Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

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

May, 2020 Vol. 4

A Message From Your President

Greetings! The standard "I hope this finds you well" has special significance right now. One of the interesting developments of this situation, at least for me, is realizing what I have taken for granted and what I miss the most. How would you answer the question, "What do you miss the most?" While my full list could be long, I was struck by the impact of one facet of this experience.

This past week I spent most of my time sewing face masks for the home ec teacher in Fairview who has organized a great production effort. (That's actually why this newsletter is a bit late. I'm a slow seamstress, and there was a deadline!) This leads me back to the question of what I miss the most. I miss seeing people smiling! Our faces are so important in our social interactions, and I, for one, had no idea I would miss the personal connection of seeing others' faces as much as I do. I'll be glad not to be wearing a mask. Whatever your answer to this question is, I know each of us will appreciate the restoration of the things we miss right now.

One of the things we miss is our monthly meeting. As of today the Shrine Club is still closed and has not designated an opening date. We do not know whether we will have a June meeting until we can connect with the club manager. Whether we can meet in June or not, we can look forward to more times of fellowship in the not-too-distant future. To be ready for a lively and smooth restart, you can take several steps that will keep our organization strong.

Step one: Please fill out the enclosed membership form for the coming year and mail it to Mary Ellen Lieb. If we are all diligent, we can keep our chapter vital and renewed.

Step two: Please consider making a donation on the line on your form labeled SSMHF. This is the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund. This fund is in dire need of replenishment on a statewide level. These funds are used to provide aid and comfort to any member in need. To learn more about this fund, read the inside cover of your March PASR Times.

Step three: Please fill out the volunteer hours form & take advantage of the Educational Enrichment Grant.

Step four: Please make a reservation for the fall picnic if you so desire. It is our tenth picnic and will be a catered, no stress affair! You may mail all of these things to Mary Ellen at her address listed on the membership form. We will sort it out from there. You may combine all fees in one check, and we will allocate each fee to the right place.

The future is bright because better days are coming. Stay safe and well, and we'll be together soon!

Connie Walker

STILL PLANNING TO HAVE A PICNIC IN SEPTEMBER

We are thinking positive that we all will be negative and will be able to get together for our annual picnic. This September will mark the tenth year for our "WE DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL" picnic held annually on the first Thursday of September. The date this year will be Thursday, September 3. We will gather around 11 at the pavilion behind the zoo. Look for the PASR banner. Lunch will be served at noon.

In celebration of our 10th gathering we are having the event catered. You will not have to make or buy anything this year. Please fill out the form below and send your reservation along with \$10 cash or check made to Erie Chapter PASR by August 20.

We are looking forward to seeing you there,

Dave & Cathy Stemmler

Return your check and form to:

Mary Ellen Lieb

3841 Parkside Avenue

Erie, PA 16508

Note: Cost at the door will be \$12. Please make reservations so that we can order correctly.



will attend the 10^{th} annual "WE DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC" on September 3^{rd} at the pavilion behind the Erie Zoo. I/we have enclosed \$10 for each person attending.



The Erie Chapter of PASR is a grassroots unit of the state level organization serving <u>all</u> school retirees. We are former cafeteria workers, administrators, bus drivers, counselors, teachers, nurses, secretaries, aides, and maintenance staff – anyone who is now receiving a pension from the PA School Retirement System (PSERS). Membership at state and local levels provides the organization with the resources to work for you!

The state influences legislation on behalf of retirees and the local chapter provides opportunities for continued fellowship, volunteerism and assistance.

Chapter dues are \$12 annually; renewal is in June each year for all chapter members. State membership dues are \$60 annually or \$700 for a life membership. Renewal is based on a calendar year (the month you joined).

Please complete the form below and return it with your dues to Mary Fllen I jeh

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you! (cut along line and send in bottom portion of page with your dues) Erie Chapter - PASR 2020/21 Membership Form			
Name	Date		
Address			
CitySta	ate Zip Code		
	Year Retired		
Position Held			
Email			
Erie County Chapter Membership \$ 1 Chapter Associate Membership\$	2.00\$\$ 69.00 (non-school employees only)\$		
State Membership \$ 60.00 (if Life N	Member, write yes)\$		
State Associate Membership \$60	.00 (non-school employees only)\$		
	\$		
	tion (optional)\$		
SSMHF Contribution (optional)	\$		

Total Check

PASR ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY

Covering the 2019 calendar year

We are interested in documenting the hours of service that our chapter members contribute as volunteers in our community (not including hours volunteered for PASR). In doing this, our volunteers show the community at large a positive picture of public school retirees. Please take a moment to complete the survey below filling in the appropriate number of hours per year that you volunteer. A summary of this information will be shared with AARP and NRTA. This data will also be shared with State Legislators to demonstrate to them our commitment of service to our community.

Thank you for being a volunteer in our community,

Diane Grzelak

	# of hours/year
Educational Activities	
Social Service Activities	
Political Activities	
Religious Activities	
Service to Youth	
Other	
Total hours from all the above activities	

Note: Hours worked for PASR are Not to be included

Please return completed form to:

Mary Ellen Lieb 3841 Parkside Avenue Erie, PA 16508



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



Helen Clark Page Scholarship

This year's recipient of the Helen Clark Page Scholarship is Caralee Davalle, a junior at Penn State Behrend. Caralee is a graduate of Harborcreek High School. She is majoring in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and was thrilled to learn of this award. According to Caralee, "I chose this career because I love children and love watching a lesson click in their heads. Hearing how proud they are and wanting to share what they have learned is one of the best things in the world." Congratulations, Caralee!

State RECREO Trip

Earlier this spring the state RECREO trip to New Orleans was rescheduled to October 27 - 31, 2020. Twenty-four members have already rescheduled to this time frame and there is room for more to join them. The best way to access information about this and other state trips is to visit the website pasr.org/trips.

Positions Available

Christmas Party: This event is great fun, and we need someone to organize the event. The location is the dining room at the Shrine Club so part of the decision-making is easy. If you are interested in keeping this tradition going, let any member of the board know. If you would be willing to join a small group working on the event, we would love your input.



RECREO Chair: We would love to have this position filled so we can be up and running as soon as events can be scheduled. If you or you and several friends like to participate in these outings, you'd be a perfect chairperson. Contact Connie Walker or any board member to discuss it.

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

Jeanne Lamb, our PASR Program Coordinator (center) thanks Colleen Burbules SSJNN Program Director for the East Side (left) and Heather Caspar, Executive Director of the SSJNN (right) for presenting at our meeting.





Teacher Grants Awarded

Two Erie County teachers accepted education grant awards of \$300 each. Catherine Moyer, North East High School on left, Betsy Trocki, PASR Grant Coordinator in center and Maria Smith, Strong Vincent Middle School, Erie

June PASR Program *** Pending ***

Betsy Trocki--Scholarship Presentation

Diane Grezlak--Volunteer Service Award

Kathy and Dave Stemmler-- plans for the picnic in September

Lunch: Hot: Chicken & Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Tossed Salad, Strawberry Shortcake

Cold: Seafood Salad Croissant, Tomato Basil Soup, Tossed Salad, Strawberry Shortcake.

PASR Grant for Retirees

Erie County Chapter

Educational Enrichment Grant

In an effort to provide ongoing educational support to members of the Erie County Chapter of PASR, the Educational Support Committee is providing grants-in-aid to members who wish to take programs for further education/ or personal enrichment. Applications of requests for grants up to \$100 per program must be <u>submitted by May 15, 2020</u>. The number of grants awarded will be determined according to available funding, following review of the committee.

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 Enrichment Grant. Also, you could create a special garden or work on an art or craft project.

All requests for funding must include this application. If you have questions, call Betsy Trocki at 814-440-8249 or email etrocki@neo.rr.com.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Trocki

Please submit your application to: Mary Ellen Lieb 3841 Parkside Avenue Erie, PA 16508

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT GRANT APPLICATION

ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER - PASR

Applications are due by May 15, 2020. Cavailable in June.	Grant amounts requested will be awarded according	ng to funds
Applicant Name	Date	
Address –City – State – Zip		
Phone	Email	
Course Fee:		

Self Enrichment Description:

Explain why you are interested in taking this class:

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2020

President Connie Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that due to concerns over the coronavirus, our April meeting was cancelled. She also said that because our program was Bingo, we would hold our business meeting after lunch and then play Bingo. She invited everyone to stay and enjoy the games.

Pat Bellingham spoke briefly about signing an anti-human trafficking petition. She and Karen Hollinsworth are part of a group working to help those caught in human trafficking by having posters on display in various places, including rest stops along the interstates in our area.

Today's Charity is The Caring Place. This is a non-profit dedicated to helping children and adults deal with the grief of a loss. This organization was started in Pittsburgh and Fred Rogers was one of its founders. There are no costs to participants. Donations made to The Caring Place are matched by Highmark. Kathi Karaisz would be happy to answer any questions.

T.A. Walkiewicz led us in prayer. Lunch was served. The donation jar was passed.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Connie Walker called the business meeting to order. Betty Wist led us in song. Linda Rezzelli won the March birthday drawing. The secretary's report was approved as written. The treasurer's report will be filed for review.

President Connie Walker reported that in February we collected \$131 for the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network. Betsy Trocki reported that they are looking for volunteers who can tutor students in algebra. If you want to help, ask for Darla when you contact them. We were reminded to turn in our volunteer hours at the May meeting or mail the form to Diane Grzelak. Count all your hours from 2019 as well as from January to June of 2020! We are still looking for a RECREO chairperson. If you are willing to work on this, please let Connie know.

NEW BUSINESS

We were reminded again that the April meeting has been cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. We are looking for a chairperson for our annual Christmas party. Anyone interested in helping to get a group together is asked to let Connie know. We announced that our 10th annual picnic on September 3 will be catered. This means no cooking or baking this year! The cost is \$10. You can sign up and pay at the June meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Educational Support - Betsy Trocki reminded us that grant applications are due by May 1.

L-PEC - Judith Newlin asked us to keep contacting our legislators and reminding them that we don't support passage of bill 1960 without a COLA. Bill1960 is still in committee, so we need to keep calling, writing, and emailing our representatives. Judith provided us with phone numbers. She suggested we visit: nirsonline.org to find a report on how a defined benefit pension is best for us and the state.

Jeannie Lamb invited us to continue to support the Sisters of St. Joseph. She then invited us to stay to play Bingo. The winner of the charity drawing was Judy Richter.

The meeting was adjourned with a reminder that our next meeting will be May 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Stemmler for Pat Timko

ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER



Mary Ellen Lieb 3841 Parkside Ave. Erie, PA 16506



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