



Journey

Butler County Chapter Newsletter
<http://www.pasrbutler.org>

December 2019

President's Message

It is holiday shopping season! No matter what family traditions you may follow or which holiday customs you may observe, some special shopping is part of this time of the year.

Do you remember the store windows from a few decades ago? Butler street-front windows had holiday magic! I can remember that my family drove to Pittsburgh just to see the major store windows in the evening...the lights...the moving figures ...the fantasy and sensory overload of the holiday temptations everywhere.

The nature of shopping has changed. It isn't all about department stores now. A larger percentage of our shopping is conducted online or over the phone. UPS/FedEx delivery boxes have replaced those large shopping bags from the city stores or even the mall.

The new shopping is convenient but increased use of technology brings a special kind of hazard never imagined when we when we were young and starting out in our careers.

The following information comes from **www.consumer.ftc.gov**. Remember this source should you have loved ones who encounter fraud or other online dangers. Better yet, check this site beforehand, learn, and be prepared.

Identity theft happens. It's an unfortunate fact of modern life. But there are certain steps you can take to help keep your personal information from falling into the wrong hands.

Every day, you do things to protect what's most important to you. Another routine to get into is keeping tabs on your identity and personal information. Here are some easy ways you can do it.

Read your credit card and bank statements carefully and often.

Know your payment due dates.

If a bill doesn't show up when you expect it, look into it.

Read the statements from your health insurance plan.

Make sure the claims paid match the care you got.

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
State website 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
Membership **OPEN**
Community Service..... Peg Harding
Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**
Nomination **OPEN**
Reservations Donna Vogel
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, Ruth Kirk
Slippery Rock..... Ellen McIntyre
South Butler Virginia Shirey,
..... Doris Herceg

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Shred any documents with personal and financial information.

Change passwords from time to time. I use an app on my smart phone and computer called LastPass which securely stores my many passwords.

Don't overshare on social networking sites. If you post too much about yourself, an identity thief can find information about your life, use it to answer challenge questions on your accounts, and get access to your money and personal information. Never post your full name, Social Security number, address, phone number or account numbers in publicly accessible sites.

If you use Facebook, it is wise to check the system periodically. It is possible to see if someone has hacked in. At the next meeting, I will bring my laptop and show you how to check the Facebook settings and security login. Yes, I'll have a paper reminder so that you can remember what to do at home. One can't assume that no one will hack in. It does happen.

. For more tips and tools on dealing with identity theft, visit ftc.gov/idtheft.

PASR Butler General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
September 29, 2019
Christ Community Methodist Church

Polly welcomed us.

Lunch was served.

Karns City hosted Luncheon.

Meeting called to order- 12:50.

Program- Michael Schnelle, Digital Design Director, SRU communications and Public Affairs, discussed and demonstrated photography with drones.

President- Polly revamped the Butler PASR website making it more user friendly to both mobile and computer users. Helen Cypher is 107 and Clara Thompson is 104. A video as to the new voting machines was available. A request was made for Adult Literacy tutors. December meeting we will be collecting winter clothing for Center Avenue School. THIS weekend is a Heritage Festival at McConnel's Mill. We received a Scholarship thank you. Other items can be found in the Journey.

Region 8- Unsuccessful for a COLA but there is positive movement.

Community Service- No longer collecting pill bottles. Still collecting pop can tabs. Continue Center Avenue School collections. Volunteer hours now due on June 30.

Retirement Planning- Thinking about next year for a meeting.

RECREO- The bus is full for the October 3 trip.

We need a President Elect.

House of Delegates- 75 baskets donated. By-Law changes to be voted on.

Joanne Meredith won the raffle.

House of Delegates- October 6-8.
Executive Council meeting- October 24
General Membership meeting-
December 11. Host Mars.

Adjournment 2:05

Lunch was served.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

HELP NEEDED! We have important vacancies. Please talk with any officer to find out more. **Membership Chair** and **President-elect** are both vacant. This can be your opportunity!

Community Service

After the September luncheon, two large boxes of manufacturers' coupons were sent to the Air Force commissaries in Guam. USPO boxes are rotated between the Army, Navy, and Air force bases and since 2010, we've sent thousands of coupons to troops.:
Germany: Vogelweh, Wiesbaden, Ramstein, Bamberg, Stuttgart Vilseck, Grafenwoefer, Mannheim, Hohenfeld, Schweinfurt, Kaiserslautern, and Illesheim;
United Kingdom: Mildenhall, Lakenheath, and Alconbury;
Turkey; Incirlik; **Spain;** Rota **Italy:**

Vicenza, Naples, Gaeta, Aviano, and Sigonella; **Japan**: Okinawa, Yokosuka, Kadena, Yokota, and Sasebo; **Guam**: Westpac Region.

Over the years, many of these bases have closed, especially in Germany. We've been asked to limit the numbers of times we send the coupons to certain commissaries. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile project for our active military and their families overseas.

Center Ave. School students will be in need of winter clothing - gloves, socks, hats, etc. for grades K-12. \$10 gift cards are welcomed. Bingo prizes, pop can tabs, Pringle cans, plastic bags for the "homeless mats", ink cartridges, manufacturers' coupons, Boxtops for Education, etc. are being collected at the December luncheon. Please be generous.

The "Volunteer of the Year" will be tallied at the end of June 2020. Central office changed the recording dates from December 31st. to June 30th., so continue to keep track of your volunteer projects and hours for 18 months instead of the usual 12 months.

As usual, you have been so helpful in supplying items for others. Keep up the good work!

Margaret Harding
Community Service Chair

Thank you note received:
Greetings from Guam,

I am writing on behalf of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society to thank you for

the generous donation of coupons that were received at our office.

On behalf of the active duty service members and their families here on Naval Base Guam, thank you very much for your kindness, generosity, time and effort that you are giving to make our coupon program a success! Let me assure you that your time, energy, and money have been put to good use. Many of our families save more than \$30 per trip and that can really help them financially. Your dedication to the military community is much appreciated.

Thank you again for your volunteerism and dedication to our Sailors and Marines.

Thank you,
NMCRS Guam



2020 Meeting Dates

- exec board Thurs, Feb 6
- membership mtg Wed, Mar 25 *Moniteau*
- exec board Thurs, April 9
- membership mtg Wed. May 27 *Seneca*
- exec board Thurs, Aug 6
- membership mtg. Wed, Sept 23 *S Rock*
- exec board Thurs, Oct 22
- membership mtg Wed, Dec 9 *South B*

Region Director's Report

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in helping our region host the recent House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Valley Forge. The preliminary report that I have received on the evaluations has been positive. It takes many to make such an event a success.

A special thank you to the chapter delegates for your attention to all that was happening during the Plenary sessions – Polly Shaw (Butler), Barb Speer (Clarion), Barry Nelson and Ruth Leon (Mercer). Also, Sandy Shuttleworth served as a teller during the plenary sessions.

Ruth Scott (Butler) organized the SSMHF Basket Raffle. She had many volunteers helping her including Fran Geisel (Butler), Peg Harding (Butler), Barb Speer (Clarion), and many others. Barb Speer (Clarion) and Denny Knight also helped with registration.

Polly Shaw's presentation on "From Vanderbilt's Folly to America's Superhighway: The PA Turnpike" was very interesting and well received.

There were four bylaws changes adopted at the HOD. At the request of the L/PEC and Legislative committees, they are now one committee that will fulfill the directives of both committees. The list of possible people to fill the PR position at the region level is now expanded. The Resolutions committee has been dissolved and the Board of Directors will be responsible for resolutions that may be proposed by the regions. level. And at the state the

Citations and Policy committees are being combined.

As we near the end of another year, our region is still in need of people to take on the responsibilities of committee chairs. The following positions need to be filled:

- Community Service, L/PEC, Membership, and Social Service Memorial Honor Fund.
- We are also in need of a Region Director-elect.

Please give consideration to filling one of these positions. Many of the state committee meetings are now being conducted as teleconferences. This saves the committee members time and the state organization money in not having to pay for hotel rooms and reimbursing members for mileage.

I have enjoyed serving as your director and will continue to serve in this position through 2020. Even-numbered regions will be holding elections in the fall on 2020. Please let me know if you are willing to run for the position of Director or Director-elect.

Mary K Davis
Region 8 Director

Cards of Cheer

**Please send a sunny greeting to Sharon Kline
505 Stoneridge Blvd.
Butler, PA 16001**





Region Director Mary K Davis, seated on the dais as Co-Chair of the 2019 House of Delegates

2019 House of Delegates



Above and below are from the SS/MHF memorial observation. Thirteen chairs were placed in front of the dais, with a representative from each region, seated with a rose. In turn, each region rep was called to add a rose to the vase. The full roster of those who passed was posted in the lobby.



Above is the Monday evening banquet. The Region 8 table is in the foreground, with Fran Geisel, Ruth Scott, and Peg Harding on the far side of the table. The empty chair would be for your photographer, Polly Shaw.





Congratulations are in order for the 2020 – 2022 officers who were installed during the Final Plenary Session, pictured above. Left to Right (Standing): Judith Schaffer, President; Diana Armstrong, who will be leaving the position of Immediate Past President; William Neugebauer, President-Elect; Russell Diesinger, Vice President; Stephen Vak, Treasurer; John Werner, Assistant Treasurer; and Gary Parker, Immediate Past President. The new officers’ terms will begin January 1, 2020.

Thank you also to our event sponsors, which included: United Concordia Dental, Grove Financial & Associates, Davis Vision, Hear in America, EZ Solution, Nationwide, and Centric Bank. Special thanks to Donna Weinstein, who served as the Parliamentarian for the Meeting of the House of Delegates.

We hope to see you all again in 2021 at the Eden Resort in Lancaster!



A Message from PASR's Executive Director, Mark McKillop

2019 was an eventful year for PASR. During 2019, PASR supported increased efforts to convince members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly of the need for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to their pensions. Even though PASR supports an increase for all of our members (and all annuitants), we understand the acute and special need of a COLA for pre-Act 9 annuitants (those who retired prior to July 1, 2001). For the first time in a long time, through the efforts of our Governmental Consultant and Lobbyist, Jeff Hunsicker, we had substantive conversations with key leaders and members of the Pennsylvania State House and Senate about a COLA. The need to achieve this goal is imperative and PASR will, in the coming months, provide support and leadership in this effort.

We have received many questions and requests for information regarding the PASR COLA efforts. Unfortunately, much of what happens in the Pennsylvania General Assembly happens "behind the scenes." This is especially true with planning. The complexity of the legislative process is extensive. As a result of the many inquiries and the need to keep our membership informed, the Board of Directors and the PASR Legislative Political Education Committee has decided to send as detailed a letter as possible to our membership on this issue explaining the process and our efforts. We have also conveyed this message through email to all State and Chapter members. Hopefully, this will give our membership a better understanding and explanation of our COLA efforts thus far.

PASR's COLA Efforts

Key Actions:

1. Formed a coalition with the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) and other organizations to combine our efforts. We worked very closely with PSEA and our coalition partners on strategy, tactics, and the implementation of our strategy.
2. Developed and drafted legislation that would give an increase to all annuitants with a special emphasis on those who retired pre-Act 9. Developed three cost-saving alternative proposals and have submitted them for review working with our coalition partners.
3. Provided the proposed legislation to PSERS (Public School Employees Retirement System) for their review and comments.
4. Contacted legislative leaders and the Governor's Office to convey our position and the acute need for a COLA. Several legislative leaders have reacted positively to our outreach and efforts.

5. Expanded our lobbyist efforts to include key rank and file legislators and committee chairs.

Next Steps:

1. Now, and in the future, it is vitally important to find the prime sponsor that would give the legislation the best chance of passing. Simply introducing a bill is not enough. It is important to note that during the process of communicating with the Pennsylvania General Assembly, several key leaders offered to either play an important role or to introduce legislation granting a COLA.
2. We will continue to work and advocate for this issue when the General Assembly returns to session in mid-September. Even though our goal was to achieve action prior to the passage of the budget, we will simply continue our efforts into the fall.
3. In the very near future, we will be interviewing members who have an acute need for a COLA. We will be asking them to tell their story to us. We will share the information with our members, the public, and the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Anyone willing to tell their story, please contact our office.

What You Can Do to Get Involved

source: <https://www.pasr.org/legislative-cola-information/>

1. Contact your legislators. Send letters, write emails, and contact your legislators on Facebook and Twitter. To find your legislators, use this [link](#).
 - o A list of PA senators can be found [here](#).
 - o A list of the members of the PA house can be found [here](#)
2. Volunteer to provide a video testimonial to PASR. The next step of our COLA strategy focuses on the telling the stories of our members. To get legislators to understand the need for a COLA, they need to hear the lack of a COLA is truly affecting our members. We cannot do this part without you! We need volunteers who are willing to be filmed answering questions about the need for a COLA and telling their stories.
 - o To volunteer, please email pasr@pasr.org
3. Make a donation to the L/PEC fund. Did you know the cost of a campaign to support the passage of a single piece of legislation has cost PASR more than \$200,000 in the past and that these funds come directly from members' donations? In today's digital world, it's now more important than ever to have adequate funding available. Please consider mailing in a donation using our [L/PEC Contribution Form](#) or making a donation [online](#) (member log-in required). No amount is too small to make a difference!



Our most senior member is Helen Cypher, who resides at Concordia and recently celebrated her 107th birthday. Mark McKillop, PASR Executive Director, personally presented a PASR Commendation to her in honor of her long career and many years of PASR membership. Congratulations!

Butler County PASR Treasurer's Report
 July 1 – Sept. 30, 2019
 James A. Huemme, Treasurer

RECEIPTS:

Local Dues	\$ 160.00
State Dues	300.00
Trip	2,245.00
Lunch	697.80
Postage	47.00

\$3,449.80

EXPENSES:

PASR	\$ 300.00
Office	15.42
Military Mail	18.45
Minuteman Press	243.19
Postmaster	76.68
Luncheon	680.50
Trip	1,540.00
Conference Expense	64.04

\$ 2,938.28

Balance June 30, 2019	\$ 2,301.96
Receipts	+ 3,449.80

Total	\$ 5,751.76
Expenses	- 2,938.28

Checkbook Balance	\$ 2,813.48
Savings	+ 9,233.12

Total	\$ 12,046.60
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Christ Community United Methodist Church
205 North Duffy Road
Butler, PA 16001
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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

host: Mars

Kindly remember that it is important to make a reservation so that we order enough food from the caterer. We should never run out before all are served.

Regular Meal

chicken marsala

pasta with alfredo

marinated vegetables

Alternate Meal

Chef Salad

BOTH: dessert, coffee, ice tea, water

Program: Ring out the bells! We are welcoming a past popular program. This is a great participation opportunity to ring the hand chimes as we play holiday music together.

Reservation Form Deadline **November 27, 2019**
12:00 Noon at Christ Community Methodist Church

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

Number of reservations:

chicken marsala @\$13.00 _____ chef salad @ \$13.00 _____

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
114 Freeport Road, Apt. 2
Butler, PA 16002

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

December 2019

Ring those Christmas bells! Enjoy a first-hand chance to play the hand chimes in our Christmas songfest!

