



Journey

Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: www.pasrbutler.org

*Home Chapter of PASR
State President Mary K
Davis*



PASR Butler President's Message

On the TV show *NCIS*, Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs provides words to live by in the form of "Gibbs' Rules". Some are based on being an agent; some on being in the Marines; some on life. Rule #28 (from season 9), applies to us:
When you need help, ask.

For the last month, my computer and I have been in "negotiations", and I kept coming out on the short end. It kept insisting that I did not have enough memory space, even with an external drive and a new jump drive inserted. Last month my virus protection expired so I renewed it but it wouldn't let me install. Last straw came yesterday when it wouldn't even let me drag a file from the computer to either storage place.

SEPTEMBER 2025

I acquired my first home computer in 1984 and have some strong computer skills for what I need to do, but this memory mess was over my head. So, this morning I spent three hours at Staples in Butler, time very well spent. He said that I was on the right track, but it took the expert time to figure out how to proceed forward and restore order. It was a slow process but now all is happy.

As we age, we all find ourselves in situations that we used to be able to quickly handle, but now feelings of being overwhelmed sometimes stop us as we try to rectify what should be simple – or used to be.

It's OK to ask for help from family, from friends, from experts, from a social group, even an attorney.

Rules Change. The way forward isn't always the way it has always been. Sometimes we need help to find the new path. **When you need help, ask.**

Butler Chapter Officers

President Polly Shaw
724-584-0371 pollyshaw3@gmail.com
President-elect **OPEN**
Recording Secretary Fran Geisel
Immediate Past Pres Peg Harding
..... harding.margaret@gmail.com
724-502-4065
Treasurer James Huemme
..... khuemme@zoominternet.net
Asst. Treasurer Joanne Van Deusen
Membership Secretary Mary K Davis
Chapter Website www.pasrbutler.org
Region 8 Director Polly Shaw
State website www.pasr.org
State President Mary K Davis

Standing Committee Chairs

By-Laws **OPEN**
Community Service Peg Harding
Educational Support Diana Bowman
Legislative and L/PEC Peg Harding
Membership/Mem. Benefits & Services,
OPEN
Nominating Peg Harding
Program Diana Bowman
Public Relations Polly Shaw
RECRO **OPEN**
Retirement Planning **OPEN**
Soc.Ser/Memorial Honor Fund..Ruth Scott

Ad Hoc Committees

Reservations Donna Vogel
Hosting Diana Bowman

PASR School Entity Area Chairs

Butler.....Kay and Jim Huemme
BC3.....Ruth Scott
Karns City **OPEN**
Knoch.....Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg
Mars..... Minette Thompson
Moniteau.....Carol Ball
Seneca Valley.....**OPEN**
Slippery RockEllen McIntyre

**"To serve others in need and help
one another"**

PASR Mission Statement

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New Senior Driver License Rules Take Effect July 2025: What Pennsylvania Drivers Need to Know



Starting in July 2025, a new federal law changes how older Americans renew their driver's licenses and Pennsylvania seniors should take note. With the senior population growing, this law aims to balance public safety with individual independence, especially as age-related changes like slower reaction times and vision issues may affect driving ability.



Here's What's Changing

New License Renewal Rules by Age

Age 70–80: Must renew every 4 years, in person, with a vision test.

Age 81–86: Must renew every 2 years, with a vision test and possibly a cognitive assessment if there are concerns about memory, confusion, or decision-making ability.

Age 87+: Must complete an annual road test to retain driving privileges.

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Vision and Cognitive Testing

All seniors will be subject to vision testing. A cognitive exam may also be required if a physician or PennDOT identifies warning signs (such as early-stage Alzheimer's or effects from a stroke).

Annual Road Tests for Drivers Age 87+. Once a driver turns 87, they'll need to pass a behind-the-wheel test every year even if they feel healthy and capable. This ensures driving ability is up-to-date and minimizes the risk of serious accidents.

What About PA Implementation?

Although this is a federal mandate, Pennsylvania will implement it with some local discretion. Seniors and their families should be prepared for state-specific requirements as PennDOT finalizes its policies.

Bottom Line:

These changes are about safety, not punishment. Seniors who can still drive safely will be allowed to do so but regular assessments will help catch risks before accidents happen.

From: <https://www.lawyer.com/a/new-senior-driver-license-rules-take-effect-july-2025-what-pennsylvania-drivers-need-to-know.html>

Reminders as facility guests:

We begin at 11:00; meal 11:45; program 12:30.

Wait before entering restroom if day care children are inside.

Check-in table is inside the big room.

Please help, as able, to help clear the tables and see that we leave the room ready for another group.

Butler County Council PASR
General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
May 28, 2025
Alameda Park

11:05- Polly welcomed us. Program has been cancelled due to weather.

Treasurer's report- In *Journey*, Ruth Scott moved to accept, and Mary K. Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Volunteer Hours are due in September. Turn in to Peg Harding.

Because of wet/chilly weather, members may choose to take boxed luncheon home.

House of Delegates will be held October 5-7. We have 3 delegates, filled by Peg Harding, Ruth Scott, and Diana Bowman. Polly will attend as Region 8 Director and Mary K. Davis will attend as State President. Jim Huemme moved to accept the delegates and Donna Vargo seconded. Motion passed. Anyone can attend to observe but will not be able to vote on HOD actions.

PASR Commendation from the State Board of Directors was presented to Ruth Scott.

Mary K. reported that the COLA has passed the State House. Contact your State Senator urging the passage of the current COLA.

Adjourned- 11:34. Lunch followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording secretary

CARDS of CHEER

Betty Butler
210 North Bluff Street
Butler, PA 16001



Carol Ball
513 South Eberhart Road
Butler, PA 16001

Chapter Goals and Activities

PASR has established Chapter Goals and Activities. At our August Executive Committee meeting, we reflected on the second one. Goals and Activities are a good tool for reflection of our effectiveness. Let's reflect on this together at the September meeting which begins at 11:00.

GOAL 2: Expand/Improve Social Opportunities for Members

Activity #1 — Conduct and Publicize Chapter RECRO Events The RECRO Committee is encouraging chapters to conduct and publicize a chapter RECRO event in the December PASR Newsletter, as well as online on the PASR RECRO calendar.

Activity #2 — Promote Participation in the State RECRO Event The RECRO Committee is encouraging chapters to include an article in their local newsletters and put it on their website/social media site, and/or invite a Boscov's representative to their local chapter meetings, to promote participation in the annual statewide RECRO event.

Activity #3 — Develop and Submit a Plan for Chapter Activities. The Board of Directors is encouraging chapters to develop a plan for chapter activities for the year, including multiple social events. List all planned activities and not simply a schedule of meetings.

Activity #4 — Conduct New Retiree Welcome Event The Retirement Planning Committee is encouraging chapters to conduct a special event (such as picnics, breakfasts, etc.) just for former school employees (nonmembers) who retired during the past five years and not simply invite the retirees to attend a regular chapter event.



Butler County PASR
Treasurer's Report
April 1 - June 30, 2025

RECEIPTS:

Local Dues	\$ 160.00
State Dues	300.00
Donations	165.00
Luncheon	450.00
Mercer/Beaver Regions	40.00
Raffle	61.00
	\$ 1,146.00

EXPENSES:

BC3 Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Luncheon	390.00
PASR Dues	300.00
Minuteman Press	97.80
Convention Basket	60.00
Office	37.00
	\$ 1,384.80

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 1,581.86
RECEIPTS	+ 1,146.00

	\$ 2,727.86
EXPENSES	- 1,384.80

CHECKBOOK BALANCE	
SAVINGS	1,343.06
	+ 6,992.47

TOTAL FUNDS	
	\$ 8,335.53

Thank
YOU

We need September Host Volunteers. Call Diana Bowman at 724-996-5980 or email at dianabowman2@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY – YEARLY TALLY SHEET
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

TO ALL PASR MEMBERS: Thank you for being a volunteer in our community! PASR CHAPTERS are interested in documenting the hours of service that volunteer retirees contribute to their local communities. In doing this, our volunteers show to the community at large a positive picture of the activities of public school retirees. Please take a few minutes to complete the chart below, filling in the appropriate number of hours PER YEAR which you volunteer. A summary of this information will be shared with AARP, NRTA and the state PASR.



Name: _____ Telephone: _____

EDUCATIONAL hours this year

Historical Association _____

Library _____

School Board _____

Other _____

Total _____

SOCIAL SERVICES hours this year

Boards/Committees _____

Cancer Society _____

Drug/Alcohol _____

Fire Ambulance _____

Fraternal Groups _____

Hospital/Nursing Home _____

Meals on Wheels _____

Office of the Aging _____

Red Cross _____

Salvation Army _____

Service Organization _____

Soup Kitchen/Food Bank _____

Visitation _____

Other _____

Total _____

I have served in special leadership

roles as follows: _____

POLITICAL hours this year

Advocacy _____ Elections _____

Government _____

Other _____

Total _____

RELIGIOUS hours this year

Adult Instruction _____

Youth Instruction _____

Organization _____

Visitation _____

Other _____

Total _____

SERVICES TO YOUTH hours this year

Alliance with Youth _____

Classroom Volunteer _____

Head Start _____

Latch-Key Program _____

Literacy _____

Scholarships _____

School Volunteer _____

Scouting _____

Tutoring _____

YM/YWCA _____

Other _____

Total _____

TOTAL HOURS THIS YEAR IN ALL CATEGORIES: _____ hours Region 8

Mail by Sept. 20 to Ms. Margaret E. Harding, 116 Rana Lane, Gibsonia, PA 15044 OR
give to her in person at the September 24 meeting at Christ Community Methodist.

11:00 on Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Catered by Monroe Hotel

We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road, Butler, PA. At the road entrance, bear right and up the rise to the parking lot and rear entrance with glass doors on far right end.

Meal

Chicken Parmesan (*tentative*)
Pasta
Tossed salad

Alternative Meal

Chef Salad

Delicious dessert
coffee, tea, raspberry ice tea,

When I have a confirmation of the exact menu, I will post it on the website, or you can call/text Polly at 724-584-0371 to confirm if needed.

Reservation due Friday, September 12, 2025

Member Name: _____

1st time retirees and nifty nineties are free!

Guest Name: _____

Number of reservations: chicken at \$15 _____ Chef salad at \$15 _____

Total due: _____

Make checks payable to Butler County PASR. Mail to:

Donna Vogel, 148 Spithaler School Road, Evans City, PA 16033

Remember that we now begin at 11:00 for our meeting. Luncheon is 11:45 followed by our program from Butler Coffee Lab at 12:30.



Our program:
Terry Kaiserman will
bring coffees to
sample!



**BUTLER COFFEE LAB
& HOT POD**



Butler Coffee Lab began with a simple yet powerful idea: to start each day with a truly great, flavor-filled cup of coffee. Our journey started with a conversation about how we could give back to our community in a meaningful way. Inspired by a local coffee shop that employs individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), we envisioned a similar purpose. Driven by that inspiration, we created a unique brand of infrared-roasted coffee and other beverages that our employees can proudly package in a safe, supportive environment.

113 East Cunningham St., Butler, PA

Looking ahead:

As the **ONLY ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES SOLELY FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES**, PASR is tirelessly working to secure a long overdue and well-deserved Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all PSERS annuitants to help them to be able to enjoy a dignified retirement. To view recent information regarding PASR's efforts to secure a COLA and other legislative updates of significance, please go to the website at pasr.org. Scroll down to News and Legislative/COLA Updates and click at the end for a report.

Have you contacted your senator to express your encouragement? The inside page has links to messages to reach your legislators easily, or write your own letter.

Upcoming Vacancies:

Butler is part of Region 8, an even numbered region, so our terms of office end in even numbered years.

This can be your opportunity to share in local leadership and volunteer with meaningful work and activities.

President: Polly's term ends Dec. 2026. Election will be September 2026.

President-elect is currently vacant, so that position needs to be filled.

Newsletter editor and Webmaster, currently managed by Polly, will be vacant.

Region 8 Director: As Butler President, Polly attends Region 8 meetings (twice yearly) and that elected term will end Dec. 2026. Region 8 has three chapters, Beaver, Butler, and Mercer. That position will be vacant and is elected from those on Region Board.

Training occurs annually via Zoom, organized by the PASR Leadership Development Committee. 2025 Leadership Zooms **11/18/25**: 10am Committee Operations & Staff Introduction; 1pm: Finance Training for Region and chapter treasurers: Diane and Jack **11/20/25**: 10am Presidents' Handbook: Polly and Kathy; 1pm How to Best Run a Meeting. *Register and attend via Zoom, just to get the bigger picture.*

PASR Fundraiser:

At the Sept. 24 meeting, there will be green PASR Fundraiser tickets for sale. The donation is \$20. Each ticket is numbered. All numbers are played straight as drawn. The winning number is determined by the 7:00 PA State Daily Number drawing during February 2026. All cash winnings will be determined by the amount of prize money indicated on the date shown on the ticket. PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT COSTS FOR THE SSMHF. Winners will receive their checks in the mail. Daily prizes are between \$300 - \$500, according to the ticket list.