

Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: www.pasrbutler.org

Home Chapter of PASR
State President Mary K
Davis



President's Message

A great offering of online seminars are available on the PASR website that were recorded when presented live. However, "Downsizing and Decluttering Tips" was not recorded so I took notes for you. It was presented by Kellie VonStein from AARP Lehigh Valley.

Our generation attaches pride to our "stuff" because of hard work and memories. As we age, it may become necessary to downsize and relocate but the #1 reason that impedes people from leaving their home and/or getting healthcare into their homes is THE STUFF. A national survey of caretakers said that "Handling the Stuff" was the most stressful part of settling the estate. (Having personally settled three estates, I hardly concur!!!)

March 2024

Ten Helpful Hints

ONE: Include everyone in the house: spouses, grandchildren, everyone. Set a certain day and time to help. They can certainly help with lifting.

TWO: Do a 10-minute sweep. Attacking whole room is too much, even a whole closet. Focus on a certain part and go to it for 10 min.

THREE: Unpack bags. Empty your suitcase after a trip. Empty shopping bags after a trip to the store and put the contents where they belong.

FOUR: Every item has a home. If it doesn't, then create one. Something else may have to go to make room.

FIVE: Use a four-pile sort. 1) Keep, 2) Sell, 3) Donate, 4) Trash

SIX: Distribute legacy items now. If there is a treasured bowl, piece of silver, or framed picture that you want your relatives/close friends to have, give it to them now. You may also discover that they don't want *this* piece but really want *that* one.

SEVEN: Avoid punting. You may be pushing for your daughter to have

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Butler Chapter Officers

President 724-584-0371 Polly Shaw
pollyshaw@zoominternet.net OR
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
TreasurerJames Huemme
khuemme@zoominternet.net
Asst. Treasurer Joanne Van Deusen
Website www.pasrbutler.org
State website www.pasr.org
State President Mary K Davis

Committee Chairs

Legislative and L/PEC Peg Harding
Membership..... **OPEN**
Retirement Planning **OPEN**
RECREO Joanne Nolsheim
Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund
Ruth Scott
By-Laws **OPEN**
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 **OPEN**
BC3 Ruth Scott
Karns City Enid Wilson
Knoch Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg
Mars Minette Thompson
Moniteau Carol Ball
Seneca Valley **OPEN**
Slippery Rock Ellen McIntyre

**"to serve others in need
and help one another"**
PASR Mission Statement

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Grandmother’s china, but if she really doesn’t want it, then quit trying to force it on her. Wedding china and sterling were treasured decades ago but do not fit modern lifestyles.

EIGHT: Donate, donate, donate. Remember that items must be clean and in very good condition. A charity can make money by selling your items and in turn, help others.

NINE: Be realistic. Sort through your closet and keep what you actually wear that is in good repair. Maybe some things a size smaller. But consider carefully if you really *need* your full wardrobe that is 2, 3 or even 4 sizes too small? Donate! Go through your pantry and cosmetics to check for expiration dates. Throw out everything past expiration. (NO, you can’t donate expired canned food!)

TEN: Pare down paper and photos. Get rid of old mail. Shred old documents and bills as well as old photos. You don’t really need all the vacation photos from 50 years ago. Look again, enjoy the memories. Maybe keep ONE. The rest have got to go. Maybe make a small album for yourself of some memories, or framed collage for the wall of selected photos. If you don’t have a shredder, this is a good time to acquire one. Secure your personal data from others who may sort through trash.



And a final thought from me: Remember to keep together insurance papers and documents that will be needed after you have passed.



Sonie Laughead
 100 New Haven Lane
 Room 1b
 Butler, PA 16001

Cards of Cheer:

Sharon Kline
 505 Stoneridge Road
 Butler, PA 16001

2024 Butler Chapter Calendar

EXEC BD	GEN. MEMBER.
Feb 7	Mar 20, Seneca V
April 10	May 29, Slippery R at Alameda Park
August 7	Sept. 25 Butler
October 23	Dec 11, BC3

Other meetings are at Fellowship Hall at Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road in Butler.



Please note these dates right now on your personal calendar. Try to avoid scheduling other appointments on these dates.

HELP WANTED to fill Butler Chapter vacancies on Exec. Board

President-elect
 Membership Chair
 Retirement Planning Chair
 By-Laws Chair
 Butler School Entity Rep
 Seneca Valley Entity Rep
Please contact Polly Shaw or Peg Harding.

Butler County Council PASR
 General Membership
 Luncheon Meeting
 December 6, 2023
 Christ Community Methodist Church

Polly welcomed us.
 Moniteau is hosting.

Ruth Scott conducted the Memorial for those who have passed from our chapter this year. They include Marlin J. Clay, Shirley S. Kappeler, Joseph Bishop, Carol Roland, Shirley Van Buren, Joseph Campbell, Sally Henry, Gary Kohlmeyer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Grace was given.
 Lunch was served.

Meeting was called to order- 12:45.

Minutes from September 27, 2023 were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

President- A vacancy for chair of the Membership Committee has occurred. We hope to have a replacement by the February Executive Board meeting. PASR is again presenting Zoom programs for those interested. You do not need to be a member, but you need to register to receive the Zoom log in information.

Calendars for 2024 meetings were distributed. Mark yours now. Executive Board- February 7, April 10, August 7, October 23. Luncheon- March 20, May 29, September 25, December 11.

To recruit new members, Polly suggests an "elevator speech" (a 45 second ad).

You can give quick information on various programs that PASR works with.

Volunteer of the Year- Nancy Robertson was presented with a pin and certificate.

Voter Recognition- The following members were recognized for 50 consecutive years of voting: Ruth Scott, Mary K. Davis, Carol Ball, Ellie Smith, Donna Vogel.



Program- *The Sound of Musicals* was presented by Steve Cicero. Ruth Scott won the Raffle.

Adjournment 2:02
Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

PASR Butler Chapter Community Service Report Spring 2023

PASR Community Service report Spring 2024 At the December luncheon, we honored Nancy Robertson as our "Volunteer of the Year for 2023". Nancy retired from the Butler Area School District in 2015 and has since been active with Meals on Wheels, Soup Kitchen/Food Bank and doing visitations for her religious affiliation. She also, volunteers many, many hours with

Special Needs adults as well as being a team leader for the Saxonburg Arts Festival.



Congratulations, Nancy, for being such a terrific community service volunteer! Remember, we are still collecting items for the Butler Life Bingo, plastic bags to make mats for the homeless, money and/or gift cards from Target or Walmart for the Center Ave. students. Thank you for all that you do to help "others in need".

PASR Butler Chapter 2023-2024 Lauretta Woodson Awards and Education Support Grants

The Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) is an organization comprised of members who are all retired Pennsylvania public education employees. Our members have dedicated themselves to fostering education in the public schools and volunteering their services in communities where they live. We are former teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, secretaries, aides, bus drivers cafeteria workers, maintenance staff- in short, anyone who is now receiving a pension from the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). PASR's mission is "To serve others in need and

help one another enjoy retirement.” 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, 2023-2024, our Butler County Chapter has chosen the Butler Area School District to receive this award and two \$100.00 Education Support Grants. The purpose of the Laretta 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. Laretta 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. Page 1 Ed. Support Grant and Loretta Woodson Award These grants consist of monetary awards. The funds are to be used to help finance special programs, activities, or supplies benefitting public school children. Butler Area Superintendent, Brian White, requested the building principals to submit an educator and support professional to receive these awards. The Butler Area Human Resource person, Kristen Clouse, submitted both an educator and support professional from Emily Brittain Elementary School to be considered for these awards. Katie Kosick, an Autistic Support teacher, was chosen for the following reasons according to Ms. Clouse. “Katie’s autistic classroom is one of the first in the district to apply the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) model in her classroom. She, recently,

presented at the National Autism Conference where she spoke about the importance of teaching all students the essential skills that enable them to self-advocate.” Kathryn Yeamans, an Autistic Support Paraprofessional, was chosen for the following reasons according to Ms. Clouse. “Kathryn is dedicated and passionate about serving students. She recently became the first paraprofessional in our district to become a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). Her skillset as a Registered Behavior Technician will help her to support students in our autistic support classrooms.” 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 2023 Laretta Woodson Award states, “In Recognition of Unselfish Dedication and Exemplary Service to the Emily Brittain Elementary School and the Butler Area School District in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We thank you on behalf of the Youth of Today and the Future of Tomorrow.”

Congratulations, Katie and Kathryn!



PASR State President Mary K Davis, PASR Region 8 Director Polly Shaw, and PASR Butler Chapter Community Service Chair attended the February 12, 2024 Butler School Board meeting to present the winners with their awards and pins.

By-Laws Changes

The purpose of By-Laws is to provide structure and guidance for the operation of our PASR Butler Chapter. It is fitting and appropriate to review our By-Laws to ensure that they confirm with our current practice. The most recent version was made January 2, 2013 and was reviewed March 20, 2015.

At the February 7, 2024 Exec Board meeting, a review was made and suggestions for change were developed.

The board will review the proposed changes at the April 10 meeting and decide to either further review, or to offer the new draft with changes to the membership for a vote at the May 29 meeting.

The changes will be detailed in the May issue of Journey and will be on the website after the April 10 Exec Board meeting. The current By-Laws are currently on the website.

Your Opportunity to Support

Many of you are not able to attend our in-person meetings but may be interested in supporting our charitable work. You can send a check to our treasurer, **Jim Huemme at 119 Shanor Heights, Butler, PA 16001.**

Be sure to note in the memo line the destination for your donation. Make the check to Butler County PASR. We, in turn, will ensure that your donation is routed according to your direction.



Butler Life – We support Butler Life which has a facility at 231 West Diamond Street. We collect items that they use for BINGO prizes as part of their programming. “The LIFE Programs commitment to *Abundant Life* through health, wellness and social services, means you can live each day with purpose and meaning. Unveil the vibrant possibilities of all-inclusive

health services today.” Your financial donation will be used for their programming/BINGO prizes.



Robin’s Home – We support Robin’s Home, which offers a full continuum of care to homeless, unstably housed or low income women veterans and their children at their facility at 401 East Pearl. They are changing from a thrift store approach to opening a new Veteran’s Resource Center which will serve as a place to assist and educate veterans, and will offer clothing, non perishable food items and hygiene products, with a computer lab and games, as well as games. The center will offer services spanning from employment and housing assistance, financial counseling, education, health care advocacy, referrals to programs that support homeless or at-risk veterans, and opportunities for community outreach.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

RECEIPTS:

Luncheon	\$ 655.00
Local Dues	40.00
State Dues	120.00
PASR (Conference)	75.00
Ed. Support	187.50
Raffle	44.00
Donations	50.00
	1,171.50

EXPENSES:

Office Expense	\$ 112.19
Minuteman Press	135.68
PASR	120.00
Credit Union	5.00
Monroe (May and Dec)	1,008.00
Hall Rental	125.00
Decorations & Program	86.35
	1,652.22

Beginning Balance	\$2,211.96
Receipts	+ 1,171.50
	2,282.46
Expenses	- 1,652.22
	\$1,731.24
Checkbook Balance	\$1,731.24
Savings	7,930.43
	\$9,661.67

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

MARCH PROGRAM



Lawrence County, PA was created April 5, 1849 with New Castle as the county seat. President Zachary Taylor arrived via the Beaver-Erie Canal extension during his summer 1849 visit to New Castle and the northeast states. In 1893, Antonio Zambelli took a leadership role in the business that led to New Castle being recognized as America's Fireworks Capital. In 1907 the Warner Brothers opened their first movie theater. The Interurban

Railway (The Harmony Route) provided easy access to Butler and Pittsburgh between 1908-1931. Bob Hope, Perry Como, and Evangelist Billy Sunday all made appearances in New Castle. As a bonus, we'll take a look at the mansions in today's North Hill Historic District, along with the Hoyt Institute and the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Enjoy a picture survey of our neighbor to the west, as presented by local author Polly Shaw.

12:00 Noon, Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Catered by Monroe Hotel

Host: Seneca Valley

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road, Butler, PA. At the road entrance, bear right and up the rise to the parking lot and rear entrance with glass doors.

Luncheon Main Meal

Tender meat

Tasty vegetable

Another welcome side dish

delicious dessert (caterer's choice)

usual beverages

Alternative

Chef Salad

delicious dessert

usual beverages

Reservation due March 8, 2024

Member Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Number of reservations: main meal at \$14 _____ Chef salad at \$14 _____

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