

2018 Year End Report: PFMA Committees, Educational Webinars, & Membership Activities

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee meets by phone on the last Wednesday of each month to keep members update on PFMA's activities and legislative priorities. Committee members receive a weekly email regarding PFMA activities, news clips, and information on legislation. In 2018, the Legislative Committee discussed such priorities as the Farm Bill, sugar-sweetened beverage tax repeal, local tobacco regulation preemption, and price gouging reform. PFMA staff send email advocacy alerts, allowing members

Meetings: Jan. 30, Feb. 28, March 28, April 30, June 5, July 6, July 25, Sept. 26, Nov. 6, Dec. 19.



Philadelphia Legislative Committee



The Philadelphia Legislative Committee focuses on legislation before Philadelphia City Council. The Committee generally meets by conference call on the last Thursday of every other month with additional meetings as needed. In 2018, the Committee discussed our ongoing efforts regarding sugar-sweetened beverage tax repeal, local tobacco regulations, menu labeling proposals, and workplace standards.

Meetings: Feb. 7, April 6, June 6, Aug. 9, Oct. 3, Dec. 6

Loss Prevention Committee

The Loss Prevention Committee provides members with opportunities to discuss relevant issues and network with other loss prevention professionals regarding effective loss prevention efforts. In addition, committee members hold executive sessions with law enforcement officials such as local law enforcement and officials from the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG). Throughout 2018, committee members pursued the establishment of a dedicated unit within the OAG to combat organized retail crime.

Meetings: Aug. 17, Dec. 11

Gaming Industry Committee

Recent reforms to Pennsylvania's gaming laws offer potential new revenue streams for PFMA's members. Accordingly, it is imperative that industry stakeholders have a forum to discuss related issues and speak as one voice on those issues when necessary. Toward that end, the PFMA Gaming Industry Committee unites those stakeholders to consider legislative and regulatory issues, and coordinate efforts to support, improve, and protect the industry. Members of this newly-created committee have remained engaged with the fits and starts as the Commonwealth implements the necessary infrastructure to launch and maintain this new style of gaming.

Meetings: April 17, May 4, May 29, June 8, June 27, July 17, Aug. 31, Nov. 15, Dec. 7

Food Protection Committee

The Food Protection Committee keeps members informed on threats to the food supply, including product recalls. Clearly, preventing foodborne illnesses is of paramount importance to all PFMA members. Toward that end, members of this committee discuss laws and regulations, agro-terrorism, good agricultural practices/good handling practices (GAP/GHP), and USDA Food Safety Outreach.

PA Pharmacy Council

The PA Pharmacy Council is intended to give members an opportunity to learn more about issues in the retail pharmacy industry, such as technician certification, pharmaceutical accountability monitoring, and changes to prescription insurance and assistance programs such as PACE and PACENET.



Meetings: April 9, June 11.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee focuses on the complex and dynamic discipline of environmental sustainability, which includes ending food waste, reducing energy and resource consumption, and offering environmentally friendly products and packaging. Several PFMA member businesses have been recognized for their sustainability efforts. We look forward to expanding that good work as the Sustainability Committee further defines what it means to do well while doing good.

Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee discusses issues relating to personnel, including wages and hours, personnel policies, and collective bargaining procedures. Members of this committee provide crucial insight regarding the many labor proposals considered by Pennsylvania elected officials on the local, state, and national levels. In 2018, controversial minimum wage regulations offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry received considerable attention in Harrisburg. Fortunately, PFMA was able to share the expertise of committee members with the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to ensure that the arguably misguided proposal was evaluated in a balanced light.

Meetings: April 20, Aug. 21

SNAP and WIC Advisory List

PFMA sends interested members updates on issues relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, such as changes to stocking requirements, the implementation of eWIC in PA, and information on becoming a SNAP and/or WIC retailer. These updates can take on added urgency when the SNAP system is subject to change by measures such as the Farm Bill or as a result of unforeseen events such as a government shutdown.

Fuels Committee

The Fuels Committee gives members the opportunity to learn more about the legislative and regulatory issues concerning the storage and sale of fuels, and to network with their colleagues that operate fueling stations. Members received updates on topics such as the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board and Fund, tobacco regulation changes, and updates from the Fuels Institute.

Emergency Alerts

PFMA staff work in conjunction with the PA Emergency Management Agency, the PA Department of Agriculture, PennDOT, and other partners to keep members updated in real time on extreme weather events, price gouging advisories, power outages, agroterrorism, road closures, and other emergency events.

Webinars

Webinars inform members on topics of interest as well as innovative practices among the food community at large.



Month	Presenter	Topic
January	Commonwealth Gaming	Video Gaming Terminal Overview
May	PA Department of Agriculture PA Department of Banking and Securities	Avoiding Credit Card Skimming
June	PA Department of Agriculture	Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine
August	PA Department of Revenue	Computation of Sales/Use Tax in Transactions Involving Coupons