

DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER

Newsletter

Volume 26, No. 2 Fall, 2018

John R. Della Guardia, Editor Delaware County, Pennsylvania



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne Mosakowski, President - Delaware County PASR

As I write this message to our membership, the word **Service** comes to mind. Our Chapter motto, "**To serve, not to be served,**" is not only important to our Chapter but to our communities. On our Chapter website, <u>www.delcopasr.org</u>, the "**About**" page states: We are retirees from public schools in Pennsylvania and are now receiving

benefits from PSERS. We serve fellow retirees, our colleagues still working in schools and members of the general public through a wide variety of volunteer activities. We are activists and individuals committed to promoting change. We strive to advance the social and economic welfare of all school retirees, improve our system of public education, and make our communities a better place to live.

On our membership brochure we also stress the **importance of service**, which states that **"in a given year PASR members statewide volunteered more than 9 million hours"**. In each newsletter (see p. 11) and at our luncheon events, we encourage our members to share their **volunteer activities** by completing the **Community Service Survey**, which can also be found on our website on the **Community Service Page**, www.delcopasr.org/community-service. Another committee that provides **direct service to our members** is the **Social Services Memorial Honor Fund** (see p.10), www.delcopasr.org/social-service-memorial-honor-fund, which serves our retired public school employees in need of financial and emotional support.

In November during our **Celebration of Service Luncheon** scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at the Granite Farms Estates, we take the time to recognize the importance of being part of an organization that **values service** to our members and to our communities. I hope you will consider joining us and/or completing the Community Service Survey and/or joining a service committee so our Chapter can celebrate all that we do and be **PASR Proud**!



Shirley Barnes
Phoebe Cascaden
Michael J Ciavola
Linda Delgott
Claudia Dennis
Anna Everetts
Meg King

Marcie Krobath
Sandy Marcheski
Lorraine Martini
Rosemary Mayberry
Claire McManimen
Sandra Monaghan
Joseph Owsley
Mary Jo Ruth

Jeanette Sadowski Lynne H. Schulman Phyllis R. Simmons Bernadine Steinmetz Barry Stevenson Richard E. Ware Mary A. Whitesel Ray Withers

Membership

A sincerely thank you to all who have renewed your chapter membership for 2019. A few local members have not yet renewed, and it's important you do so right away. As you know, your yearly dues are what enable us to keep on with our mission to be of service to our members. Don't forget to go to our website, <u>delcopasr.org</u>, to keep abreast of our meetings and activities.



Sue Stevens Membership Chair

As a reminder...June and July are when yearly chapter dues are payable and you usually receive a mailed notice early in June. If the summer slipped away too quickly and you have not yet renewed, won't you please take this opportunity to do so. Yearly dues are just \$15.00, and you may use the form below. If you have moved or changed your telephone number or email address, please complete the information on the form below; otherwise, just your name will be enough.

If you have renewed and yet you received another notice, please accept our apology and our thanks. Sometimes overlapping mailings do occur and we're sorry about that. We do appreciate your having renewed.

Name	Phone (Home)
Address	Phone (Cell)
City/State/Zip	Email
Year Retired:District Retir	ed from:
Position Before Retirement:	Birth Date (Optional)
DUES: Annual \$15.00 Life \$225	.00 Associate \$10.00 Associate memberships are for spouses of members
RECRUITED BY (if applicable):	
Please make all checks payable to: Delaware Please mail checks and applications to: Sue Steve	
Note: To become a member of the State PASR, p State PASR Dues: Annual \$60.00 Lif	
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Regretfully, we announce the deaths of these esteemed members

Russell Crosby, Upper Darby Mary Curtiss, Ridley Barbara Domingos, Intermediate Unit Janice Fanelli, Haverford Frances Freeberry, Interboro John Haines, Penn-Delco Mary Hall, Upper Darby Susanna Husbands, Out of County

NECROLOGY

Robert Landis, Haverford Larry Lester, William Penn Margaret Miller, Ridley Roger Miller, Radnor Winfred Mitchell, Southeast Delco Helen Reed, Ridley Evelyn, Ricketts, Springfield John Snead, Out of County Ethel Snyder, Ridley Lester Stauts, Wayne PA
Alfred Teufel, Interboro
Marian Thompson, MarpleNewtown
Robert Vaughan, ChesterUpland
Laura Wootson, Intremediate
Unit
Katherine Yerger, Haverford
Norman F. Watts, Upper Darby









FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING PASR DISCOUNT

"I am so very thankful to have found Immaculata's LifeLong Learning Institute.

The members are welcoming, the classes interesting, and the instructors knowledgeable.

Being back on a beautiful campus is invigorating and the days spent there are just so special. Join us!"

Roberta McManus, LLI Member

PASR members are invited to enroll in the LifeLong Learning Institute at a discounted rate! Members who show proof of membership upon registration will receive a 15% discount on semester or annual memberships.

Spring 2019 courses begin in February.
Visit immaculata.edu/academics/lifelong-learning-institute
or call 484-323-3238 to learn more and sign up for the mailing list.





COLA: It's the Real Thing A Genuine Possibility for 2019

LEGISLATIVE AND L/PEC FALL, 2018, UPDATE

Steve Kupsov Legislative and L/PEC Chairs Delaware County



POSITION PAPER COURTESY OF DAVID NOYES

It has been sixteen (16) years since PSERS and SERS annuitants have received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). It is understandable that there is uncertainty and doubt that it will happen soon. Act 9 of 2001 in Pennsylvania gave potential annuitants the opportunity to increase their annual pension by electing to increase the multiplier in the pension formula from 2.0% to 2.5%. There was no adjustment for retirees who left service prior to Act 9 of 2001. Because it was perceived that Act 9 was so generous to retirees of the State and School Districts, legislators have not authorized a COLA since 2002.

It is no secret that fixed incomes have suffered due to the cost of living and inflation over the past sixteen years. With no COLA the annual pension continues to have less buying power. That fact is equivalent to having a reduction in the annual pension every year of retirement.

Many retirees who retired prior to the legislation of 2001 find themselves in dire straits regarding their pension and increased living costs. The most extreme examples have to do with the seven remaining retirees of schools from the 1960's. Their average annual pension from PSERS is a meager \$9,000 per year, a figure well below the poverty level. Some pre-Act 9 retirees do not even



receive Social Security benefits. It is obvious that these circumstances cannot be allowed to continue and a COLA must be passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature.

The COLA will happen. It will not come about, however, in 2018, an election year. Work has been steady at the time of this writing to ensure its future passage, with PASR at the forefront of the initiative. The organizations for whom the COLA is of great importance will need to unite to form a coalition for its eventual passage. Among the groups to work with PASR include Pennsylvania State Education Association Retired (PSEA-R), Pennsylvania Association of Retired State Employees (PARSE), and Pennsylvania State Troopers Association (PSTA). It is expected that support for a COLA will also come from Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers (PFT), American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

PASR is working closely with PSERS to ensure that the costs and legislative language of a COLA are practical and feasible. Mark McKillop, PASR Executive Director, and Jeff Hunsicker, PASR lobbyist, have put the COLA initiative at the forefront of their legislative and political concerns. Their expertise and energy speak well for the future of a cost of living adjustment. Their work is fully supported by the PASR Board and the Legislative Committee and Legislative/Political Education Committee (L/PEC) of PASR.

Mark and Jeff in their communications with legislators and potential coalition organizations, emphasize two main points with respect to a COLA: 1.) PASR advocates a COLA for all retirees, with emphasis on Pre-Act 9 annuitants and 2.) The COLA Coalition will explore all sources of revenue to fund an annual COLA including non-traditional sources.

A COLA is long overdue for Pennsylvania public pension annuitants. Rest assured that its eventuality is a major PASR concern and initiative. Because the COLA passage is a "wedge issue", the 2018 election and future Pennsylvania elections will be determining factors. It will take a lot of work and support from across the State to make it happen. Only then, will the long-awaited Cost of Living Adjustment become the real thing.

80+ BOOK DONATION MARKS PASR 80TH ANNIVERSARY



This year, each chapter was tasked with commemorating PASR's 80th anniversary celebration in some way. Our Delaware County Chapter marked the event by donating 80+ books to the **Bernardine Center** in Chester, Pennsylvania. Bookplates were designed to identify the gift books, and members gathered to sort and label the books.



This book was donated to the

BERNARDINE CENTER

by

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees
DELAWARE COUNTY CHAPTER

Celebrating PASR's 80th Anniversary

A book is a gift you can open again and again.

1937-2017

Bookplate design for Bernardine

Center book donation



The mission of the Bernardine Center is to provide a helping hand to low-income Chester area residents. The center director said that the books are a welcome addition to the family education

programs

offered by

the Center.

2018 Installation Ceremony



At our Chapter meeting in April, 2018, Judith Guise, Region 1 Director, (far right) conducted the installation ceremony for our Chapter officers and committee chair: Anne Mosakowski, President (Front), Kathryn Flagg, Secretary (L), John Della Guardia, Social Services and Memorial Honor Fund and Newsletter Chair (Center), Harry Hill, III,

Treasurer (R). A full list of the leadership team is posted on our website, <u>delcopasr.org</u>, on the Chapter Leadership page.

After the installations, outgoing

Chapter President, Steve Kupsov, presented our new President with two gavels. The smaller one is for calling meetings to order. The larger is for the times when greater emphasis is required. Following the gavel presentation, Anne presented Steve with an award plaque for his dedicated three years of service to Delco PASR. Steve will continue to serve as the Legislative & L/PEC chair.



PASR RECREO DAY TRIPS - FALL, 2018

Family & friends are always welcome - Plan to join us for great trips





FABULOUS FASHION: From Dior's New Look To Now, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Friday, October 12, 10 AM, \$10. pp Special viewing before the exhibit opens to the public. Designs by Pierre Cardin, Balenciaga, Oscar de la Renta, Geoffrey Beene & more. Explore the drama and glamour of some of the most creative fashions ever designed. Lunch on your own in the Museum Café. Deadline: October 10 Carpooling

<u>BRIGADOON</u> Candlelight Dinner Theatre, Arden, DE, Sunday, October 28, 11 AM, \$63 pp, includes delicious buffet (11 AM) and show (1 PM). Brigadoon, a musical, involves two Americans

on a Scottish hunting trip who get lost in the woods and come upon the magical village of Brigadoon. Rising out of the Scottish mist only once every 100 years and only for one day, it is an enchanted place where life is simpler and easier, untouched by the worries of the modern world. Love ensues. Very limited tickets.

Deadline: October 14 Carpooling

PHILLY POPS CHRISTMAS SHOW, Verizon Hall, Phila., Sunday, December 2, 3 PM, \$68.50 pp. A tradition that kicks off the Philadelphia holiday season with Broadway legend, Todd Ellison, as guest conductor, and featuring "Hamilton's" Mandy Gonzalez, the Philly Pops Festival Chorus, the Philadelphia Boys' Choir, and the award-winning African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir. An extravaganza with 300 performers on stage. Our members really enjoyed this trip last Christmas. We have the same wonderful seats again. Van transportation is available for an additional cost. Deadline: Our seats are almost sold out



THE NUTCRACKER, performed by the Brandywine Ballet Company at West Chester University Asplundh Concert Hall, Saturday, December 15, 3 PM, \$38 pp (senior rate).

You will love this holiday classic with Tchaikovsky's timeless score. Be transported with Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy to the magical Land of Sweets. The Brandywine Ballet Co. performers range from 11 to 18 and are the precursors to the professional Brandywine Ballet Theatre. (I have seen them perform and they are marvelous.) Join us for brunch on your own at the Rams Diner (before you get to WCU) at 1:00. Wonderful menu, nostalgic diner. **Deadline: Nov. 1**

AMERICAN BANDSTAND — A PHILADELPHIA STORY, Sunday, May 5, 2019, Verizon Hall in Philadelphia, 3 PM, \$77 pp. Celebrate the early years (1952-1964) of American Bandstand when Philly was the Pop center of the world. Program includes: At the Hop, The Twist, Pretty Little Angel Eyes, etc., featuring a tribute to Bobby Rydell, Frankie Avalon, and Fabian. The Doo Wop Project performs these hits. Van transportation will be available for those interested.

Deadline: Now until tickets are sold out

PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE TO REGISTER FOR ALL TRIPS



RECREO - Registration Form (Please note DEAL Call or email Caroline for information on van tran Please make checks payable lo: DELAWARE COUN Mail lo: CAROLINE FEDENA, 184 SUNSET VIEW	sportation - 484-574-0784 or c_fedena@yahoo.com TY PASR		
I am purchasing the following trip(s) (Please indicate	e how many tickets you are purchasing.)		
Fabulous Fashion- \$10, Trip date Oct. 12	The Nutcracker - \$38, Trip date Dec. 15		
Brigadoon - \$63, Trip date Oct. 28	American Bandstand: The Doo Wop Project -		
Philly Pops - \$68.50, Trip date Dec. 2	\$77, Trip date May 5, 2019		
Name(s)	Номе Рноме		
Address	CELL		
E-MAIL ADDRESS	I can drive others in carpool drive you home depending on where you live)		
MARK YOUR CALENDAR			
2018 PASR	PRESENTATION: Scams Awareness and Protection		
	- Charles Quinn, Esq.		
Eall Calabuation			
Fall Celebration	Charles Quinn is a retired trial lawyer		
Of Service Luncheon	Charles Quinn is a retired trial lawyer with 50 years' experience in the profession and almost 10 years of		

Granite Farms Estates
1343 Baltimore Pike
Media, PA
November 7, 2018
11:30-Social 12:00-Lunch

Charles Quinn is a retired trial lawyer with 50 years' experience in the profession and almost 10 years of teaching experience in Widner and Immaculata Universities' senior programs. Quinn will present important information, tips and strategies concerning senior protection and will discuss senior protection resources available in Pennsylvania.

-PASR Board of Directors Citation

- John J. Dillon Service Award

- Committee Service Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- President's 20-Year Recognition Awards

Watch your mail - Invitations and more information will be arriving soon

DELAWARE COUNTY **COUNCIL ISSUES** RESOLUTION Honoring PASR's 80TH **ANNIVERSARY**

At their June 6, 2018, meeting, the Delaware **County Council issued a Resolution commending** and congratulating PASR on our 80 years of dedicated service to the community.

The Council acknowledged that **Delaware County is** fortunate to have organizations such as **PASR** whose members give consistently of their time, talent and resources, thereby improving the lives of **Delaware County** residents.

The Council proclaimed June 28, 2018, as PASR Day.



MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolution

Whereas, Delaware County is fortunate to have organizations whose members give consistently of their time, talent and resources to improve the lives of residents throughout the county; and

Whereas, one such organization is the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) established on December 28, 1937, comprised of former teachers, nurses, secretaries, aides, bus drivers, cafeteria workers. counselors, maintenance staff, and administrators who volunteer their time toward the well-being of children, the elderly, and those in need; and

Whereas, members of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees contribute to the local community by donating to food banks, clothing banks. and libraries and recognize the outstanding achievements of public school educators and employees through educational grants and awards, as well as supporting students obtaining a higher education through scholarships; and

Whereas, PASR is celebrating its 80th Anniversary of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is comprised of approximately 66 chapters throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that We, the County Council of Delaware County, hereby commend and congratulate

The Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

on their 80 years of dedicated service to the community and do hereby proclaim June 28, 2018, as PASR DAY and encourage all residents to recognize this special observance.



Proclaimed: June 6, 2018

Delaware County

The 2018 Spring Luncheon ...was A Celebration of Success in Education

The PASR Delaware County Chapter Spring Awards Luncheon is a celebration of educational successes among our students and staff members. Each year, our Educational Support Committee is challenged with choosing student and staff recipients for scholarships and grant awards. In addition, Delco PASR also honors students for their success at the Annual Delaware County Science Fair held at Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Special thanks to Educational Support Committee Chair, John Ruth, and his committee members for their efforts in choosing this year's recipients. These are the 2018 scholarship and award winners.

FRANK MONAGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Emma Burhop, Haverford High School

DR. LAURETTA WOODSON AWARDS, PENN-DELCO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teacher Award - Lindsay Grazel, Art Teacher - Sun Valley High School Support Professional - Lisa Grosso, Paraprofessional, Pennell Elementary School

DR. LAURETTA WOODSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Melanie Dempsey, Chichester High School Michael McGarrigle, Springfield High School

EDUCATIONAL GRANT AWARDS, WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kate O'Boyle, Special Education Teacher - Ardmore Avenue Elementary School Brian F. McCarry - Special Education Teacher, Bell Avenue Elementary School

DELAWARE COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR PASR CATEGORY AWARDS

Arathi Pillai, Springfield High School - Behavioral and Social Science Cameron Decker, E.T. Richardson Middle School - Medicine & Health Johanna Joy McCabe, Upper Darby High School - Zoology Yen Nguyen and Doreen Sampeur, Upper Darby High School - Team Projects





Delco PASR Secretary, Kathryn Flagg, presents Scholarship award to Melanie Dempsey



Delco PASR President, Anne Mosakowski, presents Scholarship award to Michael McGarrigle.

2018 Delco PASR student and teacher scholarship, grant and award winners

Congratulations to Dr. Janice HoffmanWillis, our Public Relations Chairperson, and her Luncheon Committee for executing another delicious and enjoyable event. Her message to all members is, "Please join us for Fall Luncheon, 2018, where we will honor our dedicated volunteers and our 20year members." (See next page for details.)

Looking forward to next year's **Celebration of Success in Education**, the Educational Support Committee will again work toward recommending awards and grants for students, teachers, and support professionals. Scholarship applications may be downloaded from our website, delcopasr.org.

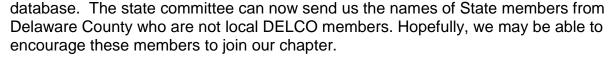
Continued on next page-

2018 SPRING LUNCHEON – A Celebration of Success in Education – Continued from page 9

Recommendations for the teacher and support person a wards will be made by the selected-school district's administrators. Science Fair winners are named by the fair's judges. The grant winner is determined by applications from teachers in the selected school district. Senior students from Delaware County public schools who intend to work toward a career in education are eligible for the scholarship awards, which total \$11,000. All awards will be presented at the chapter's May Awards Luncheon.

Membership Directory Report

Some good news: Last year the State membership committee adopted a "unified database". Now, our local Chapter membership file is a separate file in the State





John Ruth.

Support

Educational

Hank Field Membership Directory

Some sad news: This year, 33 annual members who have <u>not</u> renewed for three years since 2012 have been removed from the membership file. Unfortunately our membership has gone down from 1038 to 849 members since 2012 due to some passing away, unable to locate or non renewal. If you know a retired DELCO school district employee who is not a member of DELCO PASR, please ask them to join. In the past, new members have joined us because of a personal invitation from someone they know.

Social Service Memorial Honor Fund (SSMHF)

The function of PASR's Social Service Memorial Honor Fund (SSMHF) is to help members in need. That is, retirees who become ill and are confined to their home, hospital or skilled nursing facility; become a victim of a catastrophe; or experience severe financial stress.

What is the Fund Used For?

The fund exists to help members in need, to provide moral support, offer financial assistance, and to provide gifts and visits to the sick and



"homebound." Contributions to the MHF are used entirely for helping members in times of emotional and financial distress. All administrative costs are paid from the PASR General Fund, not taken from contributions to the MHF.

Since the SSMHF's inception, statewide the Association has provided more than \$100,000 in direct financial aid to

members in serious need. For some, the assistance has come in the form of a stipend to help with ongoing living

expenses. For most, the Fund has helped fix or buy something the person could otherwise not have afforded. Statewide, hundreds of needy members have benefitted over the years from home repairs in the wake of fires and tornadoes, car repairs, purchase of handicapped equipment, debt reduction, etc. — all provided through the generous contributions that members gave to the MHF. Often, emotional support is more important than direct financial assistance.

How can you help?

Of course, donations are always welcome, and it is only through donations that the SSMHF will be able to continue to assist members in need. Another way to help is by sharing information. Let members in need know that help may be available through the Delco SSMHF. More information is available on the Delco PASR website, <u>delcopasr.org</u>, or contact the Delco SSMHF committee chair, John Della Guardia, 610-420-6749



COMMUNITY SERVICE SURVEY

TO ALL PASR MEMBERS - Thank you for being a volunteer in our community!

PASR Chapters are interested in documenting the hours of service that volunteer retirees contribute to their local communities. In doing this, our volunteers show the community at large a positive picture of the activities of public school retirees. Please take a moment to complete this form, filling in the appropriate number of hours PER YEAR that you volunteer. A summary of this information is shared with AARP, NRTA, and PASR Headquarters.

EDUCATIONAL Historical Assn Library School Board Other Total SOCIAL SERVICES Boards/Committees Cancer Society Drug/Alcohol Fire/Ambulance Fraternal Groups Hospital/Nursing Home Meals on Wheels Office of the Aging Red Cross Salvation Army	HRS/YR	RELIGIOUS Adult Instruction Youth Instruction Organization Visitation Other Total SERVICES TO YOUTH Alliance to Youth Classroom Volunteer Head Start Latch-Key Program Literacy Scholarships School Volunteer Sports Tutoring	HRS/YR
Service Organization		YMCA/YWCA	
Soup Kitchen/Food Bank		Other	
Visitation/Nurturing Other		Total	
Total		I have served in special I	eadership roles as
POLITICAL Advocacy Elections Government Other Total		follows:	
Name			
Total Hrs. / Year / All Catego	ries Chapter		
Phone Number	Date	E-Mail	
	unted, and, YES , consider m unted, but DO NOT consider		

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Harry Hill, 67 Hidden Valley Road, Aston, PA 19014 by January 19, 2019

Please use a second sheet of paper to clarify or to provide a more detailed description of your involvement with any activities not listed..

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees PASR -- Delaware County Chapter c/o John R. Della Guardia, Editor 11 King Court Boothwyn, PA 19061-4253

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VOLUNTEERISM It comes as no surprise Thanks that retired school Volunteers! employees are among the most active, involved people in their communities.

Please continue to keep track of your volunteer/community service hours. Use the form on page 11. Send your Community Service Survey to Harry Hill at 67 Hidden Valley Road, Aston, PA 19014 by January 19, 2019