

# CCCPASR

Cumberland County Chapter  
Pennsylvania Association of  
School Retirees

Volume 52 Issue 3  
December 2025

## President's Message



Hello members of the Cumberland County Chapter of PASR.

I want to thank Sandy Thomas for her work as treasurer for CCCPASR.

I also want to thank Larry Stoner for filling in on a temporary basis.

We have several openings on the Executive Committee; Membership, L/PEC, Educational Support, Public Relations and Treasurer. We really need new people to step up and fill these openings. There is more information in this newsletter about the open positions. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact a committee member or myself and we will be glad to assist you.

We want to thank Bill Murray for his presentation at the October luncheon. It was an extremely interesting presentation about how Mechanicsburg Schools were involved in WW II.

Please check out the trips for 2026 presented by the Recreo Committee. It should be an exciting year to travel.

I want to invite everyone to our Winter Social in January. It is a time to get together and socialize and hopefully chase some of the winter blues away. There will be a social time and then a soup and sandwich lunch. More information is included in this newsletter.

The Executive Committee and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Please stay warm and healthy in 2026. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact someone on the Executive Committee. PASR provides many benefits for its members.

Sincerely,

*Rick Singiser*

Rick Singiser  
CCCPASR President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Winter Social Luncheon:**  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
(Snow Date: Wednesday, January 21)

**CCCPASR Executive Committee Meeting:**  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
PASR Headquarters

**Spring Newsletter Folding:**  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**Spring Luncheon:**  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

**Region 4 Spring Meeting:**  
Thursday, April 30, 2026

**CCCPASR Executive Committee Meeting:**  
Tuesday, August 11, 2026,  
PASR Headquarters

**Fall Newsletter Folding:**  
Tuesday, September 15, 2026

**Fall Luncheon:**  
Tuesday, October 20, 2026

**CCCPASR Executive Committee Meeting:**  
Tuesday, November 10, 2026,  
PASR Headquarters

**Winter Newsletter Folding:**  
Tuesday, December 8, 2026

## Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - Winter Social Cost for Members \$15

Location: Otterbein UM Church in Carlisle – for directions see page 3.

### AGENDA

10:00 am Register and Socialize  
11:45 am Lunch

**DIRECTIONS TO LUNCHEON: SEE PAGE 3**

### MENU:

Choice of Soup:  
Beef Vegetable or Chicken Rice

Choice of Sandwich  
Pulled Pork or Turkey & Cheese Wrap

Please make check payable to CCCPASR and mail so it is POSTMARKED by the DEADLINE of Friday, January 9, 2026. **MANY THANKS!** Please realize, reservations postmarked after that date CANNOT be honored. Mail the form with your payment to Gilda Early, 2 Lula Lane, Enola, PA, 17025.

# Travel Talk with CCCPASR!

## Recreo Travel for 2026

Dear Fellow Travelers, Members & Friends,

We are looking forward to more great travel opportunities in 2026. We feel we have another exciting year planned for CCCPASR. Our feature trip will take us to Atlanta for a week.

### PRESENTING OUR 2026 TRIPS

#### **Death Becomes Her on Broadway**

**NOTICE - \$100 DEPOSIT DUE BY DECEMBER 15, 2025!!**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026      Cost - \$210 pp**

Madeline Aston, a beautiful stage star, and Helen Sharp, a long-suffering author who lives in her shadow, have always been the best of frenemies until Maddie steals Helen's fiancé away. As Helen plots revenge and Madeline clings to her rapidly fading star, their world is turned upside down by Viola Van Horn, a mysterious woman with a secret to die for. After one sip of Viola's magical potion, Madeline and Helen begin a new era of life (and death) with their youth and beauty restored...and a grudge to last eternity. Based on the 1992 film, this is a hilarious new musical comedy about friendship, love, and burying the hatchet...again and again. **Deposit: \$100 pp**



**Kathy, Richard, Vickie  
- Horseshoe Curve**

#### **FEATURE TRIP Atlanta Adventure**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026 - Sunday, May 17, 2026**

**Cost - \$1999 pp double/ \$2459 pp single**

We will travel to Atlanta with stops on the way in Mount Airy, NC (Mayberry from the Andy Griffith Show) and Charlotte, NC (Billy Graham Library and Charlotte Motor Speedway). Once in Atlanta the itinerary includes the Georgia Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tour, World of Coke, lunch at the famous Varsity Restaurant, a highlights tour of the city, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Other area stops will include: Trilith Studios; the town of Senoia, a famous filming location; President Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, Plains GA; and President Franklin Roosevelt's Little White House, Warm Springs, GA. During our time in Atlanta, we will be staying at one hotel – so you only need to unpack once! After leaving Atlanta, we will make a stop at Sweetwater Valley Farm in Philadelphia, TN for a tour and included lunch. After a night in Abington, VA we will stop at the National D-Day Memorial before heading back home. **Deposit: \$200 pp**

#### **Arlington Cemetery & The People's House**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2026**

**Cost - \$199 pp**

Enjoy a narrated tour in a private tram when we arrive at Arlington Cemetery. Stops include The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, JFK's Gravesite, and the Arlington House. Relax for lunch at Nick's Riverside Grill along the Potomac River. Following lunch we will tour The People's House: A White House Experience. **Deposit: \$50 pp**

#### **??Mystery Trip??**

**Wednesday, October 14, 2026**

**Cost - \$155 pp**

We will spend a day on a mystery trip of adventure as we view the Fall Foliage. Lunch included. **Deposit: \$50 pp**

#### **Radio City Christmas Spectacular**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2026**

**Cost - \$210 pp**

**Back by popular demand!** Start the holiday season off with orchestra seats to this iconic show starring the Rockettes. Enjoy lunch before the matinee show at Carmine's Italian Restaurant Upper West Side. We will be bussed to the theater. Invite loved ones to come along for a wonderful family/friends Christmas memory! **Deposit: \$100 pp**

#### **Christmas in Bethlehem**

**Thursday, December 10, 2026**

**Cost - Cost: \$199 pp**

We will travel to Bethlehem, PA to experience the Christkindlmarkt, the Historic Trees of Bethlehem Tour and the Central Moravian Putz Tour. After the included dinner at Fiamma Italian Grille we will take a Bethlehem at Night bus tour before heading home. Sure to put you in the Christmas Spirit!! **Deposit: \$50 pp**

For us to continue to have successful trips we need a minimum of 30 travelers per trip. Please email us at: CCCRecreo@ yahoo.com or see our page on the CCCPASR website <https://thepasr.wixsite.com/cumberlandcountypasr/recreo-trips> for more information about any of our 2026 trips. A deposit will confirm your reservation for a trip.

\*\*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**  
**Kathy Singiser | 717-249-8097**



## Our group at Horseshoe Curve – October 2025

**Directions to Luncheon:** Directions to Otterbein UM Church: 647 Forge Road, Carlisle, PA. GPS will work. From I-81 South—take Exit 49, at the light turn left. At the next light turn right onto Army Heritage Drive. At the light turn right and travel around the shopping area to the light at Route 74/York Road. Continue straight and then follow the road left around the corner. Follow Forge Road for about one mile and the church will be on the left. From I-81 North—take Exit 48, at the end of the ramp turn right. Stay in the right lane and turn right follow the sign for Boiling Springs. Follow the road around the corner to the left. Follow Forge Road for about one mile and the church will be on the left. From Mechanicsburg—Take Route 174 to Boiling Springs. At the clock tower turn right onto Forge Road. Follow hat for about two miles to Otterbein Church on the right. Follow the signs for parking and the entrance

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR 2025



Joanne Benedict presents Community Service Award to Cynthia Birdwell.

This year's Community Service Award was presented to Cynthia Birdwell. Cynthia worked in the Carlisle School District for 18 years, teaching first grade and performing administrative observation work.

She is currently a classroom volunteer and supports YMCA/YWCA Daycare Programs. She also volunteers by collecting food for her church food bank.

Cynthia is active in raising money to support Shriners' Hospitals in Philadelphia and Boston. She makes teddy bears to give to children at the Philadelphia Hospital and is exploring ways to help at the Boston Hospital.

Another activity she supports is collecting school supplies and backpacks that the Carlisle Army War College distributes. CCCPASR salutes Cynthia for her generous use of time for others. Her giving spirit serves children all over Pennsylvania and the world.

►►► **Check out the website for updates and information!**

[www.pasr.org](http://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.

## Winter Social

We will have a Winter Social on January 20, 2026 at Otterbein UM Church in Carlisle. This will be a time to socialize with friends. We will not have a formal meeting. We will have games available. If you have a favorite board or card game, please feel free to bring it with you. We will meet at 10:30 so if there is inclement weather there will be time to clear the roads. There will be a soup and sandwich lunch included. Otterbein Church is fully accessible. It is a short distance from the parking lot to the entrance and into the gym where the social and lunch will be held. The cost of the lunch is \$15. There is a registration form included in the newsletter. I hope everyone will attend.

### Winter Social—Snow Date:

If Carlisle Schools are closed on January 20, 2026 the Social will be held on Wednesday, January 21. If there is a 2-hour delay, the Social will still be held as scheduled on January 20.



## Social

Dear Friends, Please know the Susquehanna Club needs the total number of reservations at least one week prior to the date of the luncheon. We must pay for the number that we give them. However, they have been most gracious about preparing “doggie bag” for those not able to attend who have already paid. Should this happen to you, if you contact a member who is attending that lives nearby, they can bring you your meal. Also, should you find prior to the due date that you are no longer able to attend, and let me know early enough, I will gladly shred your check. (Let's all stay healthy and happy and not have to worry about any of this!)

## LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT



At our October Luncheon, Bill Murry highlighted the vital role Cumberland County schools played in supporting the World War II homefront effort.

## Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Social Reservation

Otterbein UM Church in Carlisle

Name (Member) \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00

\*I also wish to donate 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 Friday, January 9, 2026.

\*\*\*Mail to:  
Gilda Early, 2 Lula Lane, Enola, PA 17025

**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**

**Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund** The Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund is one of the many ways our Cumberland County chapter of PASR is able to give back to our members and have a positive impact on their lives. We are able to provide these services because of your generous donations. Our committee wants to thank all of you for your past and continued support. We received \$233 in donations from our attending members at our October luncheon. This year, after submitting our chapter's annual SSMHF audit report, PASR awarded us \$685 as our chapter's state allocation to help us with our committee's expenses. In addition to monetary donations, we want to extend a special thank you to Gilda Early (E Penn), Sarah Hankins (CV), Bonnie Stuart (CV) and Mary Kate McGowan (CV) for donating greeting cards which we send to our members. If organizations send you greeting cards that you cannot use, we can use them and we will! Since our last newsletter in September, we currently have 40 members 90 or older or are confined receiving holiday and birthday greetings. The latest mailings were for October thru December birthdays, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. Also, a get-well card was sent to Jim Fissel (VS) and a floral arrangement was sent to MaryJane Erby (Mech) who celebrated her 100th birthday on September 9th. Congratulations to MaryJane for reaching this remarkable milestone. In addition, a contribution to the state PASR Memorial Honor Fund was made in memory of Shelly Robinson (Car). Contact me if you have questions or information concerning this committee. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and Happy New Year!

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

### **L/PEC**

*Provides membership with information about political candidates and the positions of interest to the members. Solicits voluntary contributions from members to help finance communications in support of PASR objectives and programs.*

### **Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees** Legislative/Political Education Committee



### **CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Member Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

### November 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Submitted by Fred Seltzer, Region 4  
Legislative Chairperson

The General Assembly has finally passed the 2025–2026 state budget—135 days late, well beyond the June 30 deadline. During this prolonged impasse, PASR's State Legislative Committee suspended meetings and lobbying efforts, as the status of a COLA remained uncertain. That decision point should soon be clarified.

#### PASR's Position on COLA

PASR's stance remains unchanged: **Any COLA must apply to all Pre- and Post-Act 9 annuitants.**

- As of September 30, 2025, Pre-Act 9 annuitants require \$180.54 to purchase what cost **\$100** on July 1, 2002—the effective date of the last COLA.
- Post-Act 9 annuitants who retired between July 1, 2002, and June 2007 now need **\$155.89–\$180.54** to purchase what cost **\$100** at retirement.

If no COLA is included in the current budget, future proposals must account for the **10%+ loss of purchasing power since June 2023.** Otherwise, new versions would provide less relief than earlier versions.

#### Education Subsidy and Budget Delays

According to PSEA, the **2024–2025 basic education subsidy totaled \$8.16 billion**, or roughly **\$680 million per month** across Pennsylvania's 500 school districts. With the state five months behind on payments:

- If installments had been invested at 3% annually (0.25% monthly), they would have generated \$25.5 million in interest over five months.
- Key questions remain:
  - Will this interest be returned to school districts that borrowed to cover expenses?
  - Will it be used to balance the budget, bolster the Rainy Day Fund, or fund a COLA?

#### Implications for School Districts

This situation underscores why districts must maintain substantial reserve funds to withstand late budgets. Inevitably, those reserves come from local property taxes—a direct burden on taxpayers. Voters should remember these consequences when evaluating legislative performance.

Submitted by Fred Seltzer, CCCPASR Legislative Chairperson

## 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 approved increasing the number of scholarships awarded in 2026 from two to three, each valued at \$1,500. Everyone who has contributed to the Scholarship Fund should take pride in knowing that you are helping aspiring young students who will go on to educate future generations, including your family, friends, and community members.

The Scholarship Committee is asking for your help in spreading the word about this opportunity. A copy of the CCCPASR Scholarship Application is included in this newsletter. Please share it with any qualifying student you know. Students should also be informed that guidance counselors in all ten schools where our members have worked will have applications available. This is a wonderful chance for each of us to give back and ease some of the financial burden for these students—while doing it with a smile on our faces!

## Officer Vacancies

#### Volunteers Needed!!!!

**Educational Support, Public Relations and L/PEC are vacant. There is also an opening for Membership Chair, Treasurer and President Elect.**

**This chapter can't continue without some new leadership. Below are job descriptions of the various positions available.**

**Educational Support** – Select students planning to attend college majoring in education for scholarships and provide grant programs to school employees for special projects.

**Public Relations** – Disseminates information to members, potential members, and individuals in the general public. Helps to maintain the chapter web site.

**Membership** – Contacts new retirees to join and support PASR, encourages members to renew their membership and maintains the membership records for the chapter.

**Treasurer** – Maintains the financial records of the chapter including making deposits and writing checks.

**President Elect** – Assists the President as necessary. Will replace the President at the end of their term.

Please consider one of the open positions. I can't stress enough that the chapter can't continue without you and new leadership.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Susquehanna Valley FCU:

Checking:	\$6,998.90
Shares	2,235.61
<b>Belco Community CU:</b>	
Savings	3,037.31
Certificates	16,604.33
Total Equity	\$28,876.15

as of NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
Sandra M. Thomas, CCCPASR Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP

Life	177
Annual	254
Associate	9
Honorary	1
Complimentary	79
Total	520
State - PASR membership	530

Joann Handshaw  
Membership Chairman

## NEW MEMBERS

Carlisle	West Shore
Jay Rauscher	Lois Musto
Cumberland Valley	Other
Mary Ann Hoffman	Linde Treker
Evelyn Vogelsong	

## *In Memory of Our Chapter Friends*

### Carlisle

*Shelly Robinson*

Shippensburg  
*Jacquelin Bishop*

## 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 2025-2026

PRESIDENT.....Rick Singiser .....717 385-2473..rsingiser13@gmail.com	ASST SECRETARY
PRES. ELECT	TREASURER.....Larry Stoner .....717 763-057larrystoner@icloud.com
VICE PRES.....Fred Seltzer .....717-243-2368 .....seltzer@pa.net	ASST TREASURER
SECRETARY.....Sharon Statler ....717-732-3344 stater@verizon.net	PAST PRES.....Harold Statler ....717 805-3359hstatler@verizon.net
	Larry Stoner .....717-763-057larrystoner@icloud.com

\*REMEMBER TO DIAL "717" BEFORE EACH NUMBER\*

## Committee Chairs

Community Service.....Joanne Benedict .....717-697-8921	Recreo/Travel.....Richard Frederick .....717-414-6583
Educational Support .....Sharon Fissel .....717-938-4903	Vickie Fredrick .....717-360-1390
L/PEC	Kathy Singiser .....717-249-8097
Legislative.....Fred Seltzer.....717-243-2368	Gilda Early .....717 979-8760
Membership.....Joann Handshaw.....717-477-2173	Social Services.....Barbara Lee.....717-774-0998
Program .....Elaine Shughart.....717-532-8701	Newsletter.....Mary Kate McGowan ...717-732-7949
Public Relations	Scholarship.....Jim & Sharon Fissel .....717-938-4903

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055  
PERMIT #25

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 or see Joann Handshaw at the registration table at the Winter Social Luncheon.

**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:

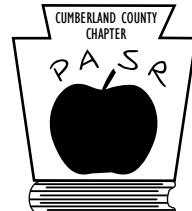
Year \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**P A S R**  
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

# **CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHAPTER OF PA SCHOOL RETIREES**

## **\$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE PLANNING TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_

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 2026. 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 April 7, 2026. **No late entries will be accepted.**

**ALL REQUIRED MATERIALS RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY APRIL 7, 2026.**

**Mail to:**

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