

PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

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Defending Our Pension System, Our Standards of Living, and Now Our Association!

Already locked in combat with groups seeking to dismantle the retirement system and preparing for a fight to include a COLA in whatever pension reform measure the General Assembly seeks to pass, PASR is now being forced to defend its ability to exist and to continue promoting the interests and serving the needs of all school retirees.

The latest challenge to our 72-year-old Association is being directed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), in the form of a legal challenge to the state's new Right-to-Know Law (RTKL) and in legislative attempts to change the law that grants PASR the ability to secure the names and addresses of individuals retiring from the public schools.

Citing what it terms as a need to protect the security of school employees, PSEA filed suit in Commonwealth Court against the state's Office of Open Records (OOR) and obtained a temporary injunction barring the OOR from ordering the release of address information to any requester for any reason. Almost simultaneously, the active teachers' union launched efforts in both the House and Senate to pass legislation barring the release of address information, again, to anyone for any reason.

Obtaining the names and addresses of individuals retiring from the public schools is essential for voluntary membership organizations like PASR to exist. "We cannot hope to recruit new members if we do not have the ability to identify those who are retiring from the schools each year; send them information about all the Association does, not only for our members in Social Service Projects, but also in a multitude of Community Service activities; and invite them to join and support our efforts," PASR Membership Chairman Joan Peters explains. "We must aggressively challenge these efforts by the PSEA to deprive us of our ability to communicate with our colleagues retiring from the schools and defend the Constitutional rights of all school retirees to assemble and petition their government, independent of the PSEA or any other active employee union."

Reacting immediately to the threat posed by PSEA's suit in Commonwealth Court, the PASR Board of Directors directed its attorneys to petition the Court and seek to intervene in the case on the side of the OOR and in defense of the state's new RTKL. PASR's petition to intervene was granted, as was a petition to

CONTINUED ON PG. 11

New Enhancements Available to State Website (www.pasr.org)

With the launch of the new state website in July, we reported some of the updated features that would be made available as different phases of the site were deployed. PASR Headquarters is pleased to report that the second phase, which includes the "members only" section of the site, is now up and running!

As the name implies, this portion of the site, which is password protected, is only available to PASR members. Beyond what is available to the general public on the home page, upon logging into this area, you will see many more features and benefits including: events registration; online dues renewal/payment; an online library containing back issues of both PASR's NEWSLETTER and AFTERSCHOOL magazine; a repository of forms and literature; access to state committee meeting highlights and minutes; and online membership surveys. It is here in this section that members can also easily access their member record online and update personal information when changes occur to their e-mail address, phone number, or mailing address.

Logging In for the First Time

To log into the members only site for the first time, you must use your Member ID number as the user name with your password being the first letter of your first name along with your last name. For example, Robert Smith's password would be rsmith (all lowercase). For your convenience, we have printed your Member ID number on the address label, just above your name, which appears on the front cover of this NEWSLETTER.

Upon logging in with your Member ID, you will be taken to a screen where you will register your e-mail address along with a unique password of your choice (there is no limit to the minimum or maximum length of your password). Please note, for subsequent visits to the PASR Members Only area, your e-mail address and the password you have chosen, will be used to log into the site (not your Member ID), so it is important that you record this information in a secure location for future use.

CONTINUED ON PG. 14


IN THIS ISSUE

- New PASR Endorsed Benefit ProgramPage 4
- Understanding Identity TheftPage 5
- PASR's 47th Annual ConventionPage 6
- Region and Chapter NewsPage 7
- Good Oral Health for SeniorsPage 15

To view this publication in its entirety, join PASR and become a member today!

As a PASR member, you will be given *exclusive* access to the “members only” section of our web site where you can access past copies of the *AFTERSCHOOL* magazine as well as the state *NEWSLETTER*. These are just two of the many benefits you will receive when you join PASR.

What are you waiting for? Apply for membership now by using the form printed below, or online via the PASR web site.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		Phone	Date of Birth
 PASR Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees	Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 878 Century Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-8406		____/____/____
		E-mail Address	Retirement Date & Yrs. of Service
Please print name/address below:		Would you like to receive information about a local PASR chapter? (PLEASE SPECIFY)	School District Retired From
		Please select your membership option. Make check payable to: PASR	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership Dues ■ \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership Dues ■ \$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership Dues ■ \$500.00	
Phone: 717-697-7077 ■ Fax: 717-697-8742 ■ pasr@pasr.org ■ www.pasr.org Note: Membership dues payments may not be deductible for federal income tax. PLEASE ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING			