



Butler County
Chapter Newsletter
December 2015

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

Facebook: PASRbutler (closed group)

Celebrating our 52nd year!

President's Message

As your president, I want to wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving, blessed Merry Christmas, and I hope all of you will have a happy, healthy, and safe 2016.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read reports from members who attended the 2015 PASR Convention that was held in Pittsburgh, PA from October 4-7, 2015. Polly Shaw and I went as the Butler County Chapter delegates, Veronica Rozic represented Region VIII as our Region Director, and Mary K. Davis was a presenter at two seminars on PASR membership. One of our new retirees, Steve Cicero, also attended some of the programs available during the 3-day convention. We wanted you to know about some of the tours, the personal enrichment and recurring state committee seminars, the tours of Pittsburgh that were offered, and the three plenary sessions.

At the convention banquet, Polly Shaw received the "2015 With Our Youth" Dedication Award by NRTA:AARP's Educator Community. One other individual received the same dedication award and two county chapters were recognized for their service to youth in their communities.

The John J. Dillon PASR Service Award, which began in 2004, provides the opportunity for chapters to recognize individuals that have given service to the Association. Dr. John J. Dillon was a past president of the Association who was a consummate PASR volunteer. PASR wanted to develop a way to recognize the outstanding service provided to the Association by individual volunteers at the local, region, and/or state level. Since Dr. Dillon was an ideal member, the PASR Board of Directors decided to name this recognition award in his honor. An annual listing of the John J. Dillon PASR Service Award recipients is produced, framed, and hung on display at PASR Headquarters in the John J. Dillon Hall of Fame. Additionally, a certificate is provided to the chapter president for presentation by the chapter to its honoree. The John Dillon Award will be presented to one of our Local/State Butler Chapter members at the December luncheon, so please come to congratulate him or her!

Congratulations to four of our Butler County PASR residents who were recognized for voting in our country's general elections for the past 50 years. They are: Ellie Smith, Sonie Laughead, and Virginia and Bob Shirey. The four candidates for Butler County Commissioner thanked us for inviting

them to our last luncheon. Congratulations to Leslie Osche, Kim Geyer, and Kevin Boozel for their victory on November 3, 2015.

This school year 2015-2016, we will be presenting the Laretta Woodson Awards to two members of the Karns City School District. The purpose of the Laretta Woodson Recognition Program is to honor one educator and one support professional for doing an outstanding job within a district or school. In addition, mini grants will be given to the two professionals to provide children in their schools with programs and/or supplies.

We will be hosting a retirement fair on April 12, 2016 at Christ Community Methodist Church for those educators and support personnel who are planning to retire in 2016. We could use your help in organizing, presenting this event, and finding potential family and friends who would benefit by this fair.

Mars Area School District will be hosting our December luncheon, so if you retired from Mars, please come and enjoy some fellowship with other Martian retirees!.

Peg Harding
President, Butler County Chapter

2015-Dates to Remember		
Board Meetings	Host	Chapter Meetings
October 28	Mars	Dec. 16
February 3	Moniteau	March 30
April 6	Seneca Valley	May 25
Retirement Fair April 12, 2016		

Butler Chapter Officers

- President Peg Harding
harding.margaret@gmail.com
- President-Elect..... Veronica Rozic
.....vverrozic@aol.com
- Recording Secretary Fran Geisel
- Corresponding Sec’y..... **open**
- Immediate Past Pres Mary K. Davis
- Region President.....Veronica Rozic
- Treasurer.....James Huemme
- Asst. Treasurer..... Joanne Nolsheim
- Chapter website
pasrbutler.wix.com/butler
- State websitewww.pasr.org
- Facebook group PASRbutler

Committee Chairs

- Legislative and L/PEC **OPEN**
- Retirement PlanningPam Patterson
- RECRESO.....M. Hoffman, J. Nolsheim
- Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund
.....Marcia Semple
- By-LawsSue Campbell
- Educational Support Diana Bowman
- Community Service Peg Harding
- Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**
- MembershipMary K. Davis
- Nomination **OPEN**
- Reservations Donna Vogel
- Resolutions **OPEN**
- Public Relations Polly Shaw
..... Send newsletter, website info to
..... pollyshaw@zoominternet.net

School District PASR Area Chairs

- Butler Area Sharon Kline
- BC3.....Ruth Scott, Pattie Bajuszik
- Karns CityMary Lou Waltman,
..... Margie Walker
- Mars.....Priscilla Beblo
- MoniteauCarol Ball
- Seneca Valley..Sue Campbell, Ruth Kirk
- Slippery Rock Ellen McIntyre
- South Butler.....Virginia Shirey

**Remember current location:
Christ Community Methodist
Church at 205 North Duffy
Road, in Butler Township behind
Target. See you **December 16,
2015 at Noon.****

Butler County Council PASR
Luncheon Meeting
September 23, 2015

Christ Community Methodist Church

Call to order. Peg Harding welcomed us.

Introduction of candidates for county commissioner. Four of our local/state members are being recognized by Butler County for 50 years of consecutive voting. They are Sonie Laughead, Ellie Smith, Don & Virginia Shirey, pictured below.



Minutes of the May 2015 meeting were approved.

President's Report

- Items from candidates for commissioner & tote bags from area on aging

- Convention Oct. 5 – 7 in Pittsburgh, extra rooms, excursions; see Peg if interested
- Two state PASR goals were discussed in the newsletter: Improve service to others; Increase Educational Support Grants
- Chapter PASR has been awarded to a current BCCC student
- John Dillon Award will be announced at the PASR State Convention this October. The award recognizes state members who have contributed to the local & state organization.
- Past President – Mary K. Davis introduced
- Treasurer - \$3090.71 profit from Ashville trip, \$896.00 profit from Jennerstown trip

Community Service

- Ongoing collection of bingo prizes, coupons, pop can tabs, water bottle lids, Pringles cans, plastic bags, ink cartridges
- School supplies will go to Slippery Rock Elementary
- Demonstration on cutting plastic bags & sample mat for homeless
- Volunteer of the year for 2015 will be awarded at the February 2016 luncheon due to the change in the fiscal year set up

L/PEC

- Nov. 3 is Election Day – voting for judges, DA, county treasurer, school board directors, etc.

Retirement Planning

- Members are needed to help in organizing & presenting the PASR Butler Chapter Retirement Fair in April 2016

RECRO- Holland spring trip is filled

By-Laws

- Our chapter by-laws are okay & added to website

Membership

- Mary K. welcomed new members
- State dues increased
- Encourage others to join

Social Services

- 3 additional members of our Butler chapter have been added to the shut-in list

Public Relations

- Newsletter either by mail or electronically
- New website – 7 major categories
- Example of items: award winners, by-laws, minutes of meetings, committee reports, on Facebook, scholarship information, community service form, directions for helmet hats & tote bags, link to state trips, reasons to join, list of discounts, *After School Magazine*, photo gallery, members who have died, much more
- Business card with website given out to all

District Chairpersons – No reports

Region news

- Veronica Rozic, representative of our region

Old Business – None

New Business

- AARP:NRTA “With Our Youth” program will be presenting an individual Dedication Award to Polly Shaw for her efforts in helping the American Red Cross with the “Pillowcase Project”. This award will be presented at the PASR state convention in October 2015
 - Woodson Award

- Sara Kovacik – gave award money to BHS library
- Patricia Saeler – Summit Elementary teacher will be using the grant money for a new on-going “Co-operation/Friend” award. New books will be dedicated to students yearly who show friendly cooperation toward new students coming to the school setting.

- PASR Commendation to Donna Vogel; appreciation award for service to PASR/education, shown below.



Program: Brittany Buzzelli from Area Agency on Aging **(724-282-3008)**

- General services – for 60 & older
- Questions about Medicare
- Keep seniors in most comfortable setting
- Funded by PA lottery
- Assist with daily living activities
- Family care giver support
- Nursing home transition program
- Protective services division
- Ombudsman volunteer program
- Apprise; help with Medicare options
- Health & wellness program
- Legal department

<http://www.co.butler.pa.us/Area-Agency-on-Aging>

Announcements

- Next luncheon December 16, 2015
- Donations accepted to help pay for mailing coupons to military

- 50/50 raffle - \$50 Sharon Kline
Respectfully submitted,
Frances A. Geisel, Recording Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

I hope you are enjoying this time of year! I know many of you are using these autumn days helping others. So I wanted to remind you of the various projects our Butler Chapter of PASR continues to help.

Since we have "adopted" Slippery Rock Elementary School (K-5) for the 2015-2016 school year, we are in need of winter items such as gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, socks, ear muffs, toys, puzzles, and things children would like to receive for Christmas. As usual, we are still collecting pop can tabs, ink cartridges, plastic lids, Pringle cans, Butler Life Bingo prizes, plastic bags for making "mats for the homeless", and manufacturers' coupons and Box Tops for Education.

We were able to send 3 medium size USPO boxes filled with coupons to military commissaries in Europe. Two boxes were sent to Army commissaries in Illesheim and Wiesbaden, Germany and the third box went to an Air Force commissary in Lakenheath, England. Remember to separate the coupons into FOOD and NON FOOD categories and place them in separate baggies or envelopes. The expiration date requirement should not go back more than two months. (Oct. 2015).

If you want to help the military in another way, go to **soldiersangels.org** and find out what you, as an individual, can do to help support our troops here and abroad.

Please let me know if you and other PASR volunteers are working on special projects for our youth and/or community or need other PASR members to help.

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to welcome several new members to our organization. They are Audrey Carlson, Steve Cicero, Sally Henry, J. Wayne Kovac, Mary Marchi, Nancy Robertson, Eleanor Weber, and Susan Wingfield. Please take time to welcome these members to PASR.

By now you know that the state board of directors voted this past summer to raise the state dues to \$60. This move was taken to offset the loss of income due to declining membership. Chapter members are members of the membership committee. The best way to attract new members is through word of mouth. Please invite former colleagues to attend one of our luncheons. At the state convention the membership presentation was based on membership being a TEAM. (Travel, Economics, Altruism, and Making and keeping friends) Please share the possibilities that membership in PASR can provide to members. Explain that the benefits offered by the state are only available to state members. One exception is that nonmembers may travel on the state trips when traveling with a state member.

SOCIAL SERVICES

We had our shut-in list updated --- so here are the following members who we are

currently in touch with: Betty Butler, Helen Cypher, Norval Dunn, Mary Hoehn, Margaret Hoffman, Lorraine Kesterson, Louise Kunkle, Mary Ann Martsolf, Robert Niesslein, and Clare Thompson.

Please remember, that you, our members, are very important to this service. If you know of someone who is in need, let me know. At our December meeting, we will be honoring our members who have passed during this year. Please be present as we remember our colleagues during our Memorial Service.

**PASR Butler Chapter 2015
Scholarship Awardee
Sarah Bartley**

Our PASR Butler Chapter awarded a \$500 scholarship to Sarah Bartley, a student at BCCC in memory of Donna Reeder, one of our PASR deceased members. The BC3 Education Foundation, Inc. hosted a dinner for the numerous scholarship recipients and guests at BC3 on October 24, 2015.

Sarah is a 2013 graduate of the Mars Area School District and is completing her studies at the BC3. She will receive Associate degrees in Elementary Education/Special Education, and Child Development in the spring of 2016. Then, Sarah will transfer to SRU.



Sarah Bartley and President Peg

One of our local members, Joanne Van Deusen, taught Sarah in sixth grade at the Mars Middle School, and many other PASR retirees, Peg Harding, Priscilla Beblo, and Marcia Semple, taught Sarah's parents, Sam and Sue Lisman Bartley in the middle school in the 1970's.

Sarah thanks PASR and Butler Chapter members for this award and says, "Education is an invaluable gift; it is the key to the world. This is the philosophy that I was raised with, my father coming from a small farming community and my mother a working class family. Both of my parents knew the importance of higher education and have made it part of their parenting pedagogy to carry on these ideals for my sister and me."

CARD SHOWER OF CHEER

Norval Dunn
100 Newhaven Lane, Apt. L 203
Butler, PA 16001

Lorraine Kesterson
148 Marwood Road, Apt. 1200
Cabot, PA 16023

By-Laws State Convention Seminar

I. Rationale for proposed changes

A. Questions:

1. How many remember the 1st time the Beatles were on Ed Sullivan show?

2. Do you remember when Elvis Presley joined the service?

3. Remember the first cell phones? Desk top computers?

B. First by-laws & constitution adopted

on 12/28/1951

C. Changes since the passage of these 64 yrs ago

1. Changes in Lifestyles of new retirees
2. Difficult to operate under rigidity of current by-laws

D. Now have 19 standing committees

1. All have own duties and responsibilities
2. Difficult to find members to serve on committees on local, region, and state levels

E. Large amount of money needed to operate committees

1. Distance to/ from meetings
2. Cost of hotel, food for meetings

II. Result of making changes

- A. Greater flexibility to work at all levels
- B. Better to remove word "standing" so end up with committees to function when needed
- C. Gives chapters flexibility to have committees as needed

III. Intent of amendment

- A. Reduce number of volunteers needed
- B. More efficient utilization of region meetings
- C. Adjust state structure of state committees to match local/region needs

NOTE: Delegates voted down the proposed changes. It goes back to committee.

Convention Notes – Mary K. Davis

I was privileged to help present the Membership workshop at the state convention in Pittsburgh on October 6, 2015. The state membership committee decided to talk about what membership can provide. We based our presentation on **T**ravel, **E**conomics, **A**ltruism, and **M**aking and keeping friends.

The room was set up for a Round Robin presentation. Each presenter moved from group to group talking about their part of **TEAM**. We talked to each of the four groups for approximately 10 minutes and then moved to the next group. The attendees seemed to really enjoy this approach. It gave them time to ask questions and make comments. As a presenter, I found it more enjoyable because I had more direct contact with the attendees. I was also able to attend the Enrichment Workshop, *Behind the Scenes of Entertainment*. The presenter had worked for DeCaesar/Engler concert promoters for many years. He talked about his experiences with the many groups that he had the opportunity to work with during his time as a concert organizer. He would meet the entertainers at the airport and transport to any place they needed to be during their time in Pittsburgh. He is now teaching a course at Point Park to teach the next generation what he had to learn on the job. It amazed me what all goes on behind the scenes so that the audience can have a wonderful experience when attending a concert.

On Monday afternoon I went on a tour of the Warhol Museum, PNC Park, and Heinz Field. All three venues were very interesting. I wish we had had more time at each stop. We had the opportunity to meet Andy Warhol's nephew while we were at the museum. We were at PNC Park the day before the Wild Card game. The grounds crew was busy preparing the field for the next day. Our guide told us that the dirt on the mound is a special blend that comes from Slippery Rock. At Heinz Field we were able to enter the locker room. The Steeler emblem is in the

carpeting and no one steps on it. The guide said that the team kneels around the emblem before going on the field. If you ever have the opportunity to tour any of these facilities, I think you will be fascinated by what you see.

PASR Convention 2015 - Reflections Peg Harding - Butler Chapter Delegate

Even though I attended the 2015 PASR Convention held on October 4-7, 2015 with my left hand wrapped in a soft cast because of a wrist procedure the week before, I learned many things about our organization, our city, and my ability to get around with the help of fellow PASR friends.

One of the personal enrichment seminars I attended was entitled "Stay Sharp! Activities to Keep Mentally Fit". We were told that doing activities such as Sudoku, KenKen, Hashi, and Shape Equations puzzles keeps our mind alert. I wasn't surprised when they said Word Search really didn't do much for our mental skills. They taught us how to "work" some of those puzzles and directed us to websites to learn more about the games.

I also attended two "Recurring State Committee Seminars". Both of these were held on Tuesday afternoon. The first dealt with L/PEC and Legislative information. The presenters encouraged PASR members to write or e-mail their legislators regarding positions and initiatives affecting pensions. We need to let our state representatives and state senators know that as retired school employees, we think that moving to a 401K type of pension plan will 1.) starve the current defined benefit plan, and threaten our pension, 2.) threaten health care assistance for future retirees, and 3.)

force PSERS to reduce coverage, or increase premiums down the road. The presenters, also, told the audience that less than 14 out of every 100 retirees receiving retirement benefits from PSERS are state members of PASR. How sad!

The second seminar was presented by the Community Service Committee. We have PASR members volunteering on a "Youth Accountability Program" set up in various counties across the state of Pennsylvania. The purpose of such a program is to respond to the needs of youth and their families in such a manner as to avoid further involvement in the Juvenile Justice System. The program offers an alternative way of handling juvenile first time summary, misdemeanor, and non-violent Felony offenders. Adult volunteers serve on panels along with professionals and law enforcement officers to help the juvenile and his/her parents devise a contract for a certain period of time that will enable the juvenile to become a positive member of the community. If the contract is completed, the juvenile will not have anything put on his record concerning the offense. Butler County, currently, does not have a program like this for juveniles, but some of you may want to find out more about how other PA counties and PASR volunteers went about setting up this alternative to help their juveniles.

Lastly, I went on a tour of the Andy Warhol Museum, PNC Park, and Heinz Field one afternoon. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing some artwork by one of our "native sons", Andy Warhol. But going inside the lockers rooms, the private boxes and press rooms, the dugout, and standing on the sidelines of the home of our Pirates and

Steelers was amazing! The tour guides were very helpful in answering our questions and showing us where Pirate and Steeler greats have their "cubbies" (I learned that word from some elementary teachers - it refers to their "lockers"!) Hopefully, we will schedule a tour of those facilities as a RECREO trip, sometime.

The 2017 PASR Convention will be held in Lancaster, PA. To become a delegate, you must be a state member of PASR, so make sure to pay your state dues and get ready to see some Amish buggies and great areas east of us.



Polly Shaw, above, holding the award, which says: "NRTA: AARP's Educator Community; *With Our Youth!*, promising new opportunities. Polly Shaw, 2015 Dedication Award."

"Never Scrub Another Toilet"

A Personal Enrichment Seminar
Veronica Rozic

The title of this seminar caught my eye. HRM Pat Condelli, "The Cookie Queen" presented this session, based on her third book. She worked for the Valley News

Dispatch as a reporter, editor and special features writer. After leaving that job of 30 yrs., she has operated her home based business, "Cookie Queen Cookies, Cookbooks, & Entertainment", beginning in 1992. Subscribe to her weekly newsletter by writing "subscribe" in the subject line of an email to tocookiequ@verizon.net.

She spoke about several tried and true shortcuts in and around the house. Unlike other shortcuts published, the author has perfected those listed in the book Never Scrub Another Toilet. 2nd edition. Some of the shortcuts include:

1. **Keeping Pizza Hot** - After buying a pizza, you want it to remain warm until you get home. Turn on the front passenger seat warmer and place the pizza box on the front seat.
2. **Oven Racks that Stick** - There are times that the rack in the oven will not slide in/ out. Dampen a paper towel with some vegetable oil. Rub it on both the rack and supports inside the oven.
3. **Keeping Kisses in the Cookie** - As the holidays approach, many people bake the Peanut butter/ Hershey Kisses cookie. The Hershey Kiss easily falls off of the peanut butter cookie. When it comes time to put the kiss on the candy, put it on with the point facing down. Put the cookies back into the oven for one more minute. The kiss will adhere to the cookie better.
4. **Chopping Onions** - There are many suggestions on how to clean onions without eyes watering. Running water, chewing bread, etc. does not work. Instead, burn a small votive candle.
5. **Reheating leftovers** - Try reheating left overs using a microwave steamer for two minutes, not any longer so that

everything tastes as good as when it was made. Microwave Steamers are available at Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

6. **Never Scrub Another Toilet** - Spray the bowl with Clorox Clean-up, close the lid, and walk away for at least an hour. (It is better to do this at bedtime, but not absolutely necessary.) Do not do anything else to the bowl except spray it

7. **Unsealing an envelope** - Everyone has paid a bill, but forgot to put the check into the envelope. Place the sealed envelope into the freezer for 1-2 hours. Tape may be needed to reseal.
8. **Removing Splinters** - Put a drop of Elmer's Glue where the splinter is. When dry, peel the dried glue off the skin. Most of the time, the splinter sticks to the dried glue.

PASR TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

James Huemme

RECEIPTS:

Local dues	\$	530.00
State dues		1,050.00
Jennerstown trip		1,180.00
PASR		414.91
Luncheon		912.50
Postage		107.00
		\$ 4,194.41

EXPENSES:

Jennerstown	\$	1,409.00
PASR dues		990.00
Minuteman Press		334.43
Postmaster		95.07
SSMHF		26.80
Military mail		98.25
Office		90.26
Luncheon		1,012.00
		\$ 4,055.81

Balance June 30	\$	8,234.42
Receipts		+ <u>4,194.41</u>
		12,428.83

Expenses		4,055.81
Balance Sept. 30		<u>8,373.02</u>
Savings		8,998.43

Total	\$	17,371.45
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PASR Luncheon Meeting
12:00 Noon, Wednesday, December 16, 2015

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: December 2, 2015
SEND TO Donna Vogel (724-538-8413)

Program: Christmas Sing-a-long – with chimes! Come for lots of fun!

MENU

Turkey, gravy, stuffing
Mashed potatoes
Baby carrots
Cranberry Salad
Rolls, butter
Pumpkin pie
Coffee, raspberry tea, water
Price: \$12.50

ALTERNATE

Chef's salad
Pumpkin pie
Coffee, raspberry tea, water
Price: \$10.50

Reservation Form Deadline **December 2, 2015**

12:00 Noon at Christ Community Methodist Church

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

Number of reservations:

Turkey dinner @\$12.50 _____ Chef Salad @ \$10.50 _____

Total due: _____ (indicate if **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

Mary K. Davis
114 Freeport Road
Butler, PA 16001

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

PASR
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

December 2015



Please remember **plastic bags** for the mats which provide an insulating layer for the homeless. Visit our website for more details.

We're also collecting:

winter items such as gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, socks, ear muffs, toys, puzzles, and things children would like to receive for Christmas.