



January 12, 2009/ PAMAGIC President's Letter

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Dear GIS Community:

PAMAGIC's primary mission has been to serve as an *information sharing vehicle* to advance GIS in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I believe more than ever, the need for continued communication among GIS professionals and for the PAMAGIC organization itself to be critical.

In the past year we have seen some significant advances in GIS (release of the 2007 Lidar) as well as some devastating setbacks (the elimination of funding for PAMAP). As president of PAMAGIC, I had hoped the Commonwealth would embrace GIS as a 'utility' and move beyond just base data by exploring the endless opportunities of GIS services. But the fate of the nation's economy led us down a different path. We are now looking at significant cuts in funding for PASDA and other vital programs.

While it may take years for the economy to recover, I would like everyone to not to lose sight of the most outstanding resource we have in Pennsylvania; dedicated volunteers and GIS professionals. I would just like to thank the PAMAGIC Board members who have served in 2008-9; some of which have been volunteering their time for many, many years:

- 2008 Board Members:
  - Laura Simonetti (Past President) – Mifflin County GIS
  - Eric Jespersen (Vice President) – Rettew Associates
  - Melissa Hinton (Treasurer) - County Commissioner's Association of PA
  - Kathryn Reed (Secretary) – Allegheny County
  - Mike Shillenn – PhotoScience
  - Thomas Mueller, Ph.D., GISP – California University of PA
  - Paul DeBarry, GISP – Borton – Lawson Engineering
  - Glenn McNichol - DVRPC
  - (and me) Dave Gilbert, GISP (President) – GeoDecisions

I would also like to recognize the outstanding projects that have been initiated or supported by PAMAGIC and continue to be our focus areas going into 2009. We invite you to take part in any of these projects by contacting any board member:

PAMAGIC Initiatives:

- Data Collaboration and Standards
- MapMOD



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- Hazus PA Chapter
- Participation in the Statewide Strategic Planning
- PAGIS Conference Info Swap
- Communications: Newsletter –*Magic Matters* and On line surveys, *Maps and Apps*

**As a small recognition of these tough economic times, the Board has decided to reduce annual membership to just \$10.00. By doing so, we hope you will continue to maintain your membership and encourage others to join and take part.**

We have a lot of work ahead of us in 2009 and plenty of interesting presentations and workshops scheduled for the PA GIS conference this year. Nominations for the PAMAGIC Board are also now being accepted. Call or email any current board member with your nominations.

May you all have a prosperous 2009 and thank you for your continued support,

Dave Gilbert, GISP

2008-9 PaMAGIC President

[www.pamagic.org](http://www.pamagic.org)