

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

Food Service

Psychologists

Maintenance Staff

Transportation Department

Intermediate Unit Staff

SPRING 2018

Website: www.pasr.org

Telephone: 610-539-9525



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your new president, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve the members of the Montgomery County Chapter of PASR.

I have never been more warmly welcomed in my educational career than by our Board of Directors. Their experience and dedication spans decades in both the Chapter and State PASR organization. With their guidance I know we will move forward with all of our current issues and challenges.

During our recent State Convention, I met with delegates who are looking to join forces with neighboring chapters. There is always strength in numbers when addressing the same challenges that face all our chapters. I look forward to opening communications with our neighboring chapter, Bucks County. Together we share state legislative members who may look at our combined 3,000 members as a force worthy of attention.

I began teaching 1977 and taught 39 years in Middle School. In retirement, I still enjoy skiing and restoring bicycles. As my first priority in PASR Montgomery Chapter, I would like to meet you, our members, and hear your concerns. I look forward to seeing you at our luncheon on May 3 and addressing any issues you may have.

David Korczakowski, President
Montgomery County Chapter

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

There is very little information to bring to the newsletter at this time. A special focus for a COLA for pre- Act 9 and for long term retirees continues.

Legislation sponsored by Rep. John DiSanto to expand Pennsylvania's forfeiture law to deny pensions to convicted felons languishes with our legislators in Harrisburg.

Please be aware of votes cast by legislators in your districts.

Barbara D'Onofrio, Chairperson

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Born in Scranton, David (Dave) Korczakowski graduated from Valley View High School in suburban Scranton. He played baseball for Lackawanna College and earned a B.S. in Education from Mansfield University and an M.ED and Principals Certificate from the Pennsylvania State University.

Dave taught in Virginia for 12 years before coming to Philadelphia. He began teaching at the Virginia Middle School where, at 23, and in his first year of teaching, he was elected president of the Caroline County Education Association. Three years later, at 26 years of age, he was elected treasurer of the 14 county state district.

1987-1988 found Dave in a very unique teaching situation when he taught in the Soviet Union for the year.

During the 27 years that Dave taught in the School District of Philadelphia he was very much involved in coaching - guiding young athletes in football, baseball, basketball, track, lacrosse and field hockey.

Dave's two children are both in college. Daughter, Lauren, is at American University in Washington, D.C. and Dave Jr. is attending Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

In his free time Dave enjoys pursuing his hobbies: skiing and restoring antique bicycles.

We welcome our new president! We are grateful for his acceptance of the opportunity to serve the members of the Montgomery County Chapter of PASR and pledge our full support as he faces the challenges of the next two years.

MANNA ON MAIN STREET



At every Executive Board meeting and General Membership Luncheon meeting, attendees are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items that are given to Manna on Main Street in Lansdale. Manna on Main Street was started by a group of local churches in 1981, serving soup two days a week and providing emergency financial aid to the needy. In 1983, Manna moved from a church basement to a donated home.

Manna moved in 2012 from the 800 sq. ft. home to a 5300 sq. ft. facility on Main Street. Today Manna is housed in the North Penn Commons (North Penn YMCA, Peak Center, Advanced Living Communities and Manna).

Despite Montgomery County's status as one of the wealthiest counties in Pennsylvania, 10% of the population are food insecure and 6% of the people live in poverty. Many homeless and needy individuals and families would have no place to turn to if it were not for volunteer-based organizations such as Manna and the various food pantries located throughout the county.

In addition to providing food, Manna houses the Common Grounds Training Program. This is a 12-week program that prepares individuals referred by Your Way Home, Montgomery County Housing Crisis Program, for meaningful employment opportunities in the area of food service.

In 2016 Manna served 37,267 meals from their kitchen, distributed 460,287 pounds of food to 946 families (2,730 individuals), and distributed \$141,303 with additional funds coordinated through a partnership with the Salvation Army. Education classes assisted 59 individuals with 1 on 1 counseling offered. No doubt the numbers will increase as 2017 figures are finalized.

To volunteer your time, knowledge, and skills, contact Manna at <http://mannaonmain.org/give-time/how-to-volunteer/>.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER
SPRING LUNCHEON THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

WILLIAM PENN INN
ROUTE 202 and SUMNEYTOWN PIKE, GWYNEDD, PA

SOCIALIZATION 11:30 am– 12 NOON; LUNCH SERVED AT 12:15 pm

Menu

House Salad with creamy tarragon dressing

Chicken Marsala served with mushrooms in a Marsala wine sauce

Crispy Parmesan and Panko Crusted Lemon Sole with a lemon caper butter sauce

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

“The Man of 5000 Songs”

*George Sinkler will entertain us with his piano playing
and sing along music!*

Please participate in our PASR Community Service Project
Bring a can or packaged food item to the luncheon!

DETACH HERE AND MAIL WITH CHECK FOR \$31.00 BY MONDAY. APRIL 30, 2018

NAME (S) _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MENU CHOICE: CHICKEN _____ LEMON SOLE _____

SEND CHECK MADE OUT TO **PASR-MCC** FOR **\$31.00 per person** TO:

TONY STRAKA - 712 LAWRENCE LANE, AMBLER, PA 19002

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

As part of our chapter's Educational Support program, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a Montgomery County high school senior who will be pursuing a career in education. This year that award will go to a student from the Wissahickon School District. The selected student and his or her parents will be guests of our chapter at the spring luncheon at the William Penn Inn on May 3. We hope you will be able to take part in the festivities and support PASR of Montgomery County.

The Educational Support Committee is also responsible for awarding **Educational Support Grants** and the Laretta Woodson Award. Educational Support Grants consist of monetary awards requested by educators and/or other public school employees. The funds are to be used to help finance special programs, activities or supplies benefitting public school children for which the school employees are unable to obtain sufficient funding from their school districts.

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.

The Montgomery County Chapter has not provided either the Educational Support Grant or the Laretta Woodson Award in recent years. Unfortunately, we have not had the volunteers to coordinate the programs. This presents a wonderful volunteer opportunity. Sign up to become a member of the Educational Support Committee and help to recognize and honor Montgomery County school employees. Call or email our president, David Korczakowski (215-680-9361; pocono19072@gmail.com), to volunteer.

Social Service Memorial Honor Fund

"It's nice to be remembered and reminded of fond memories and the work that PASR does."

"The beautiful plant arrived just at the right moment in full glory. Thanks for the surprise."

"Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia."

These are just a few of the lovely notes received in response to PASR's traditional delivery of poinsettias during the holidays to members who are hospitalized or homebound. We don't forget about our colleagues in retirement and certainly don't forget about them just because they are unable to attend a meeting or social event.

We also value our members who have reached the ages of 90 and 100. To honor them, our Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee, consisting of Barbara D'onofrio, Mary Fenstermacher, Elise Pancio and Evelyn Reese, have been sending birthday cards during their birthday months. We currently have 175 members who have reached the age of 90 and 10 who have celebrated their 100th birthday. We know that you will join us in wishing our older members good health and serenity in their later years.

Providing recognition, moral support and sometimes financial assistance to our members is one of the most important functions of PASR. The funds necessary to provide these services are provided by the Memorial Honor Fund. Begun in 1964 with \$10,000, the Memorial Honor Fund has grown to provide for expressions of kindness, sympathy and care to thousands of PASR members in need every year. The work of the more than 500 Social Service Memorial Fund volunteers throughout the state is supported by monies derived from the fund at the state level as well as contributions from local chapters and individuals.

If you, as a member, would like to make a contribution to the Memorial Honor Fund, we invite you to turn to the contribution form on **page 7** of this newsletter. Fill it out and send it with your donation to PASR at the address noted on the form. We gratefully acknowledge contributions made in memory of individuals, to acknowledge a special event or achievement in a member's life or simply to help less fortunate members. Thank you for helping PASR volunteers to continue assisting members in need.



PASR serves as a legislative watchdog for all of Pennsylvania's public school retirees.

PASR's Legislative Agenda

In the past, PASR has helped school retirees attain seven cost-of-living adjustments and also had a hand in the creation of health insurance premium assistance which is now \$100 a month, as well as many other legislative accomplishments.

PASR continues to advocate on behalf of public school retirees. ***For the 2017-2018 legislative session, the members of the PASR state legislative committee recommend that the association promote the following issues:***

1. PASR will promote continued preservation of the defined benefit plan of PSERS.
2. PASR will promote whatever legislation is required to strengthen the Health Options Program (HOP) administered by PSERS.
3. PASR will promote legislation to maintain or increase the current level of premium assistance that is provided to eligible retirees.
4. PASR will continue to advocate for an ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment for school retirees.
5. PASR supports the increase from one the number of retired members who serve on the PSERS Board of Trustees.
6. PASR will promote passage of legislation to prevent abuse and political manipulation of the retirement systems that includes the following provisions:
7. PASR will support any legislation that will protect Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security benefits

Legislative and L/PEC Work Together

When you were employed, the annual dues you paid to your union provided the cost of your legislative representation and lobbying. These dues ranged up to several hundred dollars. In retirement, this is no longer true. Unfortunately, the annual dues charged by PASR has not been enough to support all our legislative efforts.

Recognizing that all members could not afford to pay more and not wanting to raise dues to support our legislative efforts, PASR opted to establish a committee which would be charged with the responsibility of raising revenues to support the PASR legislative volunteers. Today, the funds raised through contributions to the Legislative/Political Education Committee (L/PEC) help finance the legislative efforts of PASR.

L/PEC donations are used to:

**Promote* the establishment of positive relationships with legislators by educating them on the issues, attending their caucus events in Harrisburg and sponsoring "meet your legislator" and "meet and greet" legislative candidates events in their districts

**Underwrite* the expenses incurred by the production and distribution of information to keep volunteers and members informed about issues of concern to retirees.

**Survey* candidates for public office and publicize their positions on issues of concern to school retirees.

**Compile and publicize* the voting records of officials serving in Harrisburg on issues of concern to school retirees.

Each dollar contributed does make a difference and helps to establish and maintain a strong and effective legislative voice for all school retirees. Please donate whatever you can by filling out the mail-in contribution form found on **page 7** of this newsletter and sending it, along with a check, to PASR in Mechanicsburg.

Please note: **PASR does not endorse or contribute money to any political candidate.**

With sadness, we note that we have recently been notified of the passing of our colleagues from PASR, Montgomery County Chapter:

Betty E. Clark	Edith Heffelfinger	Mary E. Nutting
Nicholas T. Dolas	Margaret A. Hughes	Mary B. Pernet
Frances M. Dubon	Lillian L. Kastle	Cora E. Regitz
Donald G. Dillon	Lillie M. Ludman	Alice E. Ridgway
Emily J. Engle	Arlene M. Lutz	Winifred C. Shoffstall
Henry L. Ferguson	Rosella B. Marini	Verna G. Tweedale
Wilbur B. Frable	Thelma B McDowell	Irene M. White
Dolores M. Gerkenmeyer	Richard L. Mull	Ruth M. Worthington
Doris H. Graff		Elizabeth M. Zeliff



RECREO

A small group of Montgomery County PASR members stepped aboard a Hagey bus in late November and set out on a trip to Lancaster County, PA. Our first stop was the famed Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Those of you who have been to the Shady Maple know that there are so *many choices!* Should we have lunch, breakfast or dinner - or perhaps a combination of all three? Decisions, decisions.

They were finally made, however, and we all enjoyed the splendid food at this amazing restaurant. After browsing through the country store we re-boarded the bus and continued on to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre in Strasburg where we were scheduled to see a production of the "Miracle of Christmas". And what a production it was! The story that is central to the season was brought to life with high drama, awe inspiring special effects and live animals. It left us with much to chat about as we relaxed and visited with each other on the way home.

Coming up on our RECREO calendar is a ***theater/ dinner party on Sunday, June 10***. Plan to join us at the Act II Playhouse in Ambler for a Sunday matinee performance of "Camelot", the romantic tale of King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot and the King of the Round Table. Reservations will be made at the historic Spring House Tavern for those who wish to gather together for dinner, on your own, after the theater. Tickets are limited. Reserve yours now by filling out the reservation form on **page 7** of this newsletter and sending it, along with your check, to Evelyn Reese at the address noted on the form.

For those who enjoy multi-day travel, be sure to check the state website at www.pasr.org for information about the Canada and New England Cruise scheduled for September 20-29, 2018.

PASR STATE CONVENTION LANCASTER, PA - OCTOBER 2017

Montgomery County Chapter was represented at the biennial PASR state convention held in Lancaster in October, 2017 by a five member delegation that included Charles Forsythe, Ben Hynes, David Korczakowski, Evelyn Reese and John Worthington. The two day event included many plenary sessions dealing with all aspects of the organization from Resolutions to Membership. By-Laws were reviewed and objectives for the coming years were also determined.

In addition to representing the Montgomery County Chapter, several members of our delegation also participated in leadership seminars. Region 1 membership chair, Charles (Chuck) Forsythe, was a presenter in a membership seminar entitled "Fishing for New Members". Chuck's presentation focused on the unified database and the benefits to chapters of having access to the PASR database. Evelyn Reese, state community service chair, coordinated a seminar entitled "Volunteering Matters" that highlighted community service projects taking place around the state. Presenters shared information about (1) types of volunteers and how to go about finding a good fit for the volunteers and the project, (2) action steps to take to design, promote and enhance community service initiatives, (3) getting books into the hands of children via a Little Red Schoolhouse traveling bookcase and (4) recognizing the value of volunteers.

**RESERVATION FOR CAMELOT
ACT II PLAYHOUSE, AMBLER
SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018- Reservation Due: Friday, June 8, 2018**

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ GUESTS' NAMES _____

Dinner Reservations (circle one): YES (Number of guests) _____ ' NO

NOTE: This is a drive yourself trip.

Send check for \$40 per person payable to **PASR Montco** to:
Evelyn Reese, 1708 Supplee Road, Lansdale, PA 19446

L/PEC CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

PASR Chapter _____

Amount of contribution _____

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees—MEMORIAL HONOR FUND

A contribution of \$ _____ is being made to the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund in honor of _____/in memory of _____ to help less fortunate members.

Please inform the following of this loving tribute:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Zip: _____

Donor Information: _____ Chapter _____ Individual

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please make checks payable to SSMHF and mail to 878 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-8406

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN PASR

There have been some questions recently regarding Associate Membership in PASR. This membership is available at both the State and Local levels. The membership is open to: (1) any person who is interested in the work of PASR; (2) any active school employee who is age 60 or more; (3) any former employee who is not an annuitant of a school employer's retirement system; (4) any former school employee who has retired from a non-public school; and (5) a spouse of an active member of PASR.

Associate members at the local level may participate in committee business. Although associate members at both state and local levels may benefit from the Member Benefits and Services, associate members may not hold office or vote at the chapter or state level.

Membership applications can be found at the State and Montgomery County PASR websites.

PA ASSOC. SCHOOL RETIREES
MONT CO. CHAPTER
PO BOX 182
HARLEYSVILLE, PA 19435
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 245 SEPA 19399
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VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Our Montgomery County Chapter needs a volunteer to assemble our newsletter twice a year. Articles are written and sent by email; the newsletter editor using Microsoft Publisher puts together the information for our newsletter to be sent to Chapter members. This is our only means of communicating with most of our members and is an important part of our chapter's mission. Reservation forms for our two luncheons and RECREO trips are also included. The software will be provided for you. Any questions—contact Elise Pancio at 610-539-9525 or pep707@verizon.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

PASR—MONTGOMERY COUNTY—2018

March 7	Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 AM
April 11	Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 AM
May 3 ,	Spring Luncheon, William Penn Inn
June 11	Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 AM

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all of the above events.

Contact our President, David Korczakowski at (215-680-9361; pocono19072@gmail.com), for more information.