

P A S R

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees
Montgomery County Chapter

NEWSLETTER

Published by: Montgomery County Chapter
Region I of PASR—An Affiliate of NRTA

PASR represents all employees who have contributed to the PA School Employees Retirement System

Teachers

School Aides

Secretaries

School Nurses

Administrators

Counselors

Business Office

Vo-Tech Staff

Psychologists

Maintenance Staff

Transportation Department

Intermediate Unit Staff

SPRING 2013

Website: www.pasr.org

Telephone: 610-539-9525



By the time you read this newsletter, Spring will have officially arrived and hopefully Mother Nature will provide the weather we associate with Spring.

PASR continues to press for increased enrollment in the State and County membership rolls. Our Chapter has sent out over 1,000 informational letters to prospective members in Montgomery County with some success in recruiting new members. If we are going to continue to be an effective advocate for retirees, we need to involve everyone in the recruitment process. We need each of you to recruit just one new State and local member! There remains an urgent need for each of us to get informed and involved in PASR's mission of advocating for all school retirees.

On March 12, Richard C. Rowland, Executive Director of PASR, appeared on PCN in a live audience-call-in show focused on the current pension situation and possible solutions to the problem facing all of us. Also participating on the program was Stuart Knade of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. As usual, Richard exhibited an extraordinary understanding of the pension issue and was able to articulate remedies advocated by PASR. If you were unable to view the program, you can go to www.pasr.org, log in, and go to the News section—Pensions on Television. You will be able to view the program in its entirety.

On a lighter side, please take note of the RECREO events described in this newsletter. A considerable amount of time and effort has gone into the selection and arrangements for the various activities. As you will notice, there is a wide variety of top-notch options offered at very competitive prices. One cannot measure the value of attending these quality events with friends and new acquaintances.

Hope you all have an invigorating spring; see you at our Spring Luncheon, May 2, at the William Penn Inn.

John Worthington, President
Montgomery County Chapter, PASR

E-Mail Addresses Wanted

We are attempting to keep our members up to date with information as it happens via e-mail. We only have about 250 e-mail addresses out of over 1,200 members, and we have been sending information to those individuals. If you haven't been receiving these e-mails and would like to, please send an e-mail to our membership person, Chuck Forsythe, at cforsythe@mac.com and he will add your e-mail to his list.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

All efforts continue to save and strengthen our pension system. Only you can support PASR initiatives, by remaining vigilant of the intentions of our elected officials. Stay informed! Write, call, text, and e-mail your state senators, your state representatives, and the governor. It is imperative that we make our presence known. As I have written many times before...numbers matter!

It is this writer's hope that face to face meetings will be scheduled soon for our contact teams to meet with the legislators.

Barbara D'Onofrio, Chairperson



MEMBERSHIP MAILING

The pictures at the left show some of the PASR-MONTCO Board of Directors at work getting out mailings to try and increase membership in both the local and state organizations. In this time of our pension system being under constant threat of change, we all need to stay strong and continue to support the one organization that is fighting, not only to preserve the system, but offering solutions to solve the fiscal crisis the State faces in maintaining the pension system. Please stay tuned!!!! We need everyone active and involved in this matter.



Clockwise from top left: Joe Mennen, Evie Reese, Elise Pancio; John Skilton; Inge Friedberg; Chuck Forsythe and Sally Waslik

COMMUNITY SERVICE

PASR has decided to make its Community Service priority this year – FEEDING THE HUNGRY! As we all know the numbers of those who do not have enough food for their families continues to increase. This problem has affected our area as well as the rest of the nation. Our local food banks report a continued increase in those who need help for their families. The lines get longer with each passing month but unfortunately the government supplies have been decreasing.

Therefore, as Community Service Chair for PASR Montgomery County, I am asking for your help by providing cans of food for this very worthy cause. Our focal point will be the food cupboard run by Catholic Services at St. Paul's Church, 353 E. Johnson Highway, Norristown. In August the food cupboard provided food to more than 530 families who came from all over Montgomery County. The food cupboard is open to the needy every week Monday and Thursday from 9 AM to 11 AM and on Thursday evening from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Please note that a family is only allowed to come to the cupboard once a month for food. So the volunteers such as our own Ben Hynes who is a member of our Board of Directors try to give each of the families as much basic sustenance as is available. For those of you who have the ability and goodwill to bring cans of food to the church, please know that the volunteers are happy to take whatever you can bring during food cupboard hours to help those in need.

Joseph Mennen, Community Service Chair

L/PEC – Legislative Political Education Committee

The PASR Legislative Committee is the committee that fashions and promotes legislative issues of interest to school retirees. The responsibility of the L/PEC Committee is to provide the funding to support the efforts of the Legislative Committee. As you may know, PASR's L/PEC Fund is the only fund in Pennsylvania dedicated exclusively to that purpose. Money donated to L/PEC works for you by underwriting the expenses incurred in expanding the legislative advocacy capabilities of PASR so that information about the ongoing activities of the governor and the legislature and the efforts of the Legislative Committee to achieve legislation sensitive to our needs can be communicated to our members in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, the Fund's balance is low and it needs your support in order to carry out critically needed activities at the local and state level. A major effort is being made by our association to revitalize our L/PEC fund. Each chapter has a goal of..."increasing L/PEC contributions equivalent to fifty cents per state member". Montgomery County has not yet reached that goal but we have every confidence that we will, with your help, achieve it by the June 30, 2013 deadline. To those of you who have already made a contribution we say a hearty thanks! If you have not already done so, however, and would like to donate, you can now click on a link for the Legislative/Political Education Committee Fund at www.pasr.org and pay by credit card. If you prefer, you can fill in and mail the form at the bottom of this page.

Tony Straka, L/PEC Chair and Evelyn Reese, Region 1 & State L/PEC Chair

PASR has requested that this overview of the recent pension reform article which appears in the September 2012 issue of the PASR Newsletter be included in chapter newsletters.

The Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) is under attack, and the financial security of all present and future school retirees is at risk. The PASR state association is urging all retired public school employees to join together and fight to save their retirement system. Your help is needed to defeat efforts to close and replace the retirement system with individual 401 (k)-type retirement accounts and to promote passage of two reform proposals advocated by PASR.

Details of PASR's Pension Reform II Proposal were published in the 2012 PASR *After School* magazine mailed to all state members in late August, and are available online in the members only section of www.pasr.org. The proposal includes suggestions for increasing state and school district contributions to the retirement system in a manner that would not trigger tax increases or massive budget cuts. It also recommends changes in the options that employees have for withdrawing their benefits in retirement and calls for sing retirement system assets more to help strengthen the state's economy, including provision of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retirees.

PASR's Pension Contributor's Protection was explained in the September 2012 issue of the *PASR Newsletter* and is also available online at www.pasr.org in the members' only section. This proposal is intended to prevent future governors and legislators from mismanaging the statewide public employee retirement systems as previous governors and legislators have done. This proposal calls for periodic, independent reviews of the retirement systems by Pennsylvania's auditor general. It also proposes changes in the processes used by legislators and the Public Employee Retirement Commission to review and analyze proposed changes to the retirement systems and proposes measures to strengthen the PSERS Board of Trustees, including provisions to increase retiree representation on the board.

If you are not currently a member of the PASR state association, please join now. You need to be informed about all that is happening in Harrisburg concerning your pension system, and you must be prepared to act to maintain your retirement system and your benefits.

L/PEC CONTRIBUTION FORM

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Make checks payable to: L/PEC and mail to:

PASR, 878 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-8406

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER - SPRING LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013

WILLIAM PENN INN
ROUTE 202 and SUMNEYTOWN PIKE, GWYNNED, PA
SOCIAL HOUR 11:30 – 12.30, LUNCH SERVED AT 12:30

Menu

House Salad with creamy tarragon dressing
Chicken Marsala, Scaloppine served with mushrooms in a Marsala wine sauce
Fillet of Talapia served with a lemon brown butter sauce, almonds and chives
Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes
Julienne Vegetables Medley
Rolls and Whipped Butter
Coffee, Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee
Fresh Fruit Cobbler, Peaches and blueberries topped with a shortbread streusel
served with whipped cream and mint sprigs.



ENTERTAINMENT: NORTH PENNSMEN—BARBERSHOP GROUP

DETACH HERE AND MAIL WITH CHECK FOR \$25.00 BY **MONDAY**. APRIL 29, 2013

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS: _____

MENU CHOICE: CHICKEN _____ TALAPIA _____

SEND CHECK MADE OUT TO **MCC PASR** FOR **\$25.00** TO:

TONY STRAKA - 712 LAWRENCE LANE, AMBLER, PA 19002

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO PASR MONTGOMERY COUNTY!!

Mary T Alderfer	Annabel Grote	Sue Miller	John Semet
Marie Barnette	John A. Hague IV	Jeanne F. Moon	Sharon Semet
Clarence Bartman	Allen Hoffman	Barbara Ann Morocco	Elizabeth I. Simes
Richard J. Camuso	Mary Lou Hood	Jeanne Morris	Phyllis I. Stickney
Nancy Cox	Holly Jobe	Marie D. Orsini	Janet S. Stewart
Rudolph Cusumano	Dolores V. King	Massie Pacchione	William F. Strube, Jr.
Joseph DeRaymond	Theodore H. Laurenson	Ann S. Potts	Kathleen Viall
Doris Fanning	Rita Lenahan	Joanne Puglia	Irene Wall
William E. Farrell	Arlene Lessack	Patricia Rittenhouse	Ellist Wexler
Joan Fritz	Sandra Levin	Salvatore D. Rotondo	Jacqueline Weiss
Richard Gabriel	Michael G. Lunn	John Semet	Charmaine Williams
Edward Gold	John McBride	Nancy Schroeder	Kathleen Yocum
Marshall B. Gorodetzer	Raymond E. Megay	Linda Segal	Charles Yohn



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Every year Education Support of PASR presents a scholarship to a deserving high school senior. This \$500 award

anticipates that the recipient will be going on to further study and enroll in a career in education. In April a student will be chosen from Springford High School. The award will be presented at our Spring Luncheon at William Penn Inn on May 2.

Inge Friedberg, Chairperson

Introduction to Facebook and Twitter



Have you wondered what Facebook or Twitter is all about? If you have, then you are not alone. Many of us "older" generation folks are in the same boat! But the Montgomery

Chapter of PASR wants to try and help you to understand the basics of these two new technologies that our kids and grandkids use every day! At our **June 13, 2013 Board meeting at the MCIU**, we are going to have an introduction to both Facebook and Twitter. Dr. Kristen Kozloski, Technology Director for the Perkiomen Valley School District, will be with us and give us a brief overview of both systems.

With sadness, we note the passing of our colleagues from PASR, Montgomery

Patricia Arnold	Anne Irons
Adam Bean	Joseph Jurich
Ann Burkhart	Emma McGinniss
Agnes Cotton	Arma McMichael
Josephine Davis	Chris Pappas
Emily Devlin	Doris Pappas
Blanche Eismann	Robert Reilley
Gertrude Emmerling	Louise Rohrbach
Howard E. Farrar	Joanne Weaver Stroh
Noah W. Fields, Sr.	John Vinski
Louise Huegel	Catherine Wieber

Our Board meeting begins at 9:30 am and will be concluded by 10:45 am. Dr. Kozloski will begin her presentation at 11:00 am and it will last about one hour. She will give a brief introduction to both Facebook and Twitter and give you enough information to get you started on your way to being able to communicate with your kids and grandkids.

Please join us for this interesting presentation!

If you plan to attend this session, please send an e-mail to Chuck Forsythe at cforsythe@mac.com or give him a call at 484-941-1929 so we know how many people to be prepared for. We look forward to seeing you on June 13th.

RECREO 2013

Our RECREO Committee has some enjoyable excursions planned for our Montgomery County Chapter members, families and friends. **Forms are available on page 7 of this newsletter to reserve a space for any of the following trips.** Don't delay—**space is limited for each trip so reserve early.**

SAIL INTO SUMMER CRUISE AND CASINO ATLANTIC CITY—Wednesday, June 19. Start with a one-hour Back Bay cruise followed by free time at Resorts Casino. Included in the package is \$15 slot play and a lunch buffet. Pick-up this Perkiomen Tour at Souderton, 7:35 am, or Montgomeryville at 8 am. **Cost \$62.** Reservation deadline is **Wednesday, May 1.**



GROUND ZERO MUSEUM—Wednesday, July 10. You'll have a guided private tour of the Ground Zero Museum and free time for lunch on your own. Lunch is followed by a visit to the 9/11 Memorial. The trip includes a Perkiomen tour escort. Pick-up at Souderton, 7:10 am, or Montgomeryville at 6:45 am. **Cost is \$85.** Reservation deadline is **Wednesday, May 29.**



PHILADELPHIA FLYERS FAN TOUR – Tuesday, July 23. Your day begins with a tour of the Wells Fargo Center in South Philadelphia, home of the famous Philadelphia Flyers! After the tour you will be transported to the renowned Chickie's & Pete's for an included buffet lunch. We will come directly home after lunch with no stops enroute. Pick up the Perkiomen coach in Souderton at 8:35 am – Return 4:15 or at Montgomeryville at 9:00 am – Return 4:00 pm. **Cost is \$55.00. Reservation deadline is Monday, June 3.**



PA SUMMERTIME FUN – Thursday, August 8. Start the day with a garden tour of the renowned Meadowbrook Farm. After an included lunch at Bahama Breeze in King of Prussia enjoy a tour and ice cream at Milky Way Farms and Creamery in Chester Spring. The day will conclude in Oaks with an American Treasure Tour from your seat on a guided tram. Board the bus at Souderton at 8:50 am; Montgomeryville, 9:15 am. Return 6:15-6:30 pm. **Cost is \$95.00. Reservation deadline is Monday, June 17.**



PEARL S. BUCK HOUSE – Thursday, October 17. “One woman. One vision. Over two million lives changed”. Discover the legacy of this remarkable woman during a **private guided tour** of her stately farmhouse. Stroll through prize winning gardens or browse the International Gift Shop before and/or after the tour. Then enjoy a **catered Chinese Buffet** in the Cultural Center while listening to “**Pearl S. Buck**” share vignettes from her life with you. Tours will begin at 10:30 am; buffet at noon. The **cost is \$28.00 per person. Reservation deadline is Friday, October 11.** There is a limit of 45. Register early! You won't want to miss this special “drive yourself” event. Directions to the Pearl S. Buck House will be included on the trip receipt. We'll help you arrange a car pool if you wish.



THE 2013 CHRISTMAS SHOW - “THE FIRST NOEL” – Sunday, December 15. This year's all new holiday show at the American Music Theater in Lancaster County features a wide variety of secular and sacred Christmas songs ranging from a cappella renditions to powerful orchestral versions. You'll delight in comedy sketches that are fun for kids from 1 to 92 and marvel at the magnificent dancing, elegant costumes and breathtaking scenery. Lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant before the show is included. Boarding for this trip is 10:50 am at the Hagey Tours Terminal in Franconia Township and 11:15 am at the Montgomeryville Mall in Montgomeryville, PA. Approximate arrival time home 8:00 pm – 8:30 pm. **The cost is \$85.00 per person. Reservation deadline for this trip is Monday, November 11.** Reservation form will be available on-line and in our October Newsletter.



RESERVATION FOR SAIL INTO SUMMER CRUISE AND CASINO—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
Reservation deadline—TUESDAY, APRIL 30

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Pick up at (circle one): Souderton Montgomeryville

Total amount enclosed: _____. Make check payable to PASR Montco and send to
Elise Pancio, 707 Sunnyside Avenue, Audubon, PA 19403

RESERVATION FOR GROUND ZERO MUSEUM—WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Reservation deadline—TUESDAY, MAY 14

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Pick up at (circle one): Souderton Montgomeryville

Total amount enclosed: _____. Make check payable to PASR Montco and send to
Elise Pancio, 707 Sunnyside Avenue, Audubon, PA 19403

RESERVATION FOR FLYER FANS TOUR—TUESDAY JULY 23
Reservation deadline—MONDAY, JUNE 3

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Pick up at (circle one): Souderton Montgomeryville

Total amount enclosed: _____. Make check payable to PASR Montco and send to
John Skilton, 1758 Morgan Lane, Colledgeville, PA 19426

RESERVATION FOR THE PA SUMMERTIME FUN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
Reservation deadline—MONDAY, JUNE 17

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Total amount enclosed: _____. Make check payable to PASR Montco and send to
Evelyn Reese, 1708 Supplee Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

RESERVATION FOR PEARL BUCK HOUSE—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
Reservation deadline—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Total amount enclosed: _____. Make check payable to PASR Montco and send to
John Worthington, 621 Delaware Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446

PA ASSOC. SCHOOL RETIREES
MONT CO. CHAPTER
PO BOX 5
FREDERICK, PA 19435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS
PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 286
SEPA 19399



DATES TO REMEMBER

PASR— MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2013

April 11	Executive Board, MCIU
May 2	Spring Luncheon, Wm Penn Inn North Pennsmen
June 13	Executive Board, MCIU Introduction to Facebook/Twitter
June 19	Atlantic City Cruise and Casino
July 10	Ground Zero Museum
July 23	Philadelphia Flyers Fan Tour
August 8	Meadowbrook Farm
October 17	Pearl S. Buck House
December 15	The 2013 Christmas Show

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend any of the above events. For more information, contact our President, John Worthington, at 215.855.4047.

RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

Representatives from the Montgomery County Chapter of PASR distribute a special edition of our After School magazine to each of the attendees at PSERS retirement workshops. For most active school employees, this is their first exposure to the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees.

If you could volunteer about one hour of your time (usually around 5:30 pm) distributing PASR materials at one of the PSERS Foundations Workshops, please contact John Worthington at 215.855.4947.

PASR ENDORSED BENEFITS

If you have taken advantage of one of our many PASR endorsed benefits, we would like to hear from you about your experience, and print it in an upcoming newsletter. Send an email to Richard Luoma at rsluoma@comcast.net or a letter to **Richard Luoma, 215 Country Club Drive, Telford, PA 18969.**