Dear Members,

As we approach the second half of 2024, the board would like to share some of the items we've been working on for the Pennsylvania Online Messenger Association and its members.

Since our last update at the end of 2023, board members have been holding monthly meetings with key figures in PennDOT, addressing issues we face as Online Messengers. One major achievement is the ability to now issue free online license plates instantly to replace defaced plates for our customers. Previously, this transaction had to be done manually to avoid the cost of the plate. Thanks to our work with PennDOT, we were able to get this changed to better serve our customers.

During the past year, we have forged a connection with PennDOT that allows us to meet with key personnel, including the Director of Motor Vehicles, Stephen Madrak. We will be meeting with him for the second time this year in July at an in-person meeting in Harrisburg. One main discussion during this meeting will be the challenges we faced during this past apportion season, such as the limited number of TA order allowances and inconsistencies with the apportion unit. We will work on improving this process for both our members and customers. PennDOT is aware of the issues we've faced and is committed to helping improve the process for the future.

Beyond meeting with PennDOT officials, we continue to visit legislators in the Capitol. Board members have testified on items such as electronic drivers' licenses. Recently, we met with both Democratic and Republican members of the House and Senate transportation committees. They recognize the Pennsylvania Online Messenger Association's value to our communities and the Commonwealth. We are currently exploring additional services that we can offer as Online Messengers to better serve the residents of Pennsylvania.

Since our letter to members at the end of 2023, your board has visited with legislators and met with PennDOT on behalf of its members every single month. This would not be possible without your support and the support of our advocate, Bob Taylor.

2023 was one of the most active periods for our board. However, 2024 has seen even more activity and momentum. The changes you've seen so far this year are just the beginning compared to what will come throughout the remainder of this year and into 2025.

As we continue to build this momentum into the second half of the year, your support is crucial. If you are facing challenges with processing work, have questions, or would like the board to bring an idea to PennDOT, please reach out to one of your board members. If you have time, visit your local State Representative and Senator to educate them about the Pennsylvania Online Messenger Association. Most importantly, ensure your dues are paid and you are contributing to the advocacy fund. This contribution is needed more than ever to continue the great work we've done over the last year and a half.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer season. We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in October, so please keep an eye on your email for updates regarding the fall meeting.