

Newsletter

Volume 31, No. 2
Fall, 2023

www.delcopasr.org

John R. Della Guardia, Editor
Delaware County, Pennsylvania

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Janice HoffmanWillis, President



In this newsletter, you will see that our Chapter is on the move and has made significant strides. I am grateful for the incredible support from the Chapter's dedicated Board and Planning Committee Members. We are eagerly anticipating another year of service to our members.

Given that a number of our members are aged 90 or older and unable to actively participate, we are committed to maintaining contact with them. To achieve this goal, we need your involvement. As the saying goes, "Reach One, Teach One," Just so, I urge you to "Reach One and Serve One." Let us kickstart this effort with a Pen-Pal campaign. If you are interested, please get in touch with me to share your ideas at delcopasr03@gmail.com.

The Chapter decided to support the Chester Upland School District. During our Spring Luncheon, the Advisor for Chester High School's *Clippers Closet* was granted a \$500 educational grant for supplies. *Clippers Closet* is a closet full of donated hygiene products and diapers for the Chester High School student body. The proceeds from our basket raffle were donated to the Closet.



As part of our annual fundraising activities, we participated in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Charity Campaign. A special thank you to those who took time out of their busy schedules to contribute to the success of this event.

In June, sadly, we said goodbye to one of PASR's most dedicated members, Stephen Kupsov. In honor of his service, as well as three other former chapter leaders: Robert Collier, Henry (Hank) Field, and Dr. Margaret Wales, the chapter will host a Luncheon on December 6, 2023, at Granite Farms Estate. The luncheon will be dedicated to the memory of

these four untiring Delco PASR advocates. The Luncheon Invitation is included in this newsletter.

Our chapter is still in need of a President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Chair for Legislative matters. We warmly welcome anyone interested in becoming more involved in your PASR Chapter, possibly even co-chairing one of our committees. In our next Newsletter, you can learn about the various Committees, and possibly one (or more) of them may strike your interest. Come join us at a meeting. Meeting dates and times are listed in this Newsletter. It's not ALL work. The fellowship is extremely rewarding. Contact me at any time for more information.

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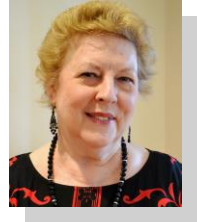
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Make the most of your retirement with PASR Member Benefits

pasr.org/membership/member-benefits/

Membership Notes

Sue Stevens
Membership Chair



Fall/Winter Greetings to all my fellow PASR members. It's good to be seeing everyone again after the long Covid siege. I hope you all are getting out and around and seeing people and doing things.

For those of you who are Annual Chapter Members, it will be time to renew for next year before you know it. Reminder letters go out in June. We are offering a new opportunity for you! If you choose to renew for a five-year period, your dues will be \$50.00; a savings of \$25.00. Hopefully, this is something you will find advantageous. Remember, our memberships help PASR out in Harrisburg, where we are fighting for, and getting closer to, a COLA for all of us. We are PASR strong!

You know we are always trying to grow the organization, so I hope you will reach out to fellow school retirees who are not PASR members and urge them to join us. We are always looking for new points of view and especially for some younger retirees to join our ranks. Many of those who hold offices in the organization are reaching a point where we would like to turn over some responsibilities to new folks. You could be that person and put your personal stamp on our activities. Think about it, won't you?! Thanks so much!



DELAWARE COUNTY PASR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name _____ Phone (Home) _____

Address _____ Phone (Cell) _____

City/State/Zip _____ Email _____

Year Retired _____ District Retired from _____

Position Held _____ Birth Date _____

DUES: Annual \$15.00 _____ Life \$250.00 _____ Associate* \$10.00 _____

*Associate memberships: anyone interested in the work of PASR; active school employees age 50 or more; former teachers who are not annuitants of a school employee retirement system; former school employees retired from a non-public school; spouses of active members. Associate members shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

RECRUITED BY (if applicable): _____

NOTE: To become a member of the **State PASR**, please also include those dues as follows:

STATE PASR DUES: Annual \$60.00 _____ 3 Years \$150.00 _____ *Half-Life _____ Life \$700.00 _____

*Half-Life membership in the state organization is 2 payments of \$350.00. Please see PASR.org

Please make all checks payable to: **Delaware County PASR**

Please mail checks and applications to: **Sue Stevens, 2955 Summit Circle, Aston, PA 19014-1624**



2023/2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Members are encouraged to attend. The meetings are open to all. You can just listen if you prefer. But whatever you choose, you will enjoy the camaraderie and the fellowship. And you'll see some work get done, too. Currently, meetings are held at the Aston Library, 3270 Concord Road, Aston, PA 19014-1939. The start time is 10:30.

--Wednesday, March 6, 2024,

--Wednesday, April 1, 2024,

--Wednesday, May 1, 2024 (2024 Spring Luncheon, more information coming soon),

--Wednesday, June 5, 2024

The 2023 Spring Luncheon

A Celebration of Excellence in Education

Mary Anne
Caporaletti
Educational
support
Committee
Chair



The **Spring Luncheon** was the 114th meeting of the **Delaware County Chapter of PASR**. It was a celebration of educational excellence 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 Engineering and Science Fair held at Delaware County Intermediate Unit. Special thanks to Educational Support Committee Chair, Mary Anne Caporaletti and the educational committee members for their efforts in choosing this year's recipients. These are

the 2023 scholarship and award winners. Pictured Left to Right are:

Lisa Mangini and Students (Chester Upland School District) - \$1200. Delco PASR Educational Grant
Malachi Holmes, The Chester Charter Scholars Academy/CCSA) -- \$3000. Woodson Scholarship
Azharis Smith, The Chester Charter Scholars Academy -- \$1000. Monaghan Scholarship
Hope Gladfelter, **Adi Lyer**, **Diya Lyer**, **Aditya Joshi** (not pictured) -- \$50. Awards Science Fair Winners
Marianne Martin and **Renee Dixon**, Interboro Staff -- \$100. Woodson Educational Awards
Chassidy King, Chester High School -- \$500. Delco PASR Educational Grant



Kathryn Flagg-Justice (R) presents scholarship flyer to CCSA counselor



Steve Kupsov
Malachi Holmes



Nancy Graham
Azharis Smith-Monaghan



Chris Eaton/Marianne Martin

Anne
Mosakowski
and Del. Co.
Science and
Engineering
Award
Winners Hope
Gladfelter,
Diya and Adi
Lyer.

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Community Service Committee

Phyllis Simmons

Volunteerism

As a member of Delco PASR, we all worked in a school setting with the goal of doing our part in making a difference in the lives of students. Now as a retiree, there is still the desire, and the opportunity, to make a difference. The challenge is: how to do so. One way is to volunteer. By sharing your time and talents with others, you can make a positive impact in our community.



And don't forget... there are benefits from volunteering, such as making new connections and friends, providing a sense of purpose, using your expertise, empowering others, and strengthening our community. Organizations are always looking for volunteers. Examples are retiree groups (like ours), libraries, churches, animal rescues, shelters, civic organizations, and political groups.

Our PASR Chapter reports the community service hours submitted by our members to our and other state organizations. The form, **Community Service Survey**, used to submit your volunteer hours will be in the next newsletter. Please volunteer! We all need your help in continuing to serve and support one another. And, please report all your volunteer time on our survey form.

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."-Maya Angelou

Delco PASR member, **Mary Payne**, supervising Youths at a Community Day in Upper Chichester Township, PA. They were there to help with children's games and with gifts for the Seniors



Celebration of Service Luncheon

On the next page, you'll find your invitation to our Winter Luncheon: **"A Celebration of Service."** In addition to our usual activities, we plan to honor the memory of four former chapter leaders who were instrumental in the development of Delco PASR: Steven Kupsov, Robert Collier, Henry (Hank) Field, and Dr. Margaret Wales.

This year, the luncheon venue is Granite Farms Estates. The service and menu offerings there have always been delightful, and we're happy to be able to return. There is ample parking.

As we usually do, we encourage your donation of canned or dry goods to help The Bernardine Food Pantry of Chester feed those with food insecurity.

Delco PASR is launching a new initiative this year, and we're kicking it off at the Winter Celebration of Service Luncheon. It's called **SOLES 4 SOULS**. Member Mary Payne brought this program to our attention and will spearhead it. **SOLES 4 SOULS** accepts "gently used" shoes for shipment to developing countries, thereby extending the life of shoes that might otherwise be prematurely discarded. They have also partnered with schools and community-based nonprofit organizations across the country. So, please check your closets for those shoes that you no longer wear but have plenty of wear left in them. Your invitation is on the next page.



PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees ~ Delaware County Chapter

Celebration of Service Luncheon

Honoring

Steven Kupsov~Robert Collier~Henry (Hank) Field~Dr. Margaret Wales

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Granite Farms Estates

1343 W. Baltimore Pike, Media PA

\$25.00 per Person -Family and friends are invited

11:30am~ Social/Appetizers

12:00~ Lunch

Holiday 50-50 Raffle

Please RSVP and send payment by December 1, 2023.

Make checks payable to DELCO PASR (Response Envelope Enclosed)

Please consider bringing a canned or dry-food donation for the Bernardine Food Panty in Chester, PA
and don't forget to bring your Gently Used shoes for SOLES 4 SOULS



PASR Celebration of Service Luncheon

\$25.00 per Person. Please RSVP with check payable to Delco PASR.

Send to: Dr. Janice HoffmanWillis, 1437 Fresno Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803

Deadline: December 1, 2023 (Response Envelope Enclosed)

Your Name _____ Phone _____

(Please list additional names and food choices on another sheet)

(If we need to contact you)

No. Attending: _____ Indicate number of each: _____ Fish _____ Chicken _____

School District from which you retired. We'll try to seat you together. _____

Some members have inquired about ways to help with Delco PASR initiatives.

We offer these possibilities:

DONATION TO

Social Services – helps retired public school employees in need of financial and emotional support\$ _____

Bernardine Center – the Center's Food Pantry is a primary focus for Delco PASR support\$ _____

Scholarships – supports our scholarship and grant program\$ _____

L-PEC – a legislative voice for all school retirees, works for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)\$ _____

Luncheon: Number of lunches: _____ @ \$25 each\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

The luncheon invitation is posted on our website: www.delcopasr.org

Remember - Relatives and Friends are invited to attend!

LEGISLATIVE AND L/PEC

WINTER 2023, UPDATE, PART 2

Our goal of achieving a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for school retirees is one step closer to becoming reality. A COLA finally has been proposed: House Bill 1415, sponsored by Representative Dan Deasy, and House Bill 1416, sponsored by Representative Steven Malagari. Both representatives, alongside Senators Katie Muth, Vince Hughes, and John Kane, advocated for this critical legislation - legislation for which PASR has been campaigning for many years



Further, Senator Katie Muth introduced two bills (SB 951 and 952) that would provide pre-Act 9 retirees a COLA in their pensions, and she has also introduced a comprehensive COLA (SB 864) that was drafted by PASR. SB 864 would provide a one-time COLA to pre-Act 9 retirees of between 15 and 24.5 percent, and it would also provide an automatic COLA, determined by the inflation rate, to all PSERS annuitants every three years! This bill does provide for limits on the automatic COLA, such as limiting it to a 7% maximum, to help control the cost to the state government, which would fund the entire COLA, so that school districts do not need to pay more and further squeeze their budgets. There are other limits as well, but this would be the first ever automatic COLA in PA history! PASR does not want to get everyone's hopes up, as the odds of the General Assembly adopting this bill are very small, but it is worth sharing, and, who knows....crazier things have happened!

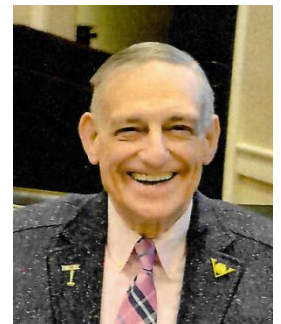
The importance of COLA supporters reaching out to their local representatives and voicing their support for House Bill 1415 and House Bill 1416 can never be overstated. Make your voice heard and, together, we can ensure that retired school employees receive the support they deserve.



Steven K. Kupsov June 1, 1943 ~ June 24, 2023

It is with heartfelt sadness that we report our faithful member, Stephen K. Kupsov, passed away on June 23, 2023. Steve has been Delco PASR's Past President, Legislative Chair, and Regional and State L/PEC Chairs over the last twenty years.

Under his chairmanship, our chapter has benefited immensely. He kept us abreast of all legislative matters, particularly his most significant interest, the COLA update for those who retired before Act 9. He chaired our By-laws Committee, and orchestrated meetings for our members to meet their elected officials throughout the years. He served on numerous other Chapter committees and brought immeasurable energy and enthusiasm to our Delaware Country Chapter.



In 2022, Steve received the John Dillon Award for his selfless service and dedication to promoting the interests of serving the needs of our members. At the same time, he inspired future generations to join PASR.

Steve is also the recipient of the Fred McKillop Award. Currently, he is the only PASR member to be the recipient of both awards. Steve Kupsov was an example of our Motto: "To Serve, Not To Be Served."

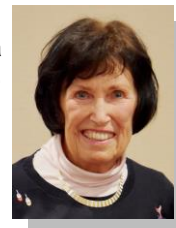
PASR RECREO DAY TRIPS

SPRING, 2023

Family & friends are always welcome

Plan to join us for great trips.

Caroline Fedena
RECREO Chair.

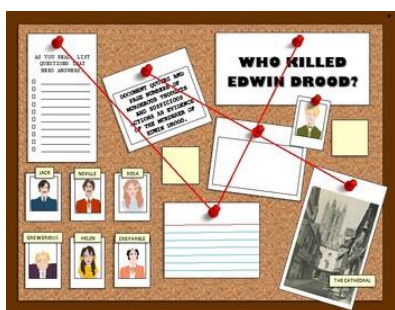


Please consider joining us at one or more of the following offerings.



"COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" -- Sunday, December 17, 3 PM, \$35 per person. Patio at Archmere Academy, Claymont, DE. Mastersingers from 1980's to present perform Christmas favorites such as Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Beautiful concert followed by High Tea reception in the holiday-attired Patio. **DEADLINE: December 1.**

"YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN" -- Saturday, December 23, 2 PM, \$27.50 per person (Senior Rate). Swarthmore Players Club, Swarthmore, PA. Music & lyrics by Mel Brooks. Grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced Fronk-en-steen) inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. **DEADLINE: December 1.**



"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD" -- Wednesday, March 20, 11 AM, \$70.50 per person. Candlelight Dinner Theatre. Arden, DE. Based on Charles Dickens's unfinished novel, this hilarious whodunit was a smash on Broadway. It calls on the audience to determine the ending of the mystery by choosing the identity of the murderer. Includes dinner and show. **DEADLINE: December 1.**

"9 TO 5, THE MUSICAL" -- Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 11 AM, \$70.50 per person. Candlelight Dinner Theatre. Arden, DE. Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. Based on the 1980 hit movie. Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with their sexist egotistical bigot of a boss. Includes dinner and a show. **DEADLINE: August 1.**



RECREO REGISTRATION FORM – please note deadlines listed

For more information, contact Caroline Fedena: c_fedena@yahoo.com or 484-574-0784

Please mail the form below with your check payable to **DELAWARE COUNTY PASR to:**

CAROLINE FEDENA, 184 SUNSET VIEW DRIVE, GLEN MILLS, PA 19342

I am interested in the following trip(s) **(Please indicate how many tickets you are purchasing.)**

____ **Coming Home for Christmas** -- \$35.00

____ **Mystery of Edwin Drood** -- \$70.50

____ **Young Frankenstein** -- \$27.50

____ **9 to 5 The Musical** -- \$70.50

NAME(S) _____

HOME PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

____ I can drive others in carpool.

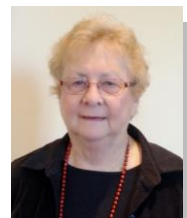
(If you have a problem driving, we may be able to arrange transportation depending on where you live)



Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees
PASR -- Delaware County Chapter
c/o Susan Stevens, Membership
2955 Summit Circle
Aston, PA 19014-1624

Member Benefits and Services

Chris Eaton
Member Benefits
and Services



Do you know all the member benefits you can access if you have state membership in PASR? Check out our Delco PASR website for the full list. Two popular benefits are dental and vision insurance.

On October 9, Nancy Mays, a staff member of PASR, had an online presentation of these insurances. If you are interested, I can Email this presentation to you for viewing at your leisure. And, if have any questions about the dental or vision program, please feel free to contact me at ace19014@verizon.net or call me at 610-246-8640. I would be happy to answer any questions.

On a personal note, I have dental and vision insurance and have been satisfied with both. Also, the vision insurance can be used at Costco as well as other optical facilities. This really cuts the price of glasses. I take the plan that offers yearly exams and a pair of glasses. I see an ophthalmologist with no additional charge.