



Volume 32 Issue 2

THE ACASR LIGHTHOUSE

Newsletter of the

Allegheny County Association of School Retirees

A beacon to help light your way through retirement years

August 2025



PASR Region 12

Allegheny County, PA

President's Message Dr. Ron Dufalla, ACASR President

As I write this message, it is a beautiful sunny summer morning. It is one of those mornings when you can comfortably sit on the porch enjoying your coffee or tea before the high heat and humidity we have experienced this summer returns for the afternoon. Please allow me to use this message to inform you of important information from PASR and ACASR.

The 2025 PASR biennial meeting of the House of Delegates is scheduled for October 5-7, 2025, at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA. "Staying Alive in 2025: Relax, Refresh, Renew" is the theme for this year's event. Any PASR member is encouraged to attend. With a bylaw change that was approved during the 2023 House of Delegates, ACASR is permitted to send seven voting delegates. At the 2023 House of Delegates, ACASR was only allotted one voting delegate. Unfortunately for our chapter, we only have three individuals that have volunteered to travel to State College for this important meeting. If any ACASR member would like to join the delegation of three, please let me know as soon as possible. At this conference, insights will be provided into how chapters can effectively and efficiently operate and meet the challenges they may currently face. In addition, voting delegates will be asked to cast ballots for the election of PASR officers including President, President-elect, Vice President, and Treasurer, as well as, any proposed changes to PASR bylaws. Look for a review of the 2025 House of Delegates in the next newsletter.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, I accepted the position of Region 12 representative on PASR's Member Benefits and Services (MB&S) Committee. During a recent meeting of the committee, a partnership between PASR and Life Line Screening was approved. Life Line Screening will offer special discounted rates on their screening services which include testing services for: cardiovascular disease; diabetes and biometrics; cancer; liver, kidney and endocrine; and, bone, joint, and blood. Please check the PASR website for additional information.

On September 18, 2025, ACASR will sponsor the PASR Region 12 Fall Luncheon at the Edgewood Country Club. Additional information plus an RSVP form is included in this newsletter. I hope to see you at the Edgewood Country Club on September 18th and encourage you to bring a prospective member to lunch.

Finally, in each of my messages, it is my practice to make an appeal to you to recruit new members and to consider serving ACASR as a committee member or in a leadership position. Membership is the heart of ACASR. Our chapter will only be as strong as its membership. If I can be of assistance or service to you, please reach out to me whenever you feel the need at either (412) 673-3392, (412) 445-5821, or drrondufallamc@comcast.net. It is my privilege to serve you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please put these dates on your calendar now!

ALL MEMBERS are cordially invited to attend any or all events

July 10, 2025 10:00 a.m.

ACASR Board Meeting
AIU Waterfront, Rogers Room

Friday, July 11, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch @ Narcissi Winery
RSVP by Monday, July 7th to Glory
Getty at ggetty700w@aol.com

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Batch Pack at Batch Foundation
RSVP to ddado@comcast.net

Thursday, September 18, 2025

11:00 a.m.

PASR Region 12 Fall Luncheon
Edgewood Country Club

October 5-7 PASR

House of Delegates
State College, PA

October 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.

ACASR Board Meeting
AIU Waterfront, Rogers Room

October 19-28, 2025

State Trip Avalon
River Cruise
See PASR website for details

December 17, 2025

Chapter Christmas Lunch
Edgewood County Club
RSVP ddado@comcast.net

December TBD

Batch a Toy
Batch Foundation

Volunteering at the Batch Foundation

In the past we have enjoyed volunteering at the Batch Foundation in Munhall for their Batch Packs and their Batch-a-Toy events. I have requested for our group to be included for the August event. Taylor just notified me of August 20th at 9:00 am for our group. Please let me know if you are interested. These events are for ACASR and PghASR members. RSVP to ddado@comcast.net

Fall Luncheon

Our Fall luncheon is going to be a special treat. We return to Edgewood Country Club for their Elite Buffet. On the menu is Braised Beef Short Ribs in red wine sauce alongside a Seared Salmon in a lemon beurre blanc – the best of both worlds. And a vegetarian option of Italian Cheese Raviolis is available as well. The speaker from the DA's Office on Scams was very well received in the Spring and her time was limited so we have brought back their office for Scams part 2. Parking is free and the setting is beautiful so don't miss this relaxing, informative and delicious afternoon.



PASR REGION 12

Fall Luncheon

Host: Allegheny Chapter

Thursday, September 18, 2025

\$45.00

(Includes tax and gratuity)

Edgewood Country Club

100 Churchill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

412.823.7300

11:00, Meet and Greet

11:30, Welcome, Region 12 Meeting

12:00, Lunch, followed by speakers

Please help ACASR support the Batch Foundation. Proceeds from the basket raffle and additional cash and check donations will go to the Batch Foundation in Munhall

Guest Speaker: Joe Giuffre, Allegheny County DA's Office Scams part 2

Menu

This will be an Elite Buffet with Braised Beef Short Ribs with Red Wine Sauce and Seared Salmon with Lemon Beurre Blanc
Served with: Edgewood Field Salad (fresh greens w/ choice of two dressings), Boursin Chive Whipped Potato, Haricot Vert w/ Garlic and Butter, Rustic Rolls and Butter

Chefs Choice Assorted Desserts

Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea

A vegetarian option of Italian Cheese Raviolis with Marinara is also available and will be plated at the table.

PASR REGION 12 FALL LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservations are requested no later than Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Make checks payable to ACASR and mail with this form to Ron Dufalla, 3413 Liberty Way, McKeesport, PA 15133. For more information, call 412-673-3392.

Due to our commitment to the banquet facility, we will not be able to give refunds for cancellations. Parking is free.

_____ Number of reservations for Elite Buffet = \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Italian Cheese Raviolis = \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ @ \$45 per person

Name of person sending reservation _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email (Please print clearly) _____

In order to facilitate preparation of place cards, please write name of each person attending and his/her entrée selection.

Name _____ Selection _____

Name _____ Selection _____

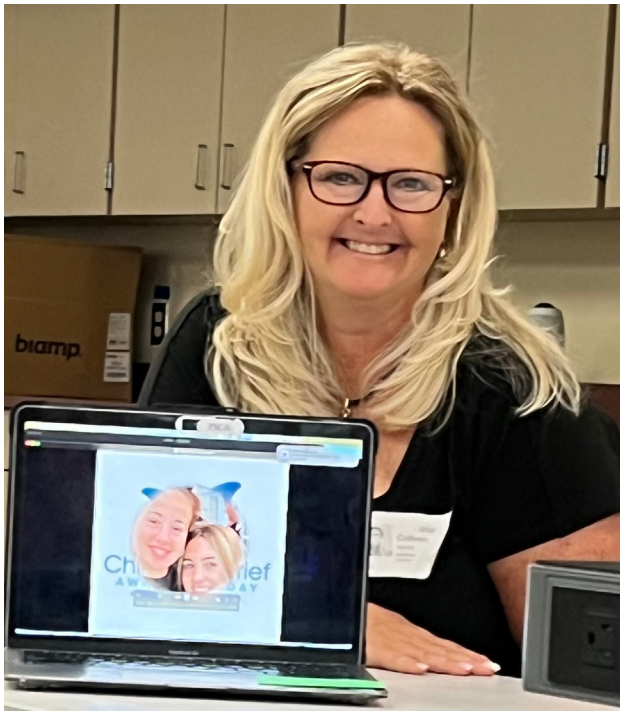
NOTE: Photographs will be taken at this event. Some photos might be published in Region 12 newsletters. If you do NOT want your picture to appear in the newsletter, please opt out by putting a check mark here. _____

Guest Speaker for the Region 12 Fall Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, September 18 at Edgewood Country Club

The Guest Speaker will be Joe Guiffre, a Senior Justice Advocate for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Joe and his colleagues are known as the Allegheny County Fraud Squad. They work with Senior Citizens dealing with fraud, scams and abuse of Seniors. The Fraud Squad speaks to groups all over Allegheny County informing them of 1) what to watch for from scammers, 2) inform them of any scams and 3) how to report them to the Fraud Squad. Joe will be picking up where Cyndie left off in the Spring luncheon with Scams part 2. You will receive information about what is being done behind the scenes to support older adults who have come through the system as well as what we ALL can do to prevent further abuses to our aging population. You will hear about the latest scams and how to avoid them. Questions and comments will be encouraged.

Educational Support

In June of 2024 our Ed Support team awarded our \$750 Educational Grant to Colleen Tortorella, a guidance counselor at Gateway High School. Colleen applied for the grant to help purchase supplies for her Grief support group. Colleen came to our July board meeting to personally thank us and to tell us how the money was spent. Wow. We were impressed. Colleen works with the Highmark Caring Place which gives information and suggestions to individual Care Teams and groups as well as many other services. The Thursday before Thanksgiving is Children's Grief Awareness Day. Colleen and her students work from September through November to raise money by selling cookies, manning a food booth at Homecoming, selling butterfly tattoos, running a carnival in October, making blue ribbons and other projects. Our grant money enabled Colleen to purchase blue t-shirts for her team and supplies and snacks for meetings. There is a white tree in the school that students can put a blue ornament on in memory of a loved one. All money raised goes back into the club. She said the kids like to be part of something meaningful. Colleen showed a seven-minute video of the year's work. We all felt it was money well spent.



The 2025 Educational Scholarship is awarded to Ella Bienier, a graduate of Deer Lakes High School. Ella is planning to enroll at Slippery Rock University this fall as a dual major, Pre K-4 Early Education and Special Education. An honor student for her entire high school career, she maintained a rigorous academic schedule at Deer Lakes and A.W. Beattie Career and Technical School. She also received scores worthy of college credit for the A.P. exams she tested. She has received commendation from the PA House of Representatives, and was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. Ella lettered in track (2 years) and cross country (4 years) during high school while also maintaining a part time job at a local coffee shop. She has participated in a variety of volunteer programs, especially Best Buddies. Upon successful completion of her first semester at Slippery Rock, Ella will receive a check from ACASR to use as she needs for her education.

The Region 12 Spring General Membership Meeting and Luncheon was held at the LeMont Restaurant on Thursday, May 1st. There were about 50 attendees and it was hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter.



The membership meeting was called to order by Glory Getty, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter. Bob Marko, Region 12 Director, then extended his greetings and gave an update from PASR's Legislative/Political Education Committee, focusing mainly on the progression of the 2025 COLA bill. In the absence of President Ron Dufalla, Donna Dado, Secretary of the Allegheny Chapter gave the chapter update. Donna also provided postcards and addresses for contacting legislators, asking for their support of the COLA bill.

A PASR Commendation for Joe Poerio's work with both Region 12 and the Pittsburgh Chapter was presented to his widow Paula and his son Brian, by Pittsburgh's Community Service Committee. Joe was a member of the committee, as well as, James White and Denyse Littles Cullens. James and Denyse also introduced Pittsburgh Chapter's new Community Service Partner, H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow and its founder Keysha Gomez. Keysha spoke briefly to the meeting about the work that her organization does in the West End of Pittsburgh. A 50/50 fundraising raffle was held during the meeting/luncheon with the proceeds going to H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow.



After lunch, guest speaker Cyndie Carioli, Senior Justice Advocate from the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, spoke on "Red Flags, Learn How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Scamming and Fraud." Cyndie provided some very helpful information through her speech and through the handouts she made available. She also made plenty of time to answer attendee's questions. Her presentation was very much appreciated.

The Region 12 Fall General Membership Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th at the Edgewood Country Club, look for the RSVP in this newsletter. The Allegheny Chapter will be the host for this meeting.



RECREO

Here are some great opportunities to gather with friends and laugh.

- PghASR is arranging “Second Taco Tuesday” at El Campesino at the Waterfront on Tuesday, November 18 from 3:00-5:00pm. RSVP to Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comast.net.
- This year, we will celebrate the holidays as a chapter at Edgewood Country Club on Wednesday, December 17. The Christmas buffet at the club seems especially festive and delicious. RSVP to ddado@comcast.net to reserve your spot.

State Trips

The second of the state organization trips is planned for October 19-28. That trip is planned with Avalon cruises from Paris to Normandy. All details and reservation info is on PASR’s home page <https://www.pasr.org/>.

Luncheon

Don’t forget our tasty Fall Luncheon at Edgewood Country Club. Reservation form included.



Website

The website has been updated with this issue. This site is worth looking at and sending to friends to encourage them to join. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

<https://thepasr.wixsite.com/alleghenypasr>

Social Services

We will be mailing our newsletter to members who do not have an email on file with us. We have received several notes of appreciation from members. We would like to keep in touch with members who are in a nursing facility or are at home alone and would like a note of cheer. If you know of someone who is lonely or ill or depressed, please let us know so that we may reach out to them. Contact ddado@comcast.net or call 412.751.2045.

Legislative/COLA

If you have not visited our parent organization, PASR, in the last few months, here is what was posted on their website prior to passing the state budget. As you can see, they are working right down to the wire. However, it takes ALL of us to contact our legislators and show Harrisburg there are many of us who need this COLA and also vote in elections.

Update 7/14/25:

We are encouraged that Governor Shapiro has prioritized seniors in several areas, such as prescription affordability and property tax rebates. Still, retirees like ours have not yet received full support for a COLA. That must change.

The House has already acted by passing HB 411 with bipartisan support. Senator Farry's SB 721 offers a fiscally responsible solution, indexing modest COLAs to Pre-Act 9 retirees. These proposals represent less than 0.002% of the state budget — a minimal cost for a major impact.

The state budget is still being finalized, and this could be our last, best chance to push for a meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Every voice could make the difference in ensuring our legislators understand just how essential COLA is for our retirees. We're asking everyone to join us in reaching out right now.

The more they hear from us, the stronger our message becomes.

How you can help:

1. Email your Senators, please use this link to send a message:
<https://www.pasr.org/legislative-form/?id=14>
2. Ask everyone you know to email their legislators. (Feel free to share this page!)
3. Continue to thank your legislators who are in support of the COLA. Gratitude goes a long way in building support! <https://www.pasr.org/legislative-form/?id=13>

We've come this far together. Let's finish strong.

Membership Notes

A big thank you to those members who renewed their dues for 2025-2026. Our dues follow our fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. If you joined our chapter in October or even January, your dues for the follow-ing year are due to our treasurer by July 1. Because our treasury is small, we appreciate you main-taining your membership and supporting our chapter. Our membership is made up of mostly Life and Emeriti members. Emeriti members are those that have reached the age of 80. Those members no longer have to pay dues. In order for us to know that, we need a date of birth for members. This is requested when initially joining. However, some people choose not to include that information. Also requested is an email address. This is so that we may send you your newsletter or other alerts digitally. WE DO NOT SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH ANY PARTY. Included here is a mem-bership form for 2025-2026 dues. Feel free to forward this newsletter to any retirees that you know. Another way to reach out is to email our website to your friends

<https://thepasr.wixsite.com/alleghenypasr>

Thank you.

ACASR 2025/2026 Membership Dues Renewal Form

Enclosed is my check for \$25 for 2025/2026 Dues

Title (circle) Dr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Ms. Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ **Retirement Date:** _____ **School District:** _____

Email Address{Please print legibly}: _____

**Make your checks payable to ACASR and mail it with this form to
Ron Dufalla 3413 Liberty Way, McKeesport PA 15133**

ACASR Board Directory

President	Ron Dufalla	drondufallamc@comcast.net
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MB&S Chair	Ron Dufalla	drondufallamc@comcast.net
Treasurer	Ron Dufalla	drondufallamc@comcast.net
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Working energetically for your better retirement!