

Pittsburgh Chapter

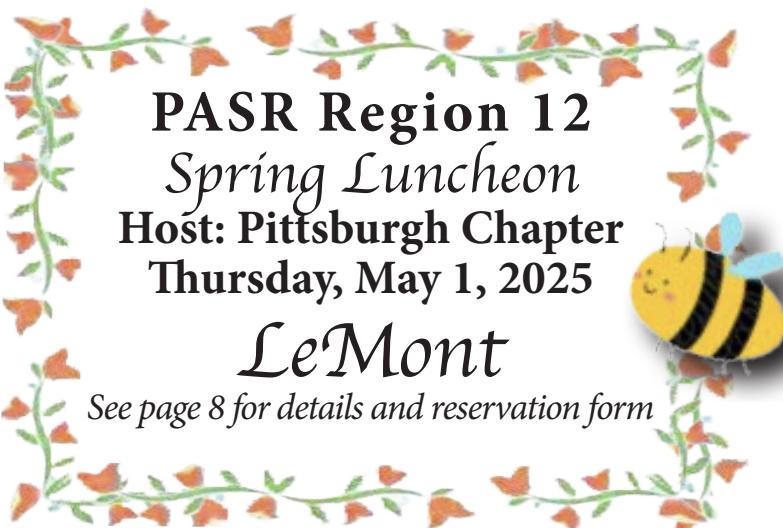
P.O. Box 9056  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
pghpasr2024@yahoo.com  
www.pghasr.org

Spring/Summer 2025

**PghASR  
NEWSLETTER**

PASR Mission Statement: To Serve Others in Need and to Help One Another Enjoy Retirement.

**Mark these important events on your calendar!**



**NOTE:** Photographs will be taken at PghASR and Region 12 functions. Some photos might be published in PghASR Newsletters. If you don't want your picture to appear in the newsletter, please opt out by checking the line at the bottom of the reservation form.

*The PghASR calendar, reservation forms, membership renewal form, and other information can be found on the PghASR website. See page 19 for information on how to access the website—and then bookmark it.*

**Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees**

**2 0 2 5 C a l e n d a r**

**The 2025 calendar is presented here. For more information about the events, see articles in this newsletter or go to the PghASR website at [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org)**

**April**

Spring/Summer Newsletter Arrives by USPS and also watch for email with a link from [pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com)

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
RECREO – High School Musical – Pittsburgh CAPA  
*Natasha Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*  
RSVP to Kathy Moran at [kmoran056@comcast.net](mailto:kmoran056@comcast.net)

**NOTE: RSVP for the Region 12 Spring Luncheon at the LeMont is due Friday, April 25th**

**May**

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 11:00 a.m.  
Region 12 Spring Luncheon & Meeting  
LeMont Restaurant – Pittsburgh Hosts  
\*RSVP in newsletter or on the website at [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org)

**May 17-23, 2025**

PASR RECREO TRIP - Kentucky Bourbon and Horses  
see [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PghASR Community Service  
Greater Pittsburgh Area Community Food Bank  
Registration is required to attend, please see information provided in newsletter or at [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org).  
Contact [ggetty700w@aol.com](mailto:ggetty700w@aol.com) with questions.

**NOTE: RSVP for the General Membership and Scholarship Luncheon at PF Chang's is due by Monday, May 19th**

**June**

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 11:15 a.m.  
PghASR General Membership Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon at Waterfront P.F. Chang's  
\*RSVP in newsletter or on the website [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org)

Date TBD

RECREO – Maggie's Farm Rum Distillery Tour and Dinner

\*Watch for an email with details, check the website, or contact Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comcast.net

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 12:35 p.m.

RECREO – Pirates v. Marlins Baseball Game

PNC Park. **RSVP is due by April 19th.**

Contact Debra Rucki @dsrucki@verizon.net

**July**

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

RECREO - Lunch Bunch at Narcisi Winery

**RSVP by Monday, July 7th to Glory Getty at ggetty700w@aol.**

**August**

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – Banksville Eat N Park

Date TBD ACASR Community Service

Batch Backpack Packing –

Fall Newsletter Production

Fall/Winter Newsletter Arrives by USPS and also watch for an email with a link from pgphpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com

**September**

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Region 12 Fall Luncheon and Meeting

Allegheny Chapter Hosts – at Edgewood Country Club

**October**

October 19-28, 2025

PASR RECREO TRIP – Paris to Normandy River Cruise

Onboard the Avalon Tapestry II – –see www.pasr.org

October 5-7, 2025

PASR House of Delegates at State College, PA.

**November**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

RECREO – SECOND TACO TUESDAY

El Campesino at the Waterfront

RSVP to Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comcast.net

**December**

Friday, December 12, 2025

PghASR Holiday Luncheon & General Membership Meeting

Date TBD

ACASR Community Service - Batch Gift Wrapping

Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

RECREO – Pittsburgh Botanical Garden Dazzling Lights

RSVP to Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comcast.net

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**Notice:** Our Membership & Retirement Planning Committee is investigating having a PPS Homecoming/Reunion/Celebration of our Schools Event, during which current employees and retired employees would gather to honor and recognize what did and does make the Pittsburgh Public Schools an institution that deserves being celebrated. Hopefully, you will be hearing more about this during 2025.

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## CUT OUT AND KEEP THIS HANDY GUIDE TO IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Here is a quick reference guide to important phone numbers for PghASR members.

**PSERS:(Penn. School Employees Retirement System): 1-888-773-7748 or 412-920-2014**

**PASR: (Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees): 1-717-697-7077 pasr@pasr.org**

**Pittsburgh Public Schools Insurance & Benefits Office: 412-529-3694 or 412-529-4357 email: ccaldwell2@pghschools.org**

**PASR endorsed Dental & Vision Plans:**

**1-717-697-7077**

**HOP (Health Options Program) Insurance:**

**HOP Medical Plans: 1-800-773-7725**

**HOP Dental and Vision: 1-855-700-7997**

**HOP Rx Plans: 1-888-239-1301**

**www.HOPbenefits.com**

## When You Move ...

Be sure to notify the following agencies of your new address as soon as possible:

Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees (PghASR), P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), 5 N. 5th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

\*Pittsburgh Insurance & Retirement Benefits Office, Room 313, Board of Public Education, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

\*Questions about retirement benefits should be directed to PSERS. Call toll free 1-888-773-7748 or 1-717-787-8540 or contact the local office at 300 Cedar Ridge Drive, Suite 301, 412-920-2014. The Insurance and Benefits Office of the School District does not have information about PSERS

## PghASR Change of Address Form

Mail to: Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Circle one: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check the category appropriate for your new address.

Personal Care Home  Nursing Home

Retirement Community  Private Residence

Other \_\_\_\_\_

# PGHASR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP MEETING



# P.F. CHANG'S Restaurant

148 West Bridge Street  
Homestead, PA 15120  
412-464-0640

Don't forget to bring cash for our fundraising raffle. Proceeds from the 25/25/50 Raffle will go to the Scholarship Fund and our Community Service Partner. Additional cash and check donations will also be accepted.

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

**\$25.00**

**11:15 a.m. -- Doors Open/ Meet and Greet  
11:45 a.m. -- Awarding of Scholarships  
12:30 p.m. -- Luncheon**

## **Entrées (choose one)**

## **Large Asian Caesar Salad with choice of Plain, Salmon or Chicken (Select one)**

**Fried Rice (Gluten Free) with choice of Chicken, Beef, Vegetable or Shrimp (Select one)**

**Signature Lo Mein with Choice of Chicken, Beef, Vegetable or Shrimp (Select one)**

## Dessert

*All meals come with unlimited coffee, tea and fountain sodas.*

Reservations must be made no later than Monday, May 19, 2025.

Make checks payable to **PghASR** and mail with this form to Eileen Gavin, 1120 Fairfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. **PghASR General Membership & Scholarship Meeting, P.E. Chang's, June 3, 2025.**

Number of reservations @ \$25.00, Asian Salad = \$

Number of Plain      Number of Salmon      Number of Chicken

**Number of reservations@ \$25.00, Fried Rice (Gluten Free) = \$**

Number of Chicken      Number of Beef      Number of Vegetables      Number of Shrimp

Number of reservations @ \$25.00 Signature Lo Mein = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Chicken      Number of Beef      Number of Vegetables      Number of Shrimp

Total enclosed:    =    \$

Name of person sending reservation

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email (*Please print clearly*) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Photographs will be taken at this event. Some photos might be published in PghASR Newsletters. If you don't want your picture to appear in the newsletter, please opt out by putting a check mark here.**

# President's Message

## Spring 2025

### Glory Getty

In December some of our members participated in the Batch Foundation Gift Wrapping Community Service coordinated by the Allegheny Chapter. As the Batch coordinator was speaking to us, she stated that one of our goals for the day was to make a new friend, so our group of PghASR members split up and worked with volunteers from other community groups that were there that day.

I have to admit, I was not one of them. I chose to stay with members of our group – because to be honest - there are many in our group that even though we all worked for the Pittsburgh Public Schools – I would like to get to know them better.

In an article published by the New York Times called 10 Ways to Keep Your Mind Healthy in 2025 (Caron & Smith, December 30, 2024) the ninth strategy is – well, I'll just copy and paste, you can read it yourself.

#### 9. Make a new friend.

Feeling lonely and isolated can harm our mental health, and it may change our brains, too. In fact, there's a growing body of research showing a link between loneliness and Alzheimer's disease. Experts think that may be because loneliness triggers the body's stress response, which increases inflammation. Over time, chronic stress and inflammation can damage brain cells and the connections between them, which can contribute to dementia.

To combat loneliness, reach out to a friend or family member — even a short phone call can have a powerful benefit. If you want to make new friends, joining a club or support group is a good place to start. Look for ones that tap into a shared identity, like for widows or new moms, advised Dr. Ellen Lee, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego; that can give you something immediate to connect over.

As the article suggests, “if you want to make new friends, join a club … look for ones that tap into a shared identity … that can give you something immediate to connect over.”

That is exactly what the Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees has to offer you, we have a shared identity that can give you something immediate to connect over. When I first joined PghASR I would attend events hoping to reconnect with folks I knew well because we had worked together for years. Often, I would leave disappointed because either there was no one there that I had worked with or there was no time to socialize with those that I did know. But maybe, this was the wrong way to approach my participation in PghASR. Maybe I should have been thinking about attending PghASR events in the hopes of making new friends. An opportunity to get to know someone with a shared identity – something we could immediately connect over – our work and love for the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

We all know that anyone who worked for PPS for possibly 30+ years has to be someone special – someone to get to know better. I recently attended a wine tasting at Mary's Vine in Rankin … I looked across the room and recognized someone from PghASR. Of course, we had to re-introduce ourselves but I have to tell you that getting to know that person and her husband better, made the difference between a wine tasting and a special evening. So maybe instead of thinking about attending a PghASR event in the hopes of reconnecting with an old friend perhaps think about attending in the hopes of making a new friend.

Hope to see you soon, in the meantime, take care, Glory

## Recent Member Spotlight on Kimberly Granatire

Just like many of you, during my 35 years teaching, I wore many hats (literally & figuratively). I taught at Philip Murray, Beltzhoover, Stevens, Arlington and Westwood; most of the time teaching kindergarten and first grade, with a smattering of second grade science and third grade ELA. I could go on and on listing my responsibilities, like: ITL, F.A.C.E. Coordinator, TRIPOD Coordinator, Business Partnership in Education Coordinator, Cooperating Teacher . . . blah, blah, blah.

Don't get me wrong, I am very proud of my accomplishments, but memories fade and all the stress, anxiety and hard work with it. Yes, it was very hectic, being the mom of two kids (well three, if you include my husband), both of whom were Pittsburgh Promise Recipients and now Penn State graduates.

So, I choose to focus on the good memories and being grateful for all I got to experience. Besides the students, my fondest memories of teaching in the Pittsburgh Public Schools were: The Science Institute; Open Court Reading; Waterford; Write Tools; and Everyday Math; to name a few.

I like to think I grew and improved as a person and teacher, helped along by my colleagues, many, who have become lifelong friends. None, of the lessons I taught, songs I sang or chants I chanted were original and I thank others for that. My goal was to help improve the lives of children (making it fun for them and me) and I like to think and hope, mission accomplished!

But, after 35 years of teaching, I knew it was my time to retire. It just so happened to be at the beginning of a Pandemic. So, here are a few words of wisdom (Do's and Don'ts) I'd like to impart for recent or soon to be retirees:

- Don't retire during a Pandemic, there is nothing to see and nowhere to go
- Do take time for yourself, improve your diet, move and get outside every day.
- Don't get a new puppy (especially a Pomsky) because now you have to follow another schedule.
- Do get a new puppy because you will need to have a schedule, retired teachers know schedules are good – besides the puppy will get you moving and outside.
- Don't try to run after said puppy, in the rain, in bare feet, slipping on the kitchen floor and breaking your ankle. Your retiree freedom is suddenly gone.
- Do let go of your teaching supplies, there are a lot of schools that would be appreciative.
- Do limit your screen time or it will limit you.
- Do research senior activities, you'll be surprised how often you can play Bingo!
- Don't feel you have to get through your post-retirement list in the first month.
- Don't put off taking "that" trip or vacation.
- Do reach out to others, especially colleagues that are already retired. They will have good advice and know of nice activities – like participating in PghASR.

As I contemplate what is in my next chapter, improving my relationship with God and my family and friends, more volunteering, more traveling, researching my ancestry, Swedish Death Cleaning and Bingo, etc . . .

I think the most important advice comes from the words of Robert Fulghum, "Most of what I really needed to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten." – by Kimberly Granatire



## RECREO Pittsburgh Pirates Game 2024

The date was Thursday, August 8th and the Pirates were playing the San Diego Padres. This “take me out to the ballgame” event is a summer activity that PghASR members enjoy. It’s an opportunity for members to spend a summer afternoon at our beautiful PNC Park rooting for our Pittsburgh Pirates. Thirty-two (32) members and their guests were in attendance.



Once again we were seated in section 129 along the 3rd base outfield in the last three rows. This provides ample overhead cover in case of rain or shine. We are also just a few steps away from concession stands and restrooms.

It was an anxious first four innings since the Padres had four runs and the Pirates failed to bring any base runners across home plate. However, that all changed in the 5th inning when the Pirate bats came alive. At the end of the 8th the Pirates were winning 6 to 5. The crowd was into the game, but a change of Pirate pitcher, had the bases loaded and the Padres scored two runs. The final score was Padres 7 and Pirates 6. A disappointing loss, but a great event for PghASR.

A “special discounted group rate for seniors” is available and if you are interested in participating this year, the information for 2025’s Pirate Game is included in this newsletter and will be available on our website, [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org).  
—Debra Rucki



### Take Me Out To The Ball Game

Debra S. Rucki

How about joining some of your PPS retired colleagues on Wednesday, June 11th at 12:35 PM at PNC Park to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates vs Miami Marlins? The Pirates are willing to provide us with a block of tickets located on the 1st floor between the left field line and 3rd baseline near the top rows that are covered by the overhang. I’m trying to minimize the number of steps people would need to negotiate in order to access their seats. Usually these 1st floor seats sell for \$50.00 per seat. However, as a **group of Senior Citizens, 55 years and older**, the Pirates are willing to sell these seats at a cost of **\$30 plus each person will be provided with a \$5 voucher to use at any of the concession stands**. Yes, the Pirates cut the refreshment voucher from \$10 to \$5! Please note that the game we will be attending is June 11th! I would like to purchase seats as soon as possible. If you would like to join me at PNC Park, please complete the form below and **mail your \$30.00 check payable to Debra Rucki by Saturday, April 19th**. I will distribute tickets on Thursday, May 1st at the Region 12 Luncheon at the LeMont. If you are unable to attend the LeMont Luncheon, I will meet you at the Willie Stargell Statue, which is across the 6th Street Bridge on Federal Street on game day. Please pick your ticket(s) up between 11:45 a.m. and no later than 12:15 p.m. on game day. Let’s Go BUCS!!!

### Take Me Out To The Ball Game

Pittsburgh Pirates vs Miami Marlins at 12:35 p.m.

When: Wednesday, June 11th, 2025

Where: PNC Park

Tickets distributed at the the May 1st at the Region 12 Luncheon at the LeMont or at the Willie Stargell Statue on Federal Street between 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. on game day.

Cost: \$30 per ticket for **Senior Citizens 55 years and older** + \$5.00 for concession stands.

Checks are payable to: **Debra Rucki** Mail to: **1416 Harris Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15205**

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

## Member Spotlight on William A. G. Fisher

By LaVerne Anthony



What does one write about a person who has inspired many, both in education and beyond? This writer is inspired by William Fisher! We are members of St. Paul Baptist Church and when he wants to, I drive him to church every fourth Sunday. A “young” man who has lived a century and still imparts wisdom, is kind, thoughtful, and humorous. A man who has truly inspired many!

When you look back over Mr. Fisher’s life and career as an educator, you will find that all has brought him to this moment and place in time. He was born in Pittsburgh on June 22, 1924. He graduated from the old Peabody HS. He enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh, but his education was cut short because he was conscripted to serve in WWII. He returned to campus in 1946 and completed his degree. But it wouldn’t be until 1955 that he would receive his first position as a teacher at Pittsburgh’s former Fifth Avenue HS, a predominantly Black school on the Hill. Between 1948 and 1955, Mr. Fisher worked as a clerk and manager for the PA. Unemployment Office in the Hill District.

It was his commitment to working at Fifth Avenue that led to his storied career in public education. He was the first to teach a class in Black History in the district and to create a parent-teacher organization at a city high school. By his second year of teaching, he had received the Edgar Stern Award for being one of the 10 best teachers in the city.

Mr. Fisher spent 13 years teaching at Fifth Avenue. During this time, he attended Duquesne University, where he earned his master’s degree in education.

After his time at Fifth Avenue, he went on to serve as vice principal at Westinghouse HS. He later returned to Fifth Avenue as principal. He held this position for two years before going to Allderdice in 1971.

In 1971, racial tensions were evident not only in the city, but in some schools. Allderdice was one such school. Mr. Fisher had to grapple with racism, his first day which was marred by a group of students chanting for the Black principal to go back to Fifth Avenue.

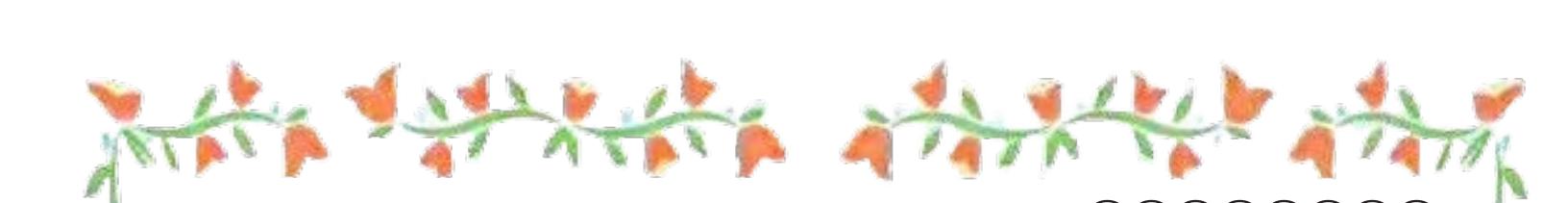
Mr. Fisher was not deterred! He forged through it all by setting high expectations for students and staff, while being a welcoming presence that the teens would come to support and go to when things went wrong. His perseverance and dedication paid off, under his tenure Town and Country Magazine listed Allderdice as one of the seven best integrated U.S. high schools.

He has influenced his former students so much over the years. Students still send him birthday cards. It is not an anomaly for him to get 100 cards or more from students all over the U. S. The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion last year and celebrated Mr. Fisher’s 100th birthday at the same time. It has also been an ongoing tradition of Mr. Fisher attending Allderdice reunions.

His former students have many stories about the infamous principal. The two that most students recalled were Mr. Fisher chasing students who tried leaving school early and bringing them back, and him receiving the nickname, “The Hook.” It was reported that he had a very low tolerance for students who wore their hats in school. It didn’t take long for the students to realize that if they didn’t take their hats off that piece of clothing would be confiscated and hung on a hook in Mr. Fisher’s office. He set high standards for the school and its students, and the expectation was that the standards set would be followed.

One former student wrote, “He was just amazing in his ability to keep the peace and yet he was able to command the respect of a loving uncle or someone who you respected in your family.” Another student was quoted as saying, “He treated people the same no matter where you came from, what you looked like, and he gave out what he expected back in which was just basic respect.”

Mr. Fisher has inspired many! His century of wisdom, kindness, educating young people, and his high regard for excellence has made him an asset in his community, his church, and most importantly in the hearts of people who have had the privilege to walk alongside him in some way and be a benefactor of all his knowledge.



# PASR REGION 12 *Spring Luncheon*

Host: Pittsburgh Chapter

**Thursday, May 1, 2025**



**\$45.00**

(Includes tax and gratuity)

Please help PghASR support our Community Service Partner. Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle and additional cash and check donations will be given to that partner. You can also send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

Raffle is CASH ONLY

## *LeMont Restaurant*

1114 Grandview Avenue, Mount Washington, Pittsburgh, PA 15211  
412-431-3100



11:00, Meet and Greet  
11:30-12:00, Region 12 Meeting  
12:00, Lunch, followed by Guest Speaker

**Guest Speaker:** Cyndie Carioli, Senior Justice Advocate for Allegheny County District Attorney's Office speaking about Red Flags - Learn How To Avoid Becoming a Victim of Scamming & Fraud

### **Menu (Choose One Entrée)**

Vegetable Strudel

Chicken Marsala

Atlantic Salmon

Veal Parmesan

Salad, rolls, beverage, Pecan Ball

Valet parking is \$9.00.

Street parking is available.

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### **PASR REGION 12 SPRING LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

Reservations are requested no later than Friday, April 25, 2025. Make checks payable to PghASR and mail with this form to Eileen Gavin, 1120 Fairfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Any questions, please 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 **Vegetable Strudel** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations for **Chicken Marsala** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations for **Atlantic Salmon** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations for **Veal Parmesan** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 per person**

Name of person sending reservation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Information about the Guest Speaker for the Region 12 Spring Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, May 1st at the LeMont Restaurant.

The Guest Speaker will be Cyndie Carioli a Senior Justice Advocate for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Carioli is an experienced and trained professional working with and addressing the particular needs of older adults throughout Allegheny County. Collaborating with senior service providers and law enforcement, she works to promote awareness of elder abuse and supports senior victims of fraud, abuse and neglect. Ms. Carioli has been working with and advocating for seniors for nearly two decades. She has been a Senior Center Director, has been nationally certified as an Information & Referral Specialist in senior services and is passionate about protecting older adults from abuse.

Cyndie's topic for the luncheon specifically will be, "RED FLAGS – Learn How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Scamming & Fraud". Older adults in Allegheny County have become targets for scamming, fraud and abuse. Ms. Carioli's presentation will summarize the reasons for this trend and detail the kinds of elder abuses the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office has investigated, prosecuted and is working to prevent. You will receive information about what is being done behind the scenes to support older adults who have come through the system as well as what we ALL can do to prevent further abuses to our aging population. You will hear about the latest scams and how to avoid them. Questions and comments will be encouraged.

## PghASR 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY at Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Please consider joining us for a fun day of community service. We need all volunteers to register at least 10 days in advance so we can plan appropriately and ensure that everyone has signed our safety waivers before arriving.

**Date:** May 20, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive 10 minutes early.

**Location:** Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

**Address:** 1 N Linden St, Duquesne, PA 15110

**Parking:** Park in front lot or along Grant Ave. and proceed to main entrance

**Activity:** Volunteer Engagement Center -- Packing boxes of shelf-stable items

**Requirements:** Closed-toe shoes are required. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old to participate and minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring additional layers of clothing as many of our projects take place in The Cool Zone, a 55°F temperature-controlled area that helps us process fresh produce.

**Sign Up Link** – (copy and paste)

[https://pittsburghfoodbank.my.site.com/  
volunteer/volunteer-registration/?ID=a0TR00000OWDzeTMAT](https://pittsburghfoodbank.my.site.com/volunteer/volunteer-registration/?ID=a0TR00000OWDzeTMAT)

or contact Glory Getty at ggetty700w@aol.com

## LUNCH BUNCH AT THE WHEELHOUSE RESTAURANT AT THE RIVERS CASINO

**August 2024**

Attendees were: Joann Lozecki, Kimberly Granatire, Joe Poerio, A. Jay Gross, Keith Schwartz, Debra Rucki, Phyllis Samarco, Ernestine Reed, Jane Check, Glory Getty, and Judy Lutz Rauch.



(No Photo) Attendees at Amel's Restaurant on October 25th were Kathy Flynn-Somerville, Fran Stewart, Angie Honchar, Kimberly Granatire, Carmen Gonot and Glory Getty.

## ACASR Community Service – Batch Foundation Gift Wrapping



## **S e e k i n g   V o l u n t e e r s**

Light of Life Women and Children's Program (W&C) helps women, children and youth from families who have been ravaged by homelessness, addiction and abuse. We are a recovery program that provides services to women in recovery from addiction and homelessness. We provide programming for the women and programming for the children while their mothers are in classes.

W&C provides programming that helps children's social and emotional development and enables them to learn skills that will serve them for many years to come.

We are currently looking for volunteers that can be with our children in the classroom while their mothers are going through programming. Our greatest need is someone with a passion for the 0-4-year age range. The volunteer opportunity would be helping to lead activities, read books, play and assist on any field trips and walks to the park during the scheduled hours.

If you are interested please reach out to our volunteer specialist at [volunteer@lightoflife.org](mailto:volunteer@lightoflife.org) or go to [lightoflife.org](http://lightoflife.org) and click "volunteer" - follow the steps to volunteer.

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### **Use This Form to Contribute to PghASR.**

PghASR accepts contributions for the Memorial Honor Fund, Scholarships, and Newsletter expenses. Complete the form below and send it with your contribution to PghASR, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR. Indicate on the memo line which category the contribution is for. NOTE: ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TO BE SENT TO PGHASR, P.O. BOX 9056, PITTSBURGH, PA 15224 AND NOT DIRECTLY TO OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

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#### **PghASR Contribution Form**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email ( please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_\_\_ \$15    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Contribution for (more than one choice can be checked)

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Honor Fund, in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund    \_\_\_\_\_ PghASR Newsletter    \_\_\_\_\_ Postage

Thank you for your contribution. Please make your check payable to PghASR and mail it to PghASR, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

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### **PghASR MEMBER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORM**

We need your help! In order to begin the process of sending our newsletters via email when possible, PghASR first needs to compile a list of its members' current email addresses. Please fill in this form and mail it to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224, or send an email to our Membership Secretary, Dr. A. Jay Gross, at [ajaygross@msn.com](mailto:ajaygross@msn.com), so he has your current email address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

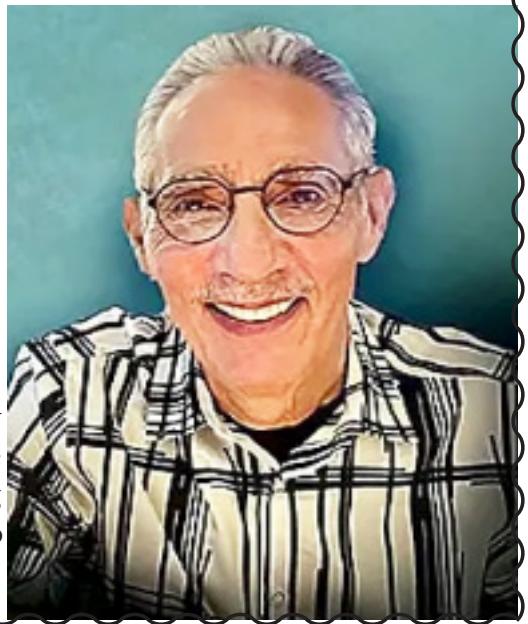
Email Address (Please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (Place an X on this line.)

# Tribute to Joseph R. Poerio, Jr.

It is with sad hearts that the Executive Committee informs you of the death of one of our beloved members – Joe Poerio. Joe passed away on January 26, 2025. Joe worked as a Business Education Supervisor at PPS. Joe was a past president of PghASR and was currently serving on our Community Service Committee. Joe was also currently serving as the Treasurer for Region 12 (Allegheny & Pittsburgh Chapters) of PASR. This tribute is a recognition and thank you for Joe's many years of volunteering with our organization. He will most definitely be missed for his wit, wisdom and dedication.

The quote from Joe's Holy Card – "I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one, I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when day is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave, when life is done."



## *PASR REGION 12 Fall General Membership Meeting and Luncheon*

PASR REGION 12 Fall General Membership Meeting and Luncheon was held at the Sheraton at Station Square on a bright and sunny September 26, 2024. It was hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter. Fifty-three members of the Allegheny County and Pittsburgh Chapters were in attendance, and enjoyed the wonderful view of downtown Pittsburgh offered by the Fountainview Room.

The general membership meeting was called to order by Glory Getty, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter. A brief update on the COLA legislation was given by Robert Marko, Director of Region 12. The Region 12 Executive Board elections were held, facilitated by Ellen Estomin. The current elected officers were re-elected for another two year term: Robert Marko – Director; Donna Dado – Secretary; and Joseph Poerio – Treasurer. Other members of the Board are the two chapter elected presidents. The Region 12 Committee Chairs are: Membership – A. Jay Gross; James White – Community Service; Educational Support – LaVerne Anthony; Public Relations – Ellen Estomin; Social Service & Memorial Honor Fund – Ernestine Reed and Nominating – John McCurry Jr. An Allegheny Chapter Update was given by President Ron Dufalla, followed by an invocation by guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kathy Flynn-Somerville. Kathy spoke after lunch was served, the topic was "Be Here Now-It's The Only Place To Be".

A 50/50 Raffle was held with the proceeds going to PghASR's Community Service Partner – The Center That CARES (Children/Young Adults Recreational & Educational Services) a homeless youth program.

PghASR will also host the Spring PASR Region 12 General Meeting and Luncheon. It will be held on May 1, 2025 at the LeMont Restaurant. For more details see the RSVP on page 8.

### **RECREO Bus Trip to Sights and Sounds Theatre**

Some of our PghASR members joined the Savvy Seniors from the Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center for a bus trip on July 31, 2024 to see the play Daniel at the Sights and Sounds Theatre in Lancaster, PA. The play was a fantastic musical version of the biblical story of Daniel. The acting and singing were great, the costumes were beautiful and the scenery was creative, with the cast marching through the audience and the use of live animals. Following the play the group had lunch at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Shady Maple is famous for their fresh recipes from the Amish. There was time to shop in the store before we headed back home.

A great time was had by all. – Kathy Moran

## In Memoriam

G. Diana Cipollone	S. Lynne Nash
Ronald Cirocco	Robert Pinkerton
Rosemary Hulsman	Joesph Poerio
Joann Jarvis	Karen Price
Nancy Lutz	Sylvia Reznick
Nina Mayfield	John Spavero
James Moran	Joseph Zaharewicz

## Memorial Honor Fund

DONOR	IN MEMORY OF
Kathleen Wertz	Harriet Fields & Jerry Haslett
Bernadette Gillotti	Carol Renk
Mary Kukic	Gail Slesinski
A. Jay Gross	Joseph Poerio
Cheryl Kocay	Joseph Poerio
Brent Johnson	Tom Motley
Brent Johnson	Joseph Poerio
A. Jay Gross	G. Diana Cipollone
Richard Bassett	Dorothy Byrd
	Nancy Lutz
	S. Lynne Dryburgh-Nash
	Joseph Poerio

## How to Contribute to the Memorial Honor Fund

To contribute to the Memorial Honor Fund, please send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Use the form on page 10 to send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR and indicate it is for the Memorial Honor Fund.



## PghASR Welcomes Its New Members

Sharon Brentley	Cynthia Patterson
E. Jane Check	Michele Gnora Roesch
Patricia Wade Johnson	Susan Sauer
Timothy Laux	Curtistine Walker
Sandra Laux	Janet Weaver
Susan Musial	Kathleen White

## The Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees

Would like to Acknowledge, Celebrate and Congratulate the following members for having reached the milestone of 20 years in retirement:

**KAY ARTHUR**

**DELORIS G. LIVSEY**

**KATHLEEN A. STROMPLE**

**A.JAY GROSS**

**JANET A. WATERS**

*The members of the Association wish you all the very best in 2025.*

## 20 Year Recognition

### A. Jay Gross & Nancy Tall

One of the great pleasures we have every year at the Holiday Luncheon is to recognize and honor members of the Pittsburgh Association who have reached the milestone of being retired for 20 years. The Class of 2024 "20 Year Retirees" was represented by five members this year. We were honored to have had three of them in attendance at the Holiday Luncheon at the Rivers Casino. They were Deloris Gardenia Livsey (Pre-School Teacher and Supervisor at MLK), Janet Waters (Teacher at Langley High School) and A. Jay Gross (Administrator at Perry Traditional Academy). Not able to attend were Kay Arthur (Social Worker at Roosevelt, Beechwood & West Liberty) and Kathleen Stromple (Teacher at Pittsburgh Classical Academy). PghASR wishes to congratulate all of our 20 year retirees and extend our very best wishes to them for 2025.

## PghASR Scholarship Fund Donors

August & Patricia Spagnolo

Mary Kukic

A. Jay Gross

Catherine DeRiggi

*In Memory of Dominic Iannotta*

Anonymous

A. Jay Gross

*In Memory of Joseph Poerio*

A. Jay Gross

*In Honor of William Fisher*

Marsha Tharp

*In Memory of Joseph Poerio*



The PghASR Scholarship Fund relies on its donors for funding. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated. Please consider donating to this worthy endeavor. For further information, contact Donna Vlassich at [dvlassich@gmail.com](mailto:dvlassich@gmail.com). Use the form on page 10 to send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR Scholarship Fund.



## ACASR Community Service with the Batch Foundation - School Backpack Packing August 20, 2024

PghASR members

Kimberly Granatire and Glory Getty attended  
(pictured far left)

# Make the Most of your PASR Membership!

Are you getting the most out of your PASR membership? Here's how you can ensure you're taking full advantage of being a member:

### **A. Stay Informed on Legislative and Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Updates**

Visit the PASR website and scroll to the bottom to click on the "Legislative and COLA Update" link. This section provides current updates on our COLA journey, as well as other important information related to the COLA process. You'll find letters and resources to help you effectively communicate with your local representatives.

### **B. Get Involved Locally**

Join a PASR Chapter to enhance your social life and contribute to your community. PASR Chapters organize a variety of activities, including day trips, week-long excursions, luncheons, picnics, and more. These events offer fantastic opportunities to socialize, meet like-minded individuals, and support your chapter.

\* For a list of upcoming events and contact details, check the calendar on the PASR website. You can also subscribe to our Membership & PASR Activities email list, where you will receive a monthly email of upcoming events.

### **C. Explore Leadership Opportunities**

If you're interested in taking a more active role, consider applying for a leadership position. There are numerous roles available at the Chapter, Region, and State levels. Many of these positions offer the chance to work alongside a co-chair or team, which can make the experience more enjoyable and collaborative. Sharing responsibilities with a co-chair allows you to brainstorm ideas, divide tasks, and support each other, making leadership both fun and effective. To learn more about these opportunities and the associated responsibilities, reach out to your local Chapter for detailed information.

### **D. Volunteer and Support Locally**

Even if you can't take on a formal leadership role, there are other ways to contribute. Connect with your Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Chair to see if you can assist by visiting or calling confined members. Additionally, reach out to your Community Service Chair for a list of current chapter plans for volunteer opportunities. Local volunteering is a great way to make a difference and engage with your community.

### **E. Take Advantage of Exclusive Membership Benefits**

Don't miss out on the exclusive benefits available to PASR members. To access these perks, visit the Members' Only section of the website, where you can find links, promo codes, and phone numbers. Benefits include Dental and Vision insurance, Auto/Home/RV and Motorcycle insurance, Life and Long-Term Care insurance, technology discounts, home energy service discounts, Wholesale Club discounts, and more.

### **F. Manage Your Membership Information**

Stay up to date with your membership status by logging into the PASR website. Here, you can review your membership details, including renewal dates for dental and vision coverage, pay dues, and update your personal information. No, we will not replace our mailing efforts. However, keeping this information current will allow us to get new and exciting information to you as fast as possible.

While we've highlighted several key areas, the PASR website offers even more resources. Explore benefit presentations to learn more about our dental and vision insurance, as well as other discounts we provide. You can also find resources for additional assistance, senior discounts not exclusive to PASR, educational Zoom recordings, fraud prevention tips, and more.

By actively engaging with these resources and opportunities, you can fully enjoy and benefit from your PASR membership. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to contact your local Chapter or the PASR staff at 717-697-7077, and we will be happy to assist!

## Donations

Please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of printing and mailing PghASR Newsletters. PghASR officers and the Editorial Board extend gratitude to all who donate. Use the form on page 10 to send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR

### Newsletter Fund

Frank Smizik	Sylvia Robinson
Michaeline Srsic	Mary Kukic
August & Patricia Spagnolo	Anonymous
Kathleen Wertz	

### Postage

Michaeline Srsic	Sylvia Robinson
Kathleen Wertz	Mary Kukic
Bernadette Gillotti	

Our biggest expense is the printing and mailing of the newsletters. Using email to send the newsletters is the key to driving down expenses! Help us make the transition easier by sending us your email address.

### CARES PROGRAM

Joseph Poerio	Katherine Deriggi
Judith Rauch	Anonymous
Judith Rauch	Diana Armstrong

.....

### Make Your Life Easier with a PSERS Interaction Account

**Dr. A. Jay Gross, Recording Secretary**

If you are a retired professional employee of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, who retired between 1988 and 2008, every February you are entitled to receive a reimbursement payment to help cover the cost of your Medicare Supplement Premiums. To receive the payment, you are required to submit a Benefits Statement from HOP/PSERS (or other insurance provider) listing your monthly payments toward your Medicare Supplement Premiums. Every year we are at the mercy of HOP/PSERS to get the Benefits Statement in time to submit it to the Board in order to qualify for reimbursement. Now we no longer have to be at the mercy of HOP/PSERS to get this form. Go to the PSERS website at <http://www.psers.state.pa.us/interaction/default.htm> and set up an INTERACTION ACCOUNT. You will be able to get information and print ALL forms – including the Benefits Statement form and 1099 Tax Form – earlier than you receive them by mail from HOP/PSERS. Do it now and remember it next tax season!

## Are you ready for Medicare?

**A. Jay Gross**

You are nearing 65 and may have wondered what you are going to do regarding your health care insurance as the Board will no longer provide that coverage for you. The good news is that you are now eligible for Medicare and also HOP (Health Options Program) which is provided through PSERS and is designated for retirees and their dependents and survivors. As a Medicare supplement, HOP offers a number of options for medical coverage from which you can choose. Several months prior to your 65th birthday you will receive a packet from HOP. Included in that packet will be the health options that you can select from as well as information about the dates, times and locations for group information meetings. It is always advised that you attend one of these information presentations. If you are still not fully able to make a decision you can request a one-on-one meeting with an advisor at PSERS. Getting your supplemental or Advantage plan through HOP has a number of benefits. HOP provides a \$100 per month premium assistance which is applied to the cost of the plan that you choose. The plans that are available through HOP provide very comprehensive medical coverage and prescription drug plans. The cost of the HOP plans are very competitive with locally available plans and often offer greater coverage at a much better rate. The cost of the HOP plans are automatically deducted from your pension benefits, assuring you uninterrupted coverage. Another benefit is that during the annual selection period an individual may choose to change their plan option without penalty. In addition there is always HOP personnel available to answer your questions about coverage and make recommendations. If you have access to the internet go to the HOP web site at [www.hopbenefits.com](http://www.hopbenefits.com) where you can read more about the coverage through HOP.

### Do you have any suggestions for the Newsletter?

Contact PghASR by email at [pghpasr2024@yahoo.com](mailto:pghpasr2024@yahoo.com)  
or by mail at

PghASR, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

Note that articles, forms, and other information should  
be sent to Glory Getty at [ggetty700w@aol.com](mailto:ggetty700w@aol.com).

**Please Let Us Know  
Ernestine Reed**

If anyone is aware of any PghASR member who is ill, had a surgical procedure, or is deceased, please contact Ernestine Reed, Chairperson of the Social Services and Memorial Honor Fund. Ernestine's contact information is on the last page of the Newsletter along with all the other officers and committee members. It is important for us as retirees to show each other that we care and that our members are remembered. Receiving a card, phone call or visitation can make all the difference when someone is ill, recovering, or being remembered when a member passes, or in some cases, when a spouse/partner of a PghASR member passes. Recognizing a family when a heartache occurs lets them know that we haven't forgotten them or their loved one. See form below.

<i>Always in Our Hearts</i>	<b>PGHASR</b> <b>PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES</b> <b>SOCIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL HONOR FUND</b> <b>REQUEST FORM</b>
<b>PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES OF RETIREES, IF YOU WISH TO HAVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CARD SENT FOR A RECENT BEREAVEMENT, ILLNESS, OR AS A GESTURE OF KINDNESS IN THE FORM OF A "THINKING OF YOU" CARD.</b>	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	
NAME: _____	
EMAIL: _____	
<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	
<b>FULL NAME</b>	<b>REASON (I.E., DECEASED, ILLNESS, KINDNESS)</b>
<b>Please respond to the following survey questions:</b>	
1. How can the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund serve you better? _____	
2. What is your preferred form of communication? <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	
3. During times of celebration, sickness or grief, how would you like the committee to respond? <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Card <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Not at All	
<b>RETURN TO:</b> <b>MRS. ERNESTINE A. REED, PGHASR MEMORIAL FUND</b> <b>8935 EASTWOOD ROAD</b> <b>PITTSBURGH, PA 15235</b>	

## **PASR Region 12 Report**

### **Robert Marko, PASR Region 12 Director**

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the death of PASR Region 12 Treasurer Joe Poerio. Joe was an active member of the PGH-ASR and he served as Treasurer of PASR Region 12. We send his wife Paula and his family our sincere condolences, Dr. Ron Dufalla has consented to serve as the Region 12 Treasurer.

During the PASR-L/PEC meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 we were informed that Allegheny County State Representative Dan Deasy will again sponsor a new bill in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for public school employees who retired from service prior to 2000. This bill will have a new number because it is a new legislative year. We will be asking all PASR members and friends to contact their Legislators and request support for this new legislation. We are also working to have this legislation become part of the 2025 Pennsylvania state budget.

Please note that as of January 31, 2025 pre Act 9 retirees now need \$176.58 to purchase goods that would cost \$100.00 on July 1, 2002, the last effective date of the previous COLA paid to public school retirees who were employed in Pennsylvania.

I hope that each of you will give some time to communicate and meet with your member of the Pennsylvania House of Representative and your state Senator to discuss the desperate need for a COLA for our elderly public school retirees.

Please remember that the PASR legislative team members were able to get the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives to pass COLA Bill H. B. 1416 in 2024, but the State Senate did not release it from the State Senate Government Committee. We need to make sure that the new house bill is passed in the House of Representatives and then work to get the bill passed in the State Senate.

I will provide the number of the new COLA bill as soon as it is released from Representative Deasy's office.

Please call me at 724-687-0210 if you have any questions.

We need your help to get the new COLA bill passed. Please consider giving your time to help pass this important legislation!

### **Spring 2025 COLA UPDATE from PASR**

Efforts to promote lawmakers to adopt a COLA for pre-Act 9 beneficiaries continue in Harrisburg. House members Rep. Steven Malagari and Rep. Dan Deasy have again introduced legislation to support retired school employees. The bill – House Bill 411 – is now in the House State Government Committee awaiting consideration. The legislation mirrors the proposal led by these two lawmakers last session, which passed the state House twice with significant bipartisan support. As we all know, no action was taken in the state Senate.

PASR and its lobbying team at Triad Strategies are continuing to work with lawmakers to advance this bill. These efforts are also being supported by groups like PSEA and AFSCME.

All parties continue to stress the imperative nature of the COLA. With inflation continuing to rise, pre-Act 9 PSERS beneficiaries are seeing the values of their pensions decline with each passing day. PASR and Triad are actively working on a new “fact sheet” for advocacy distribution to lawmakers to help encourage their support. That material will be made available in the near future.

Outreach efforts on the COLA are continuing in the state Senate, especially with members who have outwardly expressed their support of the concept. Sen. Katie Muth and Sen. John Kane have again issued legislative co-sponsor memos with plans to introduce COLA bills similar to those they sponsored last session.

It will remain imperative for PASR members and retirees to reach out to their local elected officials and advocate for advancement of the COLA plan(s). Two decades are far too long to wait for this support.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the PASR team. We are here to help and continue the momentum we generated on this matter last session.

Sincerely,

Kristen Holjes, PASR Executive Director

P.S. We are excited to invite you to a Zoom presentation hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 4:00 PM. This informative session will provide an overview of the group insurance plans offered by PASR, along with exclusive discounts and benefits designed to help our members save both time and money.

It's essential to know that many health plans, including most Medicare plans, do not cover vision and dental insurance. This presentation will guide you through our various coverage options and demonstrate how a PASR membership pays for itself—especially with the 4-5% discounts available on home and auto insurance policies.

Don't miss this opportunity to inform yourself about the benefits that could enhance your retirement life!

Go to our website [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) for more information.



PghASR's General  
Membership  
Meeting and  
Holiday Luncheon  
December 13,  
2025



Friday, December 13th at the Rivers Casino. There were almost 130 attendees. A meet and greet was held during which raffle tickets were sold for a basket raffle to fund scholarships and for a 50/50 raffle to provide funding to PghASR's Community Service Partner, CARES (Children/Young Adults Recreational & Educational Services), a homeless youth program. The two raffles combined raised over \$1200.00.

The general membership meeting was called to order with a welcome and pledge of allegiance by President, Glory Getty. Greetings with state and regional updates were offered to the gathering by PASR State President Mary K. Davis and the Region 12 Director Bob Marko.

Dr. A. Jay Gross recognized the members who were 20 year (2004) retirees with a special certificate. Those that were in attendance were: Deloris Gardenia Livsey; Janet Waters; and Dr. A. Jay Gross. Kathleen Stromple and Kay Arthur did not attend.

The Community Service Committee consisting of James White, Joe Poerio and Denyse Littles- Cullens selected and honored two Volunteers of the Year for their service to our communities – Jackie Blakey- Tate and Pastor Shirley Muschick.

Denyse Littles Cullens was recognized by PghASR for her service to the organization by being awarded the Dillon Award. The award reads “in recognition of outstanding service to the members of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and its Pittsburgh Chapter … may your example of selfless service and your dedication to promoting the interests and serving the needs of the members, inspire future generations of PASR volunteers. On behalf of the Association and all of the members, whose lives you have enriched, we extend our sincere gratitude and very best wishes.”

2024 was an election year for PghASR so Ellen Estomin facilitated the election and induction of the 2025 & 2026 Officers – Glory Getty, President; Anita Walker, President Elect; Kathy Moran, Recording Secretary; Dr. A. Jay Gross – Membership Secretary; LaVerne Anthony – Corresponding Secretary; Eileen Gavin – Treasurer and Debra Rucki – Assistant Treasurer. The

newly elected Region 12 Officers were also inducted, they are Bob Marko – Director; Joe Poerio – Treasurer; and Donna Dado – Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned and James White gave the invocation for the luncheon. The luncheon meal was delicious and topped off with berry cheesecake. Attendees were sent off with best wishes for a healthy and happy 2025 as well as a great big THANK YOU for their support of PghASR.



## Change of Address

### A. Jay Gross, Membership Secretary

On page 2 of our newsletter is a form for PghASR members to use to let us know when they have a change of address. We need to know every active member's current address and email so we are able to mail or email your newsletters and any other correspondence that would be of importance to you. Unfortunately, we have many members who, for whatever reason, have neglected to inform us. When members move and their newsletters are forwarded by the Post Office, we get a change of address notification but also a bill for \$0.70 for each forwarded newsletter. The last newsletter mailing had in excess of \$10 in such fees. Plus if it is beyond a certain number of days and the newsletter can't be forwarded, it is returned to our Post Office box with a postage due bill of \$1.00 per newsletter. We had in excess of \$10 in such returns with the last newsletter. If you are planning to move, or if you are aware of another member who is planning to move or has moved, we ask you to let us know by sending us either the form in the newsletter or a note with the new address. Send it to PghASR, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. This information would be greatly appreciated and would help us keep our records and mailing list accurate as well as curtailing our costs.

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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.

### Legislative/Political Education Committee Contribution Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_   
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Please make checks payable to L/PEC and mail to: PASR, Attn: L/PEC • 878 Century Drive • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
Note: L/PEC Donations are not deductible for federal income taxes.

If you are a member of PghASR but not PASR, use this form to join the State organization. PASR offers its members many benefits. Go to [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) to see the benefits that are available.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		Phone	Date of Birth
<b>PASR</b> Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 878 Century Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4375			<hr/> <hr/>
Please print name/address below:		Would you like to receive information about a local PASR chapter? (PLEASE SPECIFY)	Retirement Date & Yrs. of Service
Please select your membership option. Make check payable to: <b>PASR</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership Dues ■ \$60.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership Dues ■ \$60.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership Dues ■ \$700.00			
Phone: 717-697-7077 ■ Fax: 717-697-8742 ■ <a href="mailto:pasr@pasr.org">pasr@pasr.org</a> ■ <a href="http://www.pasr.org">www.pasr.org</a>			
Note: Membership dues payments are not deductible for federal income tax.			

# PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Glory Getty	700 Woodbourne Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15226	412-389-8211	ggetto700w@aol.com
<b>President-Elect</b>	Anita Walker	228 Cranbrooke Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15108	412-303-0593	walkeranita625@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eileen Gavin	1120 Fairfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201	412-781-7359	eag1120@aim.com
<b>Secretary, Membership</b>	Dr. A. Jay Gross	3 Bayard Rd., #58, Pittsburgh, PA 15213	412-683-2711	ajaygross@msn.com
<b>Secretary, Recording</b>	Kathy Moran	158 Oakbrook Cir. Pittsburgh, PA 15220	412-458-3244	kmoran056@comcast.net
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<b>Past President</b>	Debra S. Rucki	1416 Harris Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15205	412-937-0138	dsrucki@verizon.net
<b>Region 12 Director</b>	Robert Marko	704 Curran Ct. Valencia, PA 16059	724-687-0210	bobandsylvia855@gmail.com

## PghASR COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### **Community Service**

James W. White  
Denyse Littles-Cullens

### **Constitution/Bylaws** (Vacant)

### **Educational Support**

LaVerne Anthony

### **Scholarships**

Donna Vlassich  
Ellen Estomin

### **History/Archives**

Diana Armstrong

### **Benefits & Services**

(Vacant)

### **L/PEC**

Debra Rucki

### **Membership/Retirement**

Anita Walker  
Jackie Blakey-Tate  
Toni Kendrick

### **Newsletter**

LaVerne Anthony  
Glory Getty  
Janine Michael

### **Nominating**

LaVerne Anthony  
Jackie Blakey-Tate

### **Recreo Planning**

Kathy Moran

### **Social Service and Memorial Honor Fund**

Ernestine Reed

\*\*\*\*\*  
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## How to Access the PghASR Website

Check out the PghASR website to find the most current information about upcoming events and other important announcements.

There are two ways to access the website. You can go to [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) and click on the Find a Chapter tab in the top bar to the right of the large PASR logo. The page that opens shows a map of Pennsylvania. Click on the WESTERN 12 area of the map. On the next page you'll see information about Region 12. On the right of that page are two categories, Region 12 Chapters and Chapter Websites. Click on the Pittsburgh link under Chapter Websites to get to the PghASR website.

The second way to access the PghASR website is to go directly to it by typing [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org) into the address bar of your browser. You can bookmark it, but if you have the old website address bookmarked, you will have to remove it before you can add the new one.

An important addition to the information on the website is the "Helpful Links" link in the upper left of the website under the PASR logo. Clicking on it will take you to an extensive list of links for organizations important to PghASR members, such as the PASR state website, HOP, PSERS, Medicare, and many others.

The PASR Pittsburgh Chapter

Newsletter

Editorial Board

LaVerne Anthony  
Glory Getty

PghASR webmaster: Janine Michael

With help from many others

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**Use this form to renew for 2025/2026 or become a member.**

If you are an ANNUAL member of the PghASR but have not yet renewed your 2025/2026 membership, you may do so now.

Note that annual dues are now \$15 and Life Membership is now \$150. Thank you for your continued support of our organization.

Check your address label on this newsletter for your membership status. Your status appears above your name.

If your status is:

EXP Jun2025—Please complete the form below. Your dues for 2025/2026 are due in June. (Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31.)  
Life—Your dues are paid. Please do not complete the form.

If you have questions about your status, please write or email [pghpasr2024@yahoo.com](mailto:pghpasr2024@yahoo.com).

**PghASR 2025/2026 Dues Renewal and New Member Form**

Please check one: (Make check payable to PghASR. Annual dues are \$15. Life membership dues are \$150.)

Enclosed is my check for \$15 for my 2025/2026 dues. (For members with EXP Jun 2025 on their mailing label only)

I am a new member. Enclosed is my check for (circle one) \$15 for 2025/2026 dues or \$150 for Life Membership.

I retired in \_\_\_\_\_.

Title (circle) Dr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Mr. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to PghASR and mail it with this form to PghASR, P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224.