



# Journey

**Butler County Chapter Newsletter**  
**chapter website: [www.pasrbutler.org](http://www.pasrbutler.org)**

**March 2020**  
**state website: [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)**

## ***President's Message***

Hands Up! Who would prefer a shorter business meeting? Yep, me too!

;

The PASR Butler Exec. Board agreed to my proposal to adjust the handling of the agenda at the business meeting, but in order for this to work, YOU have to read the ***Journey*** – yes, this very document! You will read updates rather than be told at the meeting.

Here's my plan! All chairs and officers are encouraged to submit written reports to be published in the *Journey*. If something new develops in the time between publishing this newsletter and the meeting, that update can certainly be given from the floor. Other than that, I will quickly move through the agenda so that we move on to the program! There will always be a moment for questions from the floor.

It is important that our members attend our meetings. A shorter business meeting will help to draw members. Another draw is interesting programming. In the fall, Michael

Schnelle from SRU explained how he uses drones in his photography. We all adjourned to the parking lot for a demonstration. That was fun!

In December several members brought hand bells from local churches. Everyone had at least one hand bell to play in our musical Christmas song fest. Very popular!

Our March program features a weaver! Karen Parsons of Stoneylane Farms in Gibsonia, raises sheep and uses the wool. She is from Weavers and Spinners in Evans City. Come and see!

We need more ideas from you! My goal is offer programs that are not on your usual radar. Let's discover some new things together!

**To serve others  
in need and  
help one  
another enjoy  
retirement**

## **Butler Chapter Officers**

President ... 724-584-0371... Polly Shaw  
pollyshaw@zoominternet.net  
President-elect ..... **OPEN**  
Recording Secretary..... Fran Geisel  
Corresponding Sec'y ..... **OPEN**  
Immediate Past Pres. .... Peg Harding  
harding.margaret@gmail.com  
724-502-4065  
Region VIII Director..... Mary K Davis  
Treasurer ..... James Huemme  
Asst. Treasurer..... Joanne Nolsheim  
Website ..... [www.pasrbutler.org](http://www.pasrbutler.org)  
State website ..... [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)

## **Committee Chairs**

Legislative and L/PEC..... Peg Harding  
Retirement Planning..... **OPEN**  
RECREO ..... M. Hoffman, J. Nolsheim  
Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund  
..... Ruth Scott  
By-Laws ..... Joanne Meredith  
Educational Support.... Diana Bowman  
Community Service..... Peg Harding  
Member Benefits & Services ..... **OPEN**  
Nomination ..... **OPEN**  
Reservations ..... Donna Vogel  
Resolutions ..... **OPEN**  
Public Relations ..... Polly Shaw

## **PASR School Entity Area Chairs**

Butler Area ..... Sharon Kline  
BC3 ..... Ruth Scott  
Karns City .... Pat Hauman, Enid Wilson  
Mars ..... Priscilla Beblo  
Moniteau ..... Carol Ball  
Seneca Valley..... Joanne Meredith  
Slippery Rock..... Ellen McIntyre  
South Butler ..... Virginia Shirey,  
..... Doris Herceg

(continued from page 1)

## **PASR Butler General Membership**

Luncheon Meeting  
December 11, 2019  
Christ Community Methodist Church

Before meeting: Computer Demonstration  
on checking Facebook security.

Polly welcomed us.

Hosts- Mars led us in song, the Pledge  
of Allegiance, and grace. Lunch was  
served.

Benjamin Getkin, BC3 Adult Literacy-  
Need volunteer tutors and aides mostly  
for GED and ESL.

Memorial, led by Ruth Scott- 11 friends  
and members who passed on this year  
were remembered.

President- Open Positions- Membership  
Chair and President Elect. House of  
Delegates (HOD) went well. State  
website, [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org) is newly  
reorganized with many resources

Community Service- Keep collecting  
and contributing.

Treasurer- \$1,100 profit on RECREO  
trip. Remember May day is pay day.

RECREO-Sponsored trip is September  
30 to Jennerstown.

Region 8- Emergency cards were  
included in HOD goody bags. Raffle  
cards for Lottery are on sale. COLA  
being worked on for pre-act 9 retirees.

SS/MHF- Send cards of cheer, birthday  
and holiday.

Chris Myer led us in singing and playing the hand chimes.

Executive Board- February 6, 2020.  
General Membership Luncheon Meeting- March 25, 2020.  
Adjournment 1:50.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frances Geisel  
Recording Secretary

### **Community Service**

The following PASR directive was sent to local chapter Community Service chair persons on January 10, 2020. "The PASR State Community Service Committee has decided to change the timeline for the submission of volunteer of the year awards. Previously, chapter chairs were expected to send completed Outstanding Volunteer nominations to region chairs by December 31. Region community service chairs then bundled and sent the Outstanding Volunteer nominations received from chapter chairs to HQ by January 15. HQ will now expect to receive the nominations from Region Chairs by August 15, 2020. Consequently, it is PASR's hope that having all forms distributed and returned in the summer will simplify things for chapters in so far as all forms are distributed and returned around the same general time.

#### **NEW TIMELINE**

1. A reminder will be sent to all chapter Community Service Chairs in June/early July to collect data on the community service activities of their members.

2. Chapters will then send nomination forms and pin orders to Region Chairs by July 31st.

3. Region chairs will then send the forms to HQ by August 15th.

4. HQ will create the Awards and gather any pins that have been ordered and distribute them to Region Directors at the October Board of Directors meeting so that they may then distribute them to the appropriate chapters."

Therefore, the PASR 2019 Butler County Chapter Volunteer of the year award will be presented to one of our deserving members this fall. Continue to record your service and hours from **January 2019 to May 2020.**

The student items brought to the December 2019 luncheon were taken to the Center Ave. Community School by Ruth Scott. Walmart and Target \$10 gift cards are greatly appreciated, too. The Bingo prizes were delivered to Butler Life. Two large USPO boxes of manufacturers' coupons were sent to Navy commissaries in Guam and Naples, Italy. I'm sure the families of these military men and women appreciated them.

Remember, collection items are needed all the time for those in need! These include: manufacturers' coupons, Box Tops for Education, pop can tabs, plastic bags for the "homeless mats", Pringle cans, clothing and school supplies, and Bingo prizes, gift cards, etc.

### **Region Director's Report**

The PASR Board of Directors met on January 28 and 29. Judy Schaffer ran her first meeting as state president in an efficient manner. Most of Tuesday's

meeting involved reorganization for the 2020 calendar year.

Mark McKillop gave information on staff structure updates. All of the current employees are able to step in and assist any other employee. This helps things run smoothly because nothing is left undone because of a heavy workload for one particular person. He also informed us of a need to look at upgrading the computer system in the office. A motion was passed to transition to a cloud-based system.

Hamilton and Musser presented the auditor's report. We took in more money than went out during the past fiscal year. Even though we must continue to be frugal, we are improving financially.

On Wednesday Jeff Hunsicker, our lobbyist gave an update on the status of a COLA. During the past year we moved further along the path to passage than ever since the last COLA almost 20 years ago. With budget hearings starting in February, there will probably not be anything happening until spring, but there is still hope that there may be something for the Pre-Act 9 people.

The Member Benefits and Services Committee presented a recommendation that the BOD approve HeatUSA and TankFarm which could possibly save on propane and heating oil costs for our members. The Board of Directors passed both recommendations. PASR will receive nothing from these companies. All of the savings will be

given to the members who sign up. Check the state website under MB&S for additional information.

Because of the bylaws changes that were passed at the House of Delegates, the board passed updated policies for the L/PEC (Legislative) Committee and the Policy Committee. The Goals and Activities – 2020 were approved. Please check the state website for copies of these items.

There was a presentation by Diana Fessenmeyer about the SSMHF monies. The Social Memorial Fund has more money going out than coming in. There were many suggestions about how to improve this situation. **At this point in time all chapters and members are being asked to make donations in honor or memory of members. Also, each chapter and region is being asked to take up a collection at their spring meetings to aid this fund.**

Next Region 8 meeting is at Hoss's on March 19.

Mary K Davis  
Region 8 Director

**PASR Butler County Dates**  
Wed. Mar 19 Region 8 Meeting  
**Wed. Mar 25 General Membership**  
hosting: Moniteau  
Thurs. Apr 9 Exec Meeting  
**Wed. May 27 General Membership**  
hosting: Seneca Valley  
Thurs. Aug 6 Exec meeting  
**Wed. Sept. 23 General Membership**  
hosting: Slippery Rock  
Thurs. Oct. 22 Exec Meeting  
**Wed. Dec. 9 General Membership SB**



With sadness, we report that our oldest member, **Helen Cypher** died on Feb. 15 at the age of 107. She is pictured, left, last fall when she was presented with a PASR Commendation in honor of her long career and PASR membership. She retired from South Butler in 1975.

**Memories from Mary K Davis:** My memory of Helen was from the luncheon when our program was a person from the Historical Society showing pictures of the one-room schools in the southern part of the county. When one picture was projected, Helen said that she was in the picture. When asked

which student she was she informed the presenter that she was the teacher.

**Memories from Virginia Shirey:** As the eldest myself of six children who were privileged to have Mrs. Cypher as our third grade teacher, I remember learning about cave dwellers that year. She also wounded herself with a sewing machine needle trying to make clothes for the little people in the sand box. I still have the dictionary she gave me for doing so well in spelling the year she was my teacher. I still watch where my fingers are when I have a sewing project in front of me! I never thought of Mrs. Cypher being a small person (I guess she would not have been to a third grader), but the last time I saw her she only came up to my shoulder, and I am 5'2"!

### **Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund**

We only have one known shut-in on our list. If you know of anyone who could use a card of cheer or birthday wish or is temporally confined to a rehab unit for a short period of time, please let me know. I can be reached via email at [rascott@zbzoom.net](mailto:rascott@zbzoom.net) or phone or text at 724 679-0004.

#### **Send a card of cheer:**

Mary Ann Martsolf  
Birch, Room 105  
New Haven Court at Clearview  
100 New Haven Lane  
Butler PA 16001



This Photo by Unknown

The state SSMHF fund is running low on funds. This fund is used to pay dues or help to pay a bill for a member who just can't afford to pay. If you know of anyone from our Chapter that could use some monetary help, let me know and I will help them through the process. In the future if you would like to donate in Memory of someone who passed or in Honor of someone still living, we can work together on the form.

Beginning with our March meeting a box will be put out to collect any monetary donation you would like to give that our Chapter will then forward to the state. This is one way we can help those in need.

## YELLOW RIBBON GIRLS: SOME BACKGROUND ON THE PRINGLES CANS

Early in 2003, sisters from Ellwood City started sending items to support their brother and others during Iraqi Freedom. Their brother has retired from the Army, but the *Yellow Ribbon Girls* continue in an amazing fashion. They support troops year-round and world-wide:

USO Alaska	Guantanamo Bay Cuba	Dubai
Kosovo	Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan
Japan	Saudi Arabia	Ships at sea
South Korea	Iraq	Quatar
Afghanistan	Jordan	Africa

Some interesting details about Yellow Ribbon Girls Christmas 2019 care packages”

- 115 X large boxes containing over 100 items
- 48 X large boxes containing filled stockings
- 5 regular sized boxes containing special requests
- 167 regular sized boxes with filled stockings
- 9 small boxes containing trees and for stateside locations
- 344 TOTAL weighing around 10,864 pounds!

### *Stockings:*

- 400 Large with about 20 - 25 items in each
- 420 Large shipped with items to fill them
- 2542 Medium with about 15 items in each
- 1579 Small with about 7 - 10 items in each

### *TOTAL: 4941*

- Signed Christmas cards - 17,776 shipped. Over 1,000 waiting to ship soon.
- Donated candy 2,782 pounds SO FAR!
- Some got shipped before weighing. More is on the way
- Our best estimate is a little over 3,200 POUNDS!
- Postage bill for Christmas - over \$ 11,000.00



### **So why the Pringle cans?**

From October through March, the Yellow



Ribbon Girls include homemade cookies in their troop shipments. The cookies are made by community and church volunteers. They are packed in Pringles cans for shipment in the monthly boxes. So please bring me your empty Pringles cans with lids. I'll get them to the Yellow Ribbon Girls. Chris Moyer





How many plastic store bags might you bring home between now and our next meeting? Please bring bags that are empty, clean and smoothed out. If you can, cut into loops. Cut off seamed ends and handles. Cut loops 2 ½ -3 inches wide. You should get 5 loops for an average grocery bag. Roll them together to bring to the meeting. We donate them to the Methodist Church where folks crochet them into sleeping mats.



Have you visited the PASR website lately? The Members Only section is your gateway to access many benefits. [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org). Your user name is your email address. Your password is your first initial and last name.

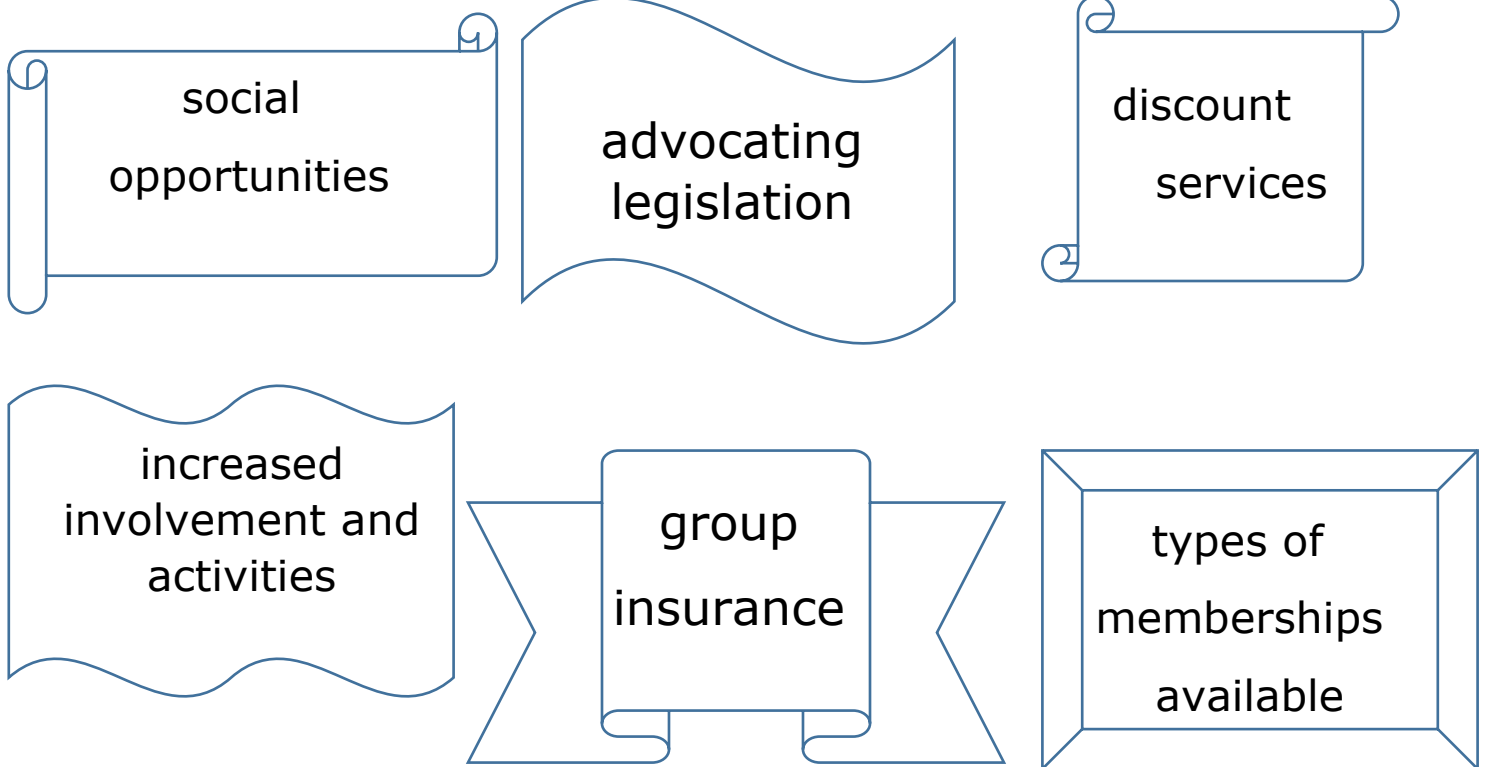
"Welcome to the PASR Members' Only section. This page allows you to access certain information that is not available to the public. Here, you may:

- Review and update your membership information
- Pay your dues online
- View information for discounts, services, and benefits available only to PASR members."

PASR is utilizing the website to put more information where it is needed. The latest implementation is the use of forums. Members who serve on committees can register for a forum. That way they will receive an email to alert them to updates. Helpful resources are available on each committee page.

**RESOURCES BY COMMITTEE:** Board, Bylaws, Chapter Presidents, Chapter & Region Treasurers, Chapter Support, Chapter Websites, Community Service, EDSUP, Finance, Leadership Development, L/PEC, Membership, MB&S, Membership Secretary, Policy, Public Relations, RECRO, Retirement Planning, Social Services/SSM.

# Why do folks join PASR?



One of the main reasons an individual joins our organization is for the social opportunities. We look forward to the prospects of getting together with colleagues and helping each other enjoy retirement!

Beyond gathering as a social group, PASR offers members opportunities to continue giving to communities, as they have done throughout their careers in education.

PASR is the only group that is organized solely for the benefit of school retirees. PASR's legislative advocacy efforts protect and preserve the benefits that school retirees receive from PSERS and seek to improve those benefits.

State members can participate in vision insurance and dental insurance.

State members can take advantage of a wide variety of discounts. Check [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org), login as a member, and check out the listings. It's here for you!

Different types of memberships are available. An **Active member** can be any person who retired under the PSERS, from other PA state-related educational institutions, or any former school employee retired under Public School Retirement from other states. An **Associate member** is any person who is interested in the work of PASR, such as a spouse or friend who brings the member to meetings. Ask your driver to join!



# Sanders Family Christmas

## Wednesday, September 30, 2020

### Mountain Playhouse, Jennerstown, PA

Join with Butler County PASR School Retirees, on this trip to the unique Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, PA for a sequel to the wildly successful bluegrass gospel musical "Smoke on the Mountain" You may have seen it in 2019 at the playhouse.

It's December 24, 1941, and America is going to war and so is Dennis Sanders, of the Sanders family Singers. Join Pastor Mervin Oglethorpe and the rest of the Sanders family as they send Dennis off with hilarious and touching stories and 25 Gospel and Christmas favorites.

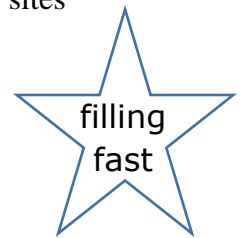
The Mountain Playhouse Theater is housed in a restored 1805 gristmill. The abandoned building was moved in 1939 log-by-log through snow to its present site. It has 393 seats in the climate-controlled building. It is the oldest professional summer stock theater and it is one of only 12 professional summer stock theaters remaining in the United States. Mountain Playhouse brings Broadway-quality entertainment to Southwestern PA.

Lunch before the show will be at the Coal Miner's Cafe in Jennerstown. This is a favorite luncheon site for bus groups. After the show, you will stop in Laughlintown at the Pie Shoppe where you can buy some "GOODIES".

For more information and reservations Call Margaret Hoffman 724-282-4454  
moff80037@zoomintemet.net or call Joanne Nolsheim 724-287- 8148

COST: \$ 90.00 per person. Includes lunch, show, Campbell Motorcoach, taxes/tip  
DEPART: 9:45 AM Moraine Pointe Plaza, Butler (Ollies parking) Inquire for other pick-up sites  
RETURN: 6:30 PM Butler Moraine Pointe Plaza

RESERVATION **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO Butler County PASR**  
MAIL TO Margaret Hoffman 140 Whippoorwill Rd. Butler PA 16001



**CUT HERE**

### Sanders Family Christmas.....September 30, 2020

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Traveling with: \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests \_\_\_\_\_

Butler County PASR

TREASURER'S REPORT  
October 1, 2019-December 31, 2019  
James Huemme, Treasurer

RECEIPTS:

Trip	\$ 165.00
Ed. Support	187.50
PASR	187.00
Local Dues	100.00
Luncheon	798.00
Military Mail	57.00

---

\$ 1,494.50

EXPENSES:

Luncheon	\$ 720.98
Minuteman Press	236.38
Trip	728.00
Postmaster	76.40
Military Mail	73.80
Office	70.39
Memorial Books	60.00

---

\$ 1,965.95

Balance September	2,813.48
Receipts	+ 1,494.50
	4,307.98
Expenses	- 1,965.95
	2,342.03
Savings	9,247.03
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$11,589.11

**PASR Luncheon Meeting**  
**12:00 Noon, Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
Christ Community United Methodist Church  
205 N Duffy Rd  
Butler, PA 16001

**Bear right around building to rear entrance: Fellowship Hall glass doors**

**Regular**

Baked chicken  
Hash brown casserole  
Steamed vegetable  
fruit

**Alternate**

Chef salad

BOTH:

Roll and butter

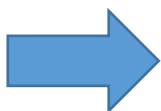
dessert

Decaf coffee, raspberry iced tea

Water

\$12.00

alternate meal \$11.00



**Program: Weavers and Spinners by Karen Parsons  
Of Stoneylane Farms**

Reservation Form Deadline **March 13, 2020**  
**12:00 Noon at Christ Community Methodist Church**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Reservation: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations:

baked chicken @\$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_ chef salad @ \$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total due:** \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate if **free**)     **all Nifty Nineties now free!!!**

**A retiree attending for the first time receives a complimentary meal.**

You may include the guest's payment in your envelope or send it separately. Make checks payable to *BUTLER COUNTY PASR* Reservations should be mailed to:

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

*PASR, Butler Chapter*

*Mary K. Davis*

*505 Kenner Dr.*

*Renfrew, PA 16053*

Pre sort STD  
Postage Pd.  
Per #510  
Butler, PA 16001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

**P A S R**  
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

**March 2020**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)