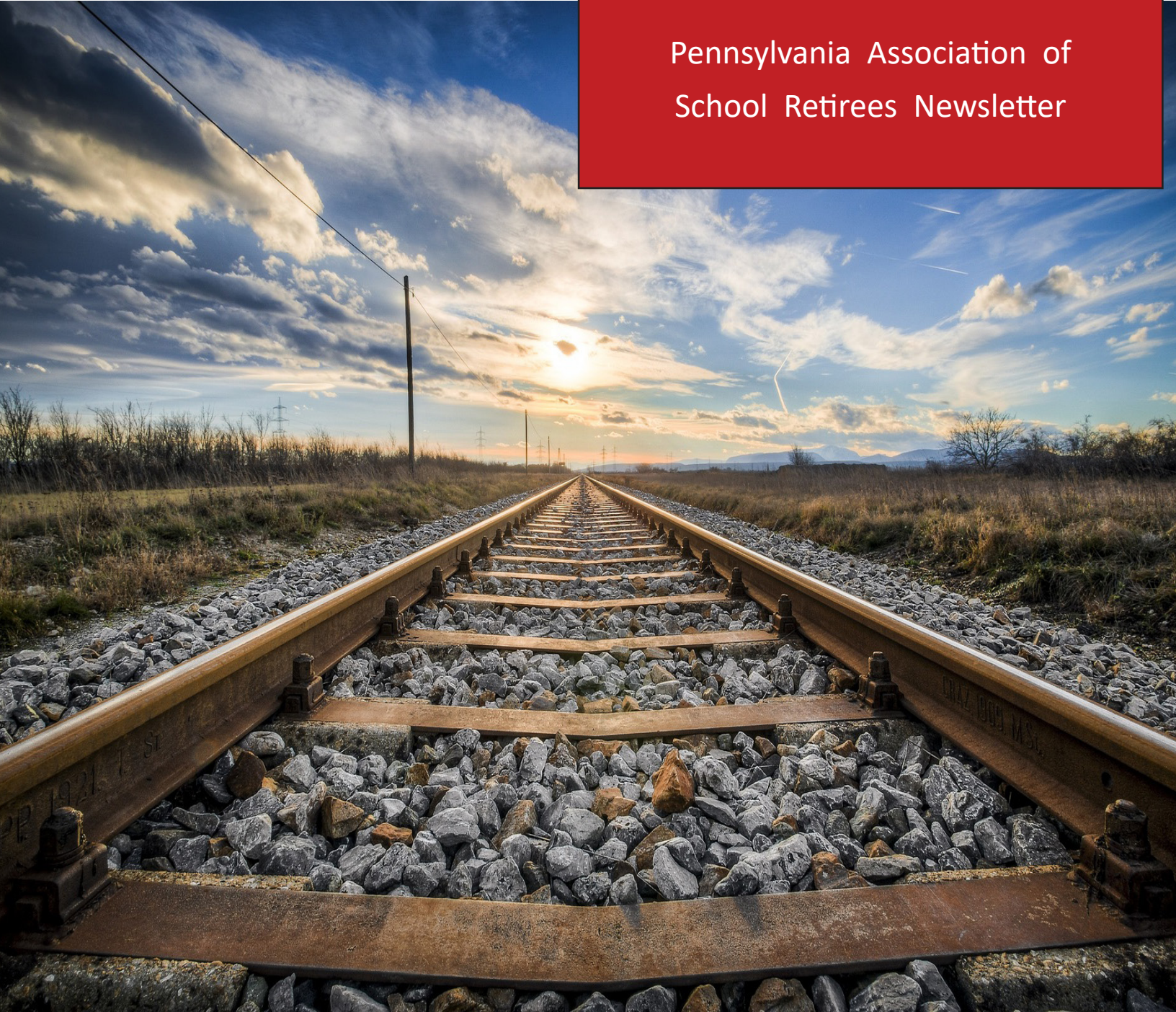


# PASR Times

Pennsylvania Association of  
School Retirees Newsletter



JUNE 2023

VOLUME 79

ISSUE NUMBER 4

ISSN-0194-8776

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# President's Message

## William D. Neugebauer, PASR President

The summer is well underway, and Linda and I have been keeping busy! In April,

we attended the Region 6 meeting in Ebensburg and were warmly received by familiar faces and made new friends along the way. Our next trip took us to Wellsboro for a Region 10 meeting, where Nan Rusczyk, Judith Yorks, and other Region members extended a warm welcome.

In April, we had the pleasure of holding the Board of Directors meeting in Mechanicsburg, marking the first face-to-face gathering this year. It was wonderful to see the Board members in person and discuss various important matters. We have shared much of the meeting's outcomes via email and Facebook, and you can find more information about it in this Newsletter.

Following the Board meeting, Linda and I traveled to Drums, PA, to meet with the Region 3 folks. There, Judy Schaffer and I presented our program, "A Shot of J&B," and engaged in an informative Q&A session with the attentive and welcoming Region members. We extend our gratitude to Bob McNamara and Region 3 for their kind invitation.

Our travels also brought us to our local Blair County Chapter meeting, where we joyously welcomed 55 members and celebrated PASR's 85th Birthday with a delicious cake and festive hats. Additionally, I had the privilege of presenting a Laurretta Woodson award to a teacher from the Blair County Chapter during the Bellwood-Antis School Board meeting. Soon after, we journeyed to Huntingdon for the Region 5 meeting and luncheon, where we received an invitation to the Clearfield Chapter meeting. During the Clearfield Chapter meeting, I had the opportunity to speak briefly about PASR, a topic I always enjoy discussing. The event included the presentation of a scholarship and Laurretta Woodson awards. I'm always eager to travel and promote our wonderful organization!

I proudly appointed the role of the PASR representative to the PSERS Board, which may not involve voting but holds significant importance. Our representative attends the PSERS meet-

ings, which are conducted via Zoom, and reports back to our Board of Directors on the board's proceedings. Fred Seltzer from Region 4 graciously accepted this position, and we extend our gratitude to him for stepping up, as well as to Judy Guise for serving as Fred's alternate.

Linda, our daughter Megan, and I had an incredible vacation in Myrtle Beach, SC, with our longtime friends Betty Clutter and her husband Wayne. Betty, a member of our Washington County Chapter and former Region 7 Director, made the trip even more enjoyable. We cherish the time spent together with great friends.

We also had a fantastic week with our entire family, including our daughters, son-in-law, and granddaughter, at Rehoboth Beach, DE. We indulged in a variety of seafood delicacies! During our vacations, I managed to catch up on some neglected books, but the most cherished moments were those spent with family, particularly with our granddaughter. They grow up so quickly, don't they?

Our next major events are the Board of Directors' meeting on July 26th, which will be held via Zoom, and the Meeting of the House of Delegates in October. Please ensure that you have already sent or will be sending the necessary information for our House of Delegates meeting in Cranberry, PA. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to elect PASR leadership for the next two years, consider By-Law changes, and participate in Committee discussions and Interest sessions. There will also be fantastic baskets available for auction to benefit SSMHF, which supports our members in need. There will be something for everyone!

Lastly, let's not forget about our neighbors or chapter members who may be in need. Take a moment to check on them and ensure their well-being. Many chapters encourage their members to send cards, notes, or make phone calls to those who haven't attended a meeting recently.

Remember: A day without laughter is a day wasted!

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# Executive Director Report

It is hard to put a price on a PASR membership

*By Kristen Holjes, Executive Director*

A PASR membership provides value in so many ways. Are you making the most of your membership?

Our dental and vision

programs offer significant savings. Discounts include: hearing programs, car insurance, life insurance, computers, rental cars, and flowers to name just a few. If you are interested in procuring information on elder law, we have just the person for you to talk to. If you use propane or need to refill your oil, we have the discount for you. Take advantage of one of our Winter Educational Zooms that will be offered in the winter of 2024. Visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to find the most up to date information on the potential savings you could be missing out on.

If travel is what you are looking for, PASR offers one domestic and one international trip per year at a discounted rate. Travel with former colleagues and friends on the adventure you have been looking for. Group travel is an excellent way to meet new friends while letting PASR's endorsed provider prepare a well-organized itinerary that will allow you the chance to explore.

PASR is looking into a potential Community Service Project to kick off our 2023 House of

Delegates at the Doubletree in Cranberry Township. Our more than 60 chapters do a variety of service projects in their local areas, so we are looking to coordinate efforts to maximize our success, to expand our reach, and to have a positive impact on as many people as possible.

We recognize the impact that inflation has had on our members. For some, the past few years have made it more difficult to make ends meet. PASR Social Service Memorial Fund (SSMHF) has put aside funds to help members in need of financial assistance.

PASR staff is here to help. We answer our phones between 8:30 and 4:30 from Monday through Friday. We are working hard to make your retirement enjoyable whether it be through saving you money, advocating for a cost-of-living adjustment, organizing community service opportunities and/or helping our members in need.

While the discounts PASR offers are valuable, it is our members volunteering their expertise, passion, and time that are our most valuable asset, so thank you to all of our members who make sacrifices for PASR, their communities, and their colleagues!!

## PASR Times

VOLUME 79 (ISSN-0194-8776)

NUMBER 4 | JUNE 2023

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[www.youtube.com/channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel)

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PASR Times, the official publication of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees, is published four times annually (March, June, Sept., and Dec.). Subscriptions are only by membership. Postage paid at Harrisburg, PA.

# Legislative Update

## COLA MOMENTUM IS GROWING!

*By Mark Krempa, Administrative Officer*

Thanks to the members of PASR there are a growing number of PA state legislators that are expressing support for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for PSERS annuitants! PASR members have sent, literally, thousands of messages to state legislators and have made a potential COLA a topic of conversation within the General Assembly. Please keep the messages flowing to our state legislators. A message can be found on [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org) (near the bottom of the homepage under "News and Legislative/COLA updates" is a link to this message), which you can edit, and it will automatically be sent to your state representative and state senator. It is more important than ever that we send messages to state legislators since we need to get a bill passed alongside the budget process this summer, so please encourage anyone you know to use this resource.

Senator Muth, Senator Kane, Representative Deasy, Representative Malagari and Representative Bizzarro have been spearheading the COLA effort and are, as of late May 2023, working on bills to present to the legislature. They kicked off their efforts in March with a Joint Democratic Policy Committee hearing to gather information about the need for a COLA for PSERS and SERS annuitants. PASR submitted written testimony, as did the Past President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of PASR, Debra Rucki. Additionally, S. Thomas Curry, long time PASR member and Pre-Act 9 annuitant from the Alle-Kiski chapter, submitted written and oral testimony. His testimony was moving and resonated with legislators, adding a personal component to the facts and figures offered by PASR, PSEA, PFT, AFSCME and the other groups that offered testimony that day. There are now over thirty representatives that have signed on as cosponsors of potential COLA legislation, with others expressing support as well.

PASR has been discussing a COLA with other like minded groups as well to create a strong, united push for a COLA. PASR and other groups have an impact, but the largest impact will come from constituents reaching out to their state legislators. PASR is pushing for a one-time boost to Pre-Act 9 annuitants and an automatic COLA for all PSERS annuitants including pre and post Act 9 annuitants (so another twenty years without a COLA does not reoccur!). It is of particular importance, however, that we communicate the need for Pre-Act 9 retirees to receive a COLA. Act 9, passed in 2001, gave those who retired after its passage a 25% increase in their pension by changing the multiplier used in the pension formula from 2 to 2.5. Pre-Act 9 retirees did not benefit from this change and, instead, received a much smaller COLA the following year. Additionally, they retired, generally speaking, on lower salaries than those who retired later, and their purchasing power has fallen even further due to inflation eating away at their pensions for a longer period of time. Pre-Act 9 retirees comprise approximately 20% of PSERS annuitants and their average pension is approximately 40% lower than the average post Act 9 retiree pension. A COLA for this group is desperately needed and would not add substantially to the unfunded liability of the PSERS system. So, please urge your state elected officials to pass this much needed legislation rather than allowing our honorable and deserving retired educators to live an undignified retirement.

THANK YOU!

### L/PEC Internet Donations Direct:

<https://www.pasr.org/member-donate-lpec/>

Or, you can donate by signing into the PASR Members' Only section at <https://www.pasr.org>. Then, click the Donate tab, and select Legislative/Political Education Committee Fund. This will open a Contributions page where you can enter your payment information. Then click the red "Send my Donation" button to complete your donation.

### L/PEC Mail Donations:

PASR L/PEC, 878 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Make Contribution Payable to L/PEC**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Coverage Doesn't Always Mean Protection

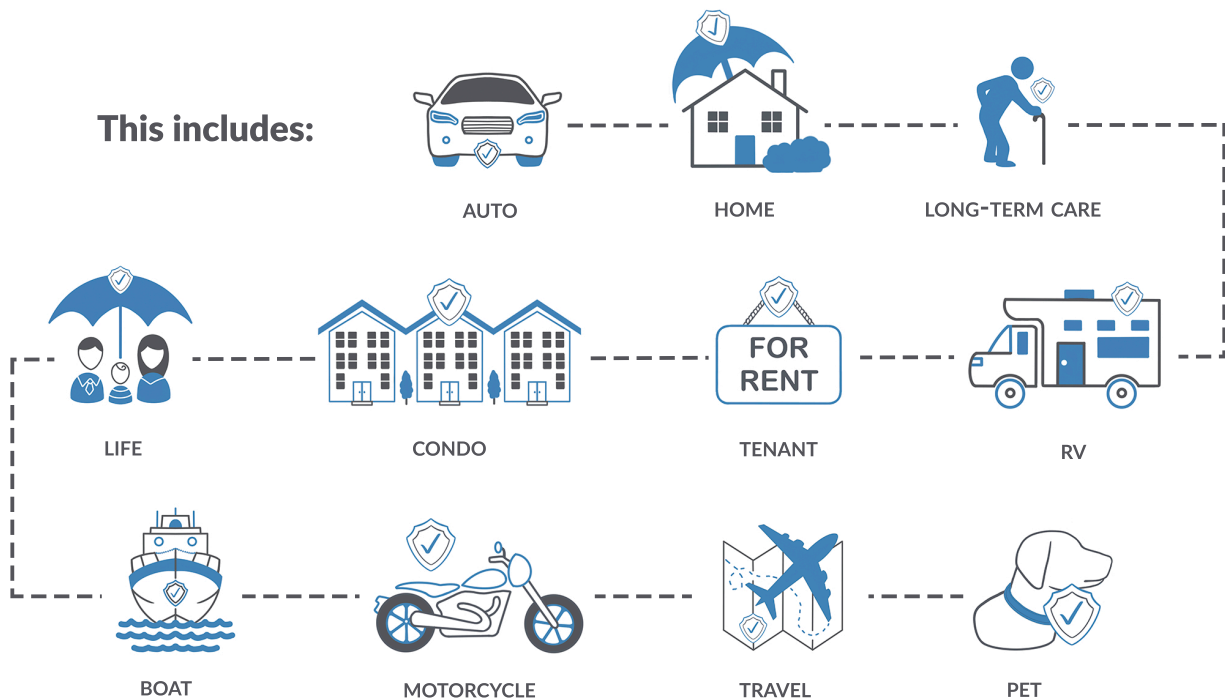
Let Us Help You Build a Custom Solution

In Partnership with  
**PASR**  
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

## Why Choose Us

Trispagonas Insurance is partnered with PASR to offer exclusive member discounts on auto and homeowner policies and a free, personal consultation. This can allow for a review of your current policies or a discussion on life insurance and long-term care planning that's specific to your situation. Trispagonas Insurance also offers other insurance solutions to cover all of your insurance needs!

This includes:



[www.trispagonas.com](http://www.trispagonas.com) • [a.trispagonas@grovefinancial.net](mailto:a.trispagonas@grovefinancial.net) • (717) 238 - 6000

**TRISPAGONAS**  
EST. **T** 2008  
**INSURANCE**

# PASR Member Benefits and Discounts Guide

With help from the Member Benefits and Services (MB&S) Committee, PASR is able to offer our members exclusive benefits, services, and discounts to help enhance our members' economic security. PASR is always on the lookout for new and exciting ways to help our members save money. The following pages contain a summary of benefits, services, and discounts that are exclusive to PASR members.

**Check our website for rapidly changing discounts! To access the websites or discount codes needed to unlock PASR Members' Only rates, current PASR members can log in to [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) and navigate to the Discounts & Benefits page.**

## Health and Wellness

**UNITED CONCORDIA® DENTAL**  
Protecting More Than Just Your Smile®

**United Concordia - Dental Insurance**  
1-800-332-0366 | [ucci.com](http://ucci.com)

PASR offers access to the premier United Concordia Dental insurance you need to stay healthy – at affordable members-only rates. The price of a single service without dental insurance allows this plan to easily pay for itself!

PASR members enjoy industry leading discounts on in-network dentists and specialists, allowing you to minimize your costs and worry less about exceeding your annual maximum.

United Concordia also provides a strong national network of participating providers, allowing you to find your dentist from one of the largest (and still growing) local and national networks in the nation. United Concordia works to ensure there is always a network dentist close to your home.

With a United Concordia's **MyDentalBenefits** account, you can easily view your benefits, claims information, find a dentist, and download your digital ID card from anywhere.

United Concordia is also providing extra value to our members by expanding their popular **College Tuition Benefit®** savings program with SAGE Scholars, Inc. By participating in a United Concordia dental plan, you'll earn Tuition Rewards® points that can be redeemed by eligible students you choose to sponsor from your immediate or extended family (including biological and adopted children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, stepchildren, and even godchildren). The Tuition Rewards® points can be used for tuition discounts at more than 400 participating private colleges and universities throughout the United States.



**Davis Vision by MetLife - Vision Insurance**  
1-833-393-5433 | [metlife.com/vision](http://metlife.com/vision)

With PASR's Vision program, you will quickly and clearly "see" the benefits to being a part of the group. By joining other PASR members, you have the availability of comprehensive vision benefits with competitive group rates. The program is low cost and the plan easily pays for itself whether it be on the exam, glasses, contacts, the unconditional breakage warranty, or even the discounted laser vision correction. Coverage is available for you, your partner, and your dependents.

**TruHearing**

**TruHearing - Hearing Aid Services**  
855-933-2841 | [truhearing.com](http://truhearing.com)

Good hearing is important to your health. That's why you have access to TruHearing, a comprehensive hearing care solution. Hearing aids can be expensive—an average of \$2,400 per aid—but the TruHearing program saves you 30-60% off hearing aids. For those members who wish to purchase hearing aids, substantial discounts off manufacturers' list prices are offered, as well as lifetime cleanings and checkup services, discounts on batteries, and additional warranties.

TruHearing offers benefits not only for you, but also for your extended family: parents, children, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins are all covered, both for you and your spouse or significant other. They understand that if there is someone in your family with untreated hearing loss, that can cause big problems for you.

**ConnectAmerica**  
1-888-632-1103 | [connectamerica.com](http://connectamerica.com)

ConnectAmerica is a personal emergency response system provider. PASR members are offered various types of systems at lower costs. Personal emergency response systems provide continuous in-home and mobile monitoring to aging and at-risk populations. With ConnectAmerica, individuals can call for assistance 24/7/365, whether they are at home or on the go. ConnectAmerica goes far beyond the button, offering a 24/7 Nurse line, Emergency Medical Services (EMT), Family and Caregiver notifications, and more.

# PASR Member Benefits and Discounts Guide

## Vehicles & Insurance



**Auto, Home, RV, and Motorcycle Insurance**  
(717) 238-6000 | [trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/](https://trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/)

PASR is proud to partner with Trispagonas Insurance. Through our partnership, Trispagonas Insurance is pleased to offer unique benefits that are exclusive to PASR members. Benefits include objective, no hassle reviews of existing policies and the availability of a PASR discount on new auto and homeowner policies with our select carriers, Westfield Insurance and Penn National Insurance.

Through our partnership with Trispagonas Insurance, PASR members automatically save 4% on Westfield Insurance auto and home/condo/tenant policies, and 5% on Penn National Insurance auto and home/condo/tenant policies when they contact Trispagonas Insurance directly by phone, email, or website.

Unlike a captive agent or direct insurance company that only offers their own proprietary products, the Trispagonas Insurance agency operates as an independent broker. Many consumers don't fully understand just how important that really is! When it comes to insurance, "one-size" or one carrier doesn't fit all. That's why we recommend our members work with an agency that offers in-depth knowledge of multiple insurance products, companies, and guidelines – not just one.

\*PASR discounts currently available for residents of PA, MD and NY. Standard underwriting guidelines apply. Eligibility is not guaranteed.

**Jack Williams Tire & Auto Service Center**  
1-800-833-5051 | <https://jackwilliams.com/>

PASR members receive \$10 off oil changes, 50% off PA State Safety Inspections, 5% off all regularly priced tires, \$20 off alignments, 5% off repairs, and more!

**Life and Long-Term Care Insurance**  
(717) 238-6000 | [trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/](https://trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/)

PASR offers the benefit of a free, personal consultation that can allow for a review of your current policies or a discussion on life insurance and long-term care planning that's specific to your situation.

Life insurance provides peace of mind. Surviving families are often left in debt, dealing with funeral bills and health care expenses that quickly add up. Proper planning can help your family avoid that added stress. It can also provide financial support for a surviving spouse or jump-start an inheritance that can be passed on to future generations. In the event of a death, a tax-free, lump-sum benefit is paid directly to your chosen beneficiary(ies). PASR has partnered with Trispagonas Insurance to bring you several life insurance options, which feature level premiums for life, access to cash value in times of need, and an easy application process.

When it comes to long-term care insurance, it isn't always about assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Healthcare has evolved dramatically over the last few decades. This has allowed for longer lifespans and greater physical independence. Sometimes specialized care like a nursing home is necessary, and it's well known that those costs can be astronomical, but most times our needs are more personal. What if you prefer to receive care at home from a family member or spouse? What if it isn't physical care that you need, but a modified shower to help getting in and out of the tub easier instead? Or perhaps a modified ramp so you can avoid having to use the steps? With proper long-term care planning, you can be financially prepared for these potential scenarios.

**Pet Insurance**  
(717) 238-6000 | [trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/](https://trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/)

PASR is now offering pet insurance to our members. You already expect the unexpected with your pets, but what about when it comes to their vet bills? The truth is, unexpected vet bills happen more often than you think, and they cost you more than you would care to imagine. Pet insurance can help by assisting you when paying your unexpected vet bills, so if your pets have an accident or become ill, your first thoughts can be about their care, not your budget.

## Elder Law Attorney Services

**Elder Law Attorney -- NEW!**  
(717) 697-4700 | [waltersgalloway.com](https://waltersgalloway.com)

PASR is excited to announce a brand-new benefit for our members! Our members now have a vetted and certified Elder Law Attorney who will help with Elder Law, Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Medicaid Planning, and Disability Planning. Mention you are a PASR member to receive a free consultation and a 10% discount.

Jessica can be a primary attorney or you can use her services to garner a second opinion. All processes can be completed in person or via video conferencing.

# PASR Member Benefits and Discounts Guide

## Home & Financial Services



**Comprehensive Wealth Management**  
(717) 763-1325 | [www.grovewealthllc.com](http://www.grovewealthllc.com)

Shifting and adjusting your financial plans as you navigate retirement can seem daunting. Throughout our working careers, so much of our time is spent on the accumulation and growth of our retirement savings. But entering into retirement – now we're in a position of having to rely on those savings. This involves a renewed understanding of our financial goals and includes risk management, long-term care planning, distribution planning and legacy planning. As a PASR member, in partnership with Tom Trispagenas of Grove Wealth Management, LLC, these consultation services are available to you at no cost.

"My focus is to offer guidance that's objective and sensitive to your unique situation. In that regard, I have three goals: clearly identify what you want to achieve financially; generate the necessary income to sustain a lifestyle you deserve; and build a legacy for the ones you love and the things you care about." – "Tom" Trispagenas, CLTC

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC. PASR, Grove Wealth Management and LPL Financial are separate entities.



**TankFarm**  
855-976-4141 | [www.tankfarmgroup.com/pasr](http://www.tankfarmgroup.com/pasr)

With the PASR Propane Discount Program from TankFarm you can save an average of \$300-\$500 a year on propane without sacrificing quality of fuel or service.

When you take advantage of this program, this is how you'll benefit:

- Exclusive pricing on propane that is typically \$0.50–\$1.00 less per gallon than what most propane consumers are paying now
- No tank rental fees
- No delivery fees
- Work with a top local supplier to provide you with a tank if you need it and to schedule your deliveries and service appointments

- Support from the TankFarm Membership Services team

Plus PASR members get a \$50 free propane certificate upon sign up, a \$100 certificate towards purchase of a new propane tank, and a free lifetime membership.



**HEAT USA**  
1-800-660-4328 | [www.heatusa.com](http://www.heatusa.com)

PASR members will receive a free or discounted service contract, a discount price on the oil, and will have access to a membership services team willing to assist at any time. Heat USA is the largest heating oil buying group in the country, with more than 50,000 oil-heated households and 200 full-service heating oil suppliers participating. The company uses its buying power to negotiate superior terms and conditions on behalf of its members from local oil suppliers.

**Moving Services**  
1-800-223-5309 | [bffields.com](http://bffields.com)

Moving can be one of life's biggest stressors. With northAmerican MyHomeBenefits, you can alleviate some of this stress by hiring a reliable, trustworthy mover. Through northAmerican MyHomeBenefits, PASR members can take advantage of long distance and international moving, professional packing and unpacking services, and household storage.

## Travel & Entertainment



**Bosco's Travel Services**  
1-866-433-3812 | [boscovstravel.com](http://boscovstravel.com)

With your PASR membership, Boscov's Travel is ready to arrange your individual and family trips, a scheduled motorcoach tour, group cruise, or a customized group tour exclusively for PASR members and companions. PASR members automatically receive a discount on selected travel products. Not only will members save money as a result of their PASR membership, but the discount will also extend to the member's traveling companions. Members that use a Boscov's credit card to pay for their travel will earn reward points, which can be redeemed for Boscov's gift card certificates. These gift card certificates can be used towards any

# PASR Member Benefits and Discounts Guide

Bosco's merchandise. PASR members can book their travel needs online through the Bosco's Travel website. Take advantage of its unique money saving features for booking airfares as well.

## Travel Insurance

(717) 238-6000 | [trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/](http://trispagonas.com/pasr-apsconf/)

Your family relies on you to make smart decisions, especially when it comes to traveling. A wise choice is to make sure your leisure travel investments are protected from what can go wrong before and during a trip, such as accidents requiring medical attention, lost baggage, and delays. With Nationwide Travel Insurance, you have affordable, flexible plans that will keep you traveling smart! Cruise plans, single-trip plans, and annual trip plans are available.

## State RECREO Trips with PASR

(717) 697-7077 | [pasr.org/trips](http://pasr.org/trips)

Each year, PASR offers group travel opportunities for our members through our partnership with Bosco's Travel. To view a list of the trips currently planned, please visit [pasr.org/trips](http://pasr.org/trips).

## Orlando Vacation Discounts

1-888-632-1103 | [orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://orlandoemployeediscounts.com)

Save up to 35% off your next Orlando vacation with PASR's member's only discount through Orlando Employee Discounts! Orlando Employee Discounts offers exclusive pricing on hotels and vacation homes in or nearby Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando, as well as discounts on tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Sea World, and all Orlando area theme parks and attractions.

## Amusement Parks

PASR has secured partnerships with Dutch Wonderland, Idlewild & Soakzone, Kennywood, Sandcastle Park, HersheyPark, Dollywood, DelGrosso, Great Wolf Lodge, Waldameer & Water World, and more, to offer discounted pricing to all members of our Association. To access these discounts you must login to our website and click on their individual links.

## Sporting Events

PASR offers many minor league baseball and hockey team discounts, as well as discounted Penn State football tickets. Game days and participating teams are updated frequently during each sport's season, please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to see the most up-to-date list of participating teams.

## Enterprise and National Car Rental -- NEW!

Enterprise and National car-rental supplier has recently partnered with PASR to provide a 5% discount. Enroll in the Emerald Club loyalty program and use a PASR exclusive code to maximize your benefit! To access these discounts you must login to our website and click on their individual link.

## Shopping & Technology

### Apple (Mac)

<https://www.apple.com/>



The Apple Member Purchase Program makes it easy for PASR members to shop and save on Apple desktop computers and laptop computers. You can also order iPods, iPads, or iPhones through the PASR Purchase Plan site, although member discounts might not be available for these products. Purchases must be made using the web address provided to access the discount. Discounts will not be honored in stores or by phone.

### Personal Computer (PC) - Dell

1-800-695-8133 | <https://www.dell.com/>



The Dell Member Purchase Program makes it easy for PASR members to shop and save on Dell computers and equipment. The program gives you access to exclusive savings between 10 and 30 percent off select configurations of Dell systems not available to the general public on [dell.com](http://dell.com). Members get the guaranteed best price on a selection of popular products loaded with features as well as companion security products, theft protection, computer care, and other great services. Plus, every PC comes with a 30-day price guarantee. If you find the identical Dell system configuration for less anywhere on the general public Dell site, PASR's Dell Member Purchase Program will match the price. Please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to access the promo code needed.

### BJ's Wholesale Club

1-800-313-8887 | [bjs.com](http://bjs.com)



PASR's BJ's Wholesale Club program will give you access to unbelievable store-wide savings. Whether beginning a new service or renewing an existing membership through PASR, cash awards are loaded to your membership card for use at the register! As the largest wholesale chain in the eastern United States, you can use any of their stores located across the East Coast from Maine to Florida! Please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to access the promo code needed to join or renew your BJ's membership.

# PASR Member Benefits and Discounts Guide

## Blue Mountain Blooms -- NEW!

(717) 243-7888 | [bluemountainbloomsflorist.com](http://bluemountainbloomsflorist.com)

Blue Mountain Blooms is an independently owned flower shop located in Pennsylvania and delivers through-out the United States. They provide personal service with arrangements perfectly suited for any occasion. Please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to access the promo code needed.

## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette -- NEW!

Members are eligible to purchase a digital subscription, including access to [post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com), PGe and PG Reader at a 60% discounted rate. There is no home delivery plan available for this partnership. Please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to access the unique link. Purchases must be made using the web address provided to access the discount.

## Award Corrections

In the last issue of the PASR Times, we listed the 2022 Award Recipients. Below are corrections:

### Educational Support Grant Correction

**Allegheny Chapter** awarded to Emily Hough, a school counselor at Avonworth Elementary School. This allows for a monthly program to support the yearly theme, "Every Mind Matters." The essence of this program is to establish a voluntary club where students can meet weekly to discuss mental health awareness. All students in the school are eligible to participate as they choose. A mental health specialist will visit each month to offer information regarding mental health and coping skills. The monies from the grant will be used to purchase supplies and to offset the stipends, if needed, for speakers and possibly help with the celebration at the end of the school year for students who participated.

**Lehigh Chapter** awarded Jennifer Williams, a nurse serving the William Penn Building, and Lisa Moniz, a reading specialist at The Hiram Dodd Elementary School.

### Media Awards:

Misspelling of a name for the Susquehanna Chapter recipient, Staci Wilson.



[www.heatusa.com](http://www.heatusa.com)  
1.888.432.8872

**Let HEAT USA help protect  
your heating oil system  
with a free or discounted  
service contract this year.  
Call HEAT USA today and  
find out more.**

\*Not available in all areas





## Same great Vision benefits, slightly different name

Recently, **Davis Vision** became part of the MetLife family of companies. Beginning July 1, 2023, you may see your Vision benefits referred to as Davis Vision by MetLife or just Davis Vision, like before. Little else will change.

**Here's some important information for members enrolled in Davis Vision through the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR).**

### **What's staying the same:**

- Your Vision plan benefits
- Your choice of network providers
- Your premiums

### **What you should know:**

- After July 1, 2023, securely register on MetLife's MyBenefits website at [metlife.com/mybenefits](https://metlife.com/mybenefits) to view your claims, review information about your plan and more.
- While ID cards aren't required to receive services, new ID cards will be mailed to you.

**Discover a plan that may help you save on vision services,<sup>1</sup>** including eye exams, glasses and contact lenses.

### **Choose from thousands of in-network eye care professionals<sup>2</sup>**

- A large network of licensed ophthalmologists, optometrists and opticians at private practices
- Popular retailers, such as Costco Optical, Walmart Vision, Sam's Club Optical and more<sup>3</sup>
- Online in-network eyewear stores, including Glasses.com, 1 800 contacts, Befitting.com and Visionworks.com<sup>3</sup>

### **Get the eyewear style and savings you want**

- Cost-effective rates and out-of-pockets costs
- Selection of fully covered frames at no additional cost to you
- Access to the Exclusive Collection,<sup>4</sup> with coverage on designer frames for \$40 or less and with a one-year breakage warranty

**For questions, please contact the PASR Administrative office at 717.697.7077.**

1. Your actual savings from enrolling in a vision plan will depend on various factors, including plan premiums, number of visits to an eye care professional by your family per year, and the cost of services and materials received. Be sure to review the Schedule of Benefits for your plan's specific benefits and other important details.

2. For a list of participating providers, use the Find a Vision Provider tool at [metlife.com](https://metlife.com). Select Find a Vision Provider, choose Davis Vision by MetLife, complete the information requested and hit the Search Now button.

3. All product and company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. Use of them does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by them.

4. The Davis Vision Collection of frames is available at most participating independent provider locations. The collection and pricing are subject to change without notice. Please check with your provider for details and availability prior to receiving services.

MetLife vision benefits are underwritten by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY. Certain claims and network administration services are provided through Davis Vision, Inc. ("Davis Vision"), a New York corporation. Davis Vision is part of the MetLife family of companies. Like most group benefit programs, Davis Vision by MetLife plans contain certain exclusions, exceptions, reductions, limitations, waiting periods and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact MetLife or your plan administrator for costs and complete details.

# PASR Member In Congressional Spotlight

**By Megan Dapp, Vice President, External Affairs for TriadStrategies**

At the request of the Coalition for Medicare Choices, Dr. A. Jay Gross participated in a discussion around Medicare Advantage (MA) on March 1 with the office of Congresswoman Summer Lee. Dr. Gross is a prominent member of Pittsburgh PASR and has been a life member of PASR since 2004, and he represented himself in this discussion, but his intelligent commentary reflected well upon PASR. Just one more example of PASR members making valuable contributions to their communities!

Dr. Gross kicked off the discussion, sharing his background as a representative of the western branch of the PA School Retirees Association and as a MA enrollee. He spoke to how his MA coverage made a difference when he faced a series of health issues that needed to be addressed. He very honestly said he didn't know how his bills would have been met and that MA had truly been a lifesaver for him.

Dr. Gross expressed his thoughts around oddball expenses people face as they age and noted his appreciation for his MA plan, as those expenses are covered or are minimized for him. With his experience, whenever he is talking to peers and others who may be deciding about their healthcare coverage, he encourages them to consider Medicare Advantage. And those individuals have been grateful for the advice as they don't know how they would otherwise afford healthcare benefits now living on fixed incomes.

As the meeting concluded, Dr. Gross asked that Congresswoman Lee support Medicare Advantage and encourage the President to not make any cuts to the program. He wrapped up his remarks by noting that cuts to the program would hurt a lot of retired teachers, administrators and other school officials who have dedicated their lives to education here in Pennsylvania and nationwide.

## Social Service Memorial Honor Fund

The Social Service Memorial Honor Fund (SSMHF) is a committee responsible for serving members in need. They are the second-largest functioning committee of PASR and are prepared to support all members who are in need. The SSMHF Committee is organized in each local Chapter of PASR and has more than 500 volunteers statewide.

### Who are members in need?

- Members that become ill and confined to their home, hospital, or skilled nursing facility
- Members that become victims of catastrophe
- Members facing financial difficulties

### Are you in need? Do you know someone in need?

Reach out to your local Chapter President or SSMHF Chair. You can find your Chapter President or SSMHF Chair by going to the Find a Chapter tab on the PASR website. Don't have access to a computer? Reach out to headquarters at 717-697-7077 and ask for SSMHF Help.

**Please note that all inquiries and requests for assistance are held in strict confidence.**

### What Can You Do?

Please consider donating to the SSMHF to help unfortunate PASR members in need. Each year the fund's accounts decline, and each year more retirees find themselves in need. There has never been a more important time to donate. Any amount you are willing and able to donate is greatly appreciated.

Can't donate but still want to help? Volunteer! Find your local Chapter SSMHF Chair and ask what you can do to help.

### Donate Online (member login required):

<https://www.pasr.org/member-donate-ssmhf/>

**Donate by Mail:** If you're mailing a check, please include the form below.

### *Memorial Honor Fund*

A contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is being made to the Memorial Honor Fund in ☐ Honor of ☐ Memory of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor: ☐ Chapter OR ☐ Individual

Sender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail donations to: Memorial Honor Fund PASR 878 Century Dr, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

# You qualify for exclusive pricing as a PASR member

Take advantage of exclusive pricing for PASR members on the award-winning Connect America Medical Alert Service.



Connect America is a simple and easy way to signal for help in any situation – such as a fall, a slip in the tub, or if you simply locked yourself out of the house. Just press your help button to be quickly connected to a trained care specialist at one of our North American call centers. You can request help from family, a neighbor, a friend or even emergency services. It's always your choice with Connect America!

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\*Coverage inside and outside the home by On-the-Go Mobile pendant provided where wireless network coverage is available. Recharging of the pendant is done by the subscriber as needed, by connecting it to its charger. Location accuracy might vary depending on device location, equipment, and environmental or facility conditions.

# Chat with your dentist about your medications.

Have a conversation with your dentist or hygienist about your medical conditions, prescribed drugs, over-the-counter medicines or any supplements you might take.

## **Medications can affect your mouth**

Occasionally, a medicine can affect the condition of your mouth. For example, some can cause dry mouth, which can increase your risk of cavities and gum disease. Knowing what you're taking will help your dentist assess your oral health.

## **Avoid unnecessary complications**

Share your surgery information, too. If you're being treated for cancer or have had a joint replacement, you may need antibiotics or another medication prior to your treatment to prevent infection.

## **Share the big picture**

Even if you think a prescription, surgery or medical condition isn't related to your mouth, let your dentist know about them. Knowing your situation will help your dentist provide the best care.

United Concordia Dental plans help cover the care you need to maintain your oral health.\*

As a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR), you have access to two United Concordia plans at affordable, members-only rates.



**Don't have dental coverage?**  
**Call 717-697-7077 for more information.**

# NAEP is hiring

In-school data collectors are needed for national assessments of grades 4, 8, and 12, January 29–March 8, 2024.

Enter your contact information at <http://www.WorkNAEP.com> to be notified once applications are available.



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