

Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: www.pasrbutler.org

March 2023

President's Message



We are starting to have some nice weather but I have an indoor job for myself – and for you, too.

This involves writing an actual letter that you compose yourself, not just copy a form letter. Our lobbyists tell us that Senators and Representatives put greater weight on individual letters from their actual constituents. Phone calls are not as effective. This is not a time to email.

First, you need the addresses for PA, (not Federal) reps. Here's one way:

On your computer, search **PA Find Your Legislator** to locate the dedicated website. Type in your home street address. It will then display your state senator and state legislator, as well as US House and US Senators. Click on the blue, underlined name. That takes you to their page with their personal information, including office address. Remember that there was some redistricting.

Now, to the body of your letter. PASR is asking members to contact their legislators to show support to pass a **COLA, Cost of Living Adjustment**. You don't need to write all of these, but consider ideas you could include.

1. It has been far too long since the last COLA.
2. Since the passage of Act 9 of 2001, PSERS retirees have lost at least 1/3 of the value of the pensions due to inflation, (Cost of Living).
3. About one-third of all PSERS annuitants have a pension of under \$10,000 per year.
4. Almost one-half of all PSERS annuitants have a pension of under \$20,000 per year.
5. All annuitants who retired prior to 1986 have a yearly pension below \$7,623.



PA Capital in Harrisburg

It's time to pass a COLA for PSERS annuitants!

Butler Chapter Officers

President 724-584-0371 Polly Shaw
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President-elect **OPEN**
Recording Secretary Fran Geisel
Corresponding Sec’y **OPEN**
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724-502-4065

Region 8 Director.....Polly Shaw
TreasurerJames Huemme
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Asst. Treasurer Joanne Van Deusen
Website www.pasrbutler.org
State website www.pasr.org

Committee Chairs

Legislative and L/PEC Peg Harding
Membership..... Sharon Kline
Retirement Planning **OPEN**
RECREO Joanne Nolsheim
Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund
Ruth Scott
By-Laws Joanne Meredith
Educational Support Diana Bowman
Community Service Peg Harding
Member Benefits & Services **OPEN**
Reservations Donna Vogel
Public Relations Polly Shaw

PASR School Entity Area Chairs

Butler Area Sharon Kline
BC3 Ruth Scott
Karns City... Enid Wilson
Knoch Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg
Mars Minette Thompson
Moniteau Carol Ball
Seneca Valley Joanne Meredith
Slippery Rock Ellen McIntyre

**"to serve others in need
and help one another"**

PASR Mission Statement

(continued from page 1)

It is appropriate to tell any personal stories about your own hardship encountered without a raise for retirees since 2001. I would suggest keeping the tone friendly and positive.



The most important thing is that YOUR legislators hear from you and know that this is important! Each year, our lobbyists tell us that the COLA gets closer to passing, but fails at the end. **2023** has to be the year that we get relief and recognition! The need is urgent!

Butler County Chapter PASR
General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
December 7, 2022

Christ Community Methodist Church

Polly welcomed us. Meeting called to order at 12:00. Pledge to flag. Polly explained the activity survey on the tables.

Membership sang Happy Birthday to PASR (December 28, 1937). Grace was conducted by BC3. Lunch was served. President Report- RECREO is working on an Ohio Amish trip possibly in June. A survey for possible informal local excursions is to be completed by members at the table. Free PASR online seminars are available with information in *Journey*. Polly was reelected Region 8 Director, also serving on state Board of Directors and several state committees.

Treasurer Report- Lancaster trip was successful, earning \$1,400. We are financially OK.

Minutes approved with spelling correction VanDeusen.

SS/MHF- Ruth thanked members for their gift cards to Center Avenue Community School.

Community Service- Peg Harding awarded the Volunteer of the Year for 2022 to Joanne Meredith.

PASR Vice President- Mary K reminded us about the seminar registration. There is a need for volunteers for region positions. Kristen Holjes is now PASR State Executive Director.

Ruth Scott conducted our Memorial Ceremony for those who passed in 2022:

John O'Toole, Butler; Charles Williams, Butler and Moniteau; Harry F. Sintz, Butler; George Vlastic, Butler; Donald Cavallero, Butler; Mark McKillop, Executive Director PASR; Donald A. Schmelzer, Butler; Linda Lee Croll, Slippery Rock; Melva A. Marshall, Knoch; K. Christine Holman, Butler; Clifford Logan, Butler; David W. Hartle, Mars.

Election of Officers- Polly passed meeting to Peg to preside over the election. A motion was made by Minette Thompson and seconded by Jim Huemme to set aside Article VII section D preventing a president from succeeding themselves. Motion was approved.

Slate of Officers was presented:
President- Polly Shaw, President-elect-vacant, Recording Secretary- Fran Geisel, Treasurer- Jim Huemme, Assistant Treasurer- Joanne VanDeusen. Nominations from the floor- none. Since there were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Mary K Davis and

seconded by Donna Druga to vote to elect the Slate of Officers. Motion passed. PASR VP Mary K Davis presided over the Installation of Officers.

2023 Calendar

Executive Board- February 1, April 12, August 2, October 25.

General Membership/host- March 29/Karns City, May 31/ Knoch at Alameda Park, September 27/Mars, December 6/Moniteau.

Mary Chitwood from Robin's Home presented the program on services provided to unstably housed or low income women veterans and their children.

Sally Buszinski won the raffle. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

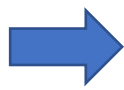
Community Service Report



At our December 2022 PASR Luncheon, we honored our 2022 Volunteer of the Year, Joanne Meredith, who retired from the Seneca Valley School District and is currently our Representative for that school district and our By-Laws chairperson. Joanne serves with "The Arc Alliance", whose mission is committed to support individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities and other disabilities and their families, by providing exceptional personal services, support and training; inspiring hope, potential, and well-being, ensuring valued life experiences and treatment expected by all people. She

served as The Arc President for three years, and is currently the local Past-President.

The Arc is the world’s largest community-based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It includes over 140,000 members affiliated through more than 700 state and local chapters across the nation. The Arc is devoted to promoting and improving supports and services for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Arc’s vision is that every individual and family affected by I/DD in the United States have the skills and support they need to participate as active citizens of our democracy and be active members of their community. Thank you, Joanne for helping these individuals in our community.

 Our community service group is still collecting prize items for the Butler Life Bingo including: **stationary, word puzzles, jewelry, juice drinks, stamps, writing pens and pencils, 2023 calendars,** etc. The group at St. John’s Home in Mars, PA was very appreciative of the long necklaces and other jewelry our members provided.

2003 Butler Chapter Calendar

EXEC BD	GEN. MEMBER.
Feb 1	<u>March 29</u> Karns City, host
April 12	<u>May 31</u> , Knoch, at Alameda Park, Masonic Shelter
Aug 2	<u>Sept 27</u> , Mars
Oct 25	<u>Dec 6</u> , Moniteau

Lauretta Woodson and Education Support Grants



The Butler County Chapter of PASR awards two employees every year who are employed by one of the nine Butler County School Districts and BC3. For this school year, 2022-2023, our

Butler County Chapter has chosen the Knoch School District to receive this award and two \$100.00 Education Support Grants.

The purpose of the Lauretta Woodson Award is to recognize an educator and a support professional who have exhibited creativity, initiative, or productivity relevant to the learning process and growth of children. Lauretta Woodson, a retired assistant professor at Temple University joined PASR in 1988. Upon her passing, she bequeathed a sum of money to PASR to be used for the support of public education. The purpose of the “education support grants” are to encourage innovative classroom ideas and professional development. These grants consist of monetary awards. The funds are to be used to help finance special programs, activities, or supplies benefitting public school children.

Knoch Superintendent, David Foley, requested the building principals to submit an educator and/or support professional to receive these awards. Middle School principal, Tyler Vargo, submitted both an educator and support professional to be considered for these awards. **Kimberly Reel**, a Knoch Middle School support professional, was chosen for the

following reasons according to Mr. Vargo. "Kim's consistency and strong working relationship with special needs students, make her a candidate for the award." **Janine Archer**, a Knoch Middle School Math teacher, was chosen for the following reasons according to Mr. Vargo. "Janine's continued dedication to mathematics leadership and her unwavering commitment to her students, make her a viable candidate to receive this award." Both awardees

will receive \$100.00 from the Butler Chapter of PASR for use in their classroom endeavors with their students, a plaque, and a PASR pin. The 2022 Laretta Woodson Award states, "In recognition of unselfish dedication and exemplary service to the Knoch Middle School in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We thank you on behalf of the youth of today and the future of tomorrow." Congratulations, Kimberly and Janine!

2023 PASR SEMINARS

January 18, 2023 – 10:00 am - **Connect America** - Bob Ellwood, Territory Manager for PA •

February 1, 2023 – 2:00 pm - **"Estate Planning & Beyond"** - Jessica Fisher Greene will review Wills, POAs, Medical Directives and a bit of trusts and what happens after someone passes

February 14, 2023 – 11:00 am - **"Living Guilt Free"** - Tina Smith, WellMed Charitable Foundation

February 15, 2023 – 10:00 am - **Prevent and Resolve Senior Bullying** – Jerry Mitchell - Attorney General office

March 1, 2023 – 10:00 am - **Long Term Care Planning** - Jessica Fisher Greene will review Medicare, Medicaid, long term care insurance, and how to protect assets from the nursing home

March 9, 2023– 1:00 pm - **"At the end of my Rope: Warning Signs for Caregiver Burnout"** - Tina Smith, WellMed Charitable Foundation

March 22, 2023 – 2:00 pm - **Senior Scam Prevention** - Attorney General office - Jerry Mitchell -

These PASR programs are free and offered via Zoom. Register online to receive the login information. Recordings are available at pasr.org of programs already presented. Anyone can view the recordings. No registration necessary.

October 1 - December 31, 2022
James Huemme

RECEIPTS:

Extra Food	\$ 77.00
Local Dues	10.00
State Dues	60.00
Ed. Support	187.00
Luncheon	630.00
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	964.00

EXPENSES:	
PASR Dues	\$ 60.00
Luncheon	388.00
Robin's Home	50.00
Decorations/Cake	82.98
Hall Rent	125.00
Memorial Books (2)	60.00
Postmaster	45.59
Minuteman Press	197.86
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	1,010.43
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 2,394.38
RECEIPTS	+ 964.00
	3,358.38
EXPENSES	- 1,010.43
	2,347.95
SAVINGS	+ 7,889.49
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$10,237.44



Butler County PASR Ohio Amish Country Tour

Tuesday, June 27, Wednesday , June 28, 2023



A trip is planned for June to the largest Amish/Mennonite settlement in the United States. Join PASR Butler for an overnight trip to Holmes County, Ohio.

TUESDAY, the trip begins with a stop at BEHALT Cyclorama, the Amish and Mennonite Heritage Center, that includes a pioneer barn and 1850's one room schoolhouse. The next stop will be at the Troyer Country Market where you can sample and purchase many food items including baked goods and canned Amish Wedding Foods.

You will have lunch on-your-own at the Cafe in the Market. After lunch, we will have a two to three hour step-on guided tour of the Backroads and Byways. The tour will include seeing how the Amish work, farm, raise animals, make money, and do things without the modern conveniences most of us know. There may be time for short visits to family-owned shops. A highlight of the trip will be bountiful dinner this evening at the home of Anna Erb. Then, it will be time to check in at the **Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek**, for a good rest getting ready for another busy day.

WEDNESDAY will begin with breakfast at the Inn. The morning may be spent getting acquainted with the Village of Sugarcreek, the World's Largest Cuckoo Clock and the painted Swiss murals on many buildings. Some of the shops are Fabrics and Quilts,

The Gospel Shop, Collectors Decanters & Steins, Harvest Thrift Shop, Dutch Valley shops and others.

After a light lunch at the Dutch Valley Restaurant and Bakery go to the the Ohio Star Theater for the show "Dear Soldier Boy". This is a new Blue Gate Musical that takes place in 1990 after Iraq invades Kuwait and when two Amish girls decide that they want to do something to help the American troops. You must see the show to see the drama unfold.

After the show, there will be a stop at a winery and cheese house before starting for home. The last stop in the Amish area is dinner at the Amish Door Restaurant and Bakery in the village of Wilmot, OH. There is so much to be seen and experienced, it is impossible to do it in two days; you will want to go back another time.

DEPART Tuesday 6:30 AM Moraine Pointe Plaza, Butler (end of lot in front of Ollie's)

RETURN Wednesday 10:00 PM Moraine Pointe Plaza, Butler

Cost: \$325.00 dbl \$400.00 sgl.

Includes: Admissions, 1 night lodging, 1 B, 1 L, 2 D, Campbell Bus Deluxe transportation,

For information Call Peg Harding, 724-502-4065

or Margaret Hoffman and Farrah McKinney, 724-664-1770

12:00 Noon, Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Christ Community Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, entrance in the rear
205 North Duffy Road, Butler, Pa

Catered by Monroe Hotel

HOST: Karns City

Turkey with stuffing and gravy

Mashed potatoes

Corn

Cole slaw

alternative

chef salad

dessert will be **assorted pies**

coffee, iced tea, water



Reservation Form Due March 17, 2022

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

Number of reservations: turkey @ \$15.00 _____ Chef salad \$13.00 _____

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

Make checks payable to BUTLER COUNTY PASR. Mail to:

Donna Vogel 148 Spithaler School Road, Evans City, PA 16033

Mary K Davis
505 Kenlee Dr.
Renfrew, PA 16053

PASR Butler March 2023



RMS Titanic

Bill May, noted local speaker and historian, will present “Lost Faces of the Titanic”.

We are thrilled to welcome him again to our meeting. His previous program was an historic look at Alameda Park, when we first met at Alameda Park.