

Winter 2005

State Representative

PAUL W. SEMMEL

187th Legislative District

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 529

Semmel Moves Berks County District Office ... Changes District Office Hours Office Opens Monday, Feb. 7

Representative Paul Semmel District Office

**Maxatawny Township Building
127 Quarry Road
Kutztown, PA 19530
Telephone: 610-683-9199**

**Email: psemmel@pahousegop.com
Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

What my office can do for you:

- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, vanity plates, and temporary placards for disabled persons).
- Copies of birth and death certificates.
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors.
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications.
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- State tax forms.
- Student aid applications.
- Free state maps, state park information, and PA Vacation Guides.
- Copies of legislation.
- Tours of the State Capitol.
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters.

To eliminate some confusion concerning the location of our Berks County office, I've decided to move our district office to the **Maxatawny Township Building, located at 127 Quarry Road in Kutztown.** Also, we've decided to change the district office hours to **Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Please remember, the Schnecksville office is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The phone number is 610-799-0187. Also, office hours are still being held every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Upper Macungie Township Building, 8330 Schantz Road, Breinigsville. The telephone number is 610-395-8180.

cut and save ✂

Representative Paul W. Semmel

District Offices & Phone Numbers

Maxatawny Township Building 610-683-9199

Schnecksville District Office 610-799-0187

**Upper Macungie
Township Building 610-395-8180**

ON THE WEB AT WWW.PAULSEMMEL.COM OR EMAIL PSEMMEL@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

Energetic Legislative Agenda Planned

As the 2005-06 legislative session gets underway, I continue to work with the House majority leadership on an energetic agenda for a safer, more prosperous Pennsylvania. Although it is an extensive program addressing a wide range of issues to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians, space limits me to a discussion of a few of my highest priorities.

As chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, my first priority will be to develop legislation based on recommendations of the committee report per House Resolution 273 of last session, which directed the committee to conduct a study to identify and understand Pennsylvania's homeland security-related needs.

We've conducted hearings on bioterrorism, mass casualty care preparedness, international transportation and port security, agri-terrorism, cyber-terrorism, the security of our water systems and utilities, and the security of our transportation and highway systems. Just prior to the end of the 2003-04 session in November, the committee issued its report identifying what needs to be done to enhance security, as well as ways to make the best use of federal Homeland Security dollars for critical infrastructure security improvements of our seaports, airports, bridges, tunnels, rail lines and water systems. Now legislation will be drafted to address these issues and I'll take the lead in moving these proposals through the House and Senate as the session moves forward.

My next priorities will be reintroduction of bills that did not make it

through the state Senate before Nov. 30, including legislation creating the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security and elevating the position of Homeland Security Director to a cabinet level position.

I'll also reintroduce my bill to modernize the provisions of both our bingo and small games of chance laws for all Pennsylvania nonprofit organizations, including volunteer emergency responders, veterans' organizations, church groups, and fraternal clubs.

Other issues of high priority on the 2004-05 legislative agenda include the following:

Public Safety

- Standardize volunteer firefighting training.
- Push to put more police on the streets.
- Bring law enforcement to the state's proposed gambling facilities.
- Assist the small and rural law enforcement agencies with technology access.
- Coordinate a state and local criminal booking system.

Education

- Assist school districts that face special needs (like rapidly growing districts and small, rural districts).
- Tie state school funding increases to property tax relief.

Health Care

- Offer employers tax credits to offer disease management programs for workers.
- Create an automatic six-month review of the adultBasic waiting list to

speed coverage to those in need.

- Ensure that top-quality doctors stay in Pennsylvania by continuing to find ways to drive down medical malpractice insurance rates.

Seniors

- Facilitate professional training for long-term care workers.
- Preserve PACE and PACENET for affordable prescription drugs.

Environment, Energy and Agriculture

- Encourage development, production and use of alternative energy sources.

Jobs and Economic Development

- Hold the line on taxes.
- Expand international trade opportunities by helping increase the export of Pennsylvania products.

Workers

- Better equip workers with the skills needed for today's jobs.

Small Business

- Help government get out of the way of small employers and cut burdensome red tape.
- Tie state school funding increases to property tax relief.
- Continue the phase-out of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax.
- Rebuild the Rainy Day Fund to prepare the state for an economic downturn.



Bill Clarifying One Call System Now Law

My legislation clarifying the Department of Labor and Industry's (L&I) enforcement authority under Pennsylvania's One Call System (OCS) was signed into law Nov. 30 as Act 199 of 2004.

Twenty years ago the legislature established a statewide system requiring utility owners to mark the location of underground utility lines and pipes and provide this information to a central clearinghouse that contractors must contact before starting excavation projects.

The measure – known as the One Call System – eliminated the potential for thousands of life-threatening accidents. Then in 1996 we granted the Department of Labor and Industry enforcement authority. However, questions arose concerning the interpretation of that section of the law. Act 199 clarifies this authority.

Our priority has always been the safety of construction workers and innocent bystanders, and the protection of nearby individuals and their property. By specifying the responsibilities of the department and penalties that may be meted out, Act 199 strengthens the objectives of the One Call System.



State Grant Program Assists Volunteer Fire, Ambulance Companies Cover Escalating Costs

It is now time for the officers of our local volunteer fire companies and ambulance services to apply for the 2004-05 Volunteer Fire Company-Volunteer Ambulance Service grant program.

Applications have been mailed from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to all of Pennsylvania's volunteer fire companies and ambulance services. The application period opened Jan. 3, and closes Feb. 28.

As I hope we all realize, our firefighters and emergency responders can use all the financial help available so they can spend a little less time fundraising and a little more time training and responding to emergencies. Act 17 of 2003 established the Volunteer Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program. Under the act, grants provided financial assistance to these organizations for the construction or renovation of their buildings; purchase or repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue equipment and support services; training; or debt reduction. However, the act provided for only a one-year grant program.

Realizing that our 2,500 volunteer emergency responder organizations throughout the Commonwealth really need legislative and financial support now more than ever, I spearheaded negotiations to get Act 80 of 2004 through the legislative process and signed by the governor.

This act re-established the Volunteer Fire Company and the Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Act. This law again provides grants to improve and enhance the capabilities of volunteer fire companies and ambulance services across the Commonwealth. The program provides \$22 million to be allocated for fire company grants and \$3 million for ambulance service grants.

Grants to volunteer fire and rescue companies range from a minimum of \$2,500 to a maximum of \$15,000 and may be used for construction or renovation of the fire company's primary structure; purchase or repair of firefighting, ambulance or rescue equipment; training; or debt reduction for previous qualified purchases.

Grants to volunteer ambulance companies range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and may be used for construction or renovation of the ambulance company's primary structure, purchase or repair of ambulance equipment, office equipment, support services, training, or debt reduction for previous qualified purchases.

The applications will include instructions to apply for the grants over the Internet and information for potential applicants choosing to request a paper application form.

Any fire company or ambulance service that does not receive an application in the near future should call my district office at 610-799-0187.

During the 2003-04 grant program, 2,564 volunteer organizations took advantage of the \$25 million grant program.

For more information on the grant process or to apply for the grant online, visit the Office of State Fire Commissioner Web site at www.OSFC.state.pa.us. Anyone needing assistance with the application may call the OSFC at 1-800-670-3473.

Legislation Outlawing Pyrotechnics in Nightclubs, Bars Now Law

An omnibus Liquor Code bill that included my amendment outlawing the use or storage of pyrotechnics in nightclubs also was signed into law in late November as Act 239 of 2004.

As you may remember, back in February 2003 the rock band Great White used pyrotechnics as part of a lights display during a performance at a nightclub in Rhode Island. The display sparked a fire that tragically killed 100 people and injured scores of others.

Pennsylvania didn't have any statute specifically outlawing the use of such pyrotechnics in clubs, most of which are very confining places with limited exits. I was deeply concerned that a similar disaster might happen in a Pennsylvania night club, so I introduced a proposal to outlaw the fireworks in such establishments.

Among other revisions, Act 239 adds a new section to the state Liquor Code specifically prohibiting the use of pyrotechnics in licensed establishments, except those displays that are performed by a pyrotechnic operator licensed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Additionally, such a display must be approved by a local municipal fire official. However, the legislation would allow golf courses to have fireworks shows on a licensed course.



REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEMMEL

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE 717-787-3017
FAX 717-783-2867

DISTRICT OFFICES:

4525 SPRING HILL DRIVE
P.O. BOX 235
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA 18078
PHONE 610-799-0187

UPPER MACUNGIE TWP. BLDG
8330 SCHANTZ ROAD
BREINIGSVILLE, PA 18031
PHONE 610-395-8180

MAXATAWNY TWP. BLDG.
127 QUARRY ROAD
KUTZTOWN, PA 19530
PHONE: 610-683-9199

Military Members Have Legal Protections

It's important for families of our active duty service members to understand that they have legal protections available to them through the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA).

The SCRA was established as an umbrella of protections to grant relief to service members and their families from various legal problems that may arise during active service.

Last session we enacted two bills guaranteeing that Guard members and reservists also are protected by the SCRA when called up to active duty depending on certain conditions.

These two new laws help with real life issues that affect thousands of Pennsylvania families by focusing on clearing obstacles that inflict needless hassle on our heroes and their families.

Act 195 of 2004 strengthens the federal SCRA in Pennsylvania by correcting a glaring absence in state law. Before the bill was enacted, reservists who defend our country on the front lines were not eligible to receive the same benefits as enlisted members upon their return home. Act 195 ensures reservists who serve in combat are given the same honor and state benefits bestowed on their "full-time soldier" comrades. These heroes and their families deserve equal treatment under the law.

Act 65 of 2004 addresses the financial losses imposed on service personnel who are reassigned or called to active duty and are trapped in housing leases.

Since servicemen and servicewomen and National Guard members and their families are especially prone to frequent moves, the "lease trap" situation comes up regularly for those simply answering the call to serve.

This new law brings Pennsylvania in line with the federal requirements and even goes a few steps further in ensuring fair treatment for our servicemen and servicewomen.

The SCRA can be used to seek relief in the following legal areas:

■ Court stays of legal proceedings

– The SCRA mandates, that on request from a service member, an automatic stay of at least 90 days must be granted for civil court proceeding when the service member is named as a defendant. This applies to civil lawsuits, child custody suits, paternity suits, and bankruptcy and administrative proceedings.



■ Termination of residential leases

– Service members can break a residential lease when called to active duty, if the lease was signed prior to active service. The SCRA also allows a service member to terminate a lease entered into while on active duty if the service member receives orders for a permanent change of station or to be deployed for 90 days or more.

■ **Protection from eviction from leased housing** – Active duty service members may request relief from eviction from leased housing as long as the property is occupied by the service member or his or her dependents for the purpose of housing. Rent cannot exceed a certain amount which is re-adjusted each year based on the rate of inflation (\$2,465 per month for 2004).

Active service members or dependents may petition the court after receiving an eviction notice. If the court finds a service member's active duty status has negatively affected his or her ability to pay rent, a postponement of eviction can be granted for up to 90 days.

■ Termination of automobile leases

– Under this provision, active service members can terminate vehicle leases under certain conditions. Service members can break an automobile lease when called to active duty, if the lease was signed prior to active service. The stipulation is that, unlike the residential lease termination, active deployment must be for at least 180 continuous days.

■ **Protection from repossession for installment contracts** – If a service member entered into an installment contract for a product before going on active duty, he or she is protected from repossession of the product as long as one payment was made prior to active service. The creditor also cannot terminate the contract without a court order.

■ **Six percent interest cap** – This provision allows for the reduction of interest rates on pre-service loans to 6 percent. Creditors must grant the rate reduction upon receiving a written request from a service member starting on the date of active service. The creditor must forgive any interest over the 6-percent rate. The 6 percent interest cap is the most used provision of the SCRA.

■ **Relief from enforcement of obligations, liabilities and taxes** – A service member or his or her dependents can petition the court for relief from an obligation or liability, including taxes, during active duty status or the six months following active service. This includes all liabilities and obligations prior to or during active duty. No fine or penalty may accrue during stays of enforcement.

The act also protects service members and their families from double taxation when married partners must work in different states due to active deployment. States may not use the military pay of a non-resident service member to increase the state income tax of the non-resident service member or spouse.

■ **Deferment of life insurance premiums** – This provision permits service members to request deferments of certain commercial life insurance premiums for the period of active service plus two years afterward. If the Department of Veterans Affairs approves the request, the United States will guarantee the payments and the policy remains in effect. The service member will have two years after the period of active service to repay all premiums and interest.

Links to the summary and complete text of the SCRA law are available on my Web site at www.paulsemmel.com. Also available is a link to the American Bar Association's Web site to legal assistance for military personnel which contains a legal readiness checklist, helpful articles, and information about obtaining local legal assistance.



Fall 2005

State Representative **PAUL W. SEMMEL** *187th Legislative District*

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather and the beautiful changing of the leaves that herald the arrival of fall. I would like to share with you what is happening at the Capitol.

This edition of my newsletter includes information about the Special Session on Property Tax Relief and provides updates on legislation that is being considered by the General Assembly. In particular, I would like to highlight important legislation that supports our troops as well as our homeland heroes.

Also included in this newsletter is a look at significant happenings in our own community. Inside you can also learn more about a variety of state assistance programs.

It is my privilege to serve the citizens of the 187th District. My staff and I stand ready to assist you with any state government-related question, concern or problem you may have. Please feel free to contact us anytime. Our contact information is listed on the back of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Paul Semmel

The General Assembly Focuses on Property Tax Relief

The need for property tax relief has never been greater. In recent weeks, we have had an increasing number of rallies at the Capitol with concerned taxpayers from our district and from around the state calling for action on property tax reform.

Escalating property taxes are making it difficult for people on fixed incomes to survive financially. Likewise, the rising taxes often are an insurmountable obstacle for people who'd like to buy their first home. The time is now for Pennsylvania to end its over-reliance on property taxes as a primary funding source for public education.

On Sept. 28th, Gov. Rendell convened a special legislative session on property tax relief. It is scheduled to run concurrent with the regular legislative session through the end of the year. The objective of this special session is to devise a real, lasting plan to provide substantial school property tax relief.

There have been many unsuccessful legislative attempts to cut property taxes over the years, most recently the controversial Act 72 that was rejected by many school boards this past spring. Only about 20 percent of the school districts around the state have agreed to take part in Act 72, the program that would use slot machine revenue to lower taxes.

The governor and legislators from both sides of the aisle are offering their proposals for how best to reform the property tax system. Some plans would reform the existing system, others would shift to another tax base while other plans advocate eliminating property taxes altogether. All measures will make their way through the legislative process and we will have an opportunity to study them

all and evaluate which plan would provide the greatest amount of property tax relief for Pennsylvanians.

I am committed to working with my fellow legislators to craft a fair, viable solution to the property tax crisis while at the same time ensuring that our children receive a quality education. I will keep you informed about any significant measures that the legislature considers.



I have had the great honor of serving as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House during this legislative

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House Passes Support Our Troops Legislative Package

In the spring, the House overwhelmingly approved a number of bills to help ease the burdens suffered by soldiers and their families as part of our "Support Our Troops and Their Families" legislative package. As Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I have worked to oversee the committee processes and coordinate the House floor passage of this bipartisan package. The Support the Troops legislation would:

- Establish a Military Family Relief Fund
- Provide college education assistance for service members
- Implement anti-discriminatory measures for service members
- Provide extended paid leave for service members
- Ensure absentee voter privacy for service members
- Provide various sportsmen benefits for military personnel

The proposed legislation would have only minimal costs to the Commonwealth as most of the special funds would come through private contributions. Under the legislation, Pennsylvania taxpayers could also choose to donate \$1 of their state taxes to the Military Family Relief Fund. The fund would provide grants to help those soldiers and their families who should find themselves in dire financial straits because of deployment, loss of civilian job or medical circumstances.

One bill in the package would provide emergency funding to pay for child care for instances in which one or both parents are serving on active duty. In addition, legislation in the package calls for tax credits for employers who pay or subsidize the wages of an employee called to active duty.

I am so proud of the courage and sacrifice of our troops serving here at home and overseas. We need to support them by passing this legislation which would give our troops heading off to war the peace of mind that their families and loved ones are taken care of.

Attention WWII Veterans

It is important that we never forget the sacrifices that the veterans of the "Greatest Generation" made so that all of us can enjoy the freedom we do today.

I am seeking information about all World War II veterans living in the 187th Legislative District so that I can honor their service to our great nation.

A recognition ceremony is being planned for winter 2006 to honor and thank veterans for their service. A certificate of appreciation and honorary medal will be presented to each veteran at this special event.

If you are a World War II veteran and would like to be recognized, or know someone who you would like to see recognized, please complete the inserted postcard in this newsletter and return it to my office.



I was proud to welcome leaders and guardsmen from the National Guard to the Capitol for our annual Pennsylvania National Guard Day. Pictured from the left are: Brigadier General Stanley Jaworski, Director of Operations/Plans; Major General Jessica Wright, Adjutant General of Pennsylvania; myself and Major General James Skiff, Deputy Adjutant General for the Air Guard.

Semmel's Legislation Aimed at Improving Homeland Security

Realizing that the threat of terrorism on our soil remains a very real threat, I have introduced two bills that address this critical issue facing both our state and our nation.

House Bill 758 would require the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Council to review existing standards for training and equipment needed to prepare regional hazardous material response organizations to respond to biological or chemical emergencies that are a result of a terrorist attack.

Currently, PEMA does not have any specific training requirements for dealing with biological or chemical emergencies that are a result of terrorist activities. My bill would help PEMA better train and prepare county hazardous material teams around the state to deal with these types of emergencies in a timely and safe manner.

My second bill, House Bill 877, would create a more centralized approach on public safety and homeland security. Specifically, this bill would create the Department of Public Safety and put into law the powers and duties of the state Homeland Security Agency.

This legislation would greatly assist the state in creating a central "clearing house" agency that would coordinate state, local and regional resources for homeland security matters. Additionally, this new department would be the Commonwealth's direct link to the federal government for securing federal homeland security monies for state agency initiatives.

I believe this measure would create a more centralized approach on public safety and homeland security that would allow the Commonwealth to use its resources more effectively and to ensure greater protections for our citizens.

Both of these measures have passed the House and now await action in the Senate.

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Armed Services Loan Forgiveness Program

Although it is difficult if not impossible to sufficiently honor and thank the brave men and women serving in our armed forces and National Guard, I am pleased to report that our Commonwealth is in fact stepping up to honor and thank our fellow Pennsylvanians and their families with meaningful financial support.

The General Assembly, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), has created the Armed Services Loan Forgiveness Program. Qualified servicemen and servicewomen can receive as much as \$2,500 in loan forgiveness.

My office has been pleased to assist 18 men and women in the district who have participated in this initiative. So far, we have been able to return \$42,902 to our military personnel.

The General Assembly is currently considering legislation to expand this program. If you are interested in obtaining more information about this program, please contact my office or PHEAA at 1-800-555-5555.

Bringing Home Grant Money to the District

I am always pleased to help secure grant funding for special projects in our region. Following is a recent list of grants that I worked with the Department of Community and Economic Development to secure:

- Lehigh County Senior Center – for the purchase of three additional lap top computers and for the cost of technical support.
- Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc. – for the production of a thirty minute Lehigh Valley instructional video.
- Lehigh Valley Jakes Youth Field Day – to educate young men and women about the vital role in preserving habitat and controlling wildlife.
- Lynn/Heidelberg Historical Society – Lynn Township Supervisors – for the Fort Everett replica reconstruction to become a museum.
- Rotary Club of Allentown West – Western Lehigh County – for the completion of the Community Band Pavilion.
- Schnecksville Community Fair – for an electrical distribution upgrade.
- Topton Borough – for water/sewer billing software.
- Turning Point, a shelter for battered women – for the purchase of a new roof for Turning Point's administration building.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps – 50th Anniversary

The Cetronia Ambulance Corps celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special parade through the community on May 7, 2005. The 50th Anniversary Gala was held on Oct. 8, at the Lehigh Valley Country Club.

Union United Church of Christ in Neffs Celebrating 250th Anniversary

The Union United Church of Christ in Neffs is celebrating its 250th anniversary in November with a German Heritage celebration.

The brethren of the German Reformed Church first erected a log church around the year 1755. The early log church was built on land deeded to the Reformed Church by the Schlosser family, who had received a sizeable grant from the sons of William Penn. It was known as Log Church or Schlosser's Church and was built on land donated by a relative.

A new brick church was built and was dedicated on May 19, 1872. The steeple is 165 feet high and holds a bell weighing 2000 pounds. The steeple has been recognized as a landmark by many travelers even to the present day.

1906 Capitol Memorabilia

The Capitol Preservation Committee is searching for Capitol memorabilia to be loaned for use in upcoming events honoring the Capitol's 100th Anniversary in 2006. Memorabilia and artifacts dating to around the time of the building's dedication in 1906 would be used in the Capitol's annual rotunda exhibit. Examples include: commemorative plates, coasters, paper weights, thimbles, spoons, buttons, cards...along with popular culture items such as period toys, consumer products, advertisements, and more.

In addition, the Committee is searching for descendants of family members who attended the 1906 Capitol Dedication Ceremony or worked at the Capitol (including the time during its construction) to share information, photographs, or scrapbooks of the time.

Please contact: Capitol Preservation Committee
Room 630 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: (717) 783-6484
Web: <http://cpc.state.pa.us>



This Spring, students from Maxatawny Elementary School visited me in my Harrisburg office and toured the Capitol.

Home Heating Assistance is Available This Winter

I would like to remind residents of the 187th Legislative District who may be struggling with soaring home-heating costs this winter that they can apply for Pennsylvania's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning on Nov. 7.

LIHEAP, which is funded by the federal government and administered by the state Department of Welfare (DPW), helps low-income households pay their heating bills and provides assistance to individuals in danger of losing heat due to emergency situations.

The 2005-06 program will open on Nov. 7, and eligible residents can continue submitting applications through March 23, 2006 or until funding is depleted.

Households with an annual income of up to 135 percent of the federal poverty level qualify. People need not have unpaid bills to receive energy assistance, and they can receive this money without being on welfare.

If a person is eligible for LIHEAP, a payment will be sent directly to the utility or fuel dealer, and payment credited to the person's bill. Additional money is available to individuals if they have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing their heat. Grants are based on family size, income, type of heating fuel and heating regions.

To apply for LIHEAP, call or visit the local County Assistance Office to set up an appointment. In Berks County, call (610) 736-4228 and in Lehigh County, call (610) 821-6702 for LIHEAP assistance. You may also call the toll-free LIHEAP hotline at 1-800-857-7095.

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEMMEL

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE 717-787-3017
FAX 717-783-2867

DISTRICT OFFICES:

4525 SPRING HILL DRIVE
P.O. BOX 235
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA 18078
PHONE 610-799-0187

UPPER MACUNGIE TWP. BLDG
8330 SCHANTZ ROAD
BREINIGSVILLE, PA 18031
PHONE 610-395-8180

MAXATAWNY TWP. BLDG.
127 QUARRY ROAD
KUTZTOWN, PA 19530
PHONE: 610-683-9199

State Programs Available to Help You

Please contact my office for more information about any of the programs listed below. We are always pleased to serve you.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program provides eligible seniors with rebates of up to \$500 on their annual rent or property tax bills. Pennsylvania residents who are 65 and older, widows or widowers age 50 and older or people with permanent disabilities qualify for the program if their annual household income does not exceed \$15,000. Applications are available at my office.

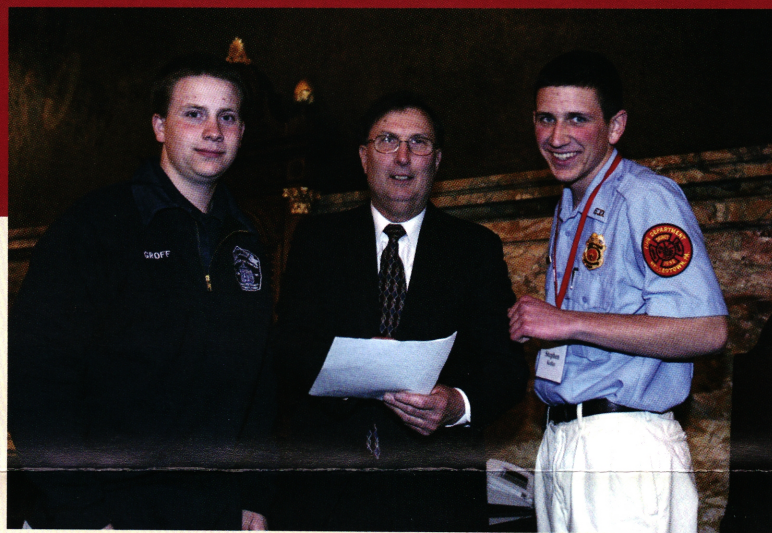
REDUCED-FEE CAR REGISTRATION

Reduced-fee car registration is available at a rate of just \$10 to any Pennsylvania resident who is retired or disabled and on a fixed income that does not exceed \$19,200. Forms are available at my office.

PACE/PACENET

PACE and PACENET help make prescription drugs more affordable by offering reasonable copays to low- and middle-income seniors. PACE participants pay just \$6 per generic prescription and \$9 for brand name prescriptions. For PACE, the combined income for married applicants must not exceed \$17,700 and the annual income for single applicants must be under \$14,500 during the calendar year prior to application.

PACENET income ranges are between \$17,700 and \$31,500 for married couples and \$14,500 to \$23,500 for single persons. PACENET participants must meet a \$40 monthly deductible. Participants pay \$8 for generic medications and \$15 for brand name prescriptions. Applications for PACE and PACENET are available at my office.



I was proud to welcome 23 junior firefighters from across the Commonwealth to the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Youth Leadership Challenge held this past April at the Capitol. During the three day event, participants learned leadership concepts, joined in panel discussions, heard about careers in emergency services and studied the legislative process. I had the privilege to serve as Speaker of the House for the mock session. Joining me in the House chamber were John Groff to my left and Stephen Keifer to my right.