



February 25, 2014

Dear PaMAGIC Members and Friends,

PaMAGIC is turning 18 years old this Summer! That is the age of adulthood and reason in our society, and maturity comes from experience. It is also an age at which one looks forward to what life has to offer and where one figures how to contribute to the society they live in. PaMAGIC's life experience includes:

Data Standards

- Best Practices – 1999-2000
- PA Geospatial Data Sharing Standards (PGDSS) - 2002-2008
- Pipeline and Water Data Advocacy 2010-2013

Communications

- Statewide and Regional Meetings 1996-2014
- Newsletters/Yahoo Listserv 2005-2013
- Presidents Letters 1999-2014
- Website 1998-2014
- PAGIS Conference 1996-2014
 - InfoSwap 1999-2014
 - Plenary Sessions 1996-2010
 - Technical Sessions 1997-2014

Coordination

- PAGIC Membership 1998-2007
- NSGIC Membership 1998-2008
- PAMAP Support 2000-2010
- FEMA Map Mod Support 2005-2010
- Geo-Council Advocacy 1998-2014

The best experiences and maturity came from those activities where more people interacted and more people contributed, and we expect that to be the case in the future as well, even as the interactions become more virtual. The current initiatives and ideas we have for engaging the most people are:

AGOL/Unique Map Portal – You can share your information and knowledge with others in the PaMAGIC portal to ArcGIS Online. You can have some fun, promote mapping and GIS in PA, and learn from others. The first few maps in the gallery are at: <http://bit.ly/NxxPGD>

Leaders – Dave Gilbert and Laura Simonetti

Geo-Council – After about 16 years of advocacy and recent years of tough budgets and limited vertical coordination, Senate Bill 771 seems viable in creating a Geospatial Advisory Board. PaMAGIC will have a seat and you will have a voice in the goals and direction of GIS in PA. This has taken joint effort with many organizations; <http://www.pamagic.org/initiatives/Pages/default.aspx>

Leaders – Glenn Mohler and Eric Jespersen

Land Records – One of the foundational data sets for decision support is the least developed on a statewide basis. Current issues to address in this area include: 3-dimensional parcel data and

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mineral rights mapping, role of the Surveyor in GIS, historic cadaster and records preservation, possible effects of property tax reform on parcel data maintenance.

Leaders – Peirce Eichelberger and Mary K. Seville

Water Data and Modeling – PaMAGIC is promoting the development of a comprehensive and consistent surface water database spatially compatible with PAMAP Imagery and LiDAR, and which includes stormwater features. The data would support integrated modelling and State Water Plan objectives; <http://www.pamagic.org/initiatives/Pages/WaterData.aspx>

Leaders – Eric Jespersen and Mike Bialousz

Membership – This is the key, with an ever-changing mix of ages and interests we will collectively remember the past so that we keep moving forward and with fresh ideas flowing. PaMAGIC is offering free membership to students, and opening a mentoring program by the PAGIS Conference. We extend our membership every time we collaborate with other organizations, and sharing maps and ideas on AGOL will be infectious!

Leaders – Tom Denton and Nicole Ernst

A little more detail on membership and what that means. Your dues only cover a little bit of administration, and what we really want is your mind and your energy. We are instituting a new section in the member database that documents where you engage – meetings you attend, reports reviewed, maps posted, phone calls made, mentoring gigs, other memberships, etc. These are all likely to be small things that add up to a positive contribution, and we'll help you keep track of that.

Opportunities to engage right now are:

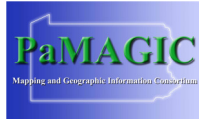
1. Contact the leaders of any of the initiatives and see where you fit in. Pick something that looks fun. A place where they need ideas right away is in the mentoring program, and we know you have something unique to map Online.
2. Sponsor the InfoSwap at the GIS Conference. That is surely a documentable contribution.
3. <http://www.pamagic.org/PAGISConference/Pages/Infoswap%20Sponsors.aspx>
4. Nominate someone or yourself for a PaMAGIC Board position. Contact Dave Gilbert dgilbert@geodecisions.com
5. Tell us what the first topics for action by a GeoAdvisory Board should be.
6. Send this letter and a membership form/link to a friend. <http://www.pamagic.org/aboutus/Pages/JoinUs.aspx>
7. Tell us what other groups you are engaged with so we can see the networks.

We have frankly been in a period of reduced expectations as a Commonwealth and of changing priorities, and that has not been fun. Help us see forward and create opportunities for us all to engage with others more often for our mutual benefit and for the common wealth. The PaMAGIC Board members are listed in this letter and we'd like to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Eric Jespersen
President 2013-14

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2013-14 PaMAGIC Board

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