steelton.
Prior to being a Congressman, Pat Meehan addressed a PSAB conference as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The energy was high during PSAB’s centennial conference as Roy Firestone sang, danced and did interpretations as the event’s keynote speaker.

Governor Tom Corbett addressed banquet attendees during the conference and helped inform the diverse audience of Pennsylvania’s economy.

Representative Stan Saylor (94th Dist.) addressed borough officials, answering numerous questions, during a conference lobby day in Harrisburg.

Senator Rick Santorum spoke during a spring conference, speaking about issues pertaining to the state and nation.

At a press conference promoting legislation to address the issue of tax-exempt properties, Mayor Bruce Hockersmith described the situation of Shippensburg, his home borough.
James Carville, the “Ragin’ Cajun,” articulated his perspectives as a counter to what his wife, Mary Matalin, spoke about.

Chris Cap, who became PSAB’s Executive Vice President in 2012, spoke with Senator John Gordner (27th Dist.).

After Matalin and Carville spoke, they took a few minutes for a photo with PSAB’s leadership.

Prior to a legislative panel, members of the General Assembly met with PSAB Government Affairs staff to review current policy positions.

After addressing banquet attendees at PSAB’s 100th Annual Conference, Governor Tom Corbett shook hands with Scott Rehrig, Lehighton Borough Council Vice President.

Representative Paul Costa (34th Dist.), Representative Mauree Gingrich (101st Dist.), and Representative Timothy Solobay (48th Dist.) answered questions from borough officials.
Prior to serving as the President for the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Robert Wonderling served as a Senator and was a legislative panel participant.

Colonel Rick Searfoss, a PSAB Annual Conference keynote speaker, is a veteran of three space flights and has logged over 39 days in space.

Ed Troxell, PSAB Director of Government Affairs, is pictured here speaking with Fred Reddig, the Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development’s Governor’s Center for Local Government Services.

Representatives from Pennsylvania’s local government associations participated in a bill signing for Senate Bill 1063, which revamped earned income tax collection in the Commonwealth; pictured in the front row from left to right are: Department of Community and Economic Development Dennis Yablonsky, Representative David Levdansky (39th Dist.), Governor Edward Rendell, and Senator Jane Earl (49th Dist.)

After speaking during a luncheon, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis spent time speaking with borough officials.

Representatives from Pennsylvania’s local government associations participated in a press conference for Representative Samuel Rohrer’s (128th Dist.) Emergency Mandate Suspension Act, which was a legislative initiative to help municipalities with unfunded mandates.
During a town hall meeting in Lewistown, Past President Ann Simonetti presented Senator Arlen Spector with a plaque in honor of his dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

Representatives from the Local Government Commission, a diverse cross section of borough officials, and PSAB staff all played important roles in the initiative to revise the Borough Code, and this picture is from the last formal committee meeting in Harrisburg.

In 2005, PSAB leadership and staff met with Department of Environmental Protection local government liaisons and Deputy Secretary Eugene DePasquale.

Legislators are a common sight at many County Boroughs Association Meetings, and Representative Dick Stephenson (8th Dist.) is pictured here addressing a Mercer County meeting.
Past President Carmon Flynn, Sr. posed with Miss Pennsylvania after she attended and sang during an annual conference.

Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner spoke to borough officials about the relationship between municipalities and the State Police in addition to providing an overview of the response to the Nickel Mines incident that shocked the country.

A southwest regional representative for the Department of Community and Economic Development’s Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, Michael Foreman has presented at numerous conferences and helped educate borough officials on a variety of topics.

As an American Major League Baseball team manager, Sparky Anderson was the first manager to win the World Series in both leagues, but as a conference speaker, he was able to bring his leadership experience to the local level.

Former Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Sam McCullough addressed borough officials during an advocacy event.

U.S. Congressman John Peterson (5th Dist.) joined borough officials during a fall conference to discuss issues important to the Commonwealth.
The Commonwealth will confront numerous challenges in the coming years as various socio-economic factors take shape. Coal and steel are no longer major contributors to the Pennsylvania economy they were in the 20th century, yet Pennsylvania and our statewide municipalities appear to be entering a transitional stage that requires proactive, strategic approaches from PSAB. This continued commitment will involve the delivery of exceptional support to member boroughs through advocacy, education, research and numerous programs and services.

The 2010 U.S. Census Report indicates that Pennsylvania is home to over 12.7 million people, which is a marginal, 3.4% increase over 2000 census population figures. Boroughs continue to serve as viable communities for a significant number of Pennsylvanians who are attracted to the diverse opportunities available. Pennsylvania’s structure creates highly accessible and accountable officials at the local level, and PSAB will continue to highlight how boroughs are functional and essential elements of that structure.

PSAB will continue its commitment to serve as the official advocate for borough governments on a broad set of issues pertinent to members. As a major example, Pennsylvania’s transportation infrastructure is aging significantly due to decades of under investment, and the continued deferral of necessary improvements by the Commonwealth presents a threat to local economies that

In recent years, natural gas drilling has brought changing dynamics to the Commonwealth by way of the economy, the environment, emergency services, housing and social impacts. As developments continue, PSAB will be guiding and listening to members as we navigate this new era of growth.
aim to attract sustaining commerce. PSAB seeks to promote a comprehensive policy and approach for funding these essential assets while also advocating transportation as an urgent priority of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and U.S. Congress.

Natural gas drilling has also proliferated across Pennsylvania and subsequently produced immense economic opportunities; however, the development of natural gas must be conducted in a responsible manner that protects the environment and safeguards Pennsylvania citizens. Pennsylvania boroughs will be major stakeholders in this development as they experience impacts upon housing, roads, bridges, other local infrastructure, social services, emergency response services and public safety services. Our positioning in these public policy matters will be a major ingredient in the desired success of this multi-faceted economic opportunity that has the potential to span decades.

Budgetary constraints caused by two recessionary periods in the first decade of the 21st century will present challenges to borough officials that attempt to meet the service demands of their local constituents. Public safety, transportation, water infrastructure and recreation facilities will continue to serve as high priority issues that require funding through various means. As the Pennsylvania General Assembly considers the comprehensive update of the Borough Code, PSAB will advocate for effective, statutorily authorized governance tools enabling our members to manage their local budgets effectively.

Today, just as in 1911, PSAB is committed to serving the interests of the Commonwealth’s boroughs, which, for example, range from infrastructure maintenance and improvement to revitalization, economic stability, balanced budgets and recreational opportunities. The Association strives to help boroughs create a bright future tomorrow’s generations.
Leadership is perhaps PSAB’s single greatest asset. There are many thousands of dynamic borough officials who have made significant contributions to the Association dating back to 1911. It is fair to conclude that each of these special individuals, who came from numerous boroughs around the Commonwealth, believed in Thomas Chrostwaite’s compelling vision; he believed that a strong Pennsylvania was contingent upon local governments being unified as one voice through PSAB.

Mr. Chrostwaite’s civic spirit serves as a shining inspiration for all borough officials and the future leaders who will guide the Association through the 21st century. The continued fostering of borough leadership is essential because boroughs signify a major pillar of our democracy.

PSAB will continue to proudly stand for excellence in local government and serve as an active conduit for aggregating the strength of Pennsylvania’s boroughs as Mr. Chrostwaite envisioned. Together, through the coordinated efforts of PSAB, there is a great deal more that can be accomplished as we continuously prove the fundamental notion that borough government is effective because it is closest to the people.

As PSAB moves into its next century of service, it will continue to draw upon the strengths and assets of its members to display the effectiveness of borough government.
PSAB EXISTS TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF PENNSYLVANIA’S BOROUGHS, AND IT IS THE STAFF WHO HELP THE ASSOCIATION ACHIEVE ITS MISSION. THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF A CORE GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS, PSAB CONDUCTS EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS, PRODUCES PUBLICATIONS, PROVIDES RESEARCH AND INFORMATION, PURSUES LEGISLATIVE ISSUES, MANAGES MEMBER PROGRAMS, AND CONSTANTLY SEeks NEW OPPORTUNITIES THAT WOULD BENEFIT BOROUGHS. IN 1911, THOMAS CHROSTWAITE WAS THE SOLE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PSAB, AND TODAY, THE ASSOCIATION IS COMPRISED OF 22 INDIVIDUALS WHO CONSTANTLY STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE.