

Butler County Chapter Newsletter
Website: www.pasrbutler.org

May 2021

President's Message



Yes!!! Our next meeting is live and in-person! Time to actually get in a car and attend a PASR Butler Chapter meeting!!! Keep reading for details. But first, important business.

The PASR House of Delegates will be held October 2021 in Lancaster at Eden Resorts and Suites. The number of permitted delegates is dependent on correct tally of our members who belong to both local and state PASR.

Our dues run along the lines of the fiscal year. They are due by June 1, which is why Jim Huemme always

says, "May Days are Pay Days." Some have paid for life local membership so there is no issue. You paid once and never have to pay again. Some choose to pay yearly for life membership.

We did not meet face-to-face in March or May 2020, but did offer Zoom meetings in September, December 2020 and March 2021. For this reason, your PASR Butler Exec Board **voted to waive dues for June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021**. Some members are up to date and have paid for 2021-2022 which is great!!!

To be sure of our count, our Butler PASR Exec. Board directed that an update should be made of our membership list. On April 12, Treasurer Jim Huemme, Membership Chair Sharon Kline, Region Director Mary K Davis and I met (we've all had shots) and went through the list together.

Sadly , for some people, this will be **your last issue of Journey**. We have been carrying some friends on our

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

(continued from page 1)

membership list but the time has arrived to transfer to inactive those who have not paid since 2018 and before. Those who have not paid since 2019 are on the precipice. Anyone may please remit **\$10 for local dues** for June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 and **you will be kept as local active.** Those who do not respond with payment by June 1, 2021 will be considered inactive. Of course, you have the option to change to a life local membership for \$150. (Address on page 3 at the blue arrow.)

Does it make a difference if we update the list? We think that it does! There is the practical aspect. We spend \$528 on our postal permit. We have spent \$657 for printing *Journey and Journey Junior*. Those listed as inactive will **no** longer receive *Journey* either by US Mail or email starting with the next issue. This is a newsletter for members and therefore only members



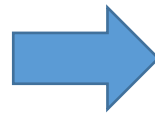
should receive it. **In August, inactive members will be removed from the email list and our US Mail database.**

There is an additional request. Understand that we have not had a dues increase in long time. Neither have we had any fundraiser trip, so we are now seeing the need to transfer funds from savings. Many of you are regular computer users. It is important that we reach every member. Please consider receiving the *Journey* newsletter just **via email**. This would

reduce our printing costs. Of course, if it is not convenient for you to use the computer, *you will certainly continue to receive it via US Mail.* **Please state your preference to delete receiving the US Mail version and your choice for the email version to pollyshaw@zoominternet.net.** We'd like to avoid even having to consider raising our local dues.

To check your state membership status, go to www.pasr.org. In the upper right corner, login as a member. That will take you directly to your membership page which lists your status as a lifelong or yearly member. It also gives information about your member benefits, such as the dates of your dental and vision coverage. If you have never logged in to the state site, the easiest would be to call the state office in Mechanicsburg at [\(717\) 697-7077](tel:7176977077). They can tell you your status or walk you through login on the phone while you are seated at your computer. The office is open Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30. You can pay state dues directly through the website.

If you are a life state member, then you have no further need to pay. If you pay state dues yearly, then the time is coming to pay again. If you fall in arrears, the state sends out an email and a letter to notify you of the situation. Those who take advantage of member benefits (such as various insurance coverage) must be paid up state members, so state is very careful to monitor that membership payment is current.



If you don't know your local membership status, contact Jim Huemme at 724-287-0454 or email to Khuemme@zoominternet.net. His home address is Jim Huemme, 119 Shanor Heights, Butler, PA 16001. It is preferred that you pay your local dues by check, payable to **Butler County PASR** and mail it directly to him, or in person on May 26 at the meeting.

Your PASR Butler Exec. Board has been working on your behalf during this odd year, making great efforts to maintain the health of our chapter. We were the first chapter in the state to have Zoom meetings, each with a program. Some chapters have not met at all, but *we did!* Two issues of *Journey Junior* were sent out to stay in touch with our members between regular issues.

I am asking that you renew your interest and maintain your membership in PASR Butler Chapter. Take advantage of the opportunities for member benefits and be an active local and state member. We help each other in retirement!

Our May meeting will be live and in-person at the Masonic Shelter, Alameda Park at noon on Wednesday, May 26. This shelter is adjacent to the large playground and the swimming pool.

It is my hope for you that by the May 26 meeting, you are fully immunized. Butler Township requires covid protocols including masks and social distancing. The large shelter gives us ample room to spread out as needed,

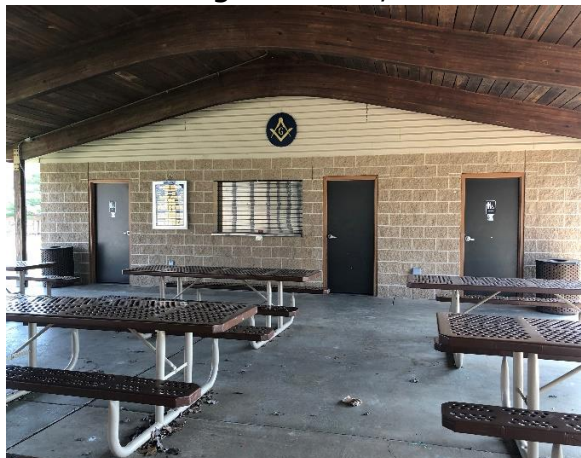
especially those not fully immunized. The meal will be individually boxed, not our usual buffet.



The table in the foreground has short benches to accommodate wheelchairs at the end.

As of this writing, the CDC has issued new guidelines about wearing masks, stating that those fully immunized do not need them out of doors except in crowded situations such as stadiums. We will follow the guidelines required by Butler Township at the time of our meeting. To be sure, those not immunized must wear a mask. Those who are immunized should have mask available in case still required.

This is a large shelter, with restroom



facilities at one end of the shelter, easy to access. The door in the center is a kitchenette. **We have a fantastic program to be given by Bill May, local historian!** (See page 6.)

Note the metal picnic tables. You may want to consider bringing a cushion to sit on for personal comfort. It is possible to sit on an end of the bench and not have to climb over it; just slide in.



Thanks to all who have been faithful and supportive during this yearlong challenge! I offer my sincere appreciation. We made it through together!

Butler County Council PASR
General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
March 24, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Polly welcomed us.
Meeting called to order at 12:08 with Polly's gavel.
Pledge of Allegiance.
Song- Grand Old Flag
Approved minutes from December 9, 2020 as in the Journey.

President's Message- An encore presentation of The History of the Pennsylvania Turnpike will be on April 14 at 1:00 PM on ZOOM. Mark Krempa asked if it could be presented to the state.

Dues for the state are handled by the state. Local dues are the local chapter's

responsibility. We will be working to update the local data base to catch up on yearly local memberships. Action taken by the Executive Board has suspended the 2020-2021 membership dues. Those who paid for 2020-2021 will be considered paid members until June 30, 2022. This will put all members on a pay date of June 30 each year.

House of Delegates allows 1 delegate for 150 members who are both local and state. 151 members or more would allow a second delegate. A meeting to update the membership list will be held on April 12, consisting of Polly Shaw, Sharon Kline, Jim Huemme, and Mary K Davis.

Treasurers Report- Contained in the *Journey*. The report runs 3 months behind. An honorarium is to be paid to Meghan Spear for the March program.

Region 8- Hopefully meetings will resume in May. Region vacancies include Community Service, Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund, and Membership. Please see Mary K Davis if interested in one of these positions. There has been an increase in fees for vision and dental coverage.

Community Service- *Feed PA* initiative in February has resulted in some chapters giving to local Food Banks.

Program- *Letting Go of Should* by Meghan Speer. Her book Letting Go of Should is available on Amazon.

Polly suggested that the May General Membership Meeting could be held at a shelter at Alameda Park. Considerations will be made for the

ability to use it rain or shine, nearness of rest room facilities, parking. A boxed lunch would be arranged.

Meeting adjourned 1:07

Respectfully Submitted,
Frances Geisel
Recording Secretary

Community Service Report. (Peg Harding)

In February, the State PASR asked for local chapters to help those persons in Pennsylvania struggling with hunger. By partnering with Feeding PA. PASR raised \$43,490, and 536 chapter members across PA donated to this cause.

PASR would like feedback from local chapters on how this state project was handled this year and whether we should partner with *Feeding PA* in the future. Should we partner with another project next year and/or should we alternate partnerships from year to year? Many local chapters decided to contribute monetarily to their local food banks and well as individual contributions to Feeding PA.

The AARP Community Service Awards for 2020 were considered to be unsatisfactory, because many chapters submitted nominees and never heard back from the organization. We didn't submit anyone for 2020, but the year we submitted Polly Shaw for the award, she won! Again this year, due to COVID, many of you have been unable to volunteer your services to help others. The Community Service Award for this year 2020-2021 needs names of those in our local organization who have accumulated

hours of volunteerism. Last year, we awarded everyone a certificate via the *Journey* newsletter. **Please complete the Volunteer Survey form found in this newsletter and bring it to the picnic luncheon at Alameda Park on May 26, 2021 or mail it to me - Peg Harding 116 Rana Lane Gibsonia, PA 15044 by June 30, 2021!**

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,

et. The Center Avenue Community School is accepting \$10 gift cards from Walmart or Target. Thank you for your generosity in the past in 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

Pam Patterson
Concordia Lutheryn
Ministries
Lunn Bldg, Room 2407
134 Marwood Rd.
Cabot, PA 16023

Upcoming Dates

Gen Membership: Wed, May 26, at noon at Alameda Park, Masonic shelter

Exec. Board: Thurs, Aug 5, 2021, 10:00

Gen Membership: Wed, Sept 22, at noon

PASR House of Delegates: Oct 3-5

Exec. Board: Thurs, Oct 21, at 10:00

Gen Membership: Wed, Dec 8, noon

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



Our Upcoming Program, presented by Mr. Bill May!

Take a journey into Butler's amusement park past on May 26 at noon when master storyteller Mr. Bill May of Butler, PA presents a slide-show and talk on the **"History of Alameda Park—Butler's Disneyland."** The talk will feature rare photographs, stories and video of Butler's 1901-1943 amusement park. Mr. May will even take the audience on a virtual ride on its figure eight roller coaster.

Bill May is a retired high school teacher from Butler, PA. He taught computer/business classes for 33 enjoyable years at

Lakeview High School in Stoneboro, PA. Bill is a graduate of Butler High School and Westminster College '81.

Bill is an avid historian of all American history, but especially local and Civil War history. He has been a very popular speaker on these topics for the past 30 years speaking to both small and large groups numbering in the hundreds with people traveling specifically to enjoy his historical storytelling. Bill is also a popular tour guide presenting his annual Butler Ghost Walks that have drawn nearly 4,000 people over the past 9 years. His "Historic Mansions of Butler Walking Tour" has sold out the past three years since the inaugural event in 2018. Bill is currently writing a non-fiction book of a collection of biographies of the late 19th century visitors to the historic Bedford Springs Hotel in Bedford, PA. When not involved with history projects, Bill is a lifelong runner, bicycle enthusiast and now pickleball player.

Who Knew! #11 Plant a Tree

By Judith Schaffer, PASR State President

Since I have been a member of a Pennsylvania Garden Club, April has always meant celebrating Arbor Day by planting a tree. **"When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and the seeds of hope."** - Quote by Wangari Maathai

J. Sterling Morton first proposed a tree planting holiday on January 4, 1872, in Nebraska. Today Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and more than 40 countries around the globe. Who Knew!



Why plant trees? Here's why-----

One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day.

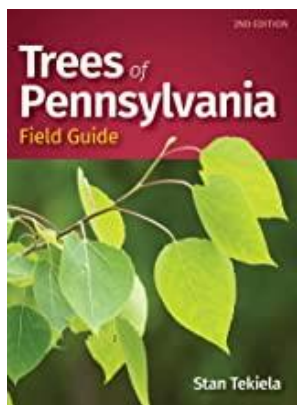
Trees improve our air quality, save energy, reduce pollutants, provide homes for wildlife, and add brilliant colors to the landscape.

They increase property values and reduce stress.

Arbor Day is 150 years old this year! The official date is April 30, 2021. Everyone is being asked to participate in an activity involving trees during the year-long celebration. Have you noticed that funeral homes now offer buying a Memorial Tree in lieu of a floral arrangement? Trees for Pets is also an option. Who Knew!

Organizations across the state offer tree purchasing for memorials. The Philadelphia Orchard Project offers a fruit tree to be planted within the Philadelphia area at a cost of \$60.00. The Pennsylvania Garden Clubs working with the Forestry Division promotes purchasing a tree to be planted in the Allegheny Forest for \$68.00. This project is called Penny Pines.

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” Chinese Proverb



Pennsylvania has over 117 common native trees growing across the Commonwealth. Our state tree is the Eastern Hemlock which has a life span of 150-200 years. Gifford Pinchot, 28th Governor of PA, was the first Chief of the Forest Service. Who Knew!

Book Tip - **TREES OF PENNSYLVANIA** by Stan Tekiela

I would like to see members of PASR get involved in some kind of tree planting this year. Social distancing could be easily maintained in this outdoor activity. Let me PLANT some ideas for your consideration.

- How about adding a tree planting during your summer picnic meeting! Be sure to secure the park's permission and site selection. Add a plaque promoting PASR.
- Honor your chapter president with a tree planting ceremony at the end of their term.
- Contact the Forestry Division in your county for a possible program. (48 of PA's 67 counties have such a location) PA State Park Personnel give excellent talks about PA's 2.2 million acres of forestlands.
- *Bartlett Tree Experts*, founded in 1907 by Francis Bartlett, gives presentations on pruning and tree preservation.
- Plant a tree in your yard for a grandchild. Let them know that it is their tree to watch grow.

Be sure to keep your Region Director aware of your tree planting activities, so they can report at the next state board meeting.

So, get out your shovel - “Plant a tree and plant hope for the future.”

PASR BUTLER NEEDS YOUR UPDATE, PLEASE!



It is essential that we have accurate records and know how to contact you! If you move, or change phone numbers or email, please be sure to tell our membership chair, Sharon Kline, elsie60@zoominternet.net.
505 Stoneridge Blvd. Butler, PA 16001

ALSO: Please be sure that your immediate family knows that you are a member, so they can notify us if you are not able to do so.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY –YEARLY TALLY SHEET

July 1, 2020–June 20, 2021

TO ALL PASR MEMBERS: Thank you for being a volunteer in our community! PASR CHAPTERS are interested in documenting the hours of service that volunteer retirees contribute to their local communities. In doing this, our volunteers show to the community at large a positive picture of the activities of public school/BC3 retirees. Please take a few minutes to complete the chart below, filling in the appropriate number of hours PER YEAR which you volunteer. (Estimate through June 30.) A summary of this information will be shared with AARP, NRTA and the state PASR.



NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

EDUCATIONAL hours this year

Historical Association _____

Library _____

School Board _____

Other _____

Total _____

POLITICAL hours this year

Advocacy _____

Elections _____

Government _____

Other _____

Total _____

SOCIAL SERVICES hours this year

Boards/Committees _____

Cancer Society _____

Drug/Alcohol _____

Fire Ambulance _____

Fraternal Groups _____

Hospital/Nursing Home _____

Meals on Wheels _____

Office of the Aging _____

Red Cross _____

Salvation Army _____

Service Organization _____

Soup Kitchen/Food Bank _____

Visitation _____

Other _____

Total _____

RELIGIOUS hours this year

Adult Instruction _____

Youth Instruction _____

Organization _____

Visitation _____

Other _____

Total _____

SERVICES TO YOUTH hours this year

Alliance with Youth _____

Classroom Volunteer _____

Head Start _____

Latch-Key Program _____

Literacy _____

Scholarships _____

School Volunteer _____

Scouting _____

Tutoring _____

YM/YWCA _____

Other _____

Total _____

*I have served in special leadership roles
as follows:* _____

TOTAL HOURS THIS YEAR IN ALL CATEGORIES: _____ hours Region 8

Bring to May 26 meeting or mail to Ms. Margaret E. Harding, 116 Rana Lane, Gibsonia, 15044, by June 30, 2021.

PASR TREASURER'S REPORT
 January 1 - March 31, 2021
 James Huemme, Treasurer

RECEIPTS:

State Dues	\$.	180.00
Local Dues		250.00
		430.00

EXPENSES:

PASR	\$.	240.00
Minuteman Press		342.87
Postmaster		383.40
		966.27

BALANCE December 31, 2020	\$	1,721.24
RECEIPTS	+	430.00
		2,151.24
EXPENSES		- 966.27

CHECKBOOK BALANCE		1,184.97
SAVINGS	+.	9,332.94
		\$ 10,517.91

***Please call me for questions about your dues.
 My number is 724-287-0454

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

PASR Luncheon Meeting
 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, May 26, 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.

The PASR Butler Exec. Board will host this meeting.

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

- Deli wrap – turkey and swiss with mustard
- OR deli wrap - ham and American with ranch
- 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 **May 15, 2021**
 12:00 Noon at Masonic Shelter in Alameda Park, Butler, PA

Member Name: _____

Guest Reservation: (name) _____

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

Ham and American cheese 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

PASR
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees



**See you May 26 for "History of Alameda Park—Butler's Disneyland,"
presented by well-known local speaker, Mr. Bill May!**