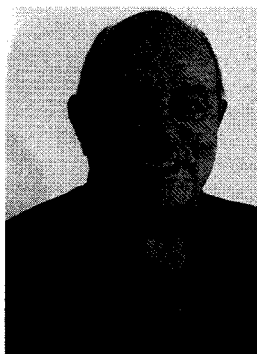


CCCPASR

Cumberland County Chapter
Pennsylvania Association of
School Retirees

Volume 50 Issue 3
December 2023

President's Message



Hello,

My term as President of the Cumberland County Chapter of PASR will come to an end in October 2024. Our chapter is looking for a

President-Elect as soon as possible to become President in October.

I have enjoyed being your President. It was my pleasure to meet and work with some of the most dedicated and caring people I have ever known. Your Executive Committee Chairpersons and all of our volunteers give their time to make this organization the very best. If you volunteer to be President-Elect, I am sure you will also feel as rewarded as I have.

At our last Executive Board Meeting, Sharon Fissell, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, suggested that we raise the amount of our scholarships. The Executive Committee voted to raise the two scholarships to \$1,500 from \$1,000 each for 2024. This will be reviewed every year. A copy of the application is included in this newsletter. We receive donations for our scholarships with your luncheon cost/reservation form noting it is for "Scholarship Fund" and from proceeds from our 50/50 drawings.

This membership year ends on June 30, 2024. Dues can be paid at anytime. You can use the membership application in our newsletter to renew through the mail or it can be done when we have a luncheon by visiting Joann Handshaw, Membership Chairperson, at the registration table.

As you make plans for this coming year, please consider traveling with us in 2024. Our big trip is on the Canadian Rockies train. We have 2 multi-day trips and 4 one-day trips. The trips planned can be found in this newsletter. The trips fill up quickly, so be sure to get your reservations in soon. See more about our trips in this newsletter. PASR is continuing its efforts to get a COLA for all PSERS retirees, and we are making progress! The PA House of Representatives just passed HB 1416!! Please contact your state Senator to urge him/her to vote in favor of this legislation.

Your Executive Committee and I hope all our members and their families have a "Merry Christmas" and a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Statler, CCCPASR President

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Luncheon/Meeting:

Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Susquehanna Club, New
Cumberland

CCCPASR Executive Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, @
Headquarters

Spring Newsletter Folding:

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, @
Headquarters

Fall Luncheon/Meeting:

Tuesday, October 8, 2024,
Susquehanna Club, New
Cumberland

▶▶▶ 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.



**CCCRecreo Team: Rick Singiser,
Kathy Singiser, Vicki Frederick and
Richard Frederick**

Travel Talk with CCCPASR!

You go; We go!

Dear Fellow Travelers, Members & Friends,

We thank everyone who traveled with us in 2023. We really enjoyed being with you on all of our adventures. We feel we have a great selection of trips for 2024.

Hamilton on Broadway – ONLY 7 Seats Available

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 Cost – \$259pp

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. Deposit: \$150pp

Salute America – Seats Available

Monday, May 20, 2024 Cost - \$199pp

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 – ONLY 23 Seats Available

June 19, 2024 Cost - Not available at this time

This will be a 1:00 game against the San Diego Padres.

1000 Islands Highlights – Seats Available

October 1 - October 3, 2024 Cost \$ 719pp double/\$859pp 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. Deposit: \$100pp

A Beautiful Noise on Broadway – ONLY 17 Seats Available

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 Cost - Not available at this time

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. Deposit: \$150pp

Norman Rockwell Christmas featuring dinner at Ventfort Mansion – Seats Available

December 9 - December 11, 2024 Cost - \$1,269pp double/1,499pp 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! Deposit: \$200pp

Please email us at: CCCRecreo@yahoo.com for more information about any of our 2024 trips. A deposit will confirm your reservation for a trip.

Richard and Vickie Frederick | 717-414-6583

Rick and Kathy Singiser | 717-385-2473

**PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

REMEMBER...TRIPS FILL QUICKLY, SO REGISTER EARLY

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Remember when college tuition for one year was \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000? Those days are long gone, and future college students face long-term student debt when earning a college degree. Economists and talking heads are publicly and loudly questioning whether a college degree is worth such financial obligation. As we all are aware, this uncertainty, as well as salary; working conditions; parental pressures; and pension planning, have negatively impacted the number of qualified individuals deciding to make Education a career choice. Our members who worked with students in various capacities have experienced how critical good educators are, and CCCPASR long ago established a goal of assisting future educators by awarding scholarships throughout the years.

Because of the generosity of our members through donations and participation in raffles at our luncheons, the Executive Board unanimously approved raising the amount of the two scholarships awarded in 2024 from \$1,000 to \$1500 each. Each of you who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund should take pride in knowing that you have helped aspiring young students who will educate future generations, including your family, friends, and community members.

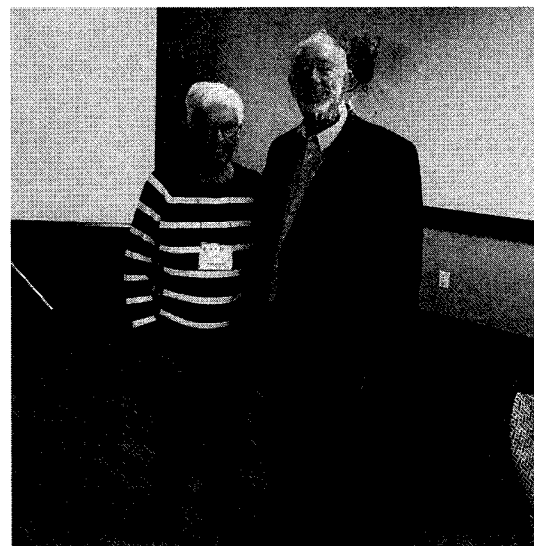
The Scholarship Committee is asking you to help spread the word about this opportunity for students. A copy of the CCCPASR Scholarship Application is included in this newsletter. Please pass it along to any qualifying student you know. Also, inform students that the guidance counselor in all ten schools where all members worked will have the application available. This is a chance for each of us to give back and to ease some of the financial burden for these students – and to do it with a smile on our faces!

Social Service/Memorial Honor Fund

Since 1992, the Social Service Committee and the Honor Fund is one of the many ways our Cumberland County chapter of PASR can give back to our members and have a positive impact on their lives. We can provide these services because of your generous donations. Our committee wants to thank all of you for your past and continued financial support. We received \$160.10 in donations from our attending members at our October luncheon. This year, after submitting our chapter's annual SSMHF audit report, PASR

awarded us \$370.04 as our chapter's state allocation to help us with our committee's expenses. Currently, we have 31 members who are 90 or older or confined, receiving holiday and birthday greetings. The latest mailings were for September through December birthdays, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. In addition, get well flowers were sent to our secretary Sharon Statler (East Penn) our treasurer Sandy Thomas (East Penn) and our scholarship and public relations committee chairs Jim Fissel (West Shore.) Thank you notes were received from Sharon Statler (East Penn) and the family of deceased member Janice Coover (CV) for our donation to the state Memorial Honor Fund in her name. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Barbara Lee ~ Chair



Marlene Hess, Program Co-chair, and William Murray, a retired teacher from Mechanicsburg School District gave a very informative talk on the topic, "One-Room Schoolhouse," at our Fall luncheon.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHAPTER OF PA SCHOOL RETIREES

\$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING: _____

MUST MAJOR IN EDUCATION: YES (☐) MAJOR _____

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND HONORS: _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: _____

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

- Must be a high school senior who will major in Education at a four-year college. The check will be made payable to both the college and the selected student in July 2024. Should the recipient decide not to attend college, the award will not be given.
- Must submit a completed application, school transcript, and at least one letter of recommendation from applicant's high school teacher/counselor/administrator.
- Must submit an essay of at least 200 words stating why you want to be an educator.
- Materials must be received or postmarked by March 29, 2024. No late entries will be accepted.

ALL REQUIRED MATERIALS RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY MARCH 29, 2024.

Mail to:

**JAMES AND SHARON FISSEL, SCHOLARSHIP CO-CHAIRS
386 BENYOU LANE
NEW CUMBERLAND, PA 17070.**



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF 2023

This year's Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Linda Biesecker at the October CCCPASR luncheon. Linda retired from West Shore School District in 2011 after 35 years of service as a Special Education and Instructional Support teacher.

Linda is being recognized for her many years of volunteering for multiple groups and activities. She still helps with kindergarteners at Red Mill Elementary School. She helps children review and practice skills in phonics along with listening to them read.

Some of her other volunteer activities include the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Caitlin's Smiles and the Giving Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church distributing food and other needed items.

CCPASR salutes Linda for her generous use of time giving to others.

Joanne Benedict, Community Service Chair, presents the 2023 Outstanding Community Service Award to Linda Biesecker.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Did you know that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the loss of purchasing power since July 1, 2002, (the earliest effective date of the last COLA), and October 31st of this year was 70.83%. Bureau of Labor Statistics Website: https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.html have confirmed that there have been 8 COLA's since 1967. All 8 COLA's were awarded every 4 years on average. Six of those COLA's had appearances like a salary schedule. Also, the last 3 COLA's of 1994, 1998 and 2002 occurred following a decrease in purchasing power of 20.7%, 10.5%, and 9.6% respectively prior to their enactment.

The best COLA being considered today involves a 21-year time frame following a 70.83% loss in purchasing power and encompasses not 3 but 1 maximum payout level of 24½%. Below is the payout pattern (or benefit schedule) for the best of the two proposed COLA's. Benefits would range from 15% to 24½% depending on the year of retirement as follows:

If you retired on or after July 1, 2001 you would get no COLA. This is the case because you were included in Act 9.

If you retired:

July 2, 2000 thru July 1, 2001, you would get the 15% COLA

July 2, 1999 thru July 1, 2000, you would get a 15½% COLA

July 2, 1998 thru July 1, 1997, you would get a 16% COLA

July 2, 1997 thru July 1, 1996, you would get a 16½% COLA

On and on until folks retiring:

Before or on July 2, 1982 would get the 24½% COLA.

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2023&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=1416&pn=1584>

Should we not wonder: Is the model used for past COLA's appropriate for a COLA today? Shouldn't there be a big problem with a COLA that is proposed after 21 years (2002-2023) have elapsed being patterned after 3 COLA's that were enacted after just 4 years had elapsed (on average) and where each COLA had a maximum payout benefit of about 25%? JUST A REMINDER: the last three COLA's for our state legislators were 5.64%, 7.8% and 3.5% effective Dec. 1 of the years 2021, 2022, 2023 respectively. The COLA's were based on the loss of purchasing power. <https://www.pennlive.com/politics/2023/11/pa-lawmakers-to-get-early-holiday-gift-a-pay-increase-will-bump-base-salary-to-106k.html>

Finally, just like our favorite cola refreshment going flat in the refrigerator, may I suggest that we respond to what many might call "Two proposed COLA bills gone flat" in this way. From now on, when we make a COLA contact with our legislator, we ask him/her to support a COLA bill, YES!, but a COLA bill that shows an obvious, I repeat, obvious sensitivity to the 70.83% loss of purchasing power during the past 21 years

And, if you are asked for a specific example, turn the question around and ask back, "Well, do you think a 1% COLA would be sensitive to a 70.83% loss of purchasing power?"

"Do you think a 3% COLA would be sensitive to a 70.83% loss of purchasing power? 'Keep increasing the percent incrementally till you reach 35.4% because 35.4% fulfills the usual goal established in the past for a COLA proposal, namely to recover approximately half, just half, the current loss of purchasing power retirees have endured since the last COLA.

I also suggest that we pray hard for amendments to the current bills, amendments that clearly show some real sensitivity to the loss of purchasing power that retirees have endured since 2002. In general, concerning COLA proposals, we should be careful for what we ask and be careful with what we accept.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Our members have a history of volunteering in many areas to meet the needs of the community where they reside. We are asked each year to participate in a project that promotes services to youth. For many years we have been involved with Special Olympics. Because of the Pandemic, there were no local Special Olympics last year and this year is questionable.

Our members serve their communities in other areas including education, social services, politics, and religion.

Our organization recognizes a member each year for his/her volunteer services. If you volunteer, (food banks, meal deliveries, tutoring etc.) please write me a note telling me about what you are still able to do.

Thanks for all you do.

Joanne Benedict

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT:

Each year Educational Support recognizes a professional and a support member of our county's school districts. On occasion we present teachers or schools with a grant to help them complete funding for student activities.

Craig Kunkle

PROGRAM:

Entertainment plus education continue to be our goal as we determine our speakers for the CCCPASR luncheons. There will not be a January meeting or program but mark your calendar for our April 16 meeting. We will have entertainment x 5. for our enjoyment!! We are looking forward to it!

Elaine Shughart and Marlene Hess

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

We have several representatives from school districts in the county. These people acquire the names and addresses of new retirees from their districts, then follow up with contacts to invite them to luncheons, join the organization, or remind them to renew their membership.

Darrell Clepper keeps our roster updated and shares the information with Fred Seltzer. Also, Darrell makes a master copy of our county several times a year which is distributed to the Executive Board.

You would not receive your newsletter without a name and address on it. Darrell prints all those labels, including your membership status.

I collect the dues, keep the updates, and share all my information with Darrell. Remember, the committee needs your help in locating your former colleagues who are not members.

M Joann Handshaw and Darrell Clepper

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.

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP

TREASURER'S REPORT

Susquehanna Valley FCU:	
Checking:	\$5,350.54
Certificate: #12778	\$2,231.35
	\$7,581.89
Belco Community CU:	
Savings:	\$2,052.14
Certificates: 24 Month	\$16,061.81
	\$18,113.95
Total Assets:	\$25,695.84

as of November 18, 2023
Sandra M. Thomas, CCCPASR Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Life	217
Annual	197
Associate	11
Honorary	3
Complimentary	52
Total	480
State - PASR membership	620

Joann Handshaw
Membership Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Carlisle

Valerie Bushey
Jill Harmon
Joanne Monoski
Daniel Newhouser

Cumberland Valley

Stephen Fisk
Kristi Jordan
Kathy Shanabrook
Ronald Wenger

Other

Debra Brinker
Suzanne Knerr

Associate

Rebecca Bankert
Joan Clippinger

In Memory of Our Chapter Friends

Carlisle

James Miller

Cumberland Valley

Janice Coover

Doris June Reed

East Pennsboro

Marsha Alandar

Stephen Knowlton

West Shore

Janet Aldinger

Grace Drayer

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues can be paid anytime. Local (CCCPASR) dues are \$20. State (PASR) dues are \$60 yearly or three 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.

Joann Handshaw
Membership Chairman

OFFICERS

Serving You in 2023-2024

PRESIDENTHarold Statler 717-732-3344

PRES. ELECT

VICE PRES.Fred Seltzer 717-243-2368seltzer@pa.net

SECRETARYSharon Statler 717-732-3344

ASST SECRETARY

TREASURERSandy Thomas 717-737-9479

ASST TREASURERJonelle Edwards . 717-774-4843

PAST PRES.Larry Stoner 717-763-0572

REMEMBER TO DIAL "717" BEFORE EACH NUMBER

Committee Chairs

Community Service Joanne Benedict 717-697-8921
Educational Support Craig Kunkle 717-761-6839
L/PEC Bruce Hockersmith 717-532-8539
Members Benefits/Services
Legislative Fred Seltzer 717-243-2368
Membership Joann Handshaw 717-477-2173
Darrell Clepper 717-243-3087
Public Relations Jim Fissel 717-938-4903

Program Elaine Shugart 717-532-8701
Marlene Hess 717-532-8374
Recreo/Travel Richard & Vickie Frederick 717-414-6583
Rick & Kathy Singiser 717-385-2473
Social Cathy Kunkle 717-761-6839
Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund... Barbara Lee 717-774-0998
Newsletter Mary Kate McGowan ... 717-732-7949
Linda Hunter 717-979-3900 Cindy Mueller 717-732-4694
Scholarship Jim & Sharon Fissel 717-938-4903

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

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PERMIT #25

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

Reminder: Each year we lose members due to their lack of membership renewal. Please use the membership application to renew through the mail now.

1702532616 C004



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:

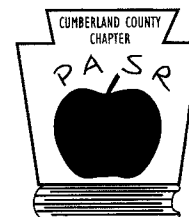
Year _____

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