

# PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

*Published by: Montgomery County Chapter, Region 1 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 2020**

**www.pasr.org**

**Phone: 610-539-9525**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



It is time – time for someone to say “Hey! I can contribute to this organization and help to promote the goals of the strictly volunteer membership organization that was founded by retired school employees to serve the needs and promote the interests of all school retirees.” It is time to step up to “serve those in need and help one another enjoy retirement.”

You’ve heard it before, but here it is again. As is true in many volunteer organizations, we are experiencing a problem in finding members who are willing to step forward and accept the responsibilities of leadership/committee positions. Yet we know that our members boast talents that could grow our organization and enrich retirement experiences. We urge you to share them with your fellow school retirees.

We understand that the traditional volunteer commitment may not work in today’s busy world; we also understand the importance of flexibility and that volunteering configurations can vary. You may want to partner with a spouse or a friend to share a committee’s duties. (CO is good - see presidents) or you may want to help with just one project, or not attend meetings but work from home. Creativity is encouraged. Let’s discuss it. We’ll make it work for you - and PASR-MCC.

Here are some of the PASR-MCC opportunities open to volunteers. Look them over and let us hear from you: *Community Service (Volunteer of the Year); Member Benefits and Services (benefit selection and availability), Social Service Memorial Honor Fund (cards, flowers, visits, financial aid), Recreo (social events, trips), Educational Support (scholarships, grants).*

Charles (Chuck) Forsythe does a great job with our website. We encourage you to use this ongoing, up-to-date site to follow the happenings in Montgomery County. Go to [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) and click on (1) Find a Chapter, (2) Southeastern and (3) Montgomery. Let us know what you think and if you have ideas to make us even better.

Then hang around at [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to investigate the PASR website which has also been undergoing an update to include more information and make accessibility easier. There you will find information about COLA efforts, new member benefits, Recreo opportunities and much more.

Don’t be just a member on the books; become involved in a part of our organization. As stated above, there are many ways to get involved and we’d welcome your participation in any one of them. But the easiest way right now is to attend our general membership luncheon meeting on Thursday, May 7. The reservation form is on page 5 of this newsletter or on our website at [www.pasr.org/chapters/Montgomery/MontgomeryCounty.php](http://www.pasr.org/chapters/Montgomery/MontgomeryCounty.php). Join us for an informative and entertaining program, a delicious luncheon and time to reconnect with former colleagues and make new friends with similar interests and experiences.

Hope to see you there.

Evelyn (Evie) Reese and John Worthington  
Co-Presidents, PASR-MCC

## REMEMBERING JOE...



With profound regret, Montgomery County Chapter reports the passing of one of our longest serving members, Joseph (Joe) Mennen. Joe was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver as he left a meeting of his Masonic Lodge on the evening of February 20, 2020.

Joe had been a loyal board member since his retirement as a science teacher from the Colonial School District. From the beginning he was a busy and generous worker for our chapter. He was always willing to serve, but modestly avoided the limelight.

Joe served PASR in a number of capacities. At the local level he served as president of the Montgomery County Chapter and as chair of the Community Service Committee. He was elected Director of Region 1, which encompasses Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Chapters, and consequently served as a member of the state Board of Directors.

Joe was a faithful attendee at region meetings and never missed our bi-annual luncheon meetings. He supported our Recreo events by signing up for theater parties and hopping aboard tour busses. Joe opened up his home for “stuffing parties” during membership drives and encouraged people to get involved in these and other activities. He worked tirelessly in promoting PASR in Montgomery County.

Joe was kind, thoughtful and insightful in his thinking. He analyzed a problem from all angles and then articulated well the possible solutions. He wrote interesting and informative articles about the goals and mission of PASR.

A father and a grandfather, Joe was married to Gwen, who supported his involvement in PASR, traveling with him to conventions or social events and always accompanying him to our luncheon meetings. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Joe lived our mission *to serve those in need and help one another enjoy retirement*. As he stated in the last line of one of his community service messages: “Please remember that our bottom line is service to you, our members, and that is what we are, and will continue to be, all about.” You served us well, Joe. We will remember.

## MEET OUR SPEAKER



At the luncheon meeting on May 7, Mrs. Judy Parrish will present a history of one of the most popular and famous trolley parks in the United States in the early 1900s, starting from its conception in 1895 to its demise in 1976. Her presentation looks at the Willow

Grove Park’s amusements, its fame, its tragedies and triumphs, its famous visitors and its “before its time” innovations. We will be given a nostalgic look back at its rides, eating and dining establishments and its entertainment. Once known as the “Musical Capital” of the United States, the Park played host to some of the famous names in music in the early 1900s. The Rock and Roll sounds of Bill Haley and His Comets and John Philip Sousa’s marches come to mind.

Mrs. Parrish will trace the park’s history and the attempts to save it with new owners and ideas. In spite of all efforts, however, the Park finally closed in 1976. It’s a wonderful story for those who are - and for those who are not - familiar with the golden age of the Willow Grove Park.

Mrs. Parrish retired from Keith Valley Middle School in the Hatboro Horsham School District. She is a busy mother of four, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of six. You will not be surprised to learn that among her hobbies - which include bridge, antiquing and adding to her collection of Santa Clauses - is collecting Willow Grove Park Memorabilia.

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

Joseph Bartlet  
Anne Burr  
Lou Ann Z. Croley  
Nancy Hattman

Glen R. Kuklick  
Joseph Mennen  
Claire O’Neil  
Myrna Rawdin

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEW MEMBERS

Amy Barnett  
Susan J. Cattie  
Maryann Gross  
Regina Hoff  
Jacqueline Matusow

Michael McNamara  
Paul Robinson  
David Swavely  
Cynthia Wirth

# 2019 MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES



*Evelyn Reese, Charles Forsythe, John Worthington*

On October 6-8, 2019 PASR hosted the “House of Delegates Meeting”. The meeting, previously known as the PASR Convention, was held at the Valley Forge Hotel and Casino in Valley Forge. The Montgomery County Chapter was allotted five (5) delegates to caucus and vote on PASR business. Attending from the Montgomery County Chapter were Charles Forsythe, John Hiller, Evelyn Reese, Tony Straka and John Hiller.

The first Plenary Session featured a “One Man Show” by Neil Hartley entitled FDR: A New Deal for America. Taking on the role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hartley took us back to the 1930s and the Great Depression to learn about the programs FDR created through the New Deal.

The second Plenary Session featured Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) Executive Director Glen Grell. He gave us some facts and statistics on our funds with the good news that our unfunded liability has decreased by over \$3.5 billion in two years. Our total assets are now \$59.1 billion.

At a special meeting for chapter presidents and other officers, one of our speakers was Jeff Hunsicker, our PASR lobbyist, who informed us that there is a coalition of PSEA, SERS, and PASR members who are actively involved in seeking a COLA for all school retirees with a special emphasis on pre-Act 9 members.

Several By-Laws amendments were passed including (1) the merging of the L/PEC Committee and the Legislative Committee into a single committee, which retained the name L/PEC, (2) the combining of the Policy and Citations Committees, which retained the name Policy Committee and (3) the elimination of the Resolutions Committee.

Congratulations are in order for the 2020 – 2022 officers who were installed during the Final Plenary Session: Judith Schaffer (President), William Neugebauer (President-Elect), Russell Diesinger (Vice President), Stephen Vak (Treasurer), John Werner (Assistant Treasurer), and Gary Parker (Immediate Past President). The new officers’ terms began January 1, 2020.



## TASTE OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND Thursday, September 17th to Sunday, September 27th 2020

The Land of Saints and Scholars awaits. Enjoy 9-nights’ accommodations in Scotland and Ireland. Guided city tours include Glasgow, Edinburg, Dublin and more. Featured highlights include: Loch Ness Cruise, visit to Titanic Belfast, Kiss the Blarney Stone, drive through the Ring of Kerry, visit the Cliffs of Moher. Includes flights from Philadelphia to Glasgow, Scotland and from Shannon, Ireland to Philadelphia, tours, 17 meals and more. From \$4,296 pp double occupancy.

**For the full itinerary see Trips with PASR at [pasr.org](http://pasr.org).  
or call Boscov’s Travels at 1-800-782-5605 to make  
reservations or for more information.**

# LIVES WELL LIVED

by John Worthington

As we mature we read more and more obituaries of friends and relatives many of whom were members of the Montgomery County Chapter of PASR. Personally I would prefer to acknowledge the lives of these folks while they were still living to receive the recognition for Lives Well Lived but it seems that too often that the recognition process falls through the cracks of our busy lifestyles. I would like to take a few of your valuable moments to focus on two individuals whom many of you did not know. Recognizing these two individuals in no way lessens the Lives Well Lived of other PASR members who passed away in 2019.



## Clyde A. Dry

Clyde A. Dry passed away March 14, 2019. He was the husband of Gladys Hough Dry. Clyde graduated from Pottsville High School and Penn State University where he majored in Physical Education. Like many young people coming of age in the late '30s and early '40s their lives were put on hold by World War II. Clyde served in the Army Air Force and was stationed in England. It was there he met a young lady, Gladys Hough, who eventually became his wife in 1947. At the time of Clyde's passing they had been married 72 years having had two daughters, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Clyde's first teaching job was in Orwigsburg, PA, 1953-56. In 1956, he began teaching Science and PE at Pottstown High School where he eventually became Chairman of the Science Department. During his teaching career he received numerous awards for his leadership and involvement in the teaching of Science. He served as the President of both the Montgomery County and Pennsylvania State Science Teachers Associations. Many of us remember the popular Montgomery County Fairs of years ago. Clyde was the Father and for many years the Director of the Fairs. In his spare time he coached baseball and basketball.

Upon retirement Clyde maintained his role with the Science Fair. He became active in the Montgomery County Chapter of PASR serving on various committees and the Executive Board. Often he would attend a PASR meeting jump in his car and rush off to a Science Teachers Association meeting. **A LIFE WELL LIVED!!!**



## William A. Grun

Bill Grun was born and raised in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. After High School he traveled off to Penn State University for his freshman year, majoring in Industrial Arts. While home on his first semester break he enlisted in the US Navy and shipped off to Cape May, NJ., putting his college days on hold. Bill served state side for a period of time, then shipped off to the Pacific Theater where he served until World War II ended. He returned to PSU and graduated with Honors.

Bill began his teaching career in 1947 in the Bristol School System. After several years in Bristol he moved to a new position teaching Industrial Arts at Abington Senior High School. Bill's teaching assignment at Abington was rather intense, keeping in mind that the TECH Schools did not exist, vocational students were a large portion of Bill's enrollment requiring specialized preparation and presentation. Bill found himself working with students after school, coaching soccer and raising a family but found time to enlist in the US Navy Reserves serving in a variety of assignments until his retirement from the Navy with 27 years of service with the rank of Lt. Commander. It is interesting to note that Bill and his wife raised two daughters. One recently retired from a Social Service position in Bucks County while her younger sister retired from the US Navy with the rank of Admiral. Bill always claimed he out ranked his daughter because he had more years of service. Good luck on that one Bill. In 1964, Bill moved to the new Abington High School, North Campus as Chairman of the Industrial Arts Department where he served until his retirement in 1980. In his retirement years he continued to teach Sunday School, take graduate courses, and for the last 27 years of his life volunteered his time teaching Technology Education and Mechanical Drawing on Fridays at the Holicong Middle School.

Bill summed up his life with this statement, "Blessed is the man who found his work, I found mine; find something you love and do it." Bill's "teaching life" lasted 72+ years, he passed away March 25, 2019, just short of his 99th birthday. **A LIFE WELL LIVED!!!**

*P.S. There is little doubt that Clyde and Bill were part of what Tom Brokaw called The Greatest Generation.*

**PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER  
SPRING LUNCHEON THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

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 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**

*Judy Parrish will present on - "Willow Grove  
Park - Its history, thrills and excitement!"*

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 \_\_\_\_\_ TILAPIA \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TONY STRAKA - 712 LAWRENCE LANE, AMBLER, PA 19002**

# MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

PASR's Member Benefits and Services Committee and the Board of Directors have recently approved a number of exciting new benefits for PASR members. Among them is the PASR Prescription Discount Program administered by CVS Caremark, which has been prepared specifically for the PASR members and their families.

The program will save an average of 37 percent off generic, 20 percent over brand-name and up to 75 percent off many prescriptions at over 66,00 participating retail pharmacies throughout the United States, including CVS, Rite-Aid, Walmart, grocery store chains and most independent pharmacies. Note: This plan will take the place of any other subscription plan, so it is advisable to check with your pharmacy to see if this program is beneficial to you.

**The plan has been specifically structured to provide PASR members:**

- Mail Service - Save an average of 50 percent on medications.
- Specialty Pharmacy Services - Receive a significant discount on high-cost specialty medications
- No enrollment or membership fees. This program is FREE. Just show your PASR Prescription Discount
- Card and start saving!
- No enrollment paperwork
- Price variances, coast to coast, at all participating pharmacies will never vary more than \$5.00.
- No eligibility or preauthorization is required
- Customer Care is managed by CVS Caremark and available 24/7.

To take advantage of the PASR Prescription Discount Program, simply log into the Members Only Section of [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) and follow the link to the online enrollment through CVS Caremark, enroll and print out your card.

In addition to the CVS Prescription Discount program, PASR has expanded our amusement park offerings which now include discounts and offerings for Hershey Park, Dutch Wonderland, Idlewild & Soakzone, Kennywood and Dollywood. Another new benefit includes discounted minor league baseball and hockey game tickets for participating teams.

Log into the Members Only Section of [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) and check out all of the member benefits offered. to PASR state members. For questions, please contact Kelly Dygert, Communications Specialist, at 1-717-697-7077.

## SOCIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL HONOR FUND

The main purpose of the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund is to assist members in need of comfort and/or financial assistance and to promote chapter and individual giving to the PASR Memorial Honor Fund. Chapters receive financial allocations each year from this fund to render care and service to members who are ill or aged and become confined, either in hospitals, their homes or in nursing facilities.

Unfortunately, the Fund's balance is low and a major effort is being made by our association to revitalize our Memorial Honor Fund so that we can continue to serve those in need. If you would like to support our efforts by making a contribution to the Memorial Honor Fund in memory of or in honor of someone you care about, you can do so by donating online at <https://www.pasr.org/member-donate-ssmhf/>. Thank you for helping PASR volunteers to continue assisting members in need and for helping to maintain the Memorial Honor Fund for years to come.

During the PASR biennial House of Delegates Meetings, a basket auction traditionally raises money for the Memorial Honor Fund. Each county is asked to donate a basket with a value of at least fifty dollars. The auction generally earns an average of \$4000 for the Memorial Honor Fund. PASR-MCC's basket was one of eighty-two auctioned off at the 2019 Meeting - our own John Worthington went home with three! Around \$3500 was raised for the Memorial Honor Fund.

The SSMHF Committee co-chair, Mary Fenstermacher, sent poinsettias and cards to shut-ins and members in nursing homes during the holidays. Many thank you notes were received stating how beautiful the plants were and how the "generous touch" brightened their holiday.

Barbara D'Onofrio's pen has been busy addressing birthday cards for our members who are 90 + years of age. We are so proud of our nonagenarians and centenarians. It is a joy to send them greetings on their special day each year. If you would like to help with the mailing of birthday cards, please contact Evie Reese at [ejreese1@verizon.net](mailto:ejreese1@verizon.net). It's an opportunity to get involved without leaving home.

# LPEC COMMITTEE NEWS

## GOALS OF THE L/PEC COMMITTEE

The Legislative/Political Action Committee and the Legislative Committee have merged into a single committee which retained the name **L/PEC**.

The Legislative/Political Education Committee (L/PEC) solicits voluntary contributions from PASR members, administers the Legislative/Political Education Fund in support of PASR's legislative objectives and programs, provides the PASR membership with information about the political candidates and PASR's positions of interest, and encourages PASR members to become actively involved in supporting the candidates of their choice.

**L/PEC Fund: PASR members and supporters help finance those efforts through contributions. Each dollar we receive does make a difference. L/PEC donations are used to:**

- Provide training and communications for volunteers serving in PASR's legislative contact system.
- Promote establishment of positive relationships with legislators by educating them on the issues of importance to PASR and attending their caucus events in Harrisburg.
- Survey candidates for public office and publicize their positions on issues of concern to all public school retirees.
- Compile and publicize the voting records of officials serving in Harrisburg on issues of concern to public school retirees.
- Pay the expenses of producing and mailing information to keep volunteers informed about what is happening in Harrisburg.

### PASR's Legislative Agenda

- PASR continues to advocate for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for school retirees.
- PASR promotes continued preservation of the defined pension benefit plan of PSERS.
- PASR promotes efforts to strengthen the Health Options Program (HOP) administered by PSERS. PASR also promotes Legislation to maintain or increase the current level of premium assistance that is provided to eligible retirees.
- PASR supports an increase in the number retired members who serve on the PSERS Board of Trustees.

Please help PASR to accomplish the above goals and agenda by donating to L/PEC at <https://www.pasr.org/member-donate-lpec/> (member log-in required). **Please note:** PASR does not endorse any political candidate or party.

## LEGISLATIVE



### House Bill 1960 would establish a joint investment board for both PSERS and SERS.

PASR in coalition with PSEA and AFSCME and others is advocating for a COLA to be included especially for pre- Act 9 retirees. The bill has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee and may be voted on in the present legislative session. Action by our members is essential to monitor the bill's progress in the House and if it should reach the Senate. If called upon to act, please contact your legislators without fail.

PA ASSOC. SCHOOL RETIREES  
MONT CO. CHAPTER  
PO BOX 182  
HARLEYSVILLE, PA 19438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 245  
SEPA 19399

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### PASR—Montgomery County 2020

- April 8, 2020 Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 AM
- May 7, 2020 Spring Luncheon William Penn Inn
- June 10, 2020 Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 AM
- September 9, 2020 Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 am
- October 14, 2020 Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 am
- October 15, 2020. Region 1 Membership Luncheon, Manufacturer's GC
- November 5, 2020. Fall Luncheon, William Penn Inn
- December 9, 2020 Executive Board Meeting, MCIU, 9:30 am

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

Contact either of our CO-Presidents, **John Worthington** – [johnandruthy@hotmail.com](mailto:johnandruthy@hotmail.com); 267-992-9556  
or **Evelyn Reese** – [ejreese1@verizon.net](mailto:ejreese1@verizon.net); 610-584-5789.