



## LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

November 17, 2021

Zoom

### MINUTES

Chair Max Krugle called the L/PEC Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following persons in attendance: **Max Krugle**, Chair; **Robert G. Marko**, Treasurer & Region 12; **Jo Ann M. Bailey**, Secretary & Region 2; **Judith Guise**, Region 1; **Gloria J. Bowman**, Region 2; **Karen A. Bracken**, Region 3; **Linford Werkheiser**, Region 3; **Fred W. Seltzer**, Region 4; **Bruce W. Hockersmith**, Region 4; **Van A. Johnson**, Region 5; **S. Thomas Curry**, Region 6; **Barry Nelson**, Region 8; **Judith C. Newlin**, Region 9; **John M. Ferrier**, Region 11; **David Kaplan**, Region 11; **Theodore R. Derr**, Region 13; **Judith L. Schaffer**, President (*ex officio*); **William D. Neugebauer**, President-elect (*ex officio*); **Russell Diesinger**, Vice President (*ex officio*); **Mark A. McKillop**, Executive Director; Todd Brysiak and Michael Manzo of Triad Strategies, PASR Lobbyists; and **Mark Krempa**, Administrative Officer.

**Absent:** **John Gruskowski**, Region 7; **Richard P. Davis**, Region 7; **Catherine A. Zelazny**, Region 9; **Oscar Knade**, Region 10.

**Vacant:** Region 12

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

##### MOTION

A **motion** was made by Van Johnson, Region 5, and was seconded by Robert Marko, Treasurer and Region 12 that the minutes of the October 20, 2021, L/PEC Committee meeting be approved, as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**LOBBYIST REPORT** Triad Strategies: Todd Brysiak and Michael Manzo

## CONFIDENTIAL: LOBBYIST REPORT IS FOR LPEC COMMITTEE ONLY

- Todd Spoke with Rep. Seth Grove, Chair of State Government Committee, and Frank Ryan, PSERS Board member and likely point person for Republican Caucus on pension related issues.
  - Current benefits not at risk or annuitants
  - Package of 6 to 7 bills in front of House to make reforms to structure, transparency, etc. of pension systems (not actual benefits).
    - Subcommittee will hold hearing with PSERS and SERS in the next several weeks. Full bills likely to be considered in January or February.

- Triad will send bills to McKillop so he can send a summary of them to the LPEC Committee.
  - Rep. Grove said Committee will enter written statements from PASR into record for his committee members to consider. It is unusual for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to be allowed to enter such statements into the record.
  - No idea of PSEA's involvement or stance.
- Mike relayed that the House passed the first COLA in a while for disabled veterans, legislators and executive branch members will be receiving an automatic COLA in their salaries of 5.9%-one of the largest ever, and the PA fiscal picture has become very strong. PA placed \$3 billion in a rainy-day fund, is projecting a \$1 billion surplus for this fiscal year, and the state is receiving \$7 billion from the federal government.
  - This creates the most positive environment for a PSERS COLA as Mike has seen in a long time. IF not now, when will be the refrain to legislators who have always asked where the money would come from.
  - Also bolstered by the fact that Martina White (R-Phila), member of the House leadership, has floated a co-sponsor memo for legislation that would give retired police and fire fighters a COLA (20 years since last COLA). PASR can mimic the language and process for a PSERS COLA.
  - Start the push in Jan./Feb.
    - Independent Fiscal Office needs to score any PSERS/SERS COLA before legislature can adopt any such measure.
    - Will explore in conversation notion of an automatic COLA.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** from Mark McKillop

- 2021 election results: a more in-depth analysis will be forthcoming, but Democrats did outperform Biden in western PA and Republicans outperformed Trump in southeastern portion of the state; however, it is likely that Republicans will make gains in 2022 elections.
  - Reapportionment and redistricting may open opportunity because some members may need more additional support if they are to run in a newly drawn district.
    - Final maps are taking longer than usual and will likely be backing up to Christmas or after the holiday.
- Need to provide dates and agenda for submission to arrange meeting with Melva Vogler. Likely dates would be early next year.
  - Submit questions to Mark from BOD and L/PEC and he can slim the list down and have relay those questions to Melva. Please do submit questions via the LPEC forum on the PASR website (Mark Krempa began a topic already) prior to Jan. 7, 2022.
    - Please contact Office if you need help to use the forum.
- Philadelphia Inquirer submitted request to PSERS for documents, which is included in the meeting packet, and will be moving ahead with lawsuit since PSERS is reluctant to release information and to be transparent.
- PSERS renewed contract with investing firm and refuse to release terms of the contract even to some PSERS BOD members.
- PSERS cross tabs will be completed in the near future. This will be helpful in formulating COLA ideas in terms of estimating cost of any proposal.
- Use op-ed draft that is in the packet as basis for submission to the State Government Committee rather than submitting it to news outlets, as media coverage will follow the Committee hearings.

#### **MOTION**

A **motion** was made by Fred Seltzer, Region 4, and was seconded by Robert Marko, Treasurer and Region 12 to cancel the Dec. 8, 2021, meeting and to move the January 5, 2022 meeting to January 13, 2022. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**PSERS LIAISON REPORT** Judy Guise

- Number of seats for which there were no candidates.
- Will attend Zoom meetings on December 9 and 10 and will relay anything of import to the LPEC Committee. Reminder that everyone can attend these meetings as a link is on the PSERS BOD web page.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- **01/13/2022 10:00 a.m. Zoom**

**Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Krempa, Administrative Officer