



Journey

Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: www.pasrbutler.org

Home Chapter of PASR
State President Mary K
Davis



President's Message

It's time to reformat our system of rotating host duties of school entities at our General Membership meetings. I'm sure that this system was successful years ago, but our membership demographics have changed. Moniteau, Slippery Rock, Karns City, BC3, and Seneca Valley have very few members so it always falls on the same 1 or 2 from those districts. We discussed this at the Executive Committee meeting and want to try a committee approach. Diana Bowman volunteered to take the lead for the March meeting but she isn't to do this alone! If you are able, it's your turn! We need a good size committee to divide the job for March, Sept, and Dec. None at Alameda in May due to being outdoors/breezes!

Before I ask for volunteers, let's see what this entails. Those on the committee responsible for that

March 2025
Remember: 11:00
meeting time.

meeting, decide on a simple theme or color scheme. Buy the round plastic table coverings and 3 long table coverings for the eating and serving tables. Save all receipts for reimbursement up to \$50. Create some sort of centerpiece for each round table. You can choose to buy pretty napkins as part of the decoration scheme. Decide if you want some sort of favors, such as some candy on the table. On the meeting day, arrive early (9:45) to put out the coverings and whatever else you have. Polly will bring the table programs which you can place. **Remember that the meeting now starts at 11:00** so people will be arriving, starting 10:30 to visit. We want the tables ready for them. Help clean-up afterwards.

We NEED volunteers for this committee. Please text Polly at 724-584-0371 or email pollyshaw3@gmail.com. I will pass along your name, phone number, and email to Diana. Thanks!

Butler Chapter Officers

President..... Polly Shaw
 724-584-0371 pollyshaw3@gmail.com
 President-elect **OPEN**
 Recording Secretary Fran Geisel
 Immediate Past Pres Peg Harding
harding.margaret@gmail.com
 724-502-4065
 TreasurerJames Huemme
 khuemme@zoominternet.net
 Asst. Treasurer.....Joanne Van Deusen
 Membership Secretary..... Mary K Davis
 Chapter Website www.pasrbutler.org
 Region 8 Director.....Polly Shaw
 State website www.pasr.org
 State President Mary K Davis

Standing Committee Chairs

By-Laws..... **OPEN**
 Community Service..... Peg Harding
 Educational Support Diana Bowman
 Legislative and L/PEC Peg Harding
 Membership/Mem. Benefits & Services **OPEN**
 Nominating Peg Harding
 Program Diana Bowman
 Public Relations Polly Shaw
 RECREO **OPEN**
 Retirement Planning **OPEN**
 Soc.Ser/Memorial Honor Fund..Ruth Scott

Ad Hoc Committees

Reservations Donna Vogel
 Hosting Diana Bowman

PASR School Entity Area Chairs

Butler.....Kay and Jim Huemme
 BC3.....Ruth Scott
 Karns City **OPEN**
 Knoch.....Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg
 Mars.....Minette Thompson
 Moniteau.....Carol Ball
 Seneca Valley.....**OPEN**
 Slippery RockEllen McIntyre

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

(continued from page 1)

ADVENTURE GROUP: Polly is looking for someone to head an ad hoc committee who can scout out some area fun things to do by a small group, such as a wine tasting, one-time wine and painting, glass art, pottery, ceramics, an art exhibit, meeting for breakfast, a book club, game afternoon for board games or cards, etc. Other chapters do these things successfully but a person needs to organize them here – for us! Find a place, make arrangements, get the word out, and be there to host. Take reservations, if needed by the venue. Each member would pay if there is a fee. The idea is to get out with others to do some fun things! We would be under our PASR umbrella so give it a try and be ready to participate. Even if you think you don't know others beforehand, you will afterwards! This is not a RECREO trip, just informal get togethers for fun! Provide own transportation or carpool. Somebody needs to be the leader!

2025 Butler Chapter Calendar

EXEC BD	GEN. MEMBERSHIP
Feb 5	March 26
April 9	May 28 Alameda Park
Aug 6	Sept 24
Oct 22	Dec 10

CARDS of CHEER

Keith Swank
 Concordia Lutheran Ministries
 134 Marwood Lane, Room 2107D
 Cabot, PA 16023

Don and Virginia Shirey
 187 Bear Creek Road

Sarver, PA 16055-9228
Butler County PASR
General Membership
Luncheon Meeting
December 11, 2024

Our President, Polly Shaw, welcomed us with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Butler County Community College hosted the luncheon and said grace. The Monroe Hotel catered the event. Our business meeting started at 11 AM. President's report: Our chapter noted that the state PASR Assistant Director, Mark Krempa, passed away unexpectedly. Mark had attended our September meeting when he explained the COLA updates. Region VIII of PASR was discussed. Clarion Chapter has disbanded, Mercer Chapter only has a Treasurer, Beaver Chapter seems to be doing well with their officers, and Butler Chapter is doing OK.

We have a new rental agreement with the church facility for our local executive meeting room and general membership meetings. The cost for each accommodation has gone up in cost. We need to re-evaluate where we hold our meetings. If members have any suggestions, contact Polly Shaw, Peg Harding, or Mary K Davis. We would need a facility with: convenient parking, no stairs, bathroom facility, agreeable rental fees, and use of our own catering. PASR Memorial Service Ruth Scott, our SSMHF chairperson, recognized those of our members who passed away in 2024. George Rock age 87, Evelyn Mae Knox age 101, Mary Sanderson age 95, Nancy Olinger age 85, Leroy Gerner age 89, Ella Louise Ekas age 82, Joyce Swigart age 89, Mark Robert Krempa age 49.

Secretary's report: It was moved, Diana Bowman, and seconded, Minette Thompson, to approve the general membership minutes for the September 25, 2024 meeting. Treasurer's report: It was moved, Ruth Scott, and seconded, Donna Vogel, to approve the treasurer's report.

Community Service report: The Butler Chapter of PASR Volunteer of the Year for 2024 was awarded to Beverly Banyay. She received a certificate from PASR, a Volunteer Pin, and other gifts from the state and local membership. Beverly volunteered at the Passavant Retirement Home, her local food bank, and various church organizations. Congratulations, Beverly, and all our members who volunteers in our communities.

2024 Election and Installation of PASR Butler County Chapter Officers: Peg Harding, Nominations chairperson and Past President, conducted the nomination and election part of the meeting. It was moved by Priscilla Beblo and seconded by Ruth Scott, to elect the following: PASR Butler County Chapter Officers for a two year term: President: Polly Shaw Secretary: Fran Geisel. Treasurer: Jim Huemme. Assistant Treasurer: Joanne Van Deusen Immediate Past President: Peg Harding 2025

Overview of PASR Butler Chapter: Our current President and Region VIII Director, Polly Shaw, will end her tenure as president and Region 8 director at the end of 2027. Please consider taking over these positions for our chapter and/or region. New faces need to help with these positions. Anyone who pays

into PSERS can be elected. We need to determine if our present "hosting" for general membership meetings is in need of revision. Too many school district entities only have one representative to do the work involved. Suggestions are appreciated. There are various vacancies to be filled with our Butler Chapter Officers: President-Elect, especially. Check out PASRButler.org, also The state PASR is conducting Winter ZOOM meetings. Please check our website - www.pasr.org for state and local information concerning this and other news. We have no fundraisers at this time. Margaret Hoffman, our former RECREO chairperson, celebrated her 100th birthday and has retired from that position. We need money to help with our yearly \$500 scholarship award for BCCC and proceeds from our trips helped to defray those costs. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Our 2025 calendar is posted on our website PASRButler.org as well as in our luncheon meeting program info.

PASR Program - Balance and Safety Concordia Lutheran ministries presented an outstanding program for seniors, especially, on ways to help our aging process with balance issues. Biological factors which may cause balance problems include: Vision, inner ear, and where you are "in space". During COVID, many seniors had difficulty wearing masks which hindered walking. Other tripping hazards include throw rugs, not enough light while moving around at night, not using "grab bars" in showers, etc. Canes and walkers are very useful for those who have balance problems. Two physical

therapists discussed and demonstrated strengthening techniques. They even gave us a quiz to check our knowledge on balance. Many of the Concordia facilities have outpatient services. You can contact the Cabot facility 724-352-6200 for more information on physical therapy for your needs.

Raffle Jim Huemme won the raffle. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Harding, Substitute Secretary

PASR Community Service Report

It's been quite a cold and snowy few months for our members! We are still helping others in our communities, though! Our members are active in Meals on Wheels, hospital and church volunteering, and many other good works to help our neighbors! Thank you! Butler Life, our adult daycare Bingo prize recipients, are enjoying the prizes we send to them four times a year after our general membership luncheons. They have received "2025" wall and pocket calendars, notecards, pens, pencils, juice boxes, jewelry, hats, gloves, scarves, and most recently we will be sending them crocheted shoulder shawls. If you can think of anything appropriate as a Bingo prize for men and women, please bring them to the March luncheon. Thank you for your support.

Center Avenue Community School accepts students from multiple Butler County School Districts, who benefit from specialized support that are better offered in this setting, K-12, Students may come without typical home advantages, so \$10 Target or WalMart gift cards help to supplement their basic needs.



Awardees Pam Preston, left, and Danette Hebenthal

**PASR Butler Chapter 2024 - 2025
Lauretta Woodson Award
Letter to Honorees**

The Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) is an organization of retired school employees in Pennsylvania who have dedicated themselves to fostering education in the public schools and volunteering their services in communities where they live. Dr. 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 Lauretta Woodson Recognition Program is to honor one teacher and one support professional

each year for doing an outstanding job within a district or school.

This year the Karns City Area School District was selected to nominate candidates for this award. Dr. Eric Ritzert, the superintendent of schools for Karns City, submitted **Danette Hebenthal**, a Karns City Area Elementary School sixth grade teacher, and Pam Preston a support professional at Karns City Jr./Sr. High School, to be honored with this award. The awards were presented at the February 2025 Karns City Area School Board meeting. Mary K Davis, the current PASR State President, presented each recipient with a plaque, a pin, and a grant donation of \$125.00 to be used to support public education in their school.

Mr. Jeff Wagner, Supervisor, recommended Mrs. Hebenthal by stating, "Mrs. Hebenthal goes above and beyond what is expected as a sixth grade teacher. Her ability to motivate students and build meaningful relationships with them is outstanding. She has a creative way of making ELA instruction engaging for her students and it shows in the way her students perform and grow. In speaking with Mrs. Hebenthal, she would like to use her mini-grant to purchase some additional materials to do some more engaging book sharing ideas. Some examples would be book talks and flashlight reading, which ties into her survival theme. She would, also, like do a book tasting activity and turn her classroom into a restaurant. Mrs. Hebenthal would be interested in purchasing some materials to add to our "Rock Your School Day" that we do in the fall. If money remains, she would

be interested in purchasing some educational games for the students.”

Mr. Mike Stimac recommended Mrs. Preston by stating, “Mrs. Preston comes to work everyday with a positive attitude, regardless of the circumstances. As a result, she treats every student with whom she interacts with dignity, respect, and accountability. Moreover, when a problem arises, she initiates solutions and constantly reflects on how to improve the lives of her students. When tasked with something new, she never complains, rather, she seizes the opportunity and does her very best. In speaking with Mrs. Preston, she would like to use her \$125 towards educating the students with whom she works on the dangers of addiction. We invite speakers to the school to speak to many of our special education students regarding post high school opportunities (job opportunities, job related skills, college, and military). Mrs. Preston proposed utilizing these funds to invite a speaker to discuss with students the dangers of addiction (drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, etc). Congratulations to both of these excellent employees and their dedication to public education in Butler County.

March Meeting Program Speaker



Mary Bach is a long-time Consumer Advocate who now Chairs the AARP PA Consumer Issues Task Force. As a volunteer, she is spreading AARP's

strategic messages about fraud against older consumers.

A former high school teacher, elected Murrysville Councilwoman, and then elected Franklin Regional School Board member, she has numerous television and radio credits, including appearances on the "Today Show", "Good Morning America", "Donahue", and "Dateline", as well as many segments on local TV programs and talk-radio shows. She has been interviewed and quoted in many publications, ranging from "Good Housekeeping", "Business Week", and "Money Magazine" to "USA Today", "Wall Street Journal", "Washington Post", "New York Times", and "Philadelphia Inquirer", among many others. She has keynoted or been a featured speaker or workshop presenter at numerous state, national, and international conferences on a wide variety of consumer issues.

For seventeen years she wrote a newspaper column for grocery industry trade papers. She has served as a panelist on the national Consumer-Industry panel of the Direct Marketing Association, and she has been in the forefront on telemarketing issues, from the consumer's perspective. She is VP of the Scanning Certification Advisory Board, helping to set industry standards for retail pricing accuracy at the checkout. She has served on the Task Force for the Protection of Older Consumers, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Attorney General.

In 1999, she was named National Consumer of the Year in a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. She also received the Consumer Service Award from Pennsylvania

Attorney General Mike Fisher. She has been honored by AARP as the 1998 recipient of the Above and Beyond Award and in 1999 as Volunteer of the Year. She was named a Community Champion by the United Way and the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" and a

recipient of the Jefferson Award Bronze Medal.

From LinkedIn

Check **wpxi.com/news** website for links to her television consumer reports.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
October 1 - December 31, 2024**

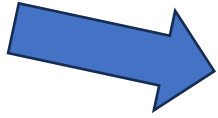
RECEIPTS:

Local Dues/Donation	\$ 100.00
State Dues	60.00
Luncheon/Food (2)	550.00
Raffle	34.00
	\$ 744.00

EXPENSES:

Volunteer Pin	\$ 5.00
Luncheon (2)	852.00
Minuteman	134.37
Program	50.00
Hall Rent	125.00 *(Next year \$155)
State Dues	60.00
	\$ 1,226.37

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,148.88
Receipts	+ 744.00
	2,892.88
Expenses	- 1,226.37
	\$ 1,666.51
Checkbook Balance	\$ 1,666.51
Savings	+ 6,972.29
	\$ 8,638.80



11:00, Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Catered by Monroe Hotel

We 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

- Country Fried Steak
- Mashed potatoes
- Vegetable
- Cole Slaw

delicious dessert (caterer's choice)
coffee, tea, raspberry ice tea, water

Alternative

Chef Salad

delicious dessert
coffee, tea, raspberry ice tea, water

Reservation due Wed. March 12, 2025

Member Name: _____

Butler 1st time retirees and nifty nineties are free!

Guest Name: _____

Number of reservations: main meal at \$15 _____ Chef salad at \$15 _____

Total due: _____

Make checks payable to Butler County PASR. Mail to:

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

Mary Bach, well known Consumer Advocate, will be presenting our March program. Her thoughts and consumer experiences will both inform and entertain.



Remember that we now begin at 11:00 for our meeting. Luncheon is 11:45 followed by our special guest!

