



Volume 28 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 2021



PASR Region 12

Allegheny County, PA

Hello again to all of you! And welcome back!

I hope this issue of our newsletter brings some "normalcy" back to our everyday lives. And first off is our Fall Luncheon. Finally, we can break bread with our friends face to face and chat about what has occupied us for the last eighteen or so months. It will be held at a catering and event center in Baldwin, located in the South Hills. Parking is free and the food is delicious. And our executive director, Mark McKillop, will be on hand to try to sort out what is going on with PSERS. I know we all have questions and are alarmed by what we read in the news. Come to the luncheon to hear the latest developments. This will be major! Use the reservation form in this newsletter. Read Bob Marko's Legislative Update to hear more about the investigations.

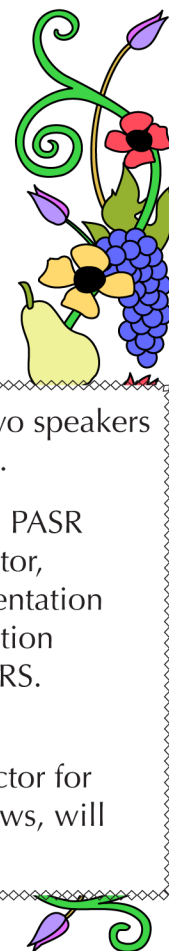
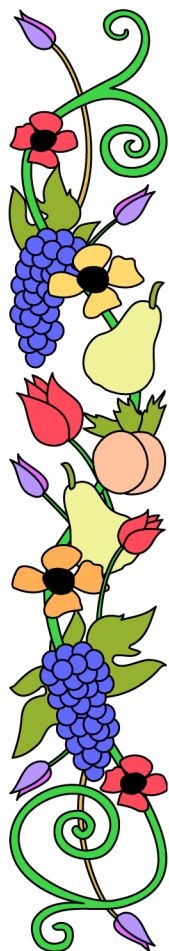
We are also resuming our lunch get-togethers. PghASR's August lunch at Rivers Casino is on the 19th. Everyone is welcome. Meet in the Grand View Buffet restaurant on the second floor. September's lunch will be the region 12 luncheon. October's lunch will be on the 12th at PF Chang's at the Waterfront (11:30). Also, we are trying to plan a murder mystery dinner for November or December. That should be confirmed by the time of the luncheon or watch for it on our website. See the Out to Lunch article in this newsletter.

Community service resumes at the Batch Foundation in Homestead in August. We will be packing backpacks for kids going back to school. See the article on 'Batch Packs' inside.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Get out even if it's only your backyard. Let us know if we can be of any help and don't forget to renew your dues.

Thank you for your support!
Donna Dado, President





PASR REGION 12

Fall Luncheon

Host: Allegheny Chapter

Thursday, September 23, 2021

\$30.00

(Includes tax and gratuity)

Salvatore's

5001 Curry Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 (Baldwin)

412-653-1880

10:30, Officers and Committee Chairs Meeting

11:00, Meet and Greet

11:30-12:00, Region 12 Meeting

12:00, Lunch, followed by speakers

There will be two speakers at the luncheon.

Mark McKillop, PASR Executive Director, will give a presentation on the investigation concerning PSERS.

Tracey Ronan, Marketing Director for Country Meadows, will speak on aging.

Menu (Choose One Entrée)

Crab Cake

Chicken Romano

Beef Salvatore

Vegetarian Option

Tossed Salad, Baked Potato, Chateau Blend Vegetables, Rolls and Butter

White Chocolate Raspberry Layer Cake

Unlimited soda, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and tea

PASR REGION 12 FALL LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservations are requested no later than Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Make checks payable to ACASR and mail with this form to Ron Dufala, 3413 Liberty Way, McKeesport, PA 15133. For more information, call 412-496-5241.

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

_____ Number of reservations for Crab Cake = \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Chicken Romano = \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Beef Salvatore = \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Vegetarian Option = \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ @ \$30 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 _____

SAVE THE DATE

Add to your calendar! ALL MEMBERS are cordially invited to attend ANY or ALL events! Have a voice in your Association!

Thursday, September 23 , 2021
PASR Region 12 Fall Luncheon
Officers/Committee Chairs Meeting
11:00, Meet and Greet,
Region 12 meeting
12:00 Lunch, followed by speaker,
Mark McKillop

Sunday-Tuesday, October 3-5, 2021
House of Delegates
Location: Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Out to Lunch at PF Chang's at the Waterfront, 11:30

Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:00 AM
ACASR Board Meeting, AIU 3, Dewey

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:00 AM
ACASR Board Meeting, Rock Bottom Waterfront

Thursday, July 15, 2021
Out to Lunch at Scoglios, 11:30

Thursday, August 19, 2021
Lunch Bunch (informal get-together)
11:30 Rivers Casino

Out To Lunch

One of the things we enjoyed the most before COVID hit was getting together for lunch at a variety of places around town. We went to Gianna Via's in Casté Village, Watami's in West Mifflin, Rivers Casino with our PghASR friends and more. As soon as we feel safe, hopefully by this summer, we will resume our lunch munchings.

Our first outing will be at [Scoglio's](#) on July 15 at 11:30. Check their website for directions and menus.

Also, PghASR has a lunch scheduled at Rivers Casino on August 19 at 11:30. Members of ACASR will be there also. If you would like to join us, just come. We will be upstairs in the [Grand View Buffet](#) room.

September 23 brings our Region 12 Fall Luncheon at [Salvatore's](#) in Baldwin. The reservation form will be in this newsletter.

October 12 will be at [PF Chang's](#) at The Waterfront at 11:30. Check their website for directions and menus. Please give me a heads up if you are planning to attend. ddado@comcast.net

LEGISLATIVE NEWS
By Bob Marko
Region 12 L/PEC Chairman

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) newspaper has confirmed an active FBI investigation along with a Federal Grand Jury investigation into the recent operation of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). At this time there is no evidence or information leading to the conclusion that any pension has been placed in jeopardy. Please note that PASR and PSERS are separate operations without any direct connection to each other; therefore, this investigation does not involve PASR.

The reason for the investigation is because there is a shared risk provision with active (non-retiree) PSERS members under Pennsylvania State Law that is based on an investment "window" of nine years. If PSERS investment returns fall below 6.36 percent over the nine-year period, a shared risk provision requires that public school employees hired after July 1, 2011 pay an increased amount into the PSERS retirement fund. Originally PSERS certified that the nine-year return was 6.38 percent. Two weeks later, PSERS held a special meeting and changed the number to 6.34 percent which activated that shared risk provision.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported the investigation of PSERS is underway to examine the estimation of the nine-year investment return and the process it took to reach the 6.34 percent figure. Additional reports have indicated that the investigation goes beyond the process of return estimation. The PASR staff will closely follow this issue. The investigation could take between 12 to 18 months to complete.

Please continue to monitor the PASR website at www.PASR.org to find updated information about the PSERS investigation.

PASR will continue to work and advocate for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) when the General Assembly returns to session in mid-September 2021. The PASR staff is planning to continue our interviewing of members who have an acute need for a COLA. We will share this information with our members, the public and the Pennsylvania General Assembly. PASR members who would like to participate in these interviews should contact the PASR office at 717-697-7077.

Your donation to the PASR L/PEC committee will enable us to continue to advocate on behalf of Public School Retirees. Please use the form below to make a donation to the PASR L/PEC Committee and help us in the quest to obtain a COLA for Public School Retirees and provide other services and information to our members.

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Help Us pack "Batch Packs"

We are happy to be helping the Batch Foundation pack backpacks for thousands of kids for back to school. We are meeting at the offices of the Best of the Batch Foundation at 2000 West Street in Homestead on August 5 from 1 to 3pm. We will be stuffing backpacks with donated supplies. Because we need a commitment for this volunteer project, please email Bobbie Patton at bobbiepatton1946@gmail.com to confirm your willingness. Thank you. Directions are on the website. <https://www.batchfoundation.org>

ACASR Website

This April, our chapter achieved a significant goal. We are proud to announce the new website for ACASR. <https://thepasr.wixsite.com/alleghenypasr> There is so much information included there for you. The legislative page has news on the PSERS debacle. Our In Memoriam page is a touching reminder of our friends and colleagues who have passed. Please help us keep that page up to date. Our lunch outings are included as well as an archive of our newsletters. Also, community service projects are updated. If you have anything to add or correct, please let me know immediately. ddado@comcast.net.

ACASR Board Directory

President	Donna Dado	ddado@comcast.net
Past President	Ron Dufalla	drrondufallamc@comcast.net
MB&S Chair	Carolyn Kotts-Hankinson	ckhcapemay@verizon.net
Treasurer	Ron Dufalla	drrondufallamc@comcast.net
Bylaws & Nominating	Jack McCurry	mccurry@zoominternet.net
Educational Support	Rita Powroznik-Traeger	rpowroznik174@gmail.com
Educational Support	Laurel Soffa	lms1960@yahoo.com
L/PEC Chair	Robert Marko	bobandsylvia885@gmail.com
Membership	Donna Dado	ddado@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Wendy Erway	muccerw@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Donna Dado	ddado@comcast.net

Working energetically for your better retirement!

Membership update/Money Matters

After working long and hard to reconcile our membership list with the state unified database, we seem to have a fairly accurate accounting of our membership. Not surprisingly, we have many more lifetime members (members who have paid to have their dues paid for life) and emeritus members (members who have reached the age of 80 + and no longer are required to pay dues) than annual members (members who renew every year). Therefore, our money coming in is always less than our money going out. So, if you have not yet sent your dues to Ron, please do so as soon as you can. And again, any extra money you can spare for the scholarship fund or newsletter mailings will be greatly appreciated. It can be added to your check with a notation on your membership renewal form. Just use the membership renewal form on this page. Thank you.

ACASR 2021/2022 Membership Dues / Renewal Form

Enclosed is my check for \$25 for the 2021/2022 dues

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

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Retirement Date _____ School District _____

Email address (please print legibly) _____

Make your check payable to ACASR and mail it with this form to

Ron Dufalla 3413 Liberty Way, McKeesport PA 15133

What do you get for your ACASR membership dues?

Join ACASR and receive all the newest Legislative & Professional news, RECREATION events, members to members & LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTERS (3 per year)! Dues, Memorial Honor Fund and all other funding support are used for each designated category and/or service.

ACASR Change of Address Form Mail to: Ron Dufalla 3413 Liberty Way
McKeesport, PA 15133

___ Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Dr.

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____ Land _____

Line _____

Email _____

Check the category appropriate for your new address.

Social Services/Memorial Honor Fund

This fall, we would like to send a card of thanks to our veterans on Veteran's Day. If you know of a teacher who is also a veteran, please give us their name and address so that we may acknowledge their service. This person does not have to be retired or a member of ACASR for our Thanks. We are also planning to send Holiday cards to our emeritus members and any member who may be in a nursing facility. Your help is greatly appreciated. Send info to Marge Wargo at wargomargo@me.com.

In Memoriam

Ronald Netchi passed away in April, 2021. He had retired from Fox Chapel Area SD. A lovely thank you note was received by ACASR from Ronald's family after we sent a sympathy card.

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees <i>Legislative/Political Education Committee</i>		PASR <small>Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees</small> <i>Founded in 1937</i>
CONTRIBUTION FORM		
Name _____	Did you know that a campaign to urge passage of a single piece of legislation can cost PASR more than \$200,000? Thank you for your support! Contribution Amount \$10 \$25 \$50 or \$ _____	
Address _____		
City _____ State _____		
ZIP _____ Phone: () _____		
E-mail Address _____		
<small>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.</small>		

Educational Support News

On May 20, at the Zoom meeting for our Spring Luncheon, Adam Mika took time from his day to thank ACASR for the \$750 Educational Support Grant he received and to detail how he was planning to spend the money. Adam is in charge of the culinary arts program at Steel Center CTE and wrote his grant application for the purchase of software for his students to use to learn real time culinary skills like organizing and managing a kitchen and handling setbacks. The award-winning software is called Over-cooked!

This year we are awarding our scholarship to a student planning to enter the field of education. Rita and Laurel sent out applications to guidance counselors in all 42 school districts. They will be reviewing returned applications and selecting a winner. The winner will be announced in the November newsletter and *on our website*.

We are in need of someone to help us locate businesses that are willing to donate dollars to our scholarship program. There are many worthy students to make use of scholarship assistance. If you can help us or know someone who can, please let us know.



Return Service Requested

3413 Liberty Way
McKeesport, PA
15133



– Join former colleagues and new friends as we travel to historic –

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 26 - 30, 2021

Experience the charm and atmosphere of the French Quarter as you explore the best of New Orleans.

Featured highlights:

- Guided tours of New Orleans, Lafayette, St. Martinville and Avery Island
- National WWII Museum
- Dinner Jazz Cruise aboard the Steamboat Natchez
- Guided boat tour of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin Swamp and more!

Includes roundtrip flights, deluxe motorcoach transportation in New Orleans & Lafayette, tours and admission throughout your trip, hotel accommodations, 8 meals, the services of a professional Boscov's Travel escort and more. From \$2,071 pp double occupancy.



Visit pasr.org/trips to learn more. Contact your Boscov's Travel Specialist for complete details. 800-782-5605, grouptravel@boscovs.com
boscovstravel.com 