



# The Bulletin

*The official publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations*

## PA Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations Fall 2022

Fall

2022

**PROTECTION  
THROUGH  
LEGISLATION  
THROUGH  
EDUCATION**

**Mike Snyder**  
President

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Executive Director

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### Act 49 Set to Expire at Year's End

Act 49 of 2022, which **permitted service organizations to use 100% of their Small Games of Chance money to cover their general operating expenses**, including rent, payroll and utilities, is set to expire. Act 118, which initially including rent, payroll and utilities, is set to expire. Act 118, which initially provided for the 100% use, expired on June 10, 2022, but Senator Brooks' legislation extended this allowance until December 31, 2022, in order to give these service organizations additional time to recover from the pandemic and remain a vital part of our communities. The General Assembly did not pass an additional extension prior to the end of session. Therefore, eligible entities must return to the prior practice of accounting for and use of proceeds. **As a reminder, that means that starting January 1, 2023, "no less than 60% of the (SGOC) proceeds shall be paid for public interest purposes within one year of the end of the calendar year in which the proceeds were obtained."**

**Please make sure your club members and those in charge of your books are aware of this, and resume compliance. If you have any questions, contact the PFFSO office.**

### PFFSO Board of Directors October 23 Meeting Highlights

The PFFSO Board met on October 23, at the Heidelberg Country Club in Altoona, PA, with new **President Mike Snyder** presiding. The Board discussed various matters, including an update on the financials, the newly adopted By-Laws amendments passed at the June convention in Erie, and legislative issues effecting clubs that have been moving in the General Assembly.

Executive Director **Ted Mowatt, CAE** reported that since no unit has agreed to host the 2023 convention, he and his staff will seek a venue in the Harrisburg/Southcentral PA region. When a location has been established, more details will be announced. Mowatt hopes that all units will pitch in to make the convention a success.

Various Unit Directors reported on activities of their units, and noted that many clubs continue to struggle in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Collecting dues has been a struggle. PFFSO staff offered to directly bill unit member clubs, at the appropriate level, and send the unit portion to the treasurer. Directors appreciated the offer, and will take it back to their units.

**All PFFSO member dues bills were processed and sent out in December.**

### Owlett Public Safety Bills Signed into Law

A bill sponsored by **Rep. Clint Owlett (R-Tioga/Bradford/Potter)** that aims to improve public safety in the Commonwealth has been signed into law.

**House Bill 397**, now **Act 104 of 2022**, will provide much-needed help to the state's emergency response agencies. To help fire and ambulance companies with the recruitment and retention of

personnel, Act104 provides funding for tuition and loan assistance for higher education as an incentive to students who volunteer for fire and EMS services. It also allocates \$1 million to fund scholarships for EMS providers who successfully complete approved training to make that training more affordable to build the EMS workforce.

The law also dedicates funding to helping the organizations meet growing financial demands, including \$1.5 million in additional funding for EMS companies through the annual Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program; \$500,000 for a grant program to support capital improvements to first responder emergency services training facilities; \$500,000 for a municipal fire department capital grant program to build, renovate or otherwise modernize facilities, and purchase or repair equipment; and \$250,000 for the current firefighter online training program.

It would also provide \$500,000 to bomb squads for the safe removal, transportation, storage and destruction of confiscated fireworks; and dedicate \$250,000 for a public service campaign on the safe operation of fireworks. Finally, the bill would ensure fire and/or EMS companies that have consolidated will continue for a period of 20 years to receive the same level of grant funding they would have had they not merged.

### Democrats Sweep Statewide Races

The “red wave” many expected in Pennsylvania's statewide races ended very differently in reality on election night. **Democrat Attorney General Josh Shapiro was elected governor**, defeating state Sen. Doug Mastriano, R-Franklin, while. **Lt. Gov. John Fetterman** defeated Republican Mehmet Oz in the race to succeed U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey. Both results are historic, as Democrats will hold onto the governor's mansion for a third consecutive term for the first time in several decades, and with Fetterman's victory, Pennsylvania will have two Democrats in the U.S. Senate when he joins Sen. Bob Casey.

Several long-time House incumbents from both parties were unseated on November 8. Though it took over a week to finalize all of the race results, Democrats, as expected, gained just enough seats in the state House to surprisingly regain the majority in the chamber. In western Pennsylvania, **Rep. Chris Sainato, D-Lawrence**, lost to Republican challenger Marla Brown, while on the other side of the state, Republican **Reps. Chris Quinn, R-Delaware, Tim Hennessey (R-Chester), Todd Polinchok (R-Bucks) and Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery), all were upset.**

Democrats won 102 seats in the just-completed election cycle, good for a nominal majority. But they are already actually down to 101 members because of the October death of **Rep. Tony DeLuca (D-Allegheny)**, and they could be down to 99 by Jan. 17, because **Rep. Summer Lee** has been elected to the U.S. House from Pittsburgh, and **Rep. Austin Davis (D-Allegheny)** is set to be the state's new lieutenant governor on January 17.

Special elections will be required to fill all three seats, and although they all will likely be filled by Democrats, Republicans are not conceding the majority just yet. Those specials will be called by whoever is elected Speaker by the House on January 3.

The results were much more predictable in the state Senate, where the Republicans will hold a 28-22 majority in the new session, with each party retaining control of the seats it held going in, and Democrats regaining the seat previously held by retiring independent Sen. John Yudichak, who had left the Democrat caucus and sat with the Republicans for the past two years.

With control of the state House still to be decided, the chamber also faces a large number of open committee chairs that will contribute to the political uncertainty in the weeks ahead. The committee chairs play a vital role in legislative process and they bring their own styles, policy positions and decisions on whether to move or bottle up bills, often with leadership input.

### Senate Republicans Elect Leadership Team for New Legislative Session

Senate Republicans elected their leadership team for the 2023-24 legislative session on November 15. **Sen. Kim Ward (R-39)** has been elected to serve as interim Senate President Pro Tempore from Dec. 1 until Jan. 2. On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Senate will vote for a President Pro Tempore to serve for the new two-year legislative session. She becomes the first woman to hold the position, the third-highest post in Pennsylvania government. She previously served as Senate Majority Leader.

The President Pro Tempore is responsible for appointing the chairpersons and members of the 22 standing committees of the Senate and serves as an ex-officio member of all committees. She presides over the Senate floor when the Lieutenant Governor is unavailable and fills the position of Lieutenant Governor if the office becomes vacant. The office also refers bills and resolutions to the appropriate Senate committees for consideration.

**Sen. Joe Pittman (R-41)** will serve as Senate Majority Leader. His duties include overseeing the legislative agenda, developing policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, and playing a key role in floor debates. He also has a major role in negotiating issues with the Administration and House of Representatives and in coordinating action on the Senate floor. Pittman previously chaired the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee.

**Sen. Ryan Aument (R-36)** was elected Majority Whip. The duties include acting as assistant floor leader, working to gain support for legislation and ensuring that Republican policies and strategies are maintained through the cooperative efforts of the majority caucus.

**Sen. Scott Martin (R-13)** will chair the Senate Appropriations Committee. The committee reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in negotiating and developing the state budget.

**Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-28)** will serve as Majority Caucus Chair for the 2023-24 legislative session. The chair presides over Republican caucus meetings to discuss bills and amendments and to develop caucus strategy.

**Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-46)** was elected Senate Majority Caucus Secretary to oversee all executive nominations submitted to the Senate for confirmation. She will coordinate the review of the background and experience of nominees and ensure that proper documentation is submitted.

**2023-2024 SENATE LEADERSHIP ELECTION RESULTS****Senate Republican Leadership:**

**Interim President Pro Tempore:** Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland)  
**Leader:** Joe Pittman (R-Indiana)  
**Whip:** Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster)  
**Appropriations Chair:** Scott Martin (R-Lancaster)  
**Caucus Chair:** Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York)  
**Caucus Secretary:** Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)  
**Policy Chair:** Dan Laughlin (R-Erie)  
**Caucus Administrator:** Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne)

**Senate Democratic Leadership:**

**Leader:** Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)  
**Whip:** Tina Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)  
**Appropriations Chair:** Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)  
**Appropriations Vice Chair:** Tim Kearney (D-Delaware)  
**Whip:** Tina Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)  
**Caucus Chair:** Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny)  
**Caucus Secretary:** Maria Collett (D-Montgomery)  
**Caucus Administrator:** Judy Schwank (D-Berks)  
**Policy Chair:** Katie Muth (D-Montgomery)

**House Caucuses Elect New Leaders Amid Uncertainty of Majority**

The surprising flip of the state House to Democrat majority will not be cemented until three special elections are held in the spring, which are expected to give the Democrats back the 102-101 majority they won in the November elections. In the interim, the respective caucuses held internal leadership elections in November. As expected, Democrat leader Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) and current House Speaker Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) were re-elected to the top spots by their caucuses, and will likely face off against each other when the House convenes on January 3, to serve the chamber as Speaker in the new session. Due to the House changing its operating rules on the final voting session day in November, all votes for Speaker must be cast in person next year, with no remote voting option. This change, which was voted on strictly party lines, to reverse the pandemic voting rules, may be problematic for McClinton and the Democrats, as one of the elected caucus members, Anthony DeLuca, passed away just prior to his re-election, and Rep. Summer Lee (D-Allegheny) will be sworn in to Congress in DC on that same day, perhaps giving the Republicans at least temporary control of the House.

**2023-2024 HOUSE LEADERSHIP ELECTION RESULTS****House Democratic Leadership:**

**Leader:** Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia)  
**Appropriations Chairman:** Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)  
**Whip:** Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)  
**Caucus Chair:** Dan Miller (D-Allegheny)  
**Caucus Secretary:** Tina Davis (D-Bucks)  
**Caucus Administrator:** Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)  
**Policy Chair:** Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie)

**House Republican Leadership:**

**Leader:** Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)  
**Appropriations Chairman:** Seth Grove (R-York)  
**Whip:** Tim O'Neal (R-Washington)  
**Caucus Chair:** George Dunbar (R-Westmoreland)  
**Caucus Secretary:** Martina White (R-Philadelphia)  
**Caucus Administrator:** Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland)  
**Policy Chair:** Josh Kail (R-Beaver)

**From the PA Bulletin**

NONE

**Legislative Activity**

The following bills of interest were introduced and acted upon in the General Assembly since the last Bulletin. Note: the 2021-22 legislative session ended officially on November 30. All bills not passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor died at that time, and must start the process over with reintroduction next session.

**HB 397** RE: [Tax Credits for Volunteer First Responders](#) (by Rep. Clint Owlett, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in Nonprofit Security Grant Fund and in expiration, amends date to 2029. Provides money shall be used by the state fire commissioner for a safety campaign and fireworks safety education shall be used for a public safety campaign. The commissioner shall create guidelines for the development, delivery and maintenance of fire and emergency services training and an education certification management system and prepare and submit an annual report on the system. **Capital grants for municipal fire departments shall be utilized by the commissioner** to administer capital grants to establish or modernize emergency medical services (EMS) providers and emergency service training centers and acquire, renovate, or purchase equipment and facilities. The commissioner shall utilize the money for reimbursement for Pennsylvania bomb squads to renovate, modernize, or acquire training or equipment. In fire relief formula study, provides the State Fire Advisory Board shall issue a report on its findings and recommendations no later than December 21, 2023. In award of grants, and in award of grants, specifies municipalities with one volunteer fire company and one EMS company consolidate their resources, the consolidated entity shall be eligible to receive a grant not exceeding the amount of the combined total. **Provides tuition and loan assistance for active volunteers.** Provides definitions for active volunteer, agency, approved institution of higher learning, approved program of education, certificate of eligibility, emergency medical services agency, fund, program, qualified applicant, tuition or loan assistance, volunteer fire company, and volunteer organization. **Establishes the Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance Program** within the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to provide tuition or loan assistance to active volunteers with volunteer organizations who are students at approved institutions of higher learning. Provides scholarships for recruiting, training and retention shall be issued to eligible EMS providers.

**PFFSO Position:** SUPPORT**Approved by the Governor (Act No. [104](#) of 2022)**

**HB 2682** RE: Veteran-Owned Businesses (By Rep. Brad Roae, et al)  
Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veteran-owned small businesses, adding a section on small diverse businesses, which would include veteran-owned businesses. Provides that a veteran-owned business would not be required to seek separate small diverse business verification in order to be considered a small diverse business.

**PFFSO Position: SUPPORT**

**Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 9/26/2022**

**SB 1027** RE: [Junior Firefighters](#) (by Sen. Patrick Stefano, et al)  
Amends the Child Labor Act, providing for minors serving in volunteer emergency service organizations. Provides a minor may not enter a burning structure under any circumstance except when engaged in a training session of an interior firefighting module with live burns and the minor is 17 years of age, has permission to engage in the training from a fire chief and parent or guardian of the minor, and is under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor.

**PFFSO Position: SUPPORT**

**Approved by the Governor, 11/3/2022 (Act No. [155](#) of 2022)**

**SB 1083** RE: [Follow the Active Duty Spouse Act](#) (by Sen. Lisa Baker, et al)

Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law, in compensation, further providing for ineligibility for compensation; and in shared-work program, further providing for shared-work plan requirements, for effective period of shared-work plan and for participating employer responsibilities. Establishes that a claimant shall not be disqualified for voluntarily leaving work if the claimant left such work to accompany a spouse who is on active duty with the United States Armed Forces and is required to relocate due to permanent change of station orders, activation orders or unit deployment orders and such relocation would make it impractical or unreasonably difficult, as determined by the department, for the claimant to continue employment with the claimant's employer. Removes language in shared-work plan requirements and provides that the effective period of an approved shared-work plan begins with the first calendar week following the date on which the employer submits the plan to the department or on the first calendar week following the date the employer-provided in the plan, whichever is later. Removes the language providing for participating employer responsibilities.

**PFFSO Position: SUPPORT**

**Approved by the Governor, 11/3/2022 (Act No. [156](#) of 2022)**

**SB 1332** RE: Online Bingo (by Sen. Michele Brooks, et al)  
Amends the Bingo Law, further providing for rules for licensing and operation. Provides that a licensed association may sell tickets to its bingo event online, but the purchase of the online tickets may only be made by debit card and not a credit card.

**PFFSO Position: Support**

**Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development, 9/13/2022**

#### **Cosponsorship Memos Filed**

**The following memos have been circulated, notifying the General Assembly and the public of various legislators' intentions to introduce bills in the upcoming legislative session.**

**HCO 129** (Neilson- [Defining Slot Machines](#))

Provides a uniform definition for "slot machine" in the Crimes Code to coincide with definition in the Gaming Law  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**HCO 266** (Deasy) - Establishes the Pennsylvania Distilled Spirits Industry Promotion Board.  
**Filed, 12/8/2022**

**SCO 190** (J. Ward) - Allows restaurant licensees with a wine expanded permit the ability to sell wine and beer at any register, require ID card readers at these registers and permit a sales clerk under 18 to operate these registers except when alcohol would be sold.  
**Filed, 12/2/2022**

**SCO 210** (Yaw) - Amends the Small Games Act to modernize and bolster fundraising of charitable organizations and imposes penalties and background checks for licensed tavern gaming.  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**SCO 234** (Bartolotta) - Directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the economic impact of nonprofit organizations within the commonwealth.  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**SCO 237** (J. Ward) - Legislative package that supports volunteer firefighters and other emergency service personnel.  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**SCO 244** (Brooks) - Creates a state tax credit to be utilized for communities to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**SCO 248** (Brooks) - Requires licensors to exempt charitable nonprofits from retail food facility licensing if the nonprofit is operational no more than 12 days per year.  
**Filed, 12/5/2022**

**SCO 270** (Brooks) - Devotes five percent of the philanthropic raffle revenue to local fire departments.  
**Filed, 12/6/2022**

**SCO 276** (Brooks) - Provides fire companies with an option to utilize other available funding to pay for their monthly expenses.  
**Filed, 12/6/2022**

**SCO 279** (Mastriano) - Allows volunteer firefighters to have the option of a "volunteer firefighter" designation placed on their driver's license.  
**Filed, 12/6/2022**

**SCO 307** (Brooks) - Provides that VFWs and American Legions are tax-exempt.

**Filed, 12/7/2022**

**SCO 386** (Brooks) - Establishes a pilot program for fire companies with a Small Games of Chance license to conduct two online raffles in the upcoming year.

**Filed, 12/13/2022**

**SCO 387** (Brooks) - Allows for the ability to purchase a ticket to a bingo event online. for the ability to purchase a ticket to a bingo event online.

**Filed, 12/13/2022**

**SCO 388** (Costa) - Eliminates loopholes that leaves workers exposed to secondhand smoke, expands the definition of smoking to include e-cigarettes, and gives localities the ability to enact smoke-free ordinances.

**Filed, 12/13/2022**

#### Upcoming meetings of Interest

Some House Committee meetings and session can be viewed online at: <http://www.pahousegop.com/>

Senate Committee meetings and session can be streamed at: <http://www.pasenategop.com/>

The 2021-22 Legislative Session ended officially on November 30, at midnight

#### 2023 SPRING HOUSE SESSION DAYS

Session days for the House have not been announced. The House will convene on January 3, to elect a new Speaker, who will announce the spring session schedule.

#### 2023 SPRING SENATE SESSION DAYS

January	3, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
February	1, 27, 28
March	1, 6, 7, 8
April	24, 25, 26
May	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
June	5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

#### Public Meetings of the Liquor Control Board

Public meetings commence at 11:00 AM in **Room 117 of PLCB** Headquarters in the Northwest Office Building in Harrisburg, PA. Meetings are open for in person attendance by members of the public and are also conducted telephonically. The telephone conference call can be accessed by dialing 1-234-720-6995, then entering access code 3906561# to listen to these meetings.

**2023 Meeting dates: January 11, January 25, February 8, March 1, March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, June 7, 2023, June 28, July 19, August 9, August 30, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, December 6, December 20.**

Note: Thank you for paying your 2022 membership dues. Dues Bills for clubs and units for 2023 will have been mailed. **Direct member dues are \$75 annually**, Unit Dues are up to the County Unit. If you know a club that should be a direct or Unit member, please have them contact the PFFSO office, or direct them to the PFFSO website: [www.pffso.org](http://www.pffso.org). All PA clubs have been mailed a solicitation to join the federation. Your help in bringing them in the fold is appreciated!

Thank you all for your continued support of the Federation. We still have a lot of work to do, and we do it better together! The staff at the Federation wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous New Year!

**Would you like to receive this Bulletin in electronic format, to speed up dissemination to other clubs? Send an email to our State Executive Director, Ted Mowatt, at: [tmowatt@wannerassoc.com](mailto:tmowatt@wannerassoc.com). Thanks.**



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