

## ***ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER***

# **PASR**

**Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees**



***Mary Ellen Lieb***  
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***Erie, PA 16506***



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

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Winter! Romantics talk about the earth sleeping under a blanket of snow, and we get a picture of fluffy coziness. Actually, what looks peaceful and restful is the culmination of a frantic period of food gathering and binge-eating for most of the natural world! From our kitchen window we watch squirrels run up and down the pin oaks gathering their tiny acorns all fall. They also drag unharvested ears of corn out of the field to the base of each tree where we eventually find the cobs picked clean.

The birds, too, spend the fair-weather months plumping up so they can make it through the harshness of winter. They appear every day at our feeders, gracing us with their lively presence and wonderful variety. They do not appear for our benefit, however. Theirs is the serious business of survival. The creatures of this earth are all willing to work for their livelihood and always try to prepare for period of deprivation and scarcity. That includes us human beings!

Nothing however could have prepared millions of our fellow citizens for such a long period of deprivation as they have faced this year. They had no way of knowing that their livelihood would be taken away or that their loved ones would leave them much too soon. They could never have conceived that they would be worrying about feeding their family and keeping their home, their plans for the future on hold.

Many of us are already heeding calls to help alleviate the suffering of our friends and neighbors here in Erie County. I hope you will continue to support local food pantries and other ministries dedicated to helping those in need. We also have an opportunity to help others by joining in a cooperative effort between PASR and Feeding Pennsylvania to provide food for fellow Pennsylvanians. After you read about the drive in the following pages, I hope you will get online in February and make a donation. (You can mail checks as well.)

"Happiness is a warm blanket," says Linus of Peanuts fame. Happiness is a warm meal and a warm place to lay your head this year! Let's do everything we can to ensure that everyone experiences that kind of happiness.

*Connie Walker, President, Erie Chapter*



## Volunteer of the Year!

Your Erie Chapter of PASR is very pleased and proud to announce our volunteer of the year – Patricia Timko. Pat has served PASR in many capacities over the years; she has been President Elect, President, Secretary, and chair of many other committees. She is always involved in something!



Her church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also benefits greatly from the generous hours she gives to her parish community; she is a Eucharistic minister, in charge of bereavement lunches, a lector, and in charge of the food pantry.

Pat is active in the Italian Woman's Association and Delta Kappa Gamma where she held the offices of President and Secretary. Pat also volunteers at the Presque Isle Lighthouse. She is a volunteer with Out Neighbors' Place, a seasonal shelter for the homeless at St. John the Baptist and also coordinates meals from her church and from the Italian Woman's Assn. for the shelter. In her spare time Pat is very active and involved with her family and she travels extensively, seeing many different parts of the world.

Pat taught for the Erie School District until she retired in June 2004. She continued working for the district after retirement, visiting the different schools. During her career she taught kindergarten, second grade and retired teaching math at Joanna Connell. Congratulations to Pat Timko! We are lucky to have her as an active PASR member.







# Feeding Pennsylvania!

Food insecurity now impacts nearly 1 in 6 American families and the impact of COVID-19 on the economy has only served to increase the magnitude of the problem. Many people donate to food banks and the like during the holiday season, but there is frequently a steep drop-off in donations during the winter months. In Pennsylvania, 1,401,920 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 399,270 are children.



Consequently, PASR is hoping to help as many people as possible meet their nutritional needs. PASR has partnered with Feeding Pennsylvania, a non-profit that works with food banks across PA and that has excellent ratings from many charity rating organizations—90% of donations go towards feeding those in need, which is a higher amount than most charities. Our own Second Harvest Food Bank is a member of Feeding Pennsylvania, so donations will be felt locally. Additionally, Feeding Pennsylvania also works with PA farmers to supply fresh produce and dairy products. So, this presents a win-win-win situation in so far as our efforts can benefit those facing food insecurity here in PA, our efforts will benefit small PA family farms, and PASR members will rest a bit easier knowing that they have once again helped those in need.

We are asking every PASR member to join us in this crucial cause by making a donation to “Feeding Pennsylvania” in February 2021. Any amount will help!

Donations can be made in two ways:

1. In February (and ONLY IN FEBRUARY!!) we ask you to visit the Feeding Pennsylvania website (<https://feedingpa.org/>) and make a donation online. In FEBRUARY ONLY there will be an option on the website to indicate that the donation is being made as part of the PASR effort. (PASR Headquarters will also be sending out an email blast to state members in January about Feeding Pennsylvania).
2. Those who do not wish to donate online can make a check payable to “Feeding Pennsylvania” in February and mail it to PASR, 878 Century Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Thank you for joining PASR in this worthy cause; and more importantly for helping needy families all across Pennsylvania get the food they so desperately need!

## Don't Be Scammed!

Every day Pennsylvanian's receive many calls and emails that are scams. Where can you turn to for help if you suspect a scam or become victim of a scam? PASR State Headquarters has provided the following information to assist us with this serious problem.

The PA Attorney General's Office and the Department of Senior Protection have a number of great resources, including a Senior Safety Tips Brochure that includes useful information on what seniors can do to help keep themselves safe. You can find the Attorney General's Office online at [www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/seniors?etm=1483275](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/seniors?etm=1483275). Seniors can also reach the Department of Senior Protection by calling the toll-free helpline at 1-866-623-2137 or emailing [seniors@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:seniors@attorneygeneral.gov).

Another resource for seniors on the Attorney General's website is the Health Care Section which helps keep Pennsylvanians aware of things like deceptive medical practices, medical record access, and information about what to do if coverage is denied or handling billing disputes. This department can be reached by calling 1-877-888-4877 or by emailing [healthcare@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:healthcare@attorneygeneral.gov).

Another resource is the PA Senior Law Center, [www.seniorlawcenter.org](http://www.seniorlawcenter.org), which offers a free and confidential statewide HelpLine service for PA seniors (60 years and older) to connect with an attorney to receive legal information, advice, and/or referrals as well as brief services for certain areas of law. The HelpLine is open Monday through Thursday, 10 AM to 12 PM by calling 1-877-727-7529 or contacting the email above.  
**BE SMART, STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY!**

## Obituaries



11/2/20	Martha Ann Selby
11/2/20	David M. Zewe
11/3/20	Tina M. Colonna Riddle
11/4/20	Sally Carlow Kohler
11/4/20	Lenora Elizabeth Zybowski
11/5/20	Zola May Alward
11/06/20	Stanley Beard
11/08/20	Mary Christine Haughton Loftus
11/09/20	Evelyn Mancuso Parshall
11/10/20	Velma Marks Galvin
11/10/20	**Francis W. Catherine
11/10/20	Kathleen Ann O'Donovan
11/11/20	Gayle E. (Ashton) Allen
11/19/20	Donald Joseph Vallimont
11/24/20	Patricia A. Boyce
11/24/20	**Edward A. Grzelak, Jr.
11/26/20	Myrna Sue Meeker
11/27/20	Dolores Najechalski Osiecki
11/28/20	Mary Guzak Perry
11/29/20	Shirley A. Wagner

\*\*Indicates membership in the Erie Chapter of PASR

## Contacts

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Mary Ellen Lieb 814-873-1284  
*Membership*

Phyllis R zodkiewicz 814-868-0200  
*SSMHF*

PASR Website [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)

Erie Chapter PASR Website

[www.pasr.org/chapters/erie](http://www.pasr.org/chapters/erie)



## PASR Trip of the Year!

PASR is excited to announce our Iceland Explorer Tour with Boscov's Travel! With the likely release of a COVID-19 vaccine in the near future, PASR is hopeful that international travel will be safe to resume in 2021 and has scheduled a once in a lifetime trip to Iceland from September 15–21, 2021.



This 5 night, 6 day tour will allow travelers to experience the best Iceland has to offer, including a tour of the famous Reykjavik City, a trip to the Blue Lagoon, and sightseeing at the Strokkur Geyser & Gullfoss/ Golden Falls. Travelers will also visit Thingvellir National Park, Keflavik & Bessastadir, Lake Kleifarvatn, and the Skogafoss Waterfall. The National Museum, Skogar Folk Museum, and Viking Ship Museum are also on the itinerary, along with Golden Circle and South Coast tours, and more!

Roundtrip air transportation from Philadelphia to Reykjavik, Iceland; accommodations for 5 nights; 8 meals; a professional tour director; motorcoach transportation; and admissions to all locations mentioned in the itinerary are included in the tour cost of \$3,887 per person, double occupancy.

### Interested in Learning More?

An informational webinar for our “Iceland Explorer Tour” with Boscov's Travel will be held on January 18, 2021 at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Please RSVP for the webinar by calling 1-800-782-5605 if you plan to attend so a meeting link and login details can be emailed to you.

### Ready to Reserve Your Spot?

Download the full trip Itinerary and Reservation Coupon or call PASR at (717) 697-7077. You can request that a copy of the Itinerary and Reservation Coupon be mailed to you.