



SMC Business Councils
600 Cranberry Woods Drive, Suite 190
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Phone: 412.371.1500, Fax: 412.371.0460
www.smc.org

SMC Business Councils Government Relations State of the Association

2014

SMC's Annual Grassroots Lobbying Trip to Harrisburg, April – Thirty members and guests registered for this annual trip. SMC's teams had face-to-face meetings in 27 offices. State position papers were delivered to 51 other offices, increasing our coverage by 27% over 2013. Key messages: Re-authorize the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4); Phase-Out the Capitol Stock and Franchise Tax (CSFT).

SMC Roundtable with the National Ombudsman, May – SMC hosted a roundtable with Brian Castro, Office of the National Ombudsman. More than 90 members, staff, and representatives from the federal government attended. Participants discussed regulations that hampered their businesses and had the opportunity to seek solutions.

Grassroots Lobbying Trip to Washington D.C., with the National Small Business Association (NSBA), June – Members met with the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation and delivered 2014 Federal position papers. Key messages: Improve the Affordable Care Act; enact a permanent solution for Section 179 of the IRS code; fair treatment is required under corporate tax reform for those businesses who file at the individual level as pass-through entities.

SMC Board member, Brian Stein, was recognized for his advocacy efforts, June – NSBA honored Brian with the 2014 Lewis Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year Award for his exemplary work in advocating for small businesses. Stein has been involved in many initiatives including serving as Chair of SMC's Tax Working Group; testifying before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Policy Committee; regularly attending lobbying days in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.; maintaining relationships with his elected officials.

Meeting with PA Insurance Commissioner, Michael Consedine and the Secretary of Health, Michael Wolf, July – This meeting was requested by the Governor's Office. The two executives scheduled meetings in the region to discuss the UPMC/Highmark Consent Decrees. SMC was selected because our membership is composed of individuals and small and mid-sized employers who will be impacted by the changes in the health care marketplace. Various representatives from the SMC Board, Health Care Working Group (HCWG) and staff attended and posed questions. SMC later sent written comments to the Secretary and Commissioner to ensure that members concerns were heard.

Annual Legislative Reception, September – More than 110 members, guests, 40 officials, staff and special guests replied. Special guests included: officials from the PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development, the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry, the Governor's Southwest Regional Office, and the Regional and District Directors, U.S. Small Business Administration.

SMC supported was instrumental in the passage of the following legislation; Educational improvement tax credits were extended to career and technical schools; Reasonable limitations were established to the growing practice of physicians dispensing drugs they prescribe to injured workers under Workers Compensation; the phase-out of the Capital Stock and franchise tax is now due for elimination on December 31, 2015.
October 9, 2014