

PSACA CONVENTION MINUTES
SUSQUEHANNA PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, NEW MILFORD, PA
OCTOBER 7-9, 2024

Monday, October 7, 2024, at 9:02 am President Laura Cunningham (Juniata) opened the 2024 convention & business meeting. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, a moment of silence for recent shootings & opening prayer was given by Luther Black (Columbia).

Laura presented the convention hosts, Susquehanna County auditors Bob Deluca, Rick Ainey and Stephanie Sojka-Reisch. Bob Deluca welcomed everyone and introduced the 3 Susquehanna County commissioners who also gave a brief introduction and welcomed the auditors.

Executive board members were introduced.

Secretary Gail Sebring (Pike) took roll call. Bedford, Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Jefferson, Mifflin, Montour, Perry, & Snyder counties were not represented.

Treasurer's Report: Holly Falkosky (Fulton) presented the treasurer's report.

Total Income: \$26,308.97

Total Expenses: \$17,383.01

Checking account balance as of 10/1/2024: \$2,586.16

Money Market account balance - \$31,093.06

CD#1 balance - \$25,355.73

CD#2 balance (for legal fees) - \$30,965.40

Total in accounts: \$90,000.35

Motion to accept treasurer's report: 1st - Tom Foran (Pike), 2nd - Luther Black (Columbia). Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Jolene Frampton's (Clarion) minutes from the 2023 convention were emailed by Gail Sebring (Pike) to members prior to the meeting. Motion to accept 2023 convention minutes; 1st – Carla Komar (Wayne), 2nd – Stephanie Sojka-Reisch (Susquehanna). Motion carried.

Legislative Report: Tom Foran (Pike) presented the County Code Consolidation bill passed (now Act 14 in 2024). House Bill 425 regarding short term rentals resolution is in the process of reviewing other states' reporting systems to develop a standardized system for the Commonwealth.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee: Ashley Darby (Wyoming) reported the regular accounts & the 2023 convention account were reviewed. All books were in order.

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By-law Committee: Laura Dickson (Wyoming) had nothing to report.

Nominating Committee: The positions open for nominations are President, VP and a member-at-large. Anyone interested was to speak to Carol Manbeck (Union), Penny Kipp (Fulton) or Luther Black (Columbia).

Budget Committee: Tom Foran (Pike) presented the proposed 2025 budget. Changes were made to last year's budget. There is a projected increase in income due to associate memberships and interest acquired by the CD and Money Market accounts. Convention training expenses were decreased by \$1,000 and E-board meeting & mileage expenses were increased by the same. Motion to approve the budget: 1st – Michelle Crowell (Clinton) 2nd – Mimm Anstine (Juniata) Motion carried.

Continuing Education: Tom Brown (Warren) will be sending each county a survey asking what accounts they audit to get ideas for future convention workshop topics & speakers.

Warren County will host the 2025 convention. Warren County auditors, Suzanne Swanson, Heleena Swanson and Thomas Brown, have permission to open a bank account as hosts, using the PSACA's EIN, for purposes pertaining to the fall convention.

Ashley Darby (Wyoming) introduced guest speaker **PA Auditor General Tim DeFoor**. He covered operational details of the auditor general office and expanded on 4 types of audits – financial, performance, compliance and statute.

PA Chief Deputy Attorney General Danielle A. Brown and Dauphin County District Attorney Francis Chardo reviewed the process to file the annual Asset Forfeiture report. The report must be filed by September 30th each year.

After lunch, Tom Foran (Pike) introduced the next guest speaker, **A.C. Stickel, the Blair County Controller and PSAECO president**. A.C. covered hotel tax issues, including how to find homes registered in Airbnb or VRBO as well as questions regarding auditing tax collectors.

Wyoming County District Attorney Joe Peters was introduced by Ashley Darby (Wyoming). The DA emphasized the value of following the money, referencing auditing. He mentioned terrorism is the only major crime that is not based on making money, expanded on past experiences and gave suggestions of information to review if a suspicion arises.

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Tuesday, October 8, 2024 business meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by President Laura Cunningham (Juniata).

Secretary Gail Sebring (Pike) took roll call.

Luther Black (Columbia) presented the nominations:

President – Bob Deluca (Susquehanna) 2 yr. term

Vice President – Ashley Darby (Wyoming) 2 yr. term

Member-at-large – Jamie Weaver (Venango) 3 yr. term

The floor was opened for further nominations. There were none. Motion to accept the slate of officers; 1st - Mimm Anstine (Juniata) 2nd - Tom Foran (Pike) Motion carried.

Legislative Representatives appointed were Tom Foran, Rick Ainey & Laura Dickson as alternate.

Tentative 2025 convention dates are October 5-8, 2025 in Warren County.

Open discussions were held among the whole group regarding auditing the tax claim department, addressing issues, concerns and possible resolutions, followed by a brief tour of Susquehanna's Public Safety Building.

After lunch, **past president Luther Black (Columbia)** spoke on health and safety in the workplace sharing personal experiences. Luther made suggestions to keep us at our best including diet and exercise as well as symptoms which should not be disregarded.

Former Crawford County auditor / newly elected **Crawford County Commissioner Chris Seeley** was welcomed back. Chris spoke concerning the usage and compliance of PA opioid settlement dollars. A new fund account, PA Opioid Misuse & Addiction Abatement Trust, has been established due to the rise of illegal opioid sales.

Chris Seeley introduced his fiancé, **Katie Wickert** who is a local government planning specialist with **PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)**. Katie discussed various means of acquiring funds for projects in counties via grants or other sources. Guidelines for grant funds are available through the DCED website.

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:45am President Laura Cunningham (Juniata) asked for a motion to adjourn the 2024 convention & close the meeting 1st – Tom Foran (Pike), 2nd - Luther Black (Columbia). Motion carried.

Submitted by PSACA secretary, Gail Sebring