



NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION

June 24, 2004

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JUN 28 2004

Ms. Christal Pike-Nase
Counsel, Bureau of Commissions, Elections & Legislation
Department of State
302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Office of Chief Counsel

RE: Reference No. 16-33 (Fees for Notary Services)

Dear Christal:

On behalf of the National Notary Association, which serves the 4.5 million Notaries Public of the United States and the 85,000 Notaries of Pennsylvania, I am writing to express strong support for the proposed revision of 4 Pa. Code § 161.1, which would raise the fees that Notaries Public may charge for their services.

As your office has noted, Notary fees have not been increased since February of 1984, yet the costs that Notaries must now incur have increased substantially since that time. In addition, the proposed amendment to the fee schedule will help both new applicant Notaries and renewing Notaries offset the costs associated with fulfilling the Notary Public education requirement mandated by the most recent amendments to the code brought about by Act 151.

This increase would move Pennsylvania Notary fees into the mid-range of Notary fees nationwide. Indeed, 19 states have currently set their fees at \$5 or higher, and the NNA's *Model Notary Act* recommends a minimum fee of \$10 for each notarial act.

Please call on the NNA if you require further expressions of support for this proposal that at long last will fairly compensate Pennsylvania Notaries for their time, expenses, potential liability and personal sacrifice in protecting the citizenry from document fraud.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Faerber
Vice President, Notary Affairs

PAN

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

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JUL 21 2004

Office of Chief Counsel

July 19, 2004

Ms. Christal Pike-Nase, Counsel
Notary Section, Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation
Office of Chief Counsel, Department of State
302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Proposed Rulemaking, Fees for Notary Services [34 Pa. Bulletin 3136, June 19, 2004]

Dear Ms. Pike-Nase,

I am writing on behalf of the 50,000 members of the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries (PAN) in support of the proposed rulemaking noted above. If approved, this rulemaking would increase the fees that notaries in the Commonwealth are permitted to charge for their notarial services.

You are well aware of PAN's efforts over the years in support of a fee increase. We were pleased to provide you with research and statistical data for use in drafting the proposed rulemaking. For the record, allow me to summarize our position:

- Notary fees have not increased since February 11, 1984. In that time, the cost of becoming a notary public has increased approximately 275 percent. We support a fee increase that, over the four-year term of a notarial commission, will help notaries defray the initial cost of obtaining their commissions.
- Notary fees have not kept pace with increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). While notaries as consumers pay higher prices for all goods and services, notaries as service providers have not been allowed to charge more than \$2 per notarial act in the last 20 years. We support a fee increase that recognizes the value of a notary's time, training and commitment.
- Notary fees in Pennsylvania have not kept up with the notary fees permitted in surrounding states. We applauded the 2002 amendment of the Notary Public Law, which, among other provisions, gave Pennsylvania notaries the opportunity to be commissioned in states where previously they could not be commissioned due to a lack of reciprocity. However, Pennsylvania's notary fee structure continued to lag behind that of other states. We support a fee increase that puts the Commonwealth's notaries on a par with notaries in neighboring states.

In nearly 50 years of service to Pennsylvania notaries, PAN's experience has been that the majority of notaries are diligent, responsible and thoroughly professional in the performance of their duties. The Association supports any initiative that will compensate them accordingly.

For the Association,



Marc L. Aronson
President

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