

Butler County Chapter Newsletter
Website: www.pasrbutler.org

September 2021

President's Message



Before Times seems to be the way to now refer to life before the pandemic. People long for things to "return to normal" but that may

not be possible in the foreseeable future. New standards of expected behavior have become the norm: observe social distancing and wear a mask in some situations while avoiding close indoor encounters and mingling with crowds.

You did get your shots, didn't you? (with understanding that for some people it is contraindicated). Current reports say that 99% of new covid cases are in the unvaccinated. Yes, my husband and I had ours on March 2 and 22. Next up is the booster.

The summer weather got us all outside with a feeling of independence, even if it was just to walk in the neighborhood, to wave to a neighbor. I spend many mornings and evenings on my front porch, but the cooler days ahead are unavoidable. And so back

inside we'll go. What if we have to spend the whole cold season in isolation again, sheltering in place with much more alone time?

This seriously may be the time to step into the 21st century and learn to go online. A younger relative may be your best guide here; be receptive to their suggestions. It's helpful to talk to computer techs at some retail outlets. Understand that a full computer isn't necessary anymore. A Chromebook stores your data in the clouds, not on your hard drive, so they are a lot cheaper. Many schools supply this kind of device for individual students, so you know it must be more inexpensive!

Why do you need one? This is how we can interact when home. Stop for a minute and consider your own grandparents. Mine were all born in the later 1800's and didn't have electricity or telephones in their homes, or cars in the driveway. My own father's house in rural Georgia didn't even have indoor plumbing. It is

Butler Chapter Officers

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Recording Secretary..... Fran Geisel
Corresponding Sec'y **OPEN**
Immediate Past Pres. Peg Harding
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Region VIII Director..... Mary K Davis
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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
Community Service..... Peg Harding
Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**

Nomination **OPEN**
Reservations Donna Vogel
Resolutions **OPEN**
Public Relations Polly Shaw
Luncheon..... Donna Vogel

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..... Ruth Kirk
Slippery Rock..... Ellen McIntyre
South Butler Virginia Shirey,
..... Doris Herceg
(continued from page 1)

not hard to imagine that as each invention came along, there was resistance. Think of the Dowager Countess on Downton Abbey, played by Maggie Smith. When she first encountered electric lights in the castle, she shielded her face with her fan, swooning against the vapors!

But whether by kicking and screaming, or by welcome invitation, these changes all came into common household use, just as radio and television were subsequently accepted.

The plain fact is that internet access is no longer just for entertainment or "the kids." Computers provide ways to accomplish common tasks. This is especially important if the time returns when once again there are restrictions about going into a store, to see family, or where you worship. Investigate now possible ways to shop online and pick up your order at a retail store such as Target or Wal-Mart. You select on the website what you need. An employee will go around with a cart and gather your chosen items. When you arrive, you let them know and they will bring it right to the car.

Many churches moved toward online services using Zoom or Facebook, in addition to in-house live services. Regular church attendance is very important to many but if being in an enclosed room is not a comfortable option, then online services may be your connection. If your church doesn't offer this, first suggest that they try. You could also check around for another congregation in perhaps the same denomination. Even check out the one that you attended as a

child, that may be a great distance. It could be comforting to be in that environment again, online.

There are medical services available where you can talk online with a doctor or nurse, using the camera for a face-to-face appointment. See if your own PCP offers this service. If you are ill in the winter, this may fill a great need for you. If meds are prescribed, those can be delivered to your house, if your chosen pharmacy offers this service.

What about online classes? Try the *Institute for Learning in Retirement* which is operated by Slippery Rock University. www.ilretirement.org. You can also find them on Facebook. The catalog is online this year. Pay a fee and then sign up for in-person and/or online classes. (I am teaching both.)

This is the time to pay attention and see what is out there. Don't wait until the first snowfall, or stay-at-home mandate to try to figure it out. Be proactive so that you have both what you *want* and what you *need*!



We have gone through a time with limited mask wearing, but it is returning. "According to the CDC, Butler and Allegheny Counties are now both considered to be areas of "substantial transmission" in terms of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Those not immunized must wear a mask. Those who are immunized should have a mask available in case it is required or advised.

**PASR Butler
General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
May 26, 2021**

Alameda Park, Masonic Shelter

Polly welcomed us. Boxed lunches were served. Meeting called to order 12:30.

Flag pledge and song "Grand Old Flag". Covid activities included: 5 Executive Board meetings via Zoom, 3 General Membership meetings via Zoom, and publications of the *Journey* for information.

House of Delegates is in October, Polly is our delegate.

In the know-Check PSERS website for any changes in status or coverage Consider receiving the *Journey* by Email.

Inform Ruth or Polly of any members in need of a Card Shower or Home Visit.

PSERS- No problem with active FBI Federal Grand Jury. There is no evidence of problems with the pension system.

All dues are now good through June 2022.

Volunteer forms are due by June 1, 2021.

Today's recycling was done by Ruth Scott.

Slippery Rock will host next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, hopefully at the Community Methodist Church.

A basket was passed, instead of the raffle, and collected \$144 for the local food bank.

A "Thank You" was extended to Polly for all that she has done during the

past year and for arranging the picnic meeting.

Program: Bill May presented a video program on the history of Alameda Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT by Peg Harding

Thank you so much for filling out your Community Service Volunteer Service sheets. Our members have been volunteering with the following: Meals on Wheels, quilting making for churches, the Butler VA, Pieceful Patchers, the Linus project, Days for Girls kits for young girls/women in third world countries, working at polls during the elections, church committees, lay pastoral care, adult religious education, church dinners, Lutherlyn, Mars Sports Hall of Fame meetings and banquet, church garage sales, mission trips, bell choir, church money counters, Stephen Ministries, cutting plastic bags and creating plastic mats for the homeless, and many more.

I realize many of you have done hours of volunteer service and for some reason didn't send your surveys back to me.

Please let me know at our September meeting other services you have been helping. I'll have a sheet on the tables for you to add to our Butler Chapter Volunteerism. Number of hours note needed. I'd like to send this list to State PASR headquarters.

★ The Butler Life group is accepting Bingo donations. They are suggesting items such as: Lotions, Word Search paperbacks, trinkets, juice boxes. They will wipe them off for sanitary purposes, so do not contribute clothing items such as scarves, gloves, etc.

★ The Center Ave. Alternative K-12 school is accepting \$10 gift cards from Walmart or Target. Thank you for your generosity in the past is helping our young people.

Due to restrictions, we will NOT accept pop can tabs, manufacturers' coupons, ink cartridges, or other items we accepted in 2019.

THINKING OF YOU

Please consider sending a cheerful card to say "thinking of you."

Fred Meinhart
130 Harrison Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

Zoanne Weckley
136 Avon Drive
Butler, PA 16001



Floyd Wagner
560 Mercer Road
Butler, PA 16001

H. Pauline Rogers
530 West Penn Street
Butler, PA 16001

UPCOMING DATES

Gen Membership: Wed, Sept 22, at noon, Alameda Park, Masonic Shelter. This is the same place where we met in May.



PASR House of Delegates: Oct 3-5
Exec. Board: Thurs, Oct 21, at 10:00

When it is safe to do so, we expect to again meet at our customary place; Christ Community Methodist Church, 205 N. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001

Gen Membership: Wed, Dec 8, noon

CONGRATULATIONS



Mary K Davis, Current Region 8 Director, has been placed on the slate of state candidates for Vice-President.

Unless there is a nomination from the floor, she is unopposed. The election will be during the House of Delegates, Oct. 3-5 at Eden Resort in Lancaster.

LIGHT OF LIFE

We received a thank you note from Light of Life, Community Outreach of Butler, to thank PASR Butler for the cash donation that we collected from members at the May meeting. We ask that you consider a giving a cash donation at the September meeting.

Their need continues and we plan to support this worthy cause for the rest of the year, using donations, not our Butler Chapter treasury. Since Light of Life feeds the public, they must follow strict guidelines. Instead of product donations, they need money that they can use to purchase disposable gloves, food trays, plastic tableware, foam cups and bowls, and other required supplies. Thanks!

REGION 8 DIRECTOR UPDATE

By Mary K Davis

The state Board of Directors has been active throughout the year with all of our meetings and the state committee meetings occurring via ZOOM. At the July board meeting the following people were presented as a slate of officers for the 2022-2024 biennium – President-elect – Russell Diesinger Vice President – Mary K Davis

There were no applicants for Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer

If I am elected, Region 8 will need to elect a new director.

We also approved another raffle that will occur in February. The daily winners will be determined by the PICK 3 of the Daily Lottery drawings. In the past, the chapter presidents and region directors were given 10 tickets each to sell. This time Betty Ellen Clutter is asking that anyone who would like to sell 10 tickets contact her and she will get the tickets to you. She is still hoping that each chapter will be able to sell their 10 tickets; the chapters are not limited to just 10 tickets. The profits from this project will go toward the SSMHF fund.

Speaking of SSMHF, please remember that you may make donations in Honor or Memory of people that you know. General donations may be made online. Those in Honor or Memory must be mailed in with a form that is available on the state website.

Executive Director Mark McKillop is keeping us aware of any information that is available about the investigation into PSERS investments, which I will pass it on to you. There have been some articles in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that you may check out. Our pensions **are not** at risk because of this investigation.

I will be attending the House of Delegates meeting in Lancaster October 3-5.

Thanks to all who are current in their dues. Some of you are life members, so no further payment is ever required. In the spring, Jim Huemme, Sharon Kline, Mary K Davis and Polly Shaw met to comb through the membership list and compare it to dues records. Many brought their account up to date by the end of June. Our new number is 203 active members. 193 remain in arrears are now on the inactive list. 2020 dues are forgiven, so those not current with previous dues and wish to return are welcome to contact Jim Huemme about remitting dues. 724-287-0454. Inactive members are no longer receiving *Journey* beginning with this issue. Remember that active state members can access the members only page on the state website, www.pasr.org to reach member benefits and other resources.

BUTLER COUNTY CHAPTER

NAME _____ e-mail address _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

DUES: _____ Local - \$10.00 _____ State - \$60.00

 _____ Local Life - \$150.00 _____ State Life - \$700.00

(State Life can be paid in two years at \$350.00 per year)

Please make check payable to Butler County PASR and mail to: Jim Huemme
119 Shanor Heights Butler, PA 16001

BEING PHONE SMART



In the era of overactive group texts and social media overload, getting a phone call from a friend or loved one with good news has become something of a special event again.

Though those anonymous spam calls might seem like they're just a nuisance, they can actually be targeted scams that can put your personal information at risk.

Officials at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) say there are a few simple tricks that can tell you when you should hang up the phone immediately—and others that can help cut back on unwanted calls altogether.

1. Hang up immediately if you hear a recording when you answer the phone. Knowing you're about to get a robocall is usually as easy as noticing that it's coming from an unknown or blocked number. But if you ever answer the phone and hear a recording on the other end, you should hang up immediately—especially if it's asking a simple question that you can answer with a "yes."

According to the FCC, scammers and robocall companies often use simple responses to identify potential targets. And it's not just your voice: *This also includes asking you to press a button to remove you from a call list.* Interacting with these prompts in any

way is how spammers find out your number is real, which they can then use to begin spamming you more often or even sell to other companies.

2. Avoid picking up calls from unknown numbers, even if they appear to be local.

Screening your calls and avoiding unknown numbers can be difficult and annoying, especially if you're waiting for an important call from someone whose number you might not have stored in your phone. But according to the FCC, even if a phone call looks like it's coming from your area code, there's a good chance it's being "spoofed" to get your attention and trick you into picking it up.

Of course, if you ever answer the phone and realize you're speaking with a live person instead of a recording, there are some other red flags that you should hang up immediately as well. If a caller claims to be from a company or government agency and immediately pressures you for personal information such as an account number, address, credit card number, social security number, or personal information such as your mother's maiden name, it's likely a scammer at work. The FCC recommends hanging up as soon as you become suspicious or unsure and then calling the purported company or agency back on an officially listed number or at a number listed on your bill or account statement.

From an article by Zachary Mark, "Best Life" on Smart News website

Who Knew #14
Is It Doughnuts or Donuts? By
Judith Schaffer, PASR State
President



Many of our chapters are now beginning to schedule fall meetings again as COVID-19 seems to be in a decline. For most of us, the start of a PASR meeting means a social serving of coffee and DOUGHNUTS.

The magic word is doughnuts! Which spelling is correct? This pastry is spelled doughnuts in the UK, and donuts in the USA. Both are correct. How did doughnuts become so synonymous with drinking coffee? A cup of coffee gives us caffeine, while a donut provides glucose. Together they rev up the brain and help to make us smarter. Who Knew!

The earliest form of this pastry was called "OLYKOEK" or oily cakes. The Dutch settlers who crossed The Pond brought them to New Amsterdam which is Manhattan today. A 19th-century story says that Captain Gregory's mother, Elizabeth made deep-fried dough with lemon rind and spices for her son's crew to enjoy on their long voyages and to ward off scurvy. These treats had no hole in the middle.

*Who made the doughnut with the hole in the middle?
Just how it got there will be always a riddle.*

World War I promoted the idea of doughnuts as a soldier's desired treat. Women volunteers delivered doughnuts to soldiers in the trenches of France. The Salvation Army in 1916 promoted the song, "My Doughnut Girl" combining the idea of serving doughnuts and hot coffee. Ensign Helen Purviance originally produced only seven doughnuts at a time in a skillet to soldiers standing in long lines to get one. In 1920 Adolph Levitt, a refugee from Russia began selling his doughnuts to hungry theater crowds. Demand was so great that he made a gadget to make them faster.

National Donut Day was started in 1938 as a fundraiser for the Salvation Army on the first Friday in June. Begin plans now for celebrating this event on June 3, 2022.

During World War II the "Doughnut Dollies" of the Red Cross delivered this pastry again to the troops and served them in their social canteens. Doughnuts were here to stay and have become America's favorite treat—especially the glazed ones.

"The Donut Song" by Burl Ives was written in 1950.

When you walk the streets you'll have no cares

If you walk the lines and not the squares

As you go through life make this your goal

Watch the donut, not the holes.

Americans loved eating their donuts and several large competitive chains developed to offer delicious flavors and shapes. Remember DUNKIN DONUTS started by William Rosenberg, whose

company destroyed their rival, MISTER DONUT started by Henry Winokur. Mister Donut started over under a new name, THE DONUT CONNECTION located in New York City and western PA. Who Knew!

In 1940 Al and Bob Pelton created a potato flour-based donut called SPUDNUTS. Have you ever eaten a spudnut?? Cleveland, Ohio still has two of these stores. Who Knew!

KRISPY KREME became the next big donut chain. In 1939 they opened a store in Akron, Ohio which was the first store to sell them outside of the South. I remember seeing long lines of people early in the mornings waiting to purchase these donuts fresh from the ovens, especially at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Starting March 2021 this firm offers a free original glazed donut everyday to customers proving they were COVID-19 vaccinated until the end of the year. Who Knew!

Jokes have been created about donuts-
Why are doughnuts healthy? Because they're a hole food!

Why did the doughnut go to the dentist? It needed a filling!

What is a donut's favorite day of the week? Fry-day!

Be sure to serve coffee and donuts before your meetings. Remember, it makes us smarter!

Here are some ideas to try based on donuts:

Support local churches offering donut sales

Honor the Laretta Woodson awardees by supplying donuts to their school employees

Send donuts to local fire companies to support their first responder efforts

In conclusion, I feel better now knowing that when I eat a donut, it is making me smarter, not just more pleasingly plump!



Our September program will be presented by Jeff Double. He will be designing an arrangement which will be **given away** at the meeting!!!

All About Reclaimed is a full service florist specializing in made-to-order specialty flower arrangements, weddings, special occasions, and funerals. Their goal is to deliver the

highest quality products and services at extremely competitive prices. They will work within your budget to provide the perfect flowers for any occasion.

PASR TREASURER'S REPORT
 April 1, 2021-June 30, 2021
 James Huemme, Treasurer

RECEIPTS:

Savings WD	\$	1,000.00
Lunch		613.00
Local Dues		740.00
State Dues		990.00
		<hr/>
	\$	3,343.00

EXPENSES:

Program Speakers	\$	100.00
Picnic Rental		91.07
Zoom Account		149.90
State Dues		990.00
Postmaster		141.13
Minuteman		304.91
SSMHF		139.72
Scholarship		500.00
Luncheon		418.00
		<hr/>
	\$	2,834.73

March Checkbook Balance	\$	1,184.97
Receipts	+	3,343.00
		4,527.97
Expenses	-	2,834.73
Checkbook Balance		1,693.24
Savings	+	8,332.94
		<hr/>
Total Funds	\$	10,026.18



***Thank you to all who paid their dues over the past three months. If you haven't done so yet, you may send them now. 119 Shanor Heights, Butler, PA 16001

Call me at 724-287-0454, if you have questions.

PASR Luncheon Meeting
 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, September 22, 2021



We will meet in **shelter #8**, Masonic Shelter, adjacent to the playground and the waterpark. Enter from New Castle Road at the traffic signal near Jiffy Lube. That is Alameda Park Road. Turn right to Pool Drive. Pass the playground. The Masonic Shelter #8 is on the right, with adjacent parking.

Moniteau, with assist from Slippery Rock, will host the meeting.

All meals will be individually packaged by Monroe Hotel, our usual caterer.

- Deli wrap – turkey
- OR deli wrap - ham
- Potato salad
- Cole slaw
- Fruit salad
- Cookie
- Raspberry tea, bottled water, coffee

- alternative*
- chef salad
- cookie
- Beverages

All meals \$12.00

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 Reservation Form Deadline **September 11, 2021**
 12:00 Noon at Masonic Shelter in Alameda Park, Butler, PA

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

Number of reservations: turkey deli wrap @\$12.00 _____

Ham deli wrap @ \$12.00 _____

Chef salad @ 12.00 _____

First time retiree and nifty nineties are free total due: _____

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 Kenlee 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

It's time to celebrate autumn spendor!

