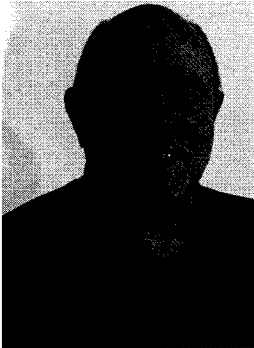


CCCPASR

Cumberland County Chapter
Pennsylvania Association of
School Retirees

Volume 50 Issue 2
October 2023

President's Message



Hello,
Your Executive Committee and I hope all our members had a pleasant and healthy summer. Our fall meeting will be at the Susquehanna Club in New Cumberland on

October 11. Information on the speaker and menu are found elsewhere in this newsletter. As you make plans for next year, please consider traveling with us in 2024. A brief description of the trips planned can be found in this newsletter. More information on these trips will be provided at the October 11 luncheon.

Jim Fissel, Chairperson of Public Relations, will record the Pledge of Allegiance at our luncheon. These recordings air on Channel 27 every weekday at noon. Joanne Benedict, Chairperson of the Community Service Committee, will present the 2023 Community Service Award to one of our members to recognize all the volunteer work they do outside of CCCPASR.

At our last Chapter meeting, two of our members were recognized for their service to PASR. Craig Kunkle presented the John Dillion Award to his wife, Kathy Kunkle, for the outstanding service she has given to CCCPASR. Jean Young, Director of Region 4 of PASR, presented Fred Seltzer an accommodation for all the service he has given to PASR. PASR continues to advocate for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for school retirees. Progress is being made, so please continue to contact your state representative and senator. They need to know your wishes.

I would like to remind you that our membership year ended on June 30. If you have not yet renewed your membership, this newsletter contains instructions for doing so. The Executive Committee is considering increasing the price of what we pay for our luncheons. The luncheon and program costs have increased. In fact, your Chapter has always subsidized the additional cost to the \$20 that each member pays for his/her luncheon. Your club has never profited, and will continue to subsidize your luncheon.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and all our volunteers for their time and hard work to make this organization the very best. I look forward

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Luncheon/Meeting:
Wednesday, October 11, 2023,
Susquehanna Club, Army Depot, 100

Region 4 Executive Board:
Wednesday, October 25, 2023,
Faith Emmanuel Presbyterian Church,
Colonial Road, Harrisburg, PA

CCCPASR Executive Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, @
Headquarters

Newsletter Folding: Tuesday,
December 12, 2023

Fall Luncheon:
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

to seeing all our members at our October meeting.

Sincerely,

Harold

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 - Luncheon Meeting

Cost for Members \$20 - Cost for Guests \$25

Location: Susquehanna Club, Army Depot, 100 Ross Ave., New Cumberland -- for directions see page 4.

AGENDA

9:00 - 9:30 am Registration - Coffee/Tea
9:30 Business Meeting
11:00 Program - One-Room School House
12:00 Luncheon

DIRECTIONS TO LUNCHEON: SEE PAGE 4

LUNCH BUFFET MENU

Tossed Salad
Marinated Chicken Breast
Roasted Pork Loin
Vegetables Du Jour
Oven Roasted Potatoes (with sweet potatoes mixed in)
Rolls with Butter
Coffee/Tea/Water
Cup Cakes

Please make check payable to CCCPASR and mail so it is POSTMARKED by the DEADLINE of September 27, 2023. **MANY THANKS!** Please realize, reservations postmarked after that date CANNOT be honored. Mail the form with your payment to Cathy Kunkle, 202 Pennsylvania Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17011

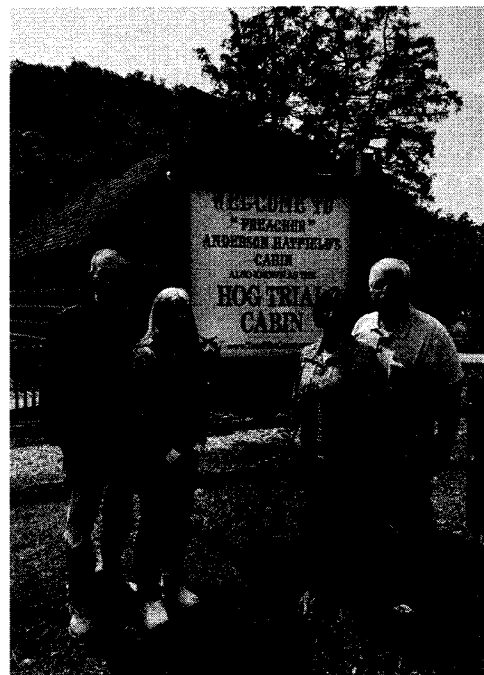
Travel Talk with CCCPASR!

You go; We go!

Dear Fellow Travelers, Members & Friends,

We have had a good first year arranging and leading trips for CCCPASR. We have 26 seats available for the December 14, 2003 trip to Hunterdon Hills for the Christmas lunch and show. The cost is \$149 pp. Please contact us at CCCRecreo@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending this show.

We have been working hard to put together an exciting 2024 schedule. Our major trip for 2024 is the Canadian Rockies featuring the Rocky Mountaineer, with Silver Leaf service. Explore the best of Western Canada via the famous Rocky Mountaineer train. See beautiful Stanley Park and the famed Granville Island Public Market in Vancouver. Travel on the train among the fields of Fraser Valley, the picturesque Fraser River, and the landscapes as you journey alongside Kicking Horse River. Depart the train and continue your journey along the unforgettable icefield parkway and stop at Athabasca Glacier. Admire stunning Bow Falls in Banff. Finish your trip in Calgary, Alberta. All nights are in hotels. The dates are July 28 through August 4, 2024. The price will be \$7,699 pp (double) if the booking is made before November 30, 2023. This is an all-inclusive trip from Collette. Because of the short time to register for this trip, there will be a special meeting on September 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm at PASR Headquarters in Mechanicsburg to introduce this trip and take reservations, if desired. Please email us at CCCRecreo@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending this meeting so we can make room for you. This trip is open to members only until about October 2, when we will open it to anyone who has traveled with us or Sue and Eric in the past. There is only room for 40 people on this trip and we expect it to sell out quickly.



Hamilton on Broadway **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Cost – Not available currently

Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and show tunes, “Hamilton” has taken the story of American founding father, Alexander Hamilton, and created a revolutionary moment in the theater. The restaurant will be Gossip.

Salute America **Monday, May 20, 2024,**

Cost - \$199 pp

Spend the day exploring Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the 9-11 Memorial. Includes a guided ferry ride to the islands and dinner at the Clinton Station Diner.

Phillies Baseball Game **June, 2024**

Cost - Not available currently

This is dependent on the Phillies 2024 schedule and when day games are scheduled.

1000 Islands Highlights **October 1 - October 3, 2024** **Cost - \$ 719 pp double/\$859 pp single**

Travel to Syracuse, NY to enjoy a guided tour of the Erie Canal Museum. The museum showcases the 1850 National Register Weighlock Building, the last remaining structure of its kind. After lunch at the Copper Top Tavern, depart for Alexandria Bay--- 1000 Islands. The beauty of fall is in full splendor here. Enjoy a cruise on the St. Lawrence River. Visit the Boldt Castle and take a trip to the Antique Boat Museum, the premier freshwater boating museum in North America. Accommodations are at the

Riveredge Resort, built on a steamboat wharf. The trip home includes a stop at the Thousand Islands Winery for a tasting and time to explore the cute waterfront downtown of Clayton, NY.

A Beautiful Noise on Broadway

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Cost - Not available currently

With his first break into songwriting in the 1960's, his meteoric rise in the 1970's and plenty of crushing disappointments and heart-stopping triumphs along the way, Neil Diamond has maintained an almost unthinkable level of superstardom for five straight decades. There's only one way to tell his story: a musical set to his smash hits that entranced the world. We will enjoy an Italian Buffet at John's Classic Pizza.

Norman Rockwell Christmas featuring dinner at Ventfort Mansion

December 9 - December 11, 2024

Cost - \$1,269 pp double/1,499 pp single

Get in the holiday spirit as you travel to Stockbridge, MA. Our hotel will be the famous Red Lion Inn. Dinner is included tonight. After dinner visit the Holiday Nights at the Hancock Shaker Village. Meet your local guide the next day for a morning of touring Stockbridge. This is a light and informative tour with history, humor and facts. Then enjoy a driving tour to view the Berkshire Cottages, the mansions of those who lived during the "Gilded Age" at the turn of the 20th century. The next stop will be at the Norman Rockwell Museum to tour on your own. That evening will include dinner at the beautifully decorated Ventfort Hall with entertainment following dinner. The next morning, tour the holiday decorated home of Edith Wharton, The Mount. She was the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for her work "The Age of Innocence." Depart for home full of holiday cheer!

We communicate by email. Our email address is CCCRecreo@yahoo.com. To be included in our mailings, please be sure we have your email address. We thank everyone who has traveled with us this year and look forward to traveling with even more of you in 2024

****Trips are non-refundable without insurance unless a replacement can be found****
If you would like more information on any of the trips please contact us!

Richard and Vickie Frederick | 717-414-6583

Rick and Kathy Singiser | 717-385-2473

REMEMBER...TRIPS FILL QUICKLY, SO REGISTER EARLY

▶▶▶ Check out the website for updates and information!

www.pasr.org

You can print a copy of your state membership via this website, so you have it to take advantage of the available discounts. Enter your username and password. This will take you to the "members only" section. As you scroll down, you will see your membership card. Click on the "print" under the card and follow the instructions. While you're in the website, take some time to look at the other information available.

John Dillon Award

Cathy Kunkle was totally surprised when she was presented with this year's Dillon Award. She responded, "For once I am speechless! However, it is nice to be appreciated and I truly so appreciate all of you!"

Educational Support

As always, if you know of a professional or support employee deserving of recognition through the Woodson Award, please forward his/her name, position, and a brief description for your selection to me. Last year we gave a support grant to Camp Hill School District's AP History classes. The grant allowed the students of Mr. Robbie Tubbs to travel to Washington DC to participate in a Mock Trial.



Wednesday, October 11, 2023 Luncheon Reservation
Susquehanna Club, Army Depot, 100 Ross Ave., New Cumberland

Name (Member) _____ \$20.00
 Guest _____ \$25.00
 *I also wish to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. \$ _____
 Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
 Phone Number: _____
 This is my first PASR luncheon _____
 Email address: (**only** if new member) _____

Please make check payable to CCCPASR and Postmark by DEADLINE of Thursday, of September 27, 2023.

*****Mail to:**

Cathy Kunkle, 202 Pennsylvania Ave., Camp Hill, PA 17011

LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT

Prior to the 1950's, most students living in the rural townships of Pennsylvania would have attended a one-room schoolhouse taught by an instructor in charge of grades 1-8. The talk will focus on why the one room school was necessary, the experience shared by students and teachers, and the impact on American democracy.

William Murray, a retired educator with the Mechanicsburg Area School District, is currently the volunteer archivist, historian, and museum curator of the MASD Archives and Museum located at 502 South Norway Street, Mechanicsburg.

Directions to Luncheon:

Exit 41A off Interstate 83. Go east on Lowther Street, turn right onto South 3rd (becomes Bridge Street). Go through New Cumberland. Cross the bridge over the Yellow Breeches. Take the first left onto Miramar Street. Turn right onto Ross Avenue. Susquehanna Club will be on your left.

Please contact Barbara Lee at (717) 774-0998 if you know of any members who are hospitalized, in recovery, or confined to a home or nursing facility, so she can send cards and flowers for moral support. She would also appreciate notification of any member's obituary. Thanks for your help.

Barbara Lee, Social Service Chair

Social Service/Memorial Honor Fund

Our committee wants to thank all of you for your past and continued financial support. The \$208 donated at the spring luncheon will go a long way towards allowing us to serve the needs of our local members. Our SSMHF annual audit report for the Cumberland County Chapter was submitted to PASR on July 13th for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. In our chapter, 49 different members received some type of service from us. We sent 187 greeting cards, 13 flower arrangements and 14 PASR Memorial Honor Fund donations in the names of our deceased members.

Since our last newsletter in February, 31 local members received February thru September holiday and birthday greeting cards. In addition, flowers were sent to Grace Drager (WS) for her 100th birthday. Get well and/or encouragement cards were sent to Fred Seltzer (Carlisle), Gilda Early (E Penn) and Donna Hake (O), who is our Region 4 secretary. Also, a contribution to the state PASR Memorial Honor Fund was made in memory of each of our recently deceased members noted in the Memorial section of this newsletter. A \$100 donation was sent to the state PASR SSMHF for their upcoming fundraising activity, which will take place at the House of Delegates meeting on October 15-17.

Please stay safe and remember that good health is the only real wealth. Do not hesitate to contact me with any information pertinent to our committee.

Thank you,

Barbara Lee ~ Chair (717-774-0998)

L/PEC

Your contribution to L/PEC enables PASR volunteers and members to effectively advocate for benefit improvements and fight to protect the benefits they are currently receiving. Please be sure to contribute to this worthwhile committee. Thank you.

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees Legislative/Political Education Committee

PASR
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Member Number (if known) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Please donate to the L/PEC Fund since it is the only fund in Pennsylvania dedicated exclusively to advocate for the interests of retired PA school employees.

Contribution Amount:

\$5 _____ Other _____

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

Note: L/PEC contributions are not deductible for federal income taxes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The House State Government Committee passed two items of COLA legislation (HB 1415 and HB 1416) on or about 6/25/23. Due to recent developments, the COLA bills remain stuck in the House Rules Committee, waiting to be scheduled for a vote by the full House of Representatives. Since a Democrat resigned recently, leaving the PA House without a majority party until after a special election scheduled for September 19th, it is unlikely that the House will meet to vote on anything, let alone a COLA, until the end of September. Regarding the two COLA bills, here is a quick overview from the PA Independent Fiscal Office

(IFO) notes: -For both bills: Only Pre-Act 9 annuitants are covered. Their average age is 83.3 years. The cost of the bills would be spread over 10 years. -HB 1416 would:

1. Provide an average increase of \$3,040 per year (\$253.33 a month) to each annuitant.
2. Cost \$125 million per year for PSERS and \$177.6 million for both PSERS and SERS.
3. Provide a 15% to 24.5% COLA for PSERS and SERS annuitants who retired prior to 7/ 1/ 2001 (before Act 9 was enacted). This means those who retired in 2001 (Pre Act 9) would get a 15% COLA and those that retired in 1982 or before would get a 24.5% COLA. Those who retired in between would get a COLA between 15.5% and 24% depending upon their retirement year.
4. Cause the unfunded liability of the PSERS system to increase by .44% (less than half of one percent). -HB 1415, the other COLA proposal would: 1. Provide an average increase of \$2,175 per year (\$181.25 a month) to each annuitant. 2. Cost \$89 million per year for PSERS and \$125.5 million for both PSERS and SERS. 3. Provide a 10% to 20% COLA for PSERS and SERS annuitants who retired prior to 7/ 1/ 2001 (before Act 9 was enacted). This means those who retired in 2001 (Pre Act 9) would get a 10% COLA and those that retired in 1982 or before would get a 20% COLA. Those who retired in between would get a COLA between 10.5% and 19.5% depending upon their retirement year. 4. Cause the unfunded liability of the PSERS system would increase by .31% (less than 1/3 of one percent). Since unfunded liability costs are shared by the state and the school districts, PASR has advocated for full funding of the bill up-front so as to not cause additional costs to school districts. School districts already are required to devote over 34% of their payroll to help draw down the unfunded liability of PSERS. And, that cost is usually passed on to the property owners in the district. Up front funding could be offered as an amendment to either bill.

Going to the Bureau of Labor Statistics website,

https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm one sees that approximately \$170 is needed in July of this year to purchase what \$100 would purchase in July of the year 2002. It appears that House bill 1416 with its COLA range of 15% to 24.5% would mean that each \$100 of pension money received since 2002 would now be replaced with between \$115 and \$124.50 of pension money. As for House bill 1415 with its COLA range of 10% to 20%, it would mean that each \$100 of pension money received in 2002 would be replaced with between \$110 and \$120 of pension money. So with enactment of either of these COLA bills, instead of having \$100 to match the \$170 needed today to purchase the same item we could have purchased 21 years ago, we would now have between \$110 and \$124.50 to match that \$170 - Something to think about. The latest two automatic annual COLA's for PA legislators were 5.64% and 7.8% according to the Nov 22, 2022 edition of Penn Live. That's a total exceeding 13% over just a period of 2 years. Many retirees, especially those who would be on the lower part of the COLA's percent scale, might find that 13% to be in blinding contrast to the percentages found in the only proposed COLA bills retired public school employees have seen in OVER 20 YEARS - Another thing to think about. This writer hopes that any COLA bill reaching the House floor will evolve into a bill that shows an elevated sensitivity to the loss of buying power, in many cases a huge loss of buying power, that all annuitants have experienced since 2002.

PASR Region 4 Accommodation

Jean Young, Director of Region 4 of PASR presented Fred Seltzer an accommodation for all the services he has given to PASR. Fred is Vice President and Legislative Committee Chair for CCCPASR; and L/PEC Region 4 Committee Chair. Fred not only works with the chapters in Region 4 but is also a member of the State Legislative Committee. He has a direct role in shaping legislative agenda of our entire organization.



Scholarship Fund

The Executive Council wants to continue giving scholarships to deserving high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in education. You may send a donation along with your luncheon cost/reservation form noting it is for "Scholarship Fund." Thanks



Musical Entertainment

At our April luncheon, Brenten Magee, a well-known tenor from Lancaster entertained us with his rendition of sacred, classical, and patriotic music. Brenten's music was very familiar and touched our hearts.



Mikayla Trowbridge and Drew Hartman our scholarship winners received their awards at our April luncheon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susquehanna Valley FCU:	
Checking:	\$5,268.47
Checkbook Balance	231.10
	\$5,499.57
Belco Community Credit Union:	
11-month promo. certificate	\$6,182.34
24-month certificate	2,000.00
Savings:	<u>10,263.36</u>
	\$18,445.70
Total Assets:	<u>\$23,945.27</u>

as of August 8, 2023

Sandra M. Thomas, CCCPASR Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Life	222
Annual	133
Associate	9
Honorary	3
Complimentary	<u>32</u>
Total	399
State - PASR membership	615

Joann Handshaw
Membership Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Camp Hill
Roseann Hester

West Shore
Christine Shade

Associate
M. Kay Heller
Kathy Singiser

In Memory of Our Chapter Friends

Carlisle
James C. Barefoot
Alfred Speers

South Middleton
Diane Willis

Cumberland Valley
Susan Baldwin
Deborah Ritrievi



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues can be paid anytime. Local (CCCPASR) dues are \$20. State (PASR) dues are \$60 yearly or 3 years for \$150 and LIFE is \$700. These may be paid at a luncheon or by mail using the form in this newsletter. Call Joann with any questions at 717-477-2173.

Joann Handshaw
Membership Chairman

OFFICERS

Serving You in 2023-2024

PRESIDENT.....Harold Statler717-732-3344 .hstatler@verizon.net	ASST SECRETARY
PRES. ELECT	TREASURER.....Sandy Thomas717-737-9479
VICE PRES.....Fred Seltzer717-243-2368seltzer@pa.net	ASST TREASURER.....Jonelle Edwards .717-774-4843
SECRETARY.....Sharon Statler717-732-3344	PAST PRES.....Larry Stoner.....717-763-0572

REMEMBER TO DIAL "717" BEFORE EACH NUMBER

Committee Chairs

Community Service.....Joanne Benedict717-697-8921	Program.....Elaine Shugart.....717-532-8701
Educational SupportCraig Kunkle717-761-6839	Marlene Hess.....717-532-8374
L/PEC.....Bruce Hockersmith.....717-532-8539	Recreo/Travel.....Richard & Vickie Frederick.....717-414-6583
Members Benefits/ServicesRick & Kathy Singiser717-385-2473
Legislative.....Fred Seltzer.....717-243-2368	SocialCathy Kunkle717-761-6839
Membership.....Joann Handshaw.....717-477-2173	Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund...Barbara Lee.....717-774-0998
Darrell Clepper.....717-243-3087	Resolutions.....Ron Conard.....717-732-0721
Public RelationsJim Fissel717-938-4903	Newsletter.....Mary Kate McGowan717-732-7949
Pre-Retirement.....Harold Statler.....717-732-3344	Linda Hunter.....717-979-3900 Cindy Mueller.....717-732-4694
	Scholarship.....Jim & Sharon Fissel717-938-4903

CCCPASR
M. Joann Handshaw
110 Lurgan Avenue | Shippensburg, PA 17257

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Reminder: : Each year we lose members due to their lack of membership renewal. Please use the membership application to renew through the mail now . Please check your mailing label. If it reads 22-23 or F23, this will be your last newsletter. Please use the membership application to renew through the mail now. This can also be done at our luncheon by visiting Joann Handshaw at the registration table. Two checks will be needed if you are joining both CCCPASR and PASR. (\$20, \$60)

COUNTY

CCCPASR Membership Application or Renewal

CHECK PAYABLE TO CCCPASR

Annual \$20 Associate \$20

Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

If you are a new member, please complete the following:

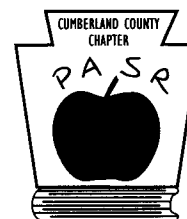
Year _____

District from which you retired _____

Total enclosed _____

Email address: _____

(initial) _____ Permission granted for CCCPASR to use my photo in any publication for the duration of my membership.



Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mail BOTH to M. Joann Handshaw, 110 Lurgan Avenue, Shippensburg, PA 17257

STATE

PASR Membership or Renewal

Check Payable to PASR

\$60.00/year ~ \$150 for three years ~ Life Member \$700

Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

County of Last Service _____

Email address: _____

PASR
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees