



Journey

Butler County Chapter Newsletter

<http://www.pasrbutler.wix.com/butler>

Facebook: PASRbutler

May 2017

President's Message

I hope you are enjoying this spring season with the trees blooming and the birds singing, even though some messy birds are trying to build their nest behind my front porch light! I wanted to take some time and review a few of the news articles in the recent PASR state newsletter, because they are important to all of us.

The first one is found on page one and it concerns the retirement structure for PSERS. PASR opposes transition from the current "defined benefit" policy to either a 401k system or a hybrid system that would include both the defined benefit component with a 401k component. According to Mark McKillop, our new PASR Executive Director, the PASR Board of Directors continues to look for pragmatic and logical ways to work toward and support a much needed COLA for our members and all retirees of PSERS.

Every two years, PASR's statewide elected positions - president-elect, vice president, treasurer, and

assistant treasurer - come up for election. Veronica Rozic, our former PASR Region director and current membership chairperson, has decided to seek the position of PASR Vice President. I commend Veronica for volunteering for this position and wish her the very best of luck.

On pages 4-5 of the state newsletter, new PASR Membership benefits are listed. They include new benefits such as the Global Emergency Plan when traveling more than 100 miles from your home, including medical consultation and emergency medical evacuation and North American Moving Services, which is available for any of you wanting to move - maybe to Florida or other warmer climate areas!

On page 7, our Region 8 and Butler County Chapter are mentioned concerning the educational support grants which were given out for the 2015-2016 school year. That year we awarded grants to a staff member and support person in the Karns City School District and how the grant money was distributed. For this school

year 2016-2017, we awarded the Mars Area School District the support grant money.

Also on page 7, consider taking the State PASR sponsored trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan from October 4-9, 2017. Our own local Butler chapter sponsored that trip awhile ago. If you missed that one, maybe you might want to join this one.

For those of you who attended our March luncheon, I hope you enjoyed Steve Cicero's Part II presentation on the "History of Butler County". Steve, thank you so much for your expertise on our home county! I would have loved to have you as my history teacher!

If you know of anyone needing long term health care, dental and/or vision care, I hope you will contact our other speaker from the March luncheon. Bill Pitzer from PISI.

Butler County Council PASR
General Membership Meeting
March 22, 2017

Christ Community Methodist Church

Peg welcomed us. Lunch was served. Call to order by Peg.

PISI representative Bill Pitzer presented information on long term care insurance. He also collected worksheets indicating other types of insurance available.



Volunteer of the year- Jim and Kay Huemme were presented with a certificate and pin.

Peg's email is being hacked. Be careful opening and believing emails containing her name.

Lauretta Woodson recipients sent thank yous and indicated distribution of awards.

Community Service- Baby dolls were distributed to Sunnyview. Also 45 walker bags were distributed 1/2 to Sunnyview and 1/2 to Shelbourn.

Recreo- Fill out form for potential trips and send to Margaret. September trip to Niagara, New York is PASR sponsored trip.

Membership- Keep information up to date.

L/PEC – Donations wanted. Send to PASR indicating L/PEC. Changing to in-house audit will save \$3,000.

LEG- Public/Private Partnership consisted of selling bonds to support Unfunded Liability. PASR will stop working with P/P Partnership. PASR will continue to work to eliminate hybrid plan.

Region VIII- New executive director is Mark McKillop. Jeff Hunsicker was hired as lobbyist.

Butler Chapter Officers

President Peg Harding
harding.margaret@gmail.com
724-502-4065
President-Elect Polly Shaw
pollyshaw@zoominternet.net
Recording Secretary Fran Geisel
Corresponding Sec'y **OPEN**
Immediate Past Pres. Mary K Davis
Region Director Mary K Davis
Treasurer..... James Huemme
Asst. Treasurer..... Joanne Nolsheim
Website pasrbutler.wix.com/butler
State website www.pasr.org
Facebook group..... PASR Butler

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 Sue Campbell
Educational Support.... Diana Bowman
Community Service..... Peg Harding
Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**
Membership Veronica Rozic
vverrozic@aol.com
Nomination **OPEN**
Reservations Donna Vogel
Resolutions **OPEN**
Public Relations Polly Shaw

PASR School Entity Area Chairs

Butler Area Sharon Kline
BC3 Ruth Scott, Pattie Bajuszik
Karns City..... Mary Lou Waltman,
..... Margie Walker
Mars Priscilla Beblo
Moniteau Carol Ball
Seneca Valley ..Sue Campbell, Ruth Kirk
Slippery Rock..... Ellen McIntyre
South Butler Virginia Shirey,
..... Doris Herceg

Polly Shaw published a book titled *Moraine State Park*, through Arcadia Publishing.

Social Services/Memorial/Honor- Ruth Scott asks that she be informed of shut-ins, etc.

Steve Cicero continued with the History of Butler County.

Marian Bell won the raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary



PASR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thank you so much for the tremendous amount of items you brought to the March luncheon!

Butler Life Adult Day Center was given two boxes of Bingo prizes for their weekly games and Chris Moyer had Pringle cans to deliver to the Girl Scouts, (We sure do consume a lot of potato chips!) Jim Huemme delivered

cut plastic bags for the homeless mats and Mary K Davis delivered many items to the Center Ave. Community School. The Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh received your ink cartridges and will recycle them for gift cards to purchase items they need for their monastery. Sunnyview and Shelbourne Personal Care homes were grateful for the "walker bags", and my garage is full of plastic bottle caps to be delivered to Western Maryland for reimbursement for dialysis treatment for kidney patients who don't have adequate insurance coverage.

Two large post office boxes of coupons were sent to army base commissaries in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Remember, they accept Boxtops for Education, too. (The post master at the Gibsonia,PA site now calls me the "coupon lady"!) That title should go to Mary Angert and the rest of you who, faithfully, contribute those coupons four-five times a year!

Congratulations to Jim and Kay Huemme for being selected 2016 Volunteers of the Year. The award is presented to a member of the state/local PASR. Since both Jim and Kay volunteer for various charities such as the Butler Hospital, Meals on Wheels, their church organizations and other admirable organizations, it seemed fitting to honor this husband and wife team!

When Mary K Davis delivered the school supplies and other items to the Center Ave. Community School, the administration asked for specific items that would be greatly appreciated by

the students. The kids are in need of new or slightly used shoes for boys and girls ages 5-17, socks of various sizes, and toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc. One other item they mentioned were gift cards from Walmart, Target, etc. If the card is in a large amount, the staff will use them to purchase smaller denominations. I didn't realize how much these students needed. They come from all over the county and are at Center Ave. as an alternative school. Since their local schools determined that they needed extra guidance and support, this is our way to help them.

Continue contributing to our people in need by bringing the above mentioned items to our May meeting. They are greatly appreciated by our Butler county residents and others in need.



L/PEC

Legislative/Political Education Committee

It is confusing to understand the terminology that is used with pension reform. The Pennsylvania State Legislative session ended on November 30, 2016 without enacting any pension reform. The proposed bill would have ended defined benefits by changing the new retirees to a 401k like plan. In the long run, new retirees would not have had the same amount of money in their retirement plan as those people who are currently retired. There was no guarantee a new retiree would save the same amount of money as those people on the defined benefits plan. So, where do we go now?

PASR has been working with Dr. Cindy Byerlein on a Public/ Private Partnership. There will be information on this proposal on the PASR website. It has been a two-year process that began with two constraints. First, all retirees must keep their money. There would be no changes in the amount of money deposited for any retiree. Second, there would not be any The issue is the legislature is not keen on the bonds. Our proposal does not need money from the state. We would look to the private sector to get the calculated funds using conduit special revenue bonds. There have been talks with Drexel Heritage (an investment company). They will put insurance around this proposal. They will put 12.1% guarantee each year for 10 years. Also, they partner with companies in Texas to sell the bonds.

Unfortunately, there is an issue with the legislature. If the retirement

system is behind this plan, then the legislature will not be 100% behind the plan. So, the focus is now on amendments suggested by the late Fred McKillop and Dr. Cindy Beyerlein. They suggest using 25% of the bond issue funds to invest in Pennsylvania infrastructure improvements. Also, 25% of jobs created from these projects remain in Pennsylvania. As this bill continues through the legislative process, other amendments may be added to this PASR Public - Private Partnership Investment Plan.

PASR 2017 CHAPTER GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

There are five categories of PASR Goals. This issue of Journey begins with Goals 1&2 to help us all understand how Butler Chapter and state PASR operate.

GOAL 1: Expand/Improve Services to Others

Activity #1 — Develop/Participate In/ Expand a Project or Activity Serving Youth The Community Service Committee is encouraging chapters to develop/participate in/ expand a chapter activity which benefits youth of any age in their areas.

Activity #2 — Increase Educational Support Grant(s) The Educational Support Committee is encouraging chapters to award one or more Educational Support Grant(s) or to increase the amount of existing grants to active school personnel and/or support personnel in their areas.

Activity #3 — Increase Social Services Memorial Honor Fund Services The Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee is encouraging chapters to increase services to “confined” (hospital, homebound, assisted living and nursing homes) retirees.

Activity #4 — Initiate or Expand a Project or Activity Alleviating Hunger The Community Service Committee is encouraging chapters to either initiate or expand a special project or activity, other than just collecting nonperishable food items at meetings, to alleviate hunger in their areas.

Activity #5 — Promote Individual Giving to Memorial Honor Fund The Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee is encouraging the giving of individual and chapter donations to the Memorial Honor Fund that are given in honor or in memory of individuals.

GOAL 2: Expand/Improve Social Opportunities for Members

Activity #1 — Conduct and Publicize Chapter Recreo Events The Recreo Committee is encouraging chapters to conduct and publicize a chapter Recreo event in both the June 2017 PASR Newsletter and December 2017 PASR Newsletter, as well as online on the PASR Recreo calendar.

Activity #2 — Promote Participation in the State Recreo Event The Recreo 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 Recreo 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS
Moving Services

Moving can be one of life’s biggest stressors. With North American My Home Benefits, you can alleviate some of this stress by hiring a reliable, trustworthy mover. And take advantage of long distance and international moving, professional packing and unpacking services, and household storage. For more information, please call B. F. Fields Moving and Storage at 1-800-223-5309.



Pet Insurance

PASR is now offering Petplan pet insurance to our members. You already expect the unexpected with your pets, but what about when it comes to their vet bills? The truth is, unexpected vet bills happen more often than you think, and they cost you more than you would care to imagine. Petplan pet insurance can help. Petplan insurance helps you pay your

unexpected vet bills so if your pets have an accident or become ill, your first thoughts can be about their care, not your budget. For more information, call PISI at 1-800-382-1352.



PASR BUTLER COUNTY 2017 CALENDAR

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

Butler Chapter Executive Meeting

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

PASR State Convention

Butler Chapter Executive Meeting

PASR District 8 meeting

PASR Leadership Training at Grove City IU4

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

May 24, 2017

August 2, 2017

September 27, 2017

October 1-4, 2017

October 18, 2017

October 25, 2017

November 3, 2017

December 13, 2017



Pittsburgh Mansions and Flowers

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

The Butler County School Retirees, PASR, is sponsoring this trip that will stop in Oakmont, PA at the Kerr Memorial Museum and the famous Oakmont Bakery before having lunch at Hoffstot's Café Monaco. After lunch it will be a stop at the Henry Clay Frick Clayton House, The day will end with a stop at the Phipps Conservatory for the fall flower show..

Kerr Memorial Museum was the gracious residence of Dr. Thomas R. Kerr beginning in 1897. It is a fine example of the late 19th century Queen Anne style home. It was both his residence and medical office. This home gives you a new look at a period in Pittsburgh's history often characterized by the extremes of late 19th century America: fabulous wealth and grinding poverty. This is a part of the middle class that existed and has been often overshadowed. Virginia Kerr, Dr. Kerr's only child, lived in the house until her death in 1994. She never married. She taught English in the Oakmont public schools for 42 year. Upon her death, she bequeathed her beloved 14 room home to the Borough of Oakmont to be used as a museum in memory of her father.

The next stops are at the well-known **Oakmont Bakery** and **Hoffstot's Café Monaco**. These are next door to each other.

The **Bakery** is an experience to savor and enjoy. The showcases are brimming with delicious decisions. You will have a memorable lunch at **Hoffstot's**. Before arriving at the restaurant you have made a choice from a selected menu.

The next stop is the tour of "**Clayton**" the historic home of the Henry Clay Frick family. This tour provides you with opportunities to view fine and decorative arts from the Renaissance to the present, as well as learn how the Frick family lived during the turn of the 20th century. Clayton is an example of both the home of a wealthy Pittsburgh family and of late Victorian architecture and interior design, Also learn local history and Victorian social customs in the family's home. Ninety percent of the furniture and artifacts on display are original. You may also visit the Automobile Museum, Art Display, Greenhouse and Museum Book Shop.

The last stop will be at the **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**. This is one of the nation's oldest and largest Victorian greenhouses. This trip is scheduled at the time when fall flowers are featured exhibits. You will have time to explore on-your-own throughout the gardens.

This trip will have much walking and limited restroom facilities until the afternoon. The Butler PASR sponsors trips to benefit numerous activities that support Butler county schools, students and teachers. Margaret Harding, President; James Huemme, Treasurer; Joanne Nolsheim & Margaret Hoffman, Trip Coordinators.

COST: \$95.00 includes admissions, lunch, tax and gratuity, deluxe motor coach transportation,

DEPART: 8:30 AM - Butler Moraine Pointe Plaza (Slippery Rock and Route 8 South by special arrangement)

RETURN: 6:30 PM - Butler Moraine Pointe Plaza

Card Shower of Cheer

You can make a difference and certainly brighten their days!



June Kummer
Birthday: July 10
 539 Meridian Rd.
 Renfrew, PA
 16053

MaryAnn Martsoff
Birthday: October 27
 100 Stirling Village Way, Room 135,
 Butler PA
 16001

PASR TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2017-March 31, 2017

James Huemme, Treasurer

RECEIPTS:

Local Dues	\$	350.00
State Dues		360.00
Luncheon		671.00
Postage		99.00
		\$ 1,480.00

EXPENSES:

Postmaster	\$	297.67
PASR		420.00
Minuteman Press		273.48
Luncheon		742.00
Office		24.35
SSMHF		34.29
		\$ 1,791.79

BALANCE DECEMBER 31

\$ 5,397.47

RECEIPTS

+ 1,480.00

6,877.47

EXPENSES

- 1,791.79

CHECKBOOK BALANCE

\$ 5,085.68

SAVINGS

+ 9,098.19

TOTAL FUNDS

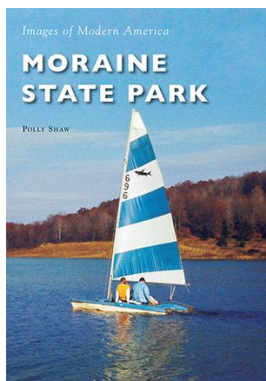
\$ 14,183.87

**PASR Luncheon Meeting
12:00 Noon, Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

Christ Community United Methodist Church
205 N Duffy Rd
Butler, PA 16001

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

RESERVATION DEADLINE: May 12, 2017



Our program will be presented by Polly Shaw, author of the newly released *Moraine State Park*, published by Arcadia Publishing. The focus will be on activities at the park of special interest to seniors. Books will be available for sale following the meeting, at \$20, a discount from the cover price. The meeting will conclude at 2:00.

Variety of Sandwich Wraps
Chicken Salad Croissants
Minestrone Soup
Macaroni Salad
Tortellini Salad
Red velvet cupcakes with cream
cheese icing,
Coffee, Sweet Tea, Lemonade
\$11.00

Grilled Chicken Salad, with
chicken on the side
Minestrone Soup

Red velvet cupcakes with cream
cheese icing,
Coffee, Sweet Tea, Lemonade
\$9.00

.....
Reservation Form Deadline **May 12, 2017**
12:00 Noon at Christ Community Methodist Church

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

Number of reservations:

Wraps @\$11.00 _____ Grilled Salad @ \$9.00 _____

Total due: _____ (indicate if **free**) Nifty Nineties are 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
Butler, PA 16001*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

P A S R
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

May 2017



Moraine State Park is a jewel in Butler County attractions. Our May program will focus on recreation and activities that are particularly attractive to PASR folks. See you at the May meeting!