



Journey

Butler County Chapter Newsletter
Website: www.pasrbutler.org

March 2021

PASR State President's Message
By Judith Schaffer

Who Knew! #9 CARE to SHARE

Are you concerned about the environment? I recently spent time recovering from my hip replacement surgery staying with my sister. She is an avid recycler! Watching her recycle newspaper, glass, plastics on a daily basis made me re-examine my lifestyle.

I have always taken my newspapers to local charity deposit stations, but that is the extent of my involvement. My city even charges a recycling fee and provides a bright blue bin for bi-monthly pickups. I never seemed to use it.

With the COVID-19 stay-at-home mandates, I now had the time to begin expanding my recycling endeavors. Plastics seemed to be the hardest to understand how to recycle.

Do you recognize the name Milly Zantow? She is the pioneer of plastic recycling. Her town, Sauk City in

Wisconsin had a serious landfill problem. It was almost at its capacity. After a trip to Japan, seeing their people recycle, she became interested in what to do with plastics. Recycling takes a little effort on your part but it's worth it.

Milly's efforts in 1990 produced the triangle number system located on the bottom of plastics, making a big difference in the world. Who Knew!

Did you stock up on toilet paper and paper towels at the beginning of the pandemic? I am finally using up my stockpile, but now have lots of cardboard tubes. What am I going to do with them? Recycle or Repurpose? Recycling turns things into other things which is like MAGIC!

I decided to repurpose them. I took the cardboard rolls and magically made them into holiday English "CRACKER" favors and ornaments. Fill the rolls with candies and small coins, wrap in colorful papers, tie the ends off with ribbons and you have a repurposed use for cardboard. Who Knew!

(continued page 2, column B)

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
khuemme@zoominternet.net
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
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

ADVICE FROM NURSES

Wear a mask

Wash hands frequently

**Social distancing at large
gatherings**

Stay home when sick

Get a flu shot

Judith Schaffer, continued

I even decorated a whole holiday themed tree with them for a local hotel lobby. No clean-up after New Year's Day, they just threw them away.

Make them up as favors for nursing homes, Meals on Wheels or school parties. I even used the paper towel rolls to make gifts, adding holiday flowers for my niece's school teachers. The list of possibilities is endless!

I am very proud of all the members of PASR, both state and chapter. You CARED enough to SHARE!

The COVID-19 pandemic has really affected families across the state. They are facing multiple problems, but food insecurity is the number one critical issue. Local food banks have been and continue to be challenged to meet the rising needs of Pennsylvania residents. Acute food shortages in our country! Who Knew!

Feeding Pennsylvania works with nine food banks across the state to help alleviate a shortage of needed supplies. Our PASR members recently were asked through the Community Service Committee to make monetary donations during the month of February

to this organization. Those that could afford to help, did so.

YOU CARED ENOUGH TO SHARE! In the first week of the campaign, PASR raised over \$15,000.00. Hopefully by the end of the month, donations will greatly exceed this amount. Thanks to this committee and the staff for a job well done.

It's not community service; It's serving your community!

PASR President Judith Schaffer

Butler County Council PASR
General Membership
December 9, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Polly welcomed us.

Meeting called to order at 12:03 with Polly's gavel.
Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from September 23, 2020 are in the Journey.

President's Report- State COVID recommendations include no in person meetings through March. We will try for a meeting in May. Committees are to make Zoom meetings. We were the first to try a General Membership meeting by Zoom. Polly has been asked to join a committee that will meet in January to help others conduct Zoom meetings. She asks that any suggestions be emailed to her. "Scams against seniors" is in the Journey. Pay attention, don't fall victim. PSERS- check to see if all beneficiary information is correct. Polly read a poem, A Month Before Christmas, about the pandemic. Volunteer of the Year Certificate is in mailed Journey for all members this

year. Executive Council will meet on February 4, 2021. General Membership Meeting will be March 24, 2021.

Treasurer's Report- There was a typo in the office expense, should be \$34. The totals are correct. Jim will send a check for the program.

Region 8 Report- LPEC reports changes in the state assembly. The election did not go as expected and is more split than it was. A COLA is still possible. Mary K. acknowledged Paula Haehnel, Region Educational Support, who attended our meeting.

Membership Report- Please inform of any change in address, telephone, email. Check labels for double mailings. Jim double checks labels.

New Business- Motion was made by Mary K Davis to set aside bylaws for the online election of officers. Ruth Scott seconded. Motion passed. Motion was made for the election of current slate of officers by Soni Laughead. JoAnn Meredith seconded. Motion passed.

Community Service Report- A grant for counties of \$187.50 was received from the state. South Butler is the recipient of the local grant. Ruth will be in the church parking lot on Friday December 11 from 10 to 12 to receive \$10 gift cards from Walmart or Target for the Center Avenue School. Peg will be there to help. There is enough money in the credit union to fund the BC3 Scholarship, although contributions will be accepted.

South Butler has not been officially changed to Knoch.

Program- Anne Phipps presented Christmas music program singing and featuring a harp with violin and guitar accompaniment. It was beautiful.

Meeting adjourned at 1:11.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

Community Service

Peg Harding

Here we are again! We're staying home, watching TV, reading, eating, etc. We can help others who are, desperately in need, though. PASR wants to help!

During February, PASR is partnering with *Feeding Pennsylvania*, a non-profit organization that works with food banks across PA to help Pennsylvanians meet their nutritional needs. Did you know that in Pennsylvania, 1,401,920 people are struggling with hunger, including 399,270 children. For this reason PASR has decided to dedicate the month of February to serving the needs of the hungry in our state by partnering with *Feeding Pennsylvania*. 90% of all donations received by *Feeding Pennsylvania* go directly towards feeding those in need. *Feeding Pennsylvania* works with PA farmers to supply fresh produce and dairy products to local food banks, which benefits small PA family farms. They also focus efforts on educating the public about hunger and advocating for policies that support the work of hunger relief organizations. *Feeding Pennsylvania*

member food banks serve nearly 2 million people annually by distributing more than 164 million pounds of food throughout Pennsylvania to more than 2,700 agencies and feeding programs. With COVID-19 making it even more challenging for many people to feed their families, it has never been a more important time to donate. It is our hope that all our members who are able to support this cause will join our efforts by making a monetary donation. *Feeding Pennsylvania* set up online donation. visit <https://feedingpa.org/supportour-mission/> in February. Select "PASR" from the support dropdown menu. Donations can also be made by mailing a check, made payable to "Feeding Pennsylvania." Send your check to PASR, 878 Century Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4375. (It is fine to do this in March.)

SSMHF Report

Ruth Scott

Thank you to all who donated gift cards or money to purchase gift cards for the students at Center Avenue Community School. With your generosity we were able to give them two \$15 gift cards from Target and 34 \$10 gift cards from Walmart.

I received a thank you from the school principal, Keenan McGaughey and the school nurse, Michele Smith. They were very pleased to have received the gift cards. These will be put to good use for their students. These cards can be donated all year long. You may mail me **\$10 Gift Cards from Walmart or Target** or send cash to my home address at Ruth Scott, 221 E. Muntz Avenue, Butler PA 16001.

Cards of Cheer

Ken Brady
The Waters of Wexford
Apt 2003
210 Fowler Road
Warrendale, PA 15806



Ellen McIntyre
210 North Boundary Street
Butler, PA 16001

Margaret Hoffman
140 Whippoorwill Road
Butler, PA 16001

Priscilla Beblo
415 Bull Creek Road
Butler, PA 16002

Joanne Nolsheim
1101 Stoneridge Blvd.
Butler, PA 16001

Elizabeth Butler
210 North Bluff Street
Butler, PA 16001

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.

Upcoming Dates

Exec. Board: Thurs, April 8, at 10:00
Gen Membership: Wed, May 26, at noon
Exec. Board: Thurs, Aug 5, 2021 at 10:00
Gen Membership: Wed, Sept 22, at noon
Exec. Board: Thurs, Oct 21, at 10:00
Gen Membership: Wed, Dec 8 at noon

Topic: PASR Butler General
Membership Meeting

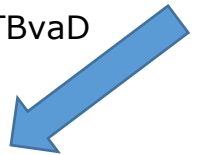
Time: March 24, 2021 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84351952970?pwd=ZmZBOVhiZjFQQzFhNTBvaDhhNUI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 843 5195 2970

Passcode: 126107



The September 2020 issue of *Journey* has supportive information on using Zoom. It is available online at www.pasrbutler.org On the right side of the front page, find

Quick Links. Click on **Journey Sept 2020**. When that opens, scroll down to pages 6-9. Zoom is easy when you see what to do. Please give it a try and join in on March 24.

Our Butler *In Memoriam* page on the website has been updated again. Please consider making sure *now* that your loved ones know that you belong to PASR Butler, so that mention might be included in the obituary. Ruth Scott and I read every single obituary; not enough mention this membership. Please think about it.

President's Message



During my teaching years, I learned while working with certain administrators, that it was most effective with any kind of complaint to go in at the same time with a well thought-out remedy. That strategy often helped to bring about a favorable change.

When PASR Butler Chapter started to venture out with Zoom last spring, we were feeling our way. I did a LOT of "independent study" and got somewhat comfortable. In late summer I started to ask PASR to see what other chapters were doing. That led to some emails and a suggestion that PASR needed to offer some sort of training. I did this, knowing that I would be willing to help, if asked.

I am not on a state committee but was pleased to be asked to help to create a Zoom training about using Zoom which was offered on February 23 to chapters across the state. My part of the program was on making accommodations and the mechanics of holding a meeting via Zoom. The whole program was recorded and you can view it.



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[Home](#) [Dues](#) [Discounts & Benefits](#) [Dental & Vision](#) [Donate](#) [Find a Chapter](#) [Calendar](#)

Zoom Information

Zoom Resources

- [Zoom Quick Start Guide \(PASR\)](#)
- [Joining a Zoom Meeting \(PASR\)](#)
- [In-Meeting Zoom Tools \(PASR\)](#)
- [Step-by-Step Video Tutorial](#)
- [Zoom's Official Video Guide](#)

Groomin' For Zoomin' Presentation

- [Groomin' for Zoomin' Etiquette Handout](#)
- [Groomin' for Zooming' Q&A](#)
- [Groomin' for Zoomin' Powerpoint Presentation with Notes](#)



General Resources

- Newsletters and Publications
- Brochures
- Forms
- Bylaws
- PASR Leadership Directory
- Zoom Information**
- Legislative and COLA Updates
- Leadership Development 2020
- PASR Logo
- Staff Directory
- 2021 Chapter Goals & Activities
- 2021 Timeline for Regions & Chapters
- 2021 State Meeting Calendar
- Purchase PASR Pins and Merchandise

Documents

Officer Resources

- Resources by Committee
- Board

There are some great resources there for you. Go to www.pasr.org. Login as a member. On the members only page, under General Resources, click on Zoom Information. Click on any blue link for a document. Click on the video to open the training program, "Groomin' for Zoomin'".



On March 6, I was finally able to give up my "second job." Well, it felt like a second job. Since the day my husband and I became eligible for the covid-19 vaccine, I started to make the rounds on the internet to get an appointment. First, once a day; then twice a day with assorted sites; then as I saw Facebook postings that my friends were getting their first and even second shots, I upped it to three times daily regularly checking websites of two hospitals, three pharmacy sites (and all branches), and two search sites. Finally on March 6, I booked appointments in Clarion for March 8, so I could stop combing the internet. Being a Clarion State graduate, we did enjoy a drive through the campus after the shot. As of this writing, Butler now has lots of openings. Hope you are successful!

Clarion Hospital had a well organized location. They were using an empty Kohl's store, so there was lots of room inside and lots of parking outside. However, the whole process of getting the appointment was WAY too difficult.

From a Facebook posting by a friend of mine: "This scheduling is a huge mess. If the people in charge had just gotten about 5-6 teachers in a room with unlimited coffee and tea, a plan would have been put in place. The plan would have been color coded, alphabetized and laminated!!" Well said, Becky Sheavly Thomas!



Yes, I registered on the Do Not Call List. Yes, I have an app that catches scam calls on my cell phone. Nevertheless, my husband and I continue to get scam calls on our cells and the landline. I've learned some more about these kinds of calls.

There are just a few call generation centers located around the world. They maintain the phone number databases, make the recorded robo calls with spoofed called ID information, and then route the call to a subscribing call center if someone answers. That's why there is usually a delay before a voice is heard. One call center in Kolkata, India simultaneously runs at east three separate scams. There are similar operations in Mumbai, India and Mexico City, Mexico.

REMEMBER:

1. Your Social Security number will NEVER be suspended.
2. The IRS contacts you by mail, not by these kinds of calls. IRS threat calls are fake.
3. If you didNOT enter a contest, you didn't win! If you are told by a caller that you won a prize, say from Marriott or Royal Caribbean, it is illegal that you must pay shipping or taxes or anything else to get the prize. Never send money or gift cards. Don't give your credit card info. It's a scam.

4. It can be hard to dismiss their scripted comments that allege to be from Microsoft or Windows or even the IRS. Their message can be scary by threatening arrest or a huge charge on your account. No, Microsoft has NOT detected any problem with your computer. Hang up. Hang up. Hang up and don't think twice about it.
5. Understand that you can't reason with them or persuade them. The caller has a script that they must follow. They can't engage in conversation that you want to lead. Hang up. Hang up. Hang up.

If you are concerned that some problem could be legitimate, then YOU follow-up with a call to your bank or the gas company or whatever group you think has called you with something suspect. If you make the call to a known number, you will be talking to a legitimate agent and can verify if there really is a problem.



PASR will be holding a Zoom presentation for prospective members covering our most popular member benefits on April 21, 2021 at 10:00 am. The presentation will provide an introduction to PASR insurance offerings, including dental, vision, home and auto, and more! The registration is via the website, **pasr.org** which should be completed by April 12, 2021. Tell a friend!

Our chapter can directly benefit, too. PASR is offering a financial incentive to those chapters that help recruit nonmembers to join the presentation. Members can be any school employee who contributed to PSERS while working. PASR is willing to send \$10.00 to each chapter for each nonmember who registers for this presentation AND an additional \$10.00 for each of the registrants that joins the state level of PASR by June 30, 2021. So our chapter can earn \$20.00 per new PASR state member!! Butler Chapter will endeavor to reach them via email. If you can pass a personal word to a prospective member, that's the best! Think about the PASR benefits that you use!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
 Dental Insurance
 Vision Insurance
 Hearing services
 Medial Alert Services

FINANCIAL SERVICES
 Comprehensive Wealth Management
 Annuities

AMUSEMENT PARK AND ENTERTAINMENT
 DISCOUNTS
 Amusement Parks
 Sporting Events

TECHNOLOGY
 DISCOUNTS
 Personal computers
 Apple products

HOME ENERGY SERVICE
 Tank farm
 Heat USA

VEHICLE AND OTHER
 Auto, Home, RV,
 Motorcycle Insurance
 Jack Williams Tire & Auto Services Center
 Life and Long-Term Care
 Pet Insurance
 Travel Insurance

WHOLESALE CLUB
 DISCOUNTS
 BJ's Wholesale Club
 Sam's Club

TRAVEL SERVICES
 State RECREO trips
 Boscov's Travel Service
 Orlando Attractions
 Travel insurance

OTHER
 Moving services



Biography of Meghan Speer Our March Program Speaker



I've gone by a lot of titles over the years: daughter, sister, friend, student, cashier, coordinator, director, Vice President, CEO, Vice President again. We live in a world that

defines us by these labels and one that looks at us in confusion when we manage to reach a top-level one only to step away from it. That's exactly where my story began.

My journey to adding "author" to my list of titles started in July of 2020, on a walk with a dear friend, she proposed that I start to journal the roller-coaster of experiences I had been on for the twelve months prior to that. Professionally, I was in the midst of a transition and there was certainly plenty to process! What started as a journal evolved over the next few months was "Letting Go of Should", a memoir of my leadership, career, and life adventures which launched in January of 2021.

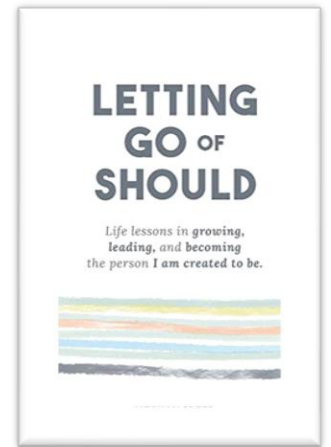
"Letting Go of Should" looks at the lessons I have learned over the years about embracing who I am meant to be and leaving behind the expectations that come from trying to please everyone else. This is a huge struggle for so many people and it's one that started early in life for me. One of my earliest memories is taking my dad to Open House Night when I was in Kindergarten. I was so excited to show

him my school and my classroom and have him meet my teacher. When we got to the school we parked near a different door than I was used to entering and my five-year-old brain got confused. I didn't know how to get to my classroom

from where we were and we kept walking in because even at that young age I couldn't stand the thought that I was messing up our big night out together just the two of us by admitting that I didn't know where I was going.

Through the years, I found that the times I was happiest, the times that I experienced the most growth and flourishing, were the times that I was learning, growing, and leading from my gifts and talents. The seasons where I was most frustrated, depressed, and unsuccessful were the times where I was too focused on what someone else thought I should do or should be. I wish that I could say that I learned the lesson once and was done, but it has taken me a few long cycles to get to appoint where I am committed to not going backwards; to stay living into who I am created to be and being true to that.

I read a quote once that said "Be the adult to someone else that you needed when you were their age". While I was writing "Letting Go of Should" I had that quote on an index card by my computer because I wanted the constant reminder to speak honestly about my struggles and journey through my 20s



and 30s because I wish that someone had been that honest with me. My goal in the book is that someone else who

struggles in the same way might find some encouragement in the fact that they are not alone and that they are enough just as they are.

Letting Go of Should, by Meghan Speer, is available on Amazon.com.

Membership Application	Phone	Date of birth
P A S R Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 878 Century Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4375	() -	/ /
	E-mail address	Retirement date & years of service
Please PRINT name/address below:		__/__/____ __ YOS
	Are you a member of a local PASR chapter? If yes, which one?	School District from which you retired
	Please select your membership option. Make check payable to: PASR <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership (<i>school retiree</i>) - \$60.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership (<i>non-school retiree</i>) \$60.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership Dues - \$700.00	

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

If you move, or change phone numbers or email, please be sure to tell our membership chair, **Sharon Kline**, elsie60@zoominternet.net. It is essential that we have accurate records and know how to contact you! Sharon Kline, 505 Stoneridge Blvd. Butler, PA 16001. Please understand that we have to pay return fees for every *Journey* that is undeliverable. We'd much rather have it reach you and only pay to send it one way!

If you don't receive any email updates from PASR Butler, please send your current email address to Polly Shaw to be added to my chapter contacts list.
pollyshaw@zoominternet.net

PASR TREASURER'S REPORT
 October 1-December 31, 2020

RECEIPTS:

Ed. Support	\$ 187.50
SSMHF	168.36
Local Dues	130.00
State Dues	300.00
Scholarship Donation	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 810.86

EXPENSES:

PASR	\$ 120.00
Memorial Books (2)	60.00
Postmaster	74.26
Minuteman Press	314.39
Anne Phipps (Entertainment)	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$. 618.65

Balance September 30, 2020	\$ 1,529.03
Receipts	+ 810.86
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	2,339.89
Expenses	- 618.65
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Checkbook Balance	1,721.24
Savings	+ 9,321.19
	<hr/>
Total Funds	\$11,042.43

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



Wednesday, March 24, 2021 Program

See page 9 for a bio of our March program speaker, Meghan Speer! She is the author of a new book, *Letting Go of Should*, available on Amazon.com. Meghan Speer has a worthy message to share with us in her delightful and entertaining way. Please attend our March meeting on Zoom!! **See you soon!!**

