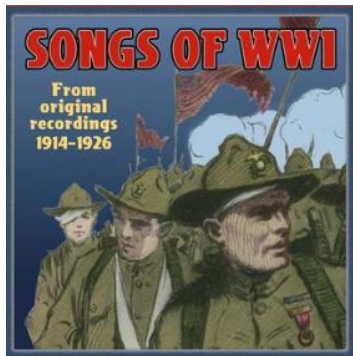


## Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: [www.pasrbutler.org](http://www.pasrbutler.org)

**September 2022**

### President's Message



How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm  
After they've seen Paree'  
How ya gonna keep 'em away from Broadway  
Jazzin around and paintin' the town  
How ya gonna keep 'em away from harm, that's a mystery  
They'll never want to see a rake or plow  
And who the deuce can parleyvous a cow?  
How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm  
After they've seen Paree'

At the close of WWI there was a popular song, "How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm..." The idea was that American farm boys had broadened their "horizons" while slogging through the muddy trenches in France, presumably with some time off in Paris at the shows. How could they live such adventures and then return to the

simple farm life? The girl next door surely wasn't like a Parisian dancer!

I would venture to say that collectively we are facing just the opposite dilemma. People who were active in many social and service organizations pre-covid, suddenly found that avenue cut off or severely curtailed. Leisurely shopping strolls at the mall were avoided as we had to shelter in place. Online shopping became the go to method of shopping, and perhaps catalogs, too. The FED EX and UPS delivery folks knew the way to our doors. Many learned to worship via a Zoom or Facebook service. We all learned to stay home with new entertainments. Many lost the desire to even venture out. My husband and I went to a drive-by birthday greeting for an elderly relative, everyone with decorated cars, just waving to her.

Here at PASR Butler, we did the best we could to adjust. The number of newsletters increased, with *Journey Junior* between regular issues. We had a few Zoom meetings just so we could assemble, and even had programs! It isn't just a matter of thinking it will all

**Butler Chapter Officers**

President 724-584-0371 Polly Shaw  
[pollyshaw@zoominternet.net](mailto:pollyshaw@zoominternet.net) OR  
[pollyshaw3@gmail.com](mailto:pollyshaw3@gmail.com)

President-elect ..... **OPEN**  
Recording Secretary ..... Fran Geisel  
Corresponding Sec’y ..... **OPEN**  
Immediate Past Pres..... Peg Harding  
..... harding.margaret@gmail.com  
724-502-4065

Region 8 Director ..... Polly Shaw  
Treasurer ..... James Huemme  
..... khuemme@zoominternet.net

Asst. Treasurer vacant until election  
Website www.pasrbutler.org  
State website www.pasr.org

**Committee Chairs**

Legislative and L/PEC..... Peg Harding  
Membership ..... Sharon Kline  
Retirement Planning..... **OPEN**

RECRCO 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 Pat Hauman, 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)

all be the same again after covid. We now seat six at a table instead of eight, and spread out the tables. But we are really looking for a new normal. How can we help each other to regain the ease and desire to socialize outside the home, and volunteer in the community? That’s a big one! So let’s look at the big picture.

Why should people join PASR? Why should we stay in PASR? What does PASR have to offer that we need now?

PASR President Bill Neugebauer offered “**Our Core Four**” during the recent President’s Conference. It outlines the PASR fundamentals.

**SERVICE:**

- Serves as a legislative watchdog.
- Serves to provide retirees with financial and emotional support through the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund (SSMHF)
- Serves to support public education employees through education support grants.
- Serves as vehicle for members to have opportunities to continue giving through volunteerism to their communities, as they have done throughout their careers.

PASR offers an alternative means for school retirees to continue serving and transforming the lives of others. PASR Butler has ongoing projects to serve the poor, the schools, and we support the military.

**SAVINGS:**

- Offers the United Concordia – Dental Insurance Plan so that members can enjoy industry-leading discounts on in-network dentists and specialists.

- By joining the DavisVision/MetLife plan you have the availability of comprehensive vision benefits with competitive group rates.
- PASR has partnered with Trispagnas Insurance agency, an independent Broker that can offer in-depth knowledge of multiple products, companies and guidelines.
- PASR offers discount programs from over 20 companies, located across the state to provide members with savings in their daily lives.
- Check out the website for all the entertainment venues and sports activities that offer discounts to our state members. [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)

#### **SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

- The PASR RECREO committee organizes travel adventures and both the state level and the chapter level. Upcoming state events include the 2023 *Panama Canal Grand Cruise* in March, and *Trains Across New England* in October.
- Our social activities include our luncheons and May picnic at Alameda Park. We can work together to plan seminars, workshops, and much more.

#### **SUPPORT:**

- Each chapter has a SSMHF committee which can provide assistance, visitations, gifts, and cards to our members in need.
- We honor nonagenarians with free luncheons. We call them Nifty Nineties.
- Cards of cheer and get well cards are sent.
- Members call and check up on each other.
- Together we can achieve goals far greater than as individuals.

#### **TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS:**

An ACTIVE (Annual, Life, or Half-Life) Member is described as

- Any person retired under the PA Public School Employees' Retirement System
- Any former school employee retired under Public School Retirement systems from other states
- Any person retired from other PA state-related educational institutions.

An ASSOCIATE MEMBER is described as:

- Any person who is interested in the work of PASR.
- Any active school employee who is age 50 or more.
- Any former teacher who is not an annuitant of a school employees' retirement system
- Any spouse of an active member of PASR.

#### **STATE vs CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS:**

- State Membership is needed for purchasing Vision and Dental Coverage.
- Chapter Membership is lower in cost than a state membership.
- You can be involved in local chapter activities without having a state membership.

#### **Message from the President**



December 28, 2022 will mark the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of PASR. We are celebrating this milestone with birthday cake at our Dec. 7 luncheon.



This is an even-numbered year, so it is election time again for Butler Chapter. We need to elect a President, President-elect, Treasurer, Ass't Treasurer and

Secretary. By-Laws, Article VII Election of Officers must guide this process.



Joanne Nolsheim has served faithfully as Assistant Treasurer but has now moved to Concordia Home in Cabot, so we should

elect a new Assistant Treasurer. Thank you, Joanne for all your service!

Our By-laws say that the President and President-elect may not succeed themselves. A motion from the floor will be needed to set aside that requirement. Another says that vote will be by ballot but may be set aside by a 2/3 of those present. With this, we can have a voice vote. Nominations may be made from the floor.

We have no president-elect. If anyone is ready to accept this job, please email Peg Harding, Immediate Past-President, or me if you'd like to chat about it. Addresses are on page 2.

Peg Harding will chair this portion of the meeting, as required by Robert's Rules. (Since my name is on the slate, I can't chair the election.) Installation will immediately follow, conducted by PASR State Vice-President Mary K Davis.

**Slate**

President: Polly Shaw  
 President-elect – Vacant  
 Secretary: Fran Geisel  
 Treasurer: Jim Huemme  
 Assistant Treasurer: Joanne VanDuesen

At the November 2 Region 8 meeting, I was re-elected as Region 8 Director. I

finished the term vacated by Mary K when she was elected Vice-President.

Serving on the PASR State Board gives me seats on several state committees. In turn, I have a sight into some other chapters in the state. At our Butler Exec Board meeting on Oct. 26, we paused to reflect on the state of our chapter. I am satisfied to say that I think we are happily in the middle. Yes, there are some chapters that just amaze with many activities going on and monthly social events in addition to general meetings. Opposite that there are some chapters that are dwindling in attendance to perhaps a handful of lifetime members, who don't even put out a newsletter. A few chapters have merged with neighboring counties to stay afloat. A few chapters did not attempt to meet for over a year due to covid; just froze in place. Yes, we do currently have holes in our leadership positions. Yes, we did have to curtail some activities, but we kept moving and our attendance is growing. But overall, we are healthy and improving.

**2003 Butler Chapter Calendar**

EXEC BOARD	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
Feb 1	March 29 Karns City, host
April 12	May 31 Knoch, host
Aug 2	Sept 27 Mars, host
Oct 25	Dec 6 Moniteau, host

*Kindly mark your 2003 calendar.*

Butler County Council PASR  
General Membership  
Luncheon Meeting  
September 28, 2022  
Christ Community Methodist Church

Polly welcomed us.

Prayer was led by Mary K. Davis

Polly called attention to survey forms on the table for possible RECREO trips by Margaret Hoffman. Please fill out and leave on table. Also, a photo of the Lancaster trip was available for viewing.

Lunch was served

Polly called meeting to order at 12:58.

A reminder was made that the upcoming meetings and Journey are available on the website.

Meeting agenda contained new logo for Knoch School District, formerly South Butler School District.

Next Executive Board meeting will be October 19 @ 10:00.

Next General Membership meeting will be December 7, hosted by BC3. The program will be presented by Mary Chipwood discussing the shelter Robin's Home.

A reminder to get luncheon reservations in on time was stressed.

Polly, as Region 8 director, will present the first half of the Presidents Manual at the 2day Leadership Development Training. She would also like to thank Peg Harding for agreeing to be the contact person with Margaret Hoffman.

Also, a call for help with chapter awards was issued.

At the December meeting, we will hold the election of officers. If interested, please contact Polly. Installation will be the same day with Mary K Davis conducting.

To help finalizing the 2023 calendar the following decisions were made: the December meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and the May meeting will be at Alameda Park. Treasurer's Report is in the Journey.

State Vice President's Report- A COLA is in the works, please contact state legislators. JFM Webinars are available for sign up. Resumes are being accepted for director.

RECRO- Trip in 2023 to Ohio Amish country.

SS/MHF- Cards of Cheer, send names to Ruth Scott. Center Avenue School- still collecting gift cards and will collect winter clothing-coats, scarfs, hats, gloves at December meeting. Sympathy for the family of Mark McKillop.

Minutes for the May meeting were approved. Soni made motion to approve, and Ruth seconded.

Polly presented another of her wonderful programs, this one on Preston Park.

Fran Geisel won the raffle of \$32.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frances Geisel  
Recording Secretary

*CARDS OF CHEER*

**Marcia Semple**

141 Old Route 8 S  
Valencia, PA 16059

**Jean Moser**

137 Whippoorwill Rd.  
Butler, PA 16002

**From the PASR Vice-President**

It is hard to believe that I have been the State Vice President for almost one year. During that year the officers, the Board of Directors and the state committees have been very busy.

The hardest and saddest thing that we have had to deal with is the passing of Executive Director Mark McKillop. All who knew and worked with Mark were saddened by his death. The Executive Committee has advertised for applicants, and we will be conducting interviews in the near future.

The L/PEC committee and our lobbyists are working to convince the state assembly the importance of a COLA for PSERS annuitants. State Senator Katie Muth is sponsoring a bill supporting a COLA. Please talk to your state senators and representatives encouraging them to co-sponsor this bill. Please be positive and polite when talking to the legislators. Remind them that there has been no COLA since 2001 and the buying power of the annuitants that were retired at that time has been decreased by 50% due to inflation.

The Members Benefits and Service and the Board of Directors have endorsed many new benefits. Please check the state website to see what many of benefits are for state PASR members.

On October 31, 2022, the ballots for representatives on the PSERS Board of Directors will be mailed.

Please take time to vote for the one annuitant representative when you receive your ballot. Russell Diesinger, our state President-elect, is running for this position. He has been an observer of the PSERS board for several years. He would now like to be able to have a vote on the board. Please give consideration to vote for Russell Diesinger.

There are many things that are happening at the state level. Please check out the state website for more that we are doing for you.

Mary K Davis  
State Vice President

## COLLECTION IN MEMORY OF MARK MCKILLOP

Mark McKillop, Executive Director of PA. Association of School Retirees, out of Mechanicsburg, PA, passed July 18, 2022, at age 66. Mark spoke at our meeting when he first started, many years ago. He was very respected and liked by all who worked with him and was a wonderful advocate for PASR.

It was decided, by your Executive Board, that a monetary collection be made in Mark's memory and the proceeds will be given, in his memory, to the SSMHF, Social Service Memorial Honor Fund at the state level. This was a committee he was very committed to succeeding. This committee helps those needing financial help in paying dues and their home bills. We are very fortunate in our club that we each are able to support ourselves.

I will have a bag at the sign-in table, December 7, where you may place your donation in Mark's memory. Thank you in advance for whatever you are led to donate in his memory. If you have any questions about what all Mark did for us speak to Mary K Davis, VP of our State PASR. She worked with Mark, in all the positions she has held for our local and region groups for many years and knew what he did and how he went about it.

Thank you,  
Ruth Scott, SSMHF Chair

## WE ARE BACK TO PROVIDING DONATIONS



I have spoken with Principal Keenan McGaughey, about making donations once again to the students at **Center Avenue Community School**. At our December 7 meeting

I will be collecting the following items and taking them to the school for grades 1 through 12. They are very appreciative what we have done in the past and look forward to working with us again to help their students.

The following items are what they need:

- **Gift Cards** - \$10 from Walmart or Target. If it is easier for you to donate cash, I will be happy to purchase the cards for you. They use the cards as a reward for exemplary behavior; mid-year and end-of-year rewards program; and also if a student needs a pair of shoes, they use the gift cards to purchase the shoes.
- **Clothing** - Especially jackets and coats for fall and winter seasons. We could also send stocking caps and gloves. If you feel you want to bring other clothing for First through Twelfth grade students, I am sure they will be glad to receive the clothing.

So, anything you can give will be cheerfully received and used to help the students. We are giving to help these students move forward and hopefully have a better life ahead.

Thank you all in advance and I look forward to seeing ALL of you at the December 7 luncheon meeting.

If you know of anyone that could use a card, for any reason, please give me their name at the meeting and I will get it sent on behalf of our organization.

Ruth Scott, SSMHF, Chair

### RECREO 2023 TRIP

Great news! Margaret Hoffman and her granddaughter, Farrah McKinney, have considered the results of the September survey and are planning a two-day trip to Ohio Amish Country, probably in June 2023. This will be our main 2023 fundraiser. Look for details in the March 2023 Journey! Peg Harding is the liaison between Butler Chapter and Margaret for this trip.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

PASR Community Service report Winter 2022 I hope you are able to attend the December luncheon, because we will be awarding the **2022 Volunteer Award** to one of our deserving members at that time. Many of you continue to use your time and talents throughout the year in helping our members and many others in the community. Thank you! We are still collecting Bingo prizes for the Butler Life program. They need stationary,

**word puzzles,**

**jewelry,**

**juice drinks,**

**stamps,**

**writing pens and pencils, etc.**

Now we would like to help the St. John's Lutheran Home in Mars, PA, and their Bingo program. One thing they are asking for are

- **"long necklaces"** for the women residents. It seems they are so much easier for the women to get over their heads! So, check your jewelry, ladies, and contribute to this worthy cause!

Check our Ruth Scott's report on the needs of the Center Ave. "school needs" in this edition of the "Journey", too.



PASR Butler Chapter sponsored out RECREO trip to Lancaster, PA on August 3-4. The trip was organized by our member, Margaret Hoffman, and was carried out by Margaret's granddaughter, Farrah McKinney. On behalf of our local chapter, we would sincerely like to thank Margaret and Farrah for their time and talent in implementing this wonderful trip. Not too many of our PASR members attended, but about 30 plus Butler and surrounding community citizens filled the Campbell Bus to help in giving us a profit to help in our PASR projects. Those profits help to award a BCCC Scholarship to a deserving Butler County student.





The trip included: **Day One** - a visit to the Kreider Farm and observing how 1400 cows are milked daily via a carousel system using kosher protocols.



We attended two live shows (Jukebox Jive and Magic and Wonder) in Paradise, PA. **Day Two** - Sight and

Sound theater production of "David", shopping, and a delicious "home cooked dinner" at an Amish home in Leola, PA. What a wonderful experience! On behalf of our PASR organization, I want to, personally, thank Margaret and, especially, Farrah McKinney!

## 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

*Continued page 10*

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 - Attorney General office [L/PEC](#), Barry Nelson

**These PASR programs are free and offered via Zoom. Register online to receive the login information.**

TREASURER’S REPORT  
July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

RECEIPTS:

Local Dues	\$ 150.00
State Dues	120.00
Trip	6,308.34
Luncheon	524.00
Raffle	33.00
	7,135.34

EXPENSES:

PASR Dues	\$ 120.00
Trip Expense	5,188.48
Minuteman Press	134.03
Volunteer Pin	10.00
Hall Rental	125.00
Luncheon	544.10
Postmaster	45.93
	6,167.54

Beginning Balance	\$1,426.58
Receipts	+ 7,135.34
	8,561.92
Expenses	- 6,167.54
	2,394.38
Checkbook Balance	2,394.38
Savings	+ 7,878.14
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.</b>	<b>\$10,272.52</b>

# 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Christ Community Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall in the rear  
205 North Duffy Road, Butler, Pa  
Catered by Monroe Hotel  
HOST: **BC3**

Most likely, delicious ham *alternative*  
Probably two tasty vegetables chef salad  
Some sort of pleasing salad  
dessert will be **BIRTHDAY CAKE**  
coffee, ice tea, water

## Reservation Form Due November 21, 2022

*(Sorry not to have menu specifics. Sometimes life happens...)*

## About Robin's Home

Mary Chitwood, CEO and Founder of Robin's Home, will present our December program. She is a veteran and received the 2021 Women's Veteran Trailblazer Award from the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs Center for Women Veterans.



Robin's Home provides a full continuum of care for homeless, unstably housed and low income female veterans and their children. Robin's Home is located in Butler, PA but we serve women veterans in seven counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Erie, Lawrence, and Mercer counties. <https://robinshome.us/>

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Reservation: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations: probably ham @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Chef salad \$14.00 \_\_\_\_\_

First time retirees 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

**December 2022**



**December 28, 2022 marks the 85<sup>th</sup>  
birthday of PASR, our state  
organization!  
Let's celebrate on Dec. 7!**