

ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER

P A S R

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees



“To serve others in need and help one another enjoy retirement.”

November, 2020

Happy Fall!!!!

Vol. 9

From the desk of our President—

Greetings, friends! I suppose I should make an analogy about fall and all of us being in the “autumn” of our lives. Well, I don’t feel that way and neither should you. Yesterday our six-year old grandson came bouncing in the door to spend time with us. As he darted around from the piano to the Legos to the bookshelf, I found myself grinning and feeling pretty bouncy myself. He reminded me, as he always does, how full of excitement and wonder the world is! Then I began to remember how an adult can enhance that youthful plunge into life’s experiences.

If you’re like me, you have special memories of the adults who went out of their way to brighten the school day for the children in their care. One such person was Mrs. Georgia Peabody, who worked in the kitchen at Amboy Elementary School in Conneaut, Ohio. She created such wonders as “pigs in a blanket,” little hot dogs wrapped in a bit of fluffy pastry. The reason we all loved Mrs. Peabody was because of her true desire to make lunch something special. Whenever she made cupcakes, the excitement in the lunchroom was palpable! You see, into each batch of cupcake batter, she threw a handful of uncooked navy beans. If you were lucky enough to get a cupcake containing a bean, you were entitled to a second cupcake. Shouts of “I got one” rose over the general clatter in the room, and we all diligently kept nibbling at our own cupcake. One had to be careful, for a swallowed navy bean could not be presented to Mrs. Peabody as a token for cupcake #2! Mrs. Peabody had a raucous laugh and a generous soul, and I’ll remember her forever.

I’ll bet that many of you have fond memories of someone like Mrs. Peabody. I’ll also bet that many of you ARE a fond memory for a child who rode your bus or ate food you put on his tray or sat in your history class while you made the Revolutionary War come alive. We just awarded an educational grant to such an individual. Amy Mumau, who teaches in the Union City School District, wants new students to know that they are a welcome and valued addition to her school. She will use the money she has received from us to prepare bags full of items like a personalized water bottle, school supplies, and a treat or two to present to each new student. I’m sure that when she and her core of student greeters make new students feel cared about, SHE will become a fond memory of their first days in a strange new place. Aren’t we glad we can still make an impact on today’s students through our grants? I know Betsy Trocki would love to give an application for a grant to anyone you know who is teaching in our chapter’s area and has a plan to help our current crop of learners be successful.

Returning to thoughts of “autumn,” I am reminded that autumn is a season of abundance and fruitfulness and maturity. It reminds me of a thought-provoking quote from George Eliot: “It is never too late to be what you might have been.” Let’s ponder that one!

Connie Walker, President Erie Chapter

Community Service

Community service is the backbone of PASR; it exemplifies our mission which is to serve others in need and help one another enjoy retirement. Our current chairperson is Diane Grzelak and she is assisted by Rosie Tuten. Together they coordinate a monthly donation at the luncheon meetings which goes to a deserving organization. Diane also shares volunteer opportunities with the members, such as packing Christmas boxes at the Pittsburgh Inn each year. The committee also sponsors non-monetary donations such as providing toiletries for the homeless. Our members put many hours into volunteering at many different organizations which Diane and Rosie can attest to as they keep track of our volunteer hours each year. Awesome job Diane and Rosie! Diane can be contacted at (814) 450-3134.

Corresponding Secretary

Joyce Mineo is our Corresponding Secretary. Her job is to send out cards to those who are sick, hospitalized or in need of good wishes. We count on our members to let us know when one of their friends could use some cheering up with a card from PASR. Thanks to Joyce for her help in this area.



Educational Support

Erie County Chapter Educational Enrichment Grant

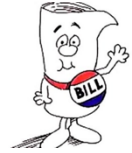
Have you considered taking a seminar at the Jefferson Society, an adult education class offered by your local school district, or maybe music lessons? These types of programs would all be eligible for the Educational Support Grant. Our Educational Support Committee provides grants to aid members who wish to take programs for further education or personal enrichment. Applications of requests for grants up to \$100 per program must be submitted by May 1, 2021. The number of grants awarded will be determined according to available funding, following review of the committee.

Please contact Elizabeth Trocki at 814-440-8249 or email etrocki@neo.rr.com to receive an application or have questions answered.

Hospitality

If you would like to take part in our hospitality program, please let us know. Hospitality members take turns at our monthly meetings welcoming guests and new members and helping them find a seat if necessary. We value every person who joins us at PASR and want to make sure they feel welcome.

LPEC – Legislative/Political Education Committee



The Legislative/Political Education Committee, better known as L/PEC, is responsible for setting up contact teams. These teams meet with legislators periodically. They have input and make suggestions to the State Legislative Committee. L/PEC also provides information on legislative voting records and candidates' positions of issues of concern to school retirees. They encourage volunteerism in political campaigns. It is the chair's responsibility to plan the annual "Meet Your Legislator Event"; either a luncheon or some other activity where the legislators are invited to share their ideas. This committee is responsible for helping to fund the activities of the consultants, or lobbyists in Harrisburg. This helps them to prepare and present bills to the Legislators. Right now, they are working hard to provide a COLA to all school retirees. Judith Newlin is our present L/PEC chair. Thanks Judith!

Membership

What exactly are the benefits to membership in the PASR organization? Camaraderie is the greatest benefit as well as social gatherings with the people who share in their life's work of education and volunteer service to others. Given our present times, these social gatherings are unavailable to us, so we rely on communications like this to keep us in touch with each other. Membership in PASR takes place at the chapter level as well as the state level.

We presently have 475 chapter members. Chapter membership (dues \$12.00) runs from July 1st to June 30th each year. State membership opens the door to additional benefits like insurance, discounts, legislative efforts, etc. State dues (\$60.00) are paid each year based upon the month you join. In August we sent dues reminders to our membership. To date, we are still waiting to hear from approximately 100 people. If that is you, be sure to send in your dues as soon as possible. We need everybody to stick together throughout these times.

Chapter dues are \$12.00. Make checks payable to: **Erie County PASR** and send it to:

Mary Ellen Lieb 3841 Parkside Avenue Erie PA 16508



Member Benefits

At the chapter level, our Member Benefit committee can help members find discounts available to seniors/members in our area. In this day and age, who doesn't want a discount! At the state level, PASR endorses many services and products providing discounts to its state members. Some of the most popular benefits are dental, vision and hearing services. Our Member Benefits Chairperson is Linda Houston. If you know of a discount that could be shared with others, please let Linda know at (814) 882-3092.

President Elect

Pat Tracy is the Erie Chapter President Elect. She will be our next president when Connie's term has been completed. Pat is an extremely active person with many projects on her plate. We are happy that she has consented to add one more project to those she already has. Pat is currently gathering names and addresses of new school employee retirees so they can be invited to join PASR. The Chapter is fortunate to have her follow in Connie's footsteps in January, 2022.

Programs

This committee brings in the speakers and/or entertainment for our luncheon meetings. Jeanne Lamb is our Chair and she is doing a great job. She is looking for suggestions for programs/speakers/entertainment for future meetings. Our members can email Jeanne any thoughts or ideas or information. Her email address is: jeanne.m.lamb56@gmail.com Please send her any suggestions that you may have!



Retirement Planning

Cathy and Dave Stemmler are a great team! They are in charge of organizing the Retirement Planning Workshop held each spring for persons who are considering retirement. They work with a local investment firm and provide excellent information to those who are thinking about retirement. If you know someone who is thinking of retirement, share their name with Cathy and Dave at cdstemmler@gmail.com

Recreo

Do you like outings? day trips? overnight trips? Our Recreo Committee is responsible for organizing, planning and sponsoring recreational opportunities for its members. We are currently looking for a person(s) who are willing to plan a few events each year for our chapter members. Please contact Connie Walker if you are interested. The state Recreo Committee offers travel opportunities each year as well. Information is always available in the newsletter and at our monthly meetings.

A fun activity we do each year is the "I Don't Have to Go Back to School" Picnic. As teachers and students head back to the classroom each September, we at Erie County PASR head to the picnic pavilions at the Erie Zoo the first Thursday in September to share in fellowship and food. It's a great way to kick off the start of "our" school year. Cathy and Dave Stemmler coordinate the picnic and will provide information in the newsletter as the time draws near.

Reservations

Lunch reservations are needed for the meetings at the Zem Zem Club. Pat Crist (814-449-3509) coordinates the reservations through signup sheets at the meeting, by email, text or phone. Reservations are due the Friday prior to a luncheon. Pat always makes our lunches special with her wonderful table decorations. Thank you Pat!

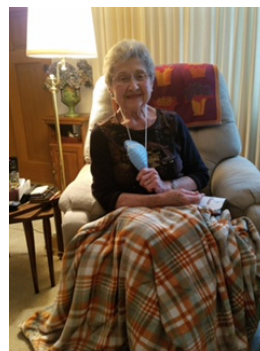
Social Service Memorial Honor Fund - SSMHF

PASR's Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee is prepared to help members in need. Committee members are giving, caring, and sharing. There are currently 16 members of the committee who help those 19 members of PASR who have become ill and are confined to their home, hospital, or a skilled nursing facility. Volunteers send cards throughout the year and deliver gifts. This fall volunteers are delivering a "Fall Throw" to the members currently being serviced. Enjoy these photos of members with their gifts this October. Gino Carlotti receives his throw and his wife Ann has her flowers. Jean McFarland smiles as she receives her gift which was delivered by volunteer Judith Newlin. Phyllis Rzodkiewicz is our SSMHF Chair. She is doing a great job making sure that those that we know about are being remembered by our chapter.

Please remember to notify Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, 814-868-0200, chair of SSMHF, of any person who might be in need of a visit from an SSMHF volunteer. We do not want to miss anyone. We accept monetary donations to SSMHF to support our outreach efforts. Thank you for supporting our members in need!



Gino and Ann Carlotti



Jean McFarland

We hope you found this newsletter helpful.

You can always go to <http://www.pasr.org/> for additional information!

The 'just in case' PASR LUNCH MENU FOR 2021

We are prepared for lunches '*just in case*' we can reschedule our monthly meetings! You will be notified if/when meetings will resume at Zem Zem Shrine Club. Lunches are \$13.00

January 7th 2021

Hot - Rigatoni & Meatballs Tossed salad, Spumoni

Cold - Chicken Salad Croissant, Potato Soup, Spumoni

February 7th 2021

Hot - Chicken & Biscuits , Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Peas, Applesauce, Cake.

Cold - Grilled Chicken Salad, Wedding Soup, Applesauce, Cake

March 11th 2021

Hot - Baked Fish, Roasted Red Skins, California Medley, Fruit Cocktail, Pie.

Cold - Seafood Salad Croissant, Tomato Basil Soup, Fruit Cocktail, Pie

April 8th 2021

Hot - Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Peas & Carrots, Chocolate Pie

Cold - Chef Salad, Chicken & Rice Soup, Chocolate Pie

May 13th 2021

Hot - Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Cake

Cold - Turkey & Cheese Pretzel, Beef Barley Soup, Tossed Salad, Cake

June 10th 2020

Hot - Grilled Chicken Breast, Baked Beans, Macaroni Salad, Strawberry Shortcake

Cold - Trio Salad (Macaroni, Tuna & Chicken Salad) Chicken Noodle Soup, Strawberry Shortcake.

When meetings resume reservations can be made with Pat Crist by a phone call, text, (449-3509) or email (pcrist331@yahoo.com) Vegetarian options are available by informing Pat. If a lunch reservation is made and you are unable to come, you must cancel by the Friday before the meeting with Pat, or you will be billed \$13.00



Here are some phone numbers if you ever have any questions regarding PASR.

PASR Executive Director Mark McKillop or State President Judith Schaffer (717) 697-7077

PASR Region 9 Director Martha Reddinger (814) 440-1795

Erie County Chapter President Connie Walker (814) 474-3563

Corresponding Secretary Joyce Mineo (814) 838-9949

Membership Mary Hoffman (814) 873-2981 and Mary Ellen Lieb (814) 873-1284

SSMHF Phyllis Rzodkiewicz (814) 868-0200



ERIE COUNTY PASR BUDGET

September 30,2020

		Budget 2020	PREVIOUS BALANCE	CURRENT MONTH	REMAINING BALANCE
REVENUES:					
Local Dues		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,904.00	\$ 768.00	\$ 1,136.00
Interest		\$ 5.00	\$ 4.89	\$ 0.06	\$ 4.67
Social Service		\$ 750.00	\$ 498.00		\$ 498.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 750.00	\$ 136.00		\$ 136.00
Helen Page Scholarship		\$ 750.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 242.00
Retirement Planning		\$ 200.00	\$ (55.00)		(\$55.00)
Convention/Leadership Development		\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00		\$ 275.00
Enrichment Grant		\$ 200.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 400.00	(\$225.00)
Savings Transfer		\$ 4,595.00	\$ 4,595.00		\$ 4,595.00
Totals:		\$ 12,525.00	\$ 7,797.89	\$ 1,191.06	\$ 6,606.67

EXPENSES-GENERAL:					
Printing/Newsletter		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,376.80	\$ 101.92	\$ 1,274.88
Postage		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,277.90	\$ 127.50	\$ 1,150.40
Supplies		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,465.02	\$ -	\$ 1,465.02
Contingency		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Totals:		\$ 6,100.00	\$ 4,219.72	\$ 229.42	\$ 3,990.30

EXPENSES-COMMITTEES:					
President's Discretion		\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00		\$ 95.00
Convention Delegates		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Membership		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
New Retirees, Guest Lunches		\$ 500.00	\$ 422.51		\$ 422.51
Helen Page Scholarship		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -		\$ -
SSMHF		\$ 750.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 193.08	\$ 436.92
Programs		\$ 600.00	\$ 375.00		\$ 375.00
Community Services		\$ 275.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Enrichment Grants		\$ 900.00	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Region Meet Reimb		\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Retirement Planning		\$ 200.00	\$ 144.43		\$ 144.43
Totals:		\$ 6,425.00	\$ 3,591.94	\$ 193.08	\$ 3,398.86

Our Treasurer is Jim Getz. He does a great job of keeping our finances in order. Thanks, Jim, for your help!

ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER

PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees



Mary Ellen Lieb
3841 Parkside Ave.
Erie, PA 16506

What's Inside?

Being of service to others is the basis of the PASR organization. In our working days, we served our youth.

Now, in our retirement, we serve in anyway we find meaningful. The Erie County Chapter of PASR is a well run organization through the efforts of many. We'd like to give a snapshot of the many committees and the people who run them for you in our newsletter today. For further information, we have a new chapter website,

<https://www.pasr.org/chapters/Erie>



"To serve others in need and help one another enjoy retirement."