

**Pittsburgh Chapter**

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

**PghASR**  
**NEWSLETTER**

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

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



*PghASR General Membership Meeting  
& Scholarship Luncheon*  
**Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 11:30 a.m.**  
**GRAND CONCOURSE**

*RSVP by Friday, May 22, 2026  
see page 3 for details and reservation form*

Annual PASR Region 12  
Meeting & Luncheon  
Host: Pittsburgh Chapter  
Friday, September 25th at 11:00 AM  
Rivers Casino

*Look for RSVP in the Fall Newsletter*

**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**  
**2026 Calendar**

**For more information about the events, see articles in this newsletter  
or go to the PghASR website at pghasr.org**

**April**

- Spring/Summer Newsletter Arrives by USPS and by email from pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com
- April 13th, 1:00 PM  
Barnes & Noble Bookfairs Committee Meeting -  
Banksville Eat N Park
- April 16-19th  
Pittsburgh Allderdice High School Musical – Curtains
- April 10-12 & 16-19  
Pittsburgh CAPA High School Musical – Guys and Dolls
- April 11-18th  
PASR RECREO – Travel Opportunity – 8 Day Tour  
of Spain. For details go to pasr.org

- April 28th, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
RECREO - Spring Taco Tuesday at Waterfront El  
Campesino. RSVP to Kathy Moran at  
kmoran056@comcast.net by April 21st

**May**

- Saturday, May 2nd  
Barnes and Noble Book Fair Scholarship Fundraiser &  
PR Event at Several Barnes and Noble Locations. See Flyer  
and Voucher in newsletter.
- Thursday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
RECREO – Inside Recess - Let's Learn/Play Pickleball at  
Brookline Rec Center. RSVP to Glory Getty at  
ggetty700w@aol.com

Tuesday, May 19th, 11:30 a.m.

RECREO – Lunch Bunch at Cheesecake Factory Southside Works – RSVP to ggetty700w@aol.com by May 15th.

**June**

Tuesday, June 2nd, 11:30 a.m.

PghASR General Membership Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon – at Grand Concourse/Station Square

Thursday, June 25th, at 12:35 p.m.

RECREO – Pirate Baseball Game. Tickets are \$30.00 and RSVP form is due to Debbie Rucki by April 30th.

**July**

July 7th at 11:30 a.m.

RECREO - Lunch Bunch at Redfin Blues  
RSVP to ggetty700w@aol.com by July 3rd.

Thursday, July 23rd 10:00 a.m.

RECREO – Outside Recess at Moraine State Park  
Easyhike to the breast of the Dam, followed by picnic lunch. Meet at the bike rental at 10:00 AM, RSVP to Glory Getty at ggetty700w@aol.com by July 20th

Tuesday, July 28th – 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – Banksville Eat N Park

**August**

Fall Newsletter Production

Fall/Winter Newsletter Arrives by USPS and by email from pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com

Thursday, August 20th, at 11:30 AM

RECREO – No Back to School Lunch Bunch at Narcisi Winery on RSVP to Glory Getty at ggetty700w@aol.com by August 17th.

TBD

Allegheny County Chapter Community Service  
Batch Foundation

**September**

Friday, September 25th, 11:00 a.m.

Annual PASR Region 12 Meeting and Luncheon  
Pittsburgh Chapter Hosts at the Rivers Casino.

**October**

Thursday, October 22nd at 11:30 a.m.

RECREO - Lunch Bunch – Octoberfest at Hofbrauhaus  
RSVP to ggetty700w@aol.com by October 19th.

**November**

Tuesday, November 10th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

RECREO – Fall Taco Tuesday at Waterfront El Campesino, RSVP to Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comcast.net by November 3rd.

TBD

RECREO – Inside Recess Day/Game Day II

**December**

TBD

PghASR General Membership and Holiday Luncheon at Rivers Casino

December 7-11th

PASR RECREO – Travel Opportunity – A Biltmore Christmas in Ashville NC, – for details go to pasr.org

TBD

Allegheny County Chapter Community Service-  
Batch Foundation

**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:(Penna. 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 Meeting & Scholarship Luncheon

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

\$40.00

(Includes tax and gratuity)

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.

## GRAND CONCOURSE

100 W Station Square Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 (412) 261-1717

Parking is available in the open lot across from the Grand Concourse or Valet Parking available for \$15.00

11:30 am Welcome Remarks

11:45 Lunch, followed by award presentations

### Menu (Choose One Entrée)

- Grilled Antarctic Salmon with lemon butter sauce
- Lemon Chicken with mushrooms, artichokes & lemon butter
- Seasonal Vegetable Ravioli provencale tomato cream, parmesan, basil chiffonade

All entrees come with a Martha's Vineyard Salad and coffee, tea, soda or iced tea.

## PghASR General Membership Meeting & Scholarship Luncheon RSVP Form

Reservations are requested no later than Friday, May 22, 2026. Make checks payable to PghASR and mail with this form to

Eileen Gavin, 1120 Fairfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. For more information, call 412-496-5241.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations for Salmon = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations for Lemon Chicken = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations for Ravioli = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 per person

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

In order to facilitate preparation of place cards, please write name of each person attending and his/her entrée selection.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Selection \_\_\_\_\_

**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 2026 Glory Getty

Michelle Obama Reveals the Four Dying Words from Her Mother That Changed the Way She Lives Her Life, first appeared on Parade on Jun 29, 2025.

She was realizing that she would not ever be the same old self that she was. She was starting to realize she's coming to the end," Obama recounted. "She leaned over to me and said, '**Wow, this went fast.**' "

The simplicity and unexpectedness of her mother's words struck Michelle Obama deeply. "I held her hand and said, 'What are you talking about?' And she said, 'Life.' She said, 'This went fast.' And this is the woman who was ready," the former first lady emphasized, highlighting the surprising nature of the sentiment from someone so seemingly prepared for death.

This intimate exchange offered a new lens through which Obama now views her own life. "That I'll feel like, 'I wish I had more **time.**' So I'm trying to live my life like that." Michelle Obama's anecdote serves as a reminder to embrace each moment, to live with purpose, and to cherish the experiences that make life feel "fast."

In a recent Wall Street Journal article (2/13/26) editor Stephen Kreider Yoder and his wife Karen wrote about the things they were most surprised by, about recent retirements. Those "surprising things included the identity vacuum; **time**; and money." Stephen wrote this about **time**.

It was a one-day task. It took all week. "Everything seems to take so much longer since I retired," I told Karen apologetically as I showed her the results. "How did we ever get so much done before?" It's as if someone flipped a switch. **Time** suddenly flies faster. Things take longer. We marvel at what 50-somethings get done during a workweek, and we recall with incredulity how much we accomplished daily while working and child-rearing and housekeeping and traveling and negotiating the city. An exception: **Time** stretches when we're traveling or into activities we've never done before. A long-retired friend says **time** no longer accelerates for him. Maybe I'll get there, eventually. It will probably happen before I know it.

August 2025, I attended my 50th High School Reunion. This was the one and only **time** I returned home to attend a high school reunion. A 50th high school reunion most definitely causes one to reflect on the impact of **time**. An AI quote I read said: "in essence, it's a poignant, often joyful, look back that emphasizes what truly matters after half a century. A call to live more fully and stay connected. A motivation to cherish the present." My reflection on the reunion was life is short and it sure is moving right along, better keep moving too!

So as I continue to reflect, I'm sure that I am going to wish for more **time** ... someday, (only if I see it coming). But in the meantime, I am going to try to embrace each moment, live with purpose and cherish the experiences that make life feel fast. I'm going to recognize that **time** suddenly flies faster, except maybe, when I am traveling or experiencing new things. I'm going to look back at the things that truly matter and try to live more fully while staying connected. I'm going to cherish the present and I'm going to remember that life is short, and it sure is moving right along and I had better keep moving too!

PS - The Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees and the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees is one way that I "stay connected". As the years distance me from my time at PPS, staying connected through PghASR and PASR assures me that deep down, hidden away, is the educator I once was and that what I did for 30+ years mattered. I think it will do the same for you, come join us **sometime!** - Glory

# SPECIAL NOTICES TO OUR MEMBERS

1. **PASR COLA UPDATE** - Both House and Senate Appropriations Committees are conducting budget hearings through March, this is followed by months of policy discussions – which will include the COLA – that lead up to the final budget in late June. This collaborative budget process creates an important opportunity for COLA advocates to make the case to legislators and key staff. We need to highlight the financial challenges facing retired members and urge inclusion of a COLA in the final budget. Copy and paste the link below to send a message to our Senators urging their support for a COLA for pre-Act 9 retirees. <https://www.pasr.org/legislative-form/?id=20>
2. Register at [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) for **PASR's Benefits Zoom Presentation** scheduled for April 16th at 4:00 p.m. to find out more about what benefits PASR has to offer its members. You can also register for the **PASR Book Club Zoom Meeting** scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on May 27th. The book to be discussed is James by Percival Everett.
3. **Region 12 Update** - Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees Region 12/Western Region, consists of the Allegheny County Chapter and the Pittsburgh Chapter. During the House of Delegates in October, Robert Marko announced that he would be stepping down as the Region 12 Executive Director at the end of 2025. The Executive Director position alternates between the two chapters, so it became Pittsburgh Chapter's turn to fill the vacancy. Ellen Estomin agreed to fill the vacancy – Ellen had previously served as the regional executive director. Thank you to Ellen for assuming this leadership position.  
**The PASR Region 12 Annual Meeting and Luncheon hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter is scheduled for Friday, September 25th at the Rivers Casino. Look for additional information and the RSVP form in the fall newsletter, but mark your calendars now, we would love to see you there.**
4. **2026 is an Election Year** for Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees Officers. The slate of candidates will be prepared and presented at the July Executive Committee meeting. The slate will then be published in the fall newsletter. The election and installation of the new officers will occur at the General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon. **If you would be interesting in a leadership position within our organization we are always seeking interested volunteers.** If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Nominating Committee, LaVerne Anthony and Jackie Blakey-Tate.
5. We communicate with all of our members through our two newsletters published in the spring and the fall of each year. **If you have provided us with an up to date email, then periodically we communicate using an email service called Mail Chimp. Look for [pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:pghpasr@209715402.mailchimpapp.com).** Those emails usually will start with “greetings from the Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees.” We have one other means of communicating with all of our members and it is so simple to use – just access our website at [pghasr.org](http://pghasr.org)
6. We also have a **Facebook page** that you can Like and Follow just do a search for Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees. Comment on the posts and share the posts, PghASR is your organization, your community, and by sharing our social media content you can help us grow.
7. Ernestine Reed our Social Service and Memorial Honor Fund Chairperson is always seeking information about members who we should be caringly contacting. See the form on page 18.
8. **If you are aware of any new retirees please talk to them about joining PghASR and PASR.**
9. Senior Justice and Wellness Fest presented by the Allegheny County DA's Office, on May 13, 2026 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center in Cheswick, PA. The Fest will include a free lunch, expert speakers, health screenings, prizes and giveaways, and prescription disposal. You must call to register at 412-430-3416.
10. **We operate solely by using your dues and donations – 2026/2027 Annual dues will be \$25.00 and they are due to us by June 1, 2026 (our fiscal year runs June 1 to May 31). You can always switch to a Lifetime Membership by paying \$250.00. A one and done so to speak! Donations are encouraged for our Memorial Honor Fund; Scholarship Fund; Newsletter Fund; Postage Fund. We also accept donations for our Community Service Partner – H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow.**
11. **Each year at our Holiday Meeting and Luncheon we honor a Volunteer of the Year.** Perhaps you know of one of our members who should be recognized for their volunteer work in our community. We would love to hear about them – send us an email.
12. We recently made revisions to qualifications for membership in PghASR, in our chapter by laws. Membership in the chapter shall be: Active – any person retired from any educational institution in the state of Pennsylvania; Associate – any person interested in the work of PghASR; any active school employee and any spouse of an active member 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**P A S R**  
 Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

**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>Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees</b> 878 Century Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4375			____/____/____
		E-mail Address	Retirement Date & Yrs. of Service
Please print name/address below:  _____  _____	Would you like to receive information about a local PASR chapter? (PLEASE SPECIFY)		School District Retired From
	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.			



# House of Delegates 2025

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 2025 House of Delegates was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center beginning on Sunday, October 5th and ending on Tuesday, October 7th. PghASR was represented by LaVerne Anthony; Diana Armstrong; Ellen Estomin; Glory Getty; A. Jay Gross; Kathy Moran; Ernestine Reed; Anita Walker. The host for the meeting was Region 5 which consists of Blair; Centre; Clearfield; Huntingdon; Mifflin; Snyder; and Union Chapters. Their theme was Staying Alive in '25. Relax. Refresh. Renew.

After dinner on Sunday evening the first plenary session was held: Mary K Davis provided the President's Report; tellers were appointed; rules were adopted; and the minutes from the 2023 House of Delegates meeting were approved. Jared Frederick, Ph.D. and Assistant Teaching Professor of History at Penn State Altoona was the keynote speaker. His talk was titled "Gettysburg Roots –A Farm, A Family, and the Fight for Freedom". The evening ended with a meet and greet "tailgate" with attendees being asked to wear their favorite sports team colors or jersey.

Monday was a full day that started with state committee gatherings and a brainstorming session about "ways to help chapters bring in new leaders". The second plenary session was held with several reports being given: the treasurer's report; legislative report; executive director's report; and by-laws committee report. The session ended with a recognition of the outgoing state leaders. Monday afternoon provided an opportunity for attendees to participate in seminars with topics ranging from gentle yoga, staying safe on-line and STEM to Share - at home science experiments. And the day was not over yet! The biennial banquet was held that evening with its presentation of awards by Kristin Holjes, PASR Executive Director. The banquet ended with cheesecake and entertainment provided by Cathy Keefe – House of Delegates Co-Chair and Musician Kent Martin's Walk through TV Themes dating back to the 1950's. Do you remember the theme to the television series Rawhide?

Tuesday started with Region Caucuses and ended with the final plenary session. A very lovely In Memoriam ceremony honored and commemorated the lives of our dearly departed members. The PASR 2025-2026 Budget was acknowledged, proposed by-law amendments were voted on and adopted, new state officers were elected and installed.



## New State Officers Elected at the House of Delegates 2025

President – John (Jack) Werner – taught in the Warren County School District  
 President-elect – Sherry Morris – taught in the School District of Philadelphia  
 Vice President – Beth Collins – taught in Snyder County  
 Treasurer – Diane E. Motter – taught in York and Adams Counties

## SECOND TACO TUESDAY

Photo/Attendees list-  
 Dan Cornell; Clare Cornell; Tom Wyse, Jr.; Mary Ann Gonot; Curtistine Walker; Anita Walker; Nicholas Mamula; Pam Diulus; Kathy Moran; Ernestine Reed; Debbie Rucki. (not shown Sue Homol and Glory Getty)



August 2025

**ACASR  
 Community Service  
 Batch Foundation**



December 2025

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game Debra S. Rucki

How about joining some of your PPS retired colleagues on Thursday, June 25th at 12:35 p.m. at PNC Park to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates vs Seattle Mariners? 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. Please note that the game we will be attending is **June 25th!** 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 Thursday, April 30th. I will distribute tickets at the June Scholarship Luncheon. If you are unable to attend the Scholarship 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 12:00 pm and no later than 12:20 pm on game day. Let's Go BUCS!!!

### Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

Pittsburgh Pirates vs Seattle Mariners at 12:35 p.m.

When: Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Where: PNC Park

Tickets distributed at the June Scholarship Luncheon or at the Willie Stargell Statue on Federal Street between 12:00 pm- 12:20 pm on game day.

Cost: \$30 per ticket for **Senior Citizens 55 years and older**

**Payment Due Date: Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please note that refunds are not possible.**

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

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

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

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

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

# PASR Region 12 Fall Luncheon

The PASR Region 12 2025 Fall Luncheon was held at the Edgewood Country Club on Thursday, September 18th. The luncheon was hosted by the Allegheny County Chapter. There were approximately 50 attendees from both chapters. Attendees were greeted first by Ron Dufalla the President of the Allegheny Chapter and also by Bob Marko the Region 12 Director.



Chapter updates were given by Glory Getty, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter and also by President Ron Dufalla.

There were two very special guests in attendance: Kristen Holjes, Executive Director of the state association (PASR) and also Mary K. Davis, President of PASR. Kristen reminded those in attendance that a COLA for all retirees is something that the state organization has been working toward and advocating for, for many years. She reminded attendees of the many benefits and discounts available to those who have a state membership. Kristen's message also included a reminder that in these days and times, the best way to access information about the state organization and the local chapters is through the use of their websites. Kristen reminded us that one of the most important benefits of membership in the state organization and the local chapters is the opportunity to make new friends and maintain contact with old friends. A reminder that one of our goals is to help one another enjoy retirement.



A delicious buffet lunch was served followed by the guest speaker Joe Giuffre, a retired school teacher and a Senior Justice Advocate, from the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Senior Justice Advocates are trained and experienced at working with the particular needs of older adults. Collaborating with senior service providers and law enforcement, they help prevent elder abuse and support senior victims of fraud, abuse and neglect. Joe's talk focused mostly on awareness of scams targeting older adults. He can be contacted at 412-427-3770 or email [JoeatDA@gmail.com](mailto:JoeatDA@gmail.com).





## *General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon*

On a sunny but brisk December Day, PghASR held its annual membership meeting and holiday luncheon at the Rivers Casino. The general meeting was called to order at 11:30 after the meet and greet. During the meet and greet, guests had a chance to purchase fundraising raffle tickets for a basket raffle and a 50/50 raffle. The basket raffle fundraiser was for the scholarship fund and the 50/50 raffle fundraiser was for our community service partner HOPE for Tomorrow. A very generous group of 88 attendees raised \$782.00 for the scholarship fund and \$253.00 for HOPE for Tomorrow.

First, on the general membership meeting agenda was Region 12 Director Bob Marko who provided an update from PASR during which he reminded attendees to continue to contact their legislators about the needed COLA. He presented a PASR Commendation to PghASR President Glory Getty and also informed the attendees that he would be stepping down at the end of the year as region director. Ellen Estomin has agreed to return as Region 12 Director, a position that she held for eight years prior to Bob.

Next, on the meeting agenda was a recognition of our 20 year retirees (Westlynn Davis; Patricia Kelly; Thelma Lovette Morris; Ernestine Reed; Raymond C. Sanders; Marilyn Barnett Waters; James W. White; Darla Del Duca Yannott); the awarding of the 2025 Dillon Award to Anita Walker; a report from the Promise Center, recipient of the \$750.00 Education Support Grant; and recognition of the Community Service Volunteers of the Year Milton and Jerry Ann Allen.

The meeting served as a reminder that PASR through their suggested yearly goals and activities encourages each chapter to expand/improve our service to others. This meeting demonstrated that the Pittsburgh Chapter meets that recommended state organization goal and activity through our work with: PPS to award graduating student scholarships; community service partner HOPE for Tomorrow; awardees of the educational support grant; and our own Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee. The meeting and luncheon was a perfect reminder that our chapter remains focused on our stated mission which is to “serve others in need and to help one another enjoy retirement.



## EDUCATION SUPPORT GRANT FOR 2025

### LaVerne Anthony - Chair of the Educational Support Committee

As many of you are aware, the Pittsburgh Chapter makes up Region 12 along with the Allegheny Chapter. Each year, we rotate who will give out the Education Support Grant between the two chapters. The \$750 comes from PASR, which has funds earmarked for the grant. For the 2025 – 2026 year, we the Pittsburgh Chapter awarded the grant. We always select a community organization that supports Pittsburgh Public School students. This year we gave the \$750 to the Promise Center. This organization is in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh. The Promise Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to after school tutoring for students who attend Pittsburgh Faison Elementary School. The program also emphasizes the development of self-discipline and character in students. The program prioritizes efforts to improve healthcare outcomes for children in the community. Such initiatives are established to make a positive impact on the performance of the students they serve in their home school. The Center is in operation after normal school hours.

#### 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).

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### PghASR MEMBER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORM

Use ONLY when there is a change of address, Phone Number or e-mail address.

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.)

## Memorial Honor Fund

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Rosalyn Sherman  
 Gregory & Thelma Morris  
  
 Carol Gamble  
 Marilyn Barnett Waters  
 Ernestine A. Reed  
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 Joette Miller & Mike Steele  
 A. Jay Gross  
  
 Marjorie Eckman  
 Bernadette Gillotti  
 Sophia Calaboyias Facaros  
 LaVerne Anthony  
  
 Bernadette Gillotti

### IN MEMORY OF

William A. G. Fisher  
 Richard Nicklos  
 William Cary Allen,  
 Martha B. Hunt,  
 Ricahrd W. Nicklos,  
 Rachel Jones,  
 June Green,  
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## 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 11 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

Andrea D. Brown	Cindy Zurchin	Jody Smith
Regina M. Govachini	Robyn Stefanyak	Lucy Allen
Lamar Lee, Jr.	Mary Ann Gonot	Mina Levenson
James Solters		Myriam Levine

## In Memoriam

Nancy Baker	Dorothy Jones
Mary Calaboyias-Raich	Eugene Khorey
Olga Cawley	Joseph Kosko, Jr
Mary Lou Clark	Zoltan Kristof
Cornelia Davis	Henry Livingston
Joseph DiMatteo	Beatrices Mahaffey
Dorothy Donovan	Gail Parker
Bertha Ferrante	Sylvia Reznick
Kathleen Freismuth	Selma Ryave
Van Hughes	Bernadine Srocki

## 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 11 to send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR

## Newsletter Fund

Gregory & Thelma Morris	Joette Miller & Mike Steele
Anonymous	Sylvia Robinson
Mary Kay Kukic	Marjorie Eckman
Mary L. Irmscher	

## Postage

Gregory & Thelma Morris	Sylvia Robinson
Mary Kay Kukic	Marjorie Eckman
Joette Miller & Mike Steele	

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.

## H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow

Diana Armstrong  
 Holiday 50/50



## PghASR Scholarship Fund Donors

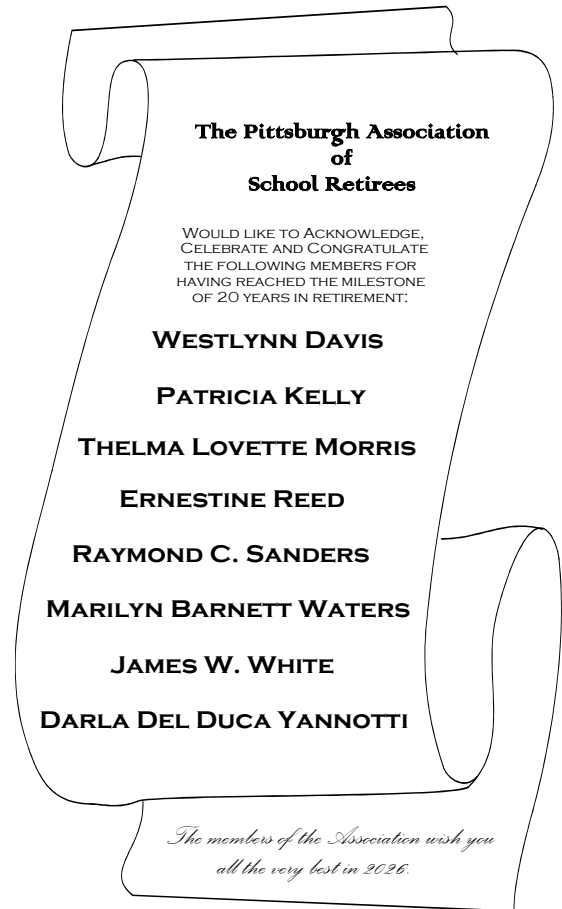
Gregory & Thelma Morris	In Memory of William A. G. Fisher
Susan Lloyd	In Memory of William A. G. Fisher
Joette Miller & Mike Steele	Daniel Belisario
A. Jay Gross	Joseph Poerio
A. Jay Gross	In Memory of Eugene Khorey
Marjorie Eckman	In Memory of Van Hughes
Bernadette Gillotti	In Memory of Margaret Street
Bernadette Gillotti	In Memory of Eugene Khorey
Westlynn Davis	
Debra Rucki	
Diana Armstrong	
Basket Raffle	Holiday Luncheon

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 11 to send donations to PghASR, PO Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224. Make your check payable to PghASR. Scholarship Fund.

# 20 YEAR RECOGNITION

## A. Jay Gross

Once a year, at our annual Holiday Luncheon, we take the opportunity to recognize and honor those members of the Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees who have been retired for 20 years by presenting them with a certificate to commemorate this milestone. This year we had the privilege of recognizing a total of eight who have achieved this distinction, and we were honored that five of them were able to be in attendance at the luncheon. They were Westlynn Davis, Patricia Kelly, Thelma Lovette Morris, Ernestine Reed and James W. White. The scroll that lists their names also includes Raymond C. Sanders, Marilyn Barnett Waters and Darla Del Duca Yannotti who were members that were unable to attend.



### State By-Laws Amendment Changes made at the House of Delegates 2025

The state by-laws' amendments adopted include a change related to active membership – old by law read, “Any person retired from other Pennsylvania State-related educational institutions”, the **by law was changed to read “any person retired from any educational institution in the state of Pennsylvania”**.

Second change was related to associate membership. A **PASR associate member is now defined as: any person who is interested in the work of PASR; any active school employee; or any spouse of an active member of PASR.** The important change here was that any active school employee no longer has to be aged 50 or older to be an association member of PASR.

#### Other changes:

- chapters should submit their by-laws to the state for review every two years;
- a chapter may, with permission of the Board of Directors, adopt an alternate form of chapter officers, such as executive committee, rather than elected officers;
- related to the elected state officers only – the president, president-elect, and vice president shall not be eligible to succeed themselves, nor shall any person who has held any of these offices be eligible to hold another term of that office in the future (this change does not apply to the local chapter unless adopted in their by-laws);
- one hundred paid active PASR members will entitle a chapter to one delegate (to the House of Delegates) 101-200 paid active members will entitle a chapter to two delegates, 201-300 paid active members will entitle a chapter to three delegates, and so forth; and
- Proposed by-law amendments no longer need to be read at the meeting of the House of Delegates when presented.

# Barnes and Noble Fundraiser and Public Relations Event – We need your support!

## Exciting New Fundraiser and Public Relations Event – Barnes & Noble BOOK FAIRS – ALL DAY/ONE DAY IN STORE ONLY SCHOLARSHIP FUND FUNDRAISING EVENT

**BEEN THINKING ABOUT PURCHASING SOME SUMMER READING? WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AT OUR FIRST EVER BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND FUNDRAISING EVENT.**

**On Saturday, May 2nd** we have scheduled a one day/all day in store only, fundraising event in cooperation with Barnes and Noble. We will be holding Book Fairs at six Pittsburgh Barnes & Noble Book Store locations: Monroeville; Settler's Ridge; Shadyside/Meridian; South Hills Village; Waterfront; and Waterworks.

This is an **All Day/One Day IN STORE ONLY** Fundraiser Event with all of the proceeds going to our Scholarship Fund. A voucher will be required and will be available from PghASR volunteers set up in the stores. Vouchers will also be available at the registers in each store. **Vouchers can be used at any Barnes and Noble nationwide.**

The Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees funds scholarships for students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. **We are asking for your support in this new fundraising effort.** It's important that our organization be able to continue to reward those PPS students who need our support to further their education. **Please mark your calendar and make it a point to stop by one of the six stores.** Representatives from our organization will be at all six locations, stop by and say hello to receive your voucher from one of our members. Please remember to present our voucher at the register or mention your support of our organization. **Book Fair # 12931234 – Good for One Day Only.**

**The Flyer for this event and the Vouchers needed are located on pages 15 through 17 in this newsletter. Please feel free to copy and share with your community groups, friends and family. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



**Special THANK YOU** to those members serving on the Barnes and Noble Book Fair Committee: Monroeville Location – Toni Kendrick, Ernestine Reed & Denyse Littles Cullens; Settler's Ridge – Kim Granatire and Kathy Smith; Shadyside/Meridian – Ellen Estomin & Donna Vlassich; South Hills Village – Kathy Moran and Joann Losecki; Waterfront – Pam Diulus & Judith Lutz Rauch and Waterworks – Charlotte Fong and Glory Getty.

### **Barnes and Noble Committee Members Spotlight on Kathy Smith and Charlotte Fong.**

Kathy retired in 2022 after 33 1/2 years. She first long term subbed at Philip Murray, Carmalt, and Conroy. In 1992 she began working at Westwood...first as a learning support teacher for 5 years and then 1st & 2nd grades, as well as Science. Kathy joined PghASR in 2023 after encouragement from a friend. Kathy's retirement plan is to keep busy, see family, travel and have some fun.

Charlotte retired in 2010 after 30 years at Reizenstein Middle School, and 5 years at Arlington ALA. She taught 6th and 7th grade Communications. Charlotte also joined PghASR in 2023 hoping to meet other PPS retirees and to learn more about PASR. Charlotte's retirement plan is to enjoy family, travel and seek opportunities to volunteer.

If you would be interested in volunteering during the book fairs at one of the Barnes & Noble stores, your help will be greatly appreciated, contact Glory Getty at [ggetty700w@aol.com](mailto:ggetty700w@aol.com). **Feel free to share the flyer and voucher, help us spread the word. Thank you!**

BARNES & NOBLE  
**BOOKFAIRS**

**Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees  
Saturday, May 2, 2026**

**Six Barnes & Noble Locations**

**Monroeville**

**Settler's Ridge**

**Shadyside/Meridian**

**South Hills Village**

**Waterfront**

**Waterworks**

**Our Voucher is good at any Barnes & Noble Nationwide!**

**All Day/One Day Scholarship Fund - Fundraiser Event**

**Voucher Required and Available at the Registers**

The Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees funds scholarships for students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Please support us in our effort to reward those who need our support to further their education. Please present our voucher at the register or mention your support of our organization.

Representatives from our organization will be at all six locations, please stop by and visit to receive your voucher from one of our members.

**Book Fair # 12931234 – Good for One Day Only. In Store Only. Any Store.**

[bn.com/bookfairs](http://bn.com/bookfairs)

[#BNBookfairs](https://twitter.com/BNBookfairs)



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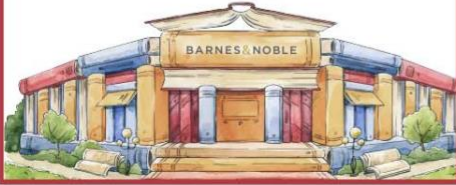
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**Bookfair ID# 12931234**  
**Good in Any B&N Store.**

Please present this voucher prior to making  
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will be contributed to the association's  
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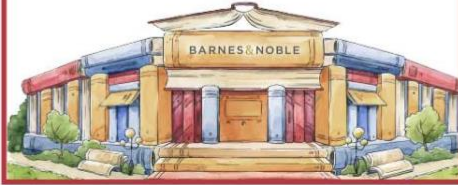
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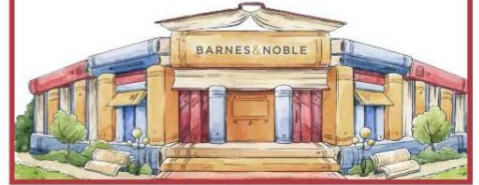
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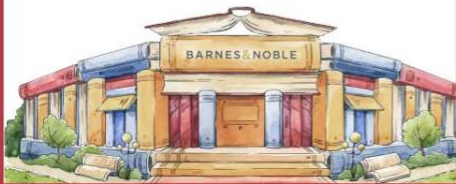
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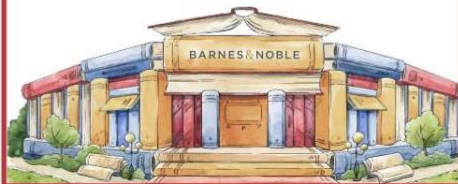
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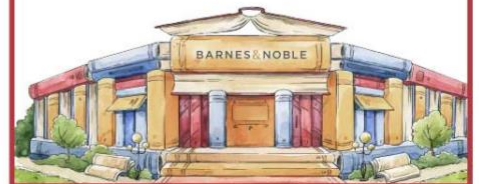
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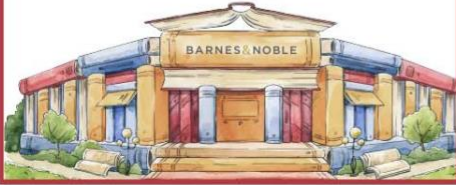
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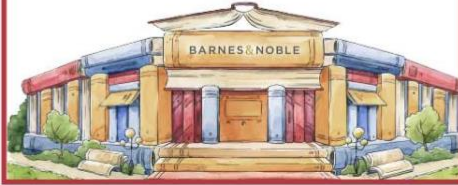
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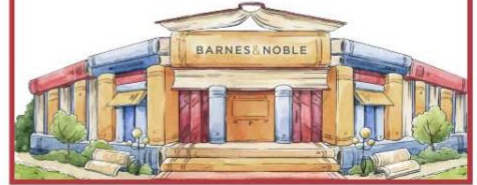
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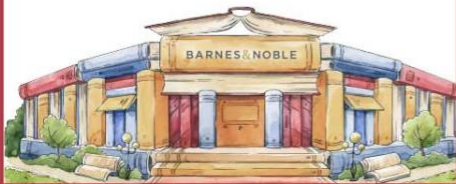
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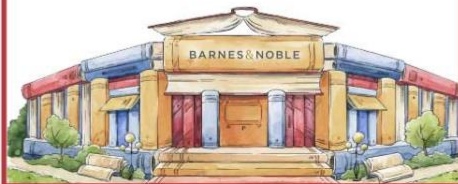
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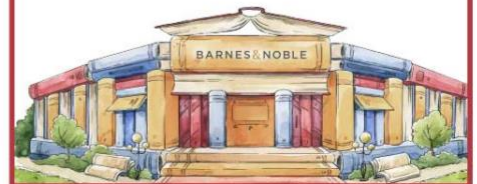
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**Please Let Us Know  
Ernestine Reed**

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 page 19 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.

*Always in  
Our Hearts*

**PGHASR**  
**PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL HONOR FUND**  
**REQUEST FORM**

**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.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECIPIENT(S):**

<b>FULL NAME</b>	<b>REASON (I.E., DECEASED, ILLNESS, KINDNESS)</b>

**Please respond to the following survey questions:**

- How can the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund serve you better?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is your preferred form of communication?  
 US Mail     Email     Mobile     Home Phone
- During times of celebration, sickness or grief, how would you like the committee to respond?  
 Phone     Card     Email     Not at All

**RETURN TO:**

**MRS. ERNESTINE A. REED, PGHASR MEMORIAL FUND**  
**8935 EASTWOOD ROAD**  
**PITTSBURGH, PA 15235**

## PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Glory Getty	700 Woodbourne Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15226	412-389-8211	ggetty700w@aol.com
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<b>Recording</b>				
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<b>Corresponding</b>				
<b>Past President</b>	Debra S. Rucki	1416 Harris Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15205	412-937-0138	dsrucki@verizon.net
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<b>Director</b>				

### PghASR COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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(Vacant)				
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(Vacant)				
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<b>Recreo Planning</b>				
Kathy Moran	158 Oakbrook Cir. Pittsburgh, PA 15220	412-458-3244		
<b>Social Service and</b>				
<b>Memorial Honor Fund</b>				
Ernestine Reed	8935 Eastwood Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235	412-874-3243	sjw1207@verizon.net	

.....  
 pghpasr2024@yahoo.com

www.pghasr.org

### 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 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 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

PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL RETIREES  
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## Use this form to renew for 2026/2027 or become a member.

If you are an ANNUAL member of the PghASR but have not yet renewed your 2026/2027 membership, you may do so now.

Note that annual dues are now \$25 and Life Membership is now \$250. 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 Jun2026—Please complete the form below. Your dues for 2026/2027 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 2026/2027 Dues Renewal and New Member Form**

Please check one: (Make check payable to PghASR. Annual dues are \$25. Life membership dues are \$250.)

Enclosed is my check for \$25 for my 2026/2027 dues. (For members with EXP Jun 2026 on their mailing label only)

I am a new member. Enclosed is my check for (circle one) \$25 for 2026/2027 dues or \$250 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.