

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!

Fall Luncheon

**PASR Region 12
Rivers Casino**

Friday, September 25, 2026

See page 3 for details and reservation form

**HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON**

**PghASR
Rivers Casino**

Monday, December 7, 2026

*See page 13 for details and
reservation form*

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**

Always check your email or our website pghasr.org for updated calendar information.

August

RECREO

No Back to School Lunch Bunch at Narcisi Winery
Thursday, August 20th, at 11:30 AM
RSVP to Glory Getty at ggetty700w@aol.com ASAP

Allegheny County Chapter Community Service Batch Foundation Backpacking - TBD

September

Annual PASR Region 12 Meeting / Luncheon

Pittsburgh Chapter Hosts
Friday, September 25th, 11:00 AM
Rivers Casino. RSVP on page 3 due on Sept. 7th.

October

2026 Leadership Development Conference
October 13-14 at Double Tree by Hilton
Pittsburgh-Cranberry

RECREO

Lunch Bunch
Thursday, October 22nd at 11:30 AM
Octoberfest at Hofbrauhaus on RSVP to ggetty700w@aol.com by October 19th.

November

RECREO

Fall Taco Tuesday
November 10th, at Waterfront El Campesino, 3:00-5:00 PM. RSVP to Kathy Moran at kmoran056@comcast.net by November 6th

RECREO

Inside Recess Day/Game Day II - TBD

December

PghASR General Membership and Holiday Luncheon
Rivers Casino
Monday, December 7th at 11:00 AM
RSVP on page 13 due November 16th.

PASR RECREO – Travel Opportunity
– A Biltmore Christmas in Ashville NC, December 7-11th –
for details go to pasr.org

Allegheny County Chapter Community Service- Batch Foundation Gift Wrapping- TBD



PghASR Welcomes Its New Members

Louis Moorhead
Thelma Blumenfeld
Darlene Lercher Smith

Russell Pedersen
Catherine Buschek
Mary McCormick



Member Spotlight:

We critically need your assistance!

WHERE ARE THEY? MISSING MEMBERS

The following members Newsletters have been returned to us as NOT ABLE TO FORWARD. If you know the current address or where any of the following members currently are, kindly either drop PghASR a note to

P.O. Box 9056, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
or e-mail me at: ajaygross@msn.com.

Barbara Bollman
D. Joyce Crissman
Helen Culhane
Shirley Davis
Roberta Deal
Virginia DiPucci
Paula Good
Catherine Haller
Sandra Jacobs
Barbara Koerner
Austin Lacy
Renee Marshall-Richards
Kathleen Mears
Connie Polichio
Shirley Shratter
Virginia Simon
Patricia Sullivan
Cynthia Tirpac
Louis Valle
Lillian Walter
Mary Walther

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 _____

PASR REGION 12

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Host: Pittsburgh Chapter

Friday, September 25, 2026



\$50.00

(Includes tax and gratuity)

Rivers Casino (Allegheny Room)

777 Casino Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412.566.4458

11:00, Meet and Greet
11:30, Welcome, Region 12 Meeting
12:00, Lunch, followed by speakers

Guest Speaker: TBD

Don't forget to bring
CASH for the 50/50
raffle. Proceeds will go
to PghASR's
Community Service
Partner HOPE for
Tomorrow. Additional
cash and check
donations will
also be accepted.

Entrees (choose one)

Pancetta, spinach and fontina stuffed chicken breast with lemon white wine sauce/Yukon mashed potatoes/Seasonal vegetable medley

Pan seared salmon with lemon caper sauce/Yukon mashed potatoes/Seasonal vegetable medley

Four Cheese Ravioli with Marinara Sauce

All meals include fresh rolls and butter; garden greens salad w/house dressing; freshly brewed coffee and iced tea;
dessert of seasonal cheesecake with mixed berries and whipped cream.

PASR REGION 12 ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Reservations are requested no later than Monday, September 7, 2026

Make checks payable to PghASR and mail with this form to Eileen Gavin, 1120 Fairfield Street, Pittsburgh PA 15201

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

_____ Number of reservations for Pancetta

= \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Salmon

= \$ _____

_____ Number of reservations for Cheese Ravioli

= \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ @ \$50 per person

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 Region 12 newsletters. If you do NOT want your picture to appear in the newsletter, please opt out by putting a check mark here. _____

President's Message

Fall 2026

Glory Getty

I am sharing part of the article that I wrote for the PASR Times June 2026 Edition.

Upon my retirement, I joined PASR because of the need for dental insurance. I joined the Pittsburgh Chapter and was excited to reconnect with past colleagues. One of my golf league buddies, a retired PPS principal and chapter president (Debbie Rucki) recruited me to become the chapter's recording secretary. I served in that capacity for four years. In 2023 I agreed to serve as the chapter president.

I did not take the decision to become the chapter president lightly. As I contemplated what to do, I inevitably decided that I would look at this opportunity as one of altruism, "an action performed to help others without expecting any reward or recognition". Volunteering with PghASR has proven to be an extension of the work I did with the public schools, where I would say my approach was also one of altruism, but with a paycheck. Turns out, that according to AI, my approach does have a "paycheck" in the form of the "mental health benefits that it provides for me - increased happiness and a sense of purpose". Yes it's true, involvement/leadership in PghASR/PASR does increase my happiness and it certainly gives me a sense of purpose. Two very desirable attributes for a successful retirement. Special thank you to PghASR and PASR for providing me with the opportunity.

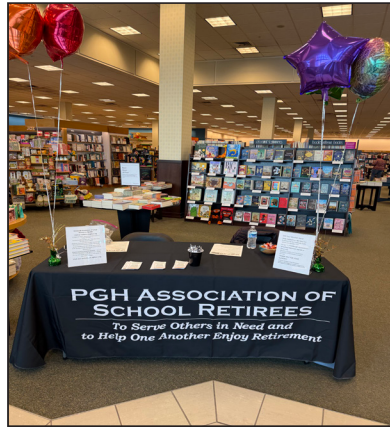
Inside Recess Game Day

by Kathy Moran

On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, we held our first Inside Recess Game Day. Those of us that worked in elementary schools know that when we had inclement weather, we were inside for recess so that's when the board games made their appearance. Our Inside Recess Day was held at Houlihan's in the Galleria. The day started with participants fellowshiping with old acquaintances before lunch was served. We ate a delicious lunch which consisted of Grilled Chicken Salad, Southwestern Chicken Wrap or Grilled Salmon with a side order of French Onion Soup, Baked Potato Soup or a Side Salad. Then, it was game time!!! The games were displayed on a table, but the guests volunteered to play new games lead by Glory Getty, Mexican Train (Dominoes) and Debra Rucki, Sequence. There was so much laughter in the room. Fun was had by all. We had so much fun that Glory and I forgot to take pictures. Don't feel left out, a second Inside Recess Day is being planned for later in the year. In the meantime, lookout for some Pop-up Game Days!!!

Attendees: LaVerne Anthony; Pam Diulus; Mary E. Frank; Jenny Gadd; Glory Getty; Mary Ann Gonot; A. Jay Gross; Mary Beth Herzberger; Nicholas Manula; Kathy Moran; Jori Murphy; Ernestine Reed; Debra Rucki; Phyllis Samarco; Anita Walker and Curtistine Walker.

Barnes and Noble Book Fairs Fundraiser & PR Event



PASR has encouraged local chapters to partner with Barnes and Noble to hold fundraising book fairs. PghASR's May 2nd Book Fairs, at the six selected locations in and around Pittsburgh, provided the opportunity to raise funds for our scholarship fund. They also gave us a public relations opportunity. In order to receive a check (instead of gift cards) as our earnings, the book fair had to be held in-store for one day only. The Barnes and Noble earnings credited to PghASR during the event were \$18,750.00 and so PghASR received a check **\$1870.00** (10%) towards our scholarship fund. Special thank you to all of our members, our friends and family who made it a point to visit one of the stores and contribute to our earnings. Special thank you also to all of the PghASR volunteers who donated their time at each of the stores and assisted in making our first book fair a success. Those volunteers were: Toni Kendrick; Denyse Littles Cullens; Ernestine Reed; Kimberly Granatire; Kathy Smith; Ellen Estomin; Donna Vlassich; Kathy Moran; JoAnn Losecki; Pam Diulus; Mary Ann Gonot; Judith Lutz Rauch; Charlotte Fong and Florence Fong.

We are hoping to schedule another Fall 2026 Barnes and Noble Book Fair Fundraiser and PR Event, check our website (pghasr.org) or watch for an email with details about how you can support this effort.



Outstanding Community Service 2026 Volunteers of the Year Awardees

Each year PASR asks each chapter to nominate an outstanding community service volunteer(s) of the year. PASR provides its chapters with yearly goals and activities, and nominating an outstanding community service volunteer is recommended as a goal/activity which will help to “grow and strengthen both PASR and PghASR.” So each year our community service committee (James White and Denyse Littles Cullens) is charged with selecting PghASR’s Outstanding Community Service Volunteer(s).

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**This year we will be recognizing two outstanding community service volunteers:
Charlotte Fong and the Rev. Dr. Terrie Elizabeth Griffin.**

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Charlotte Fong retired sixteen years ago and since then has dedicated her time and energy to serving the community through volunteer work with more than twenty nonprofit organizations. (PghASR is lucky to be

one of them!) Her volunteer journey began with Meals on Wheels and the Education Partnership, where she found a passion for helping others and supporting programs that improve lives.

Over the years, Charlotte has expanded her service to organizations focused on education, science, environmental stewardship, health, and community well-being. She currently volunteers with the Kamin Science Center, Phipps Conservatory, the Alzheimer’s Association, and Reading Ready, contributing her time to inspire learning, promote healthy communities, and support individuals and families.

Volunteerism has become a meaningful second career, allowing Charlotte to build lasting relationships while giving back to the community that has given so much to her. She believes that every act of service, no matter how small, has the power to make a positive difference. As she looks back on more than 16 years of volunteer service, she is grateful for the opportunity to have touched countless lives while continuing to learn, grow, and make an impact.

Rev. Dr. Terrie Griffin is a native Pittsburgher, and a graduate of Lincoln University and the Virginia Union University School of Theology. Dr. Griffin’s volunteer services involve urban ministry, community outreach and engagement, and social justice. She serves on the pastoral staff of the Wesley Center AME Zion Church



of Pittsburgh, and is a third generation missionary focusing on assisting the homeless or housing insecure. She is the founder of Missions in Motion Urban Ministries. Dr. Griffin and her ministry team of Boots on the Streets (BOTS) distribute meals to the homeless. During the winter months, she and her team of BOTS organize a “Blanket Brigade” delivering blankets, and other lifesaving winter clothing to those living on the streets. Dr. Griffin lives by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, “the time is right to do the right thing.” It should also be noted that Dr. Griffin’s biography includes extensive work with the League of Women Voters and the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

When James and Denyse spoke with Dr. Griffin about receiving this award from PghASR and PASR, she shared that she does not do what she does for recognition, but rather because of her love for the Lord and God’s people – particularly the “least of these”.

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Congratulations to Charlotte Fong and Dr. Griffin for being selected to be PghASR’s Outstanding Community Service 2026 Volunteers of the Year. The awards will be presented at the December 7th General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon.

Member Spotlight

2026 Dillon Award: Kathy Moran



The award reads “in recognition of outstanding service to the members of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and its Pittsburgh Chapter, the Association is pleased to honor Kathy Moran as the 2026 John J. Dillon PASR Service Award Recipient. 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 the members whose lives you have enriched, we extend our sincere gratitude and very best wishes.”

Kathy has served as the recording secretary for PghASR since 2023. As an elected officer, she has made it a point, to attend each and every event on our yearly calendars. Kathy has assisted in RECREO planning for the chapter and has worked diligently to create and organize many new events such as a successful first time Game Day; working with PPS to coordinate attendance at the high school musicals; coordinating a trip to Sight and Sound Theatre with a partner community organization; and first time Taco Tuesdays. Kathy volunteered her time for the chapter’s first Barnes and Noble 2026 Book Fair as well as our chapter’s community service events at the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Kathy has also supported the Allegheny Chapter in their community service events with the Batch Foundation. Kathy has represented our chapter at the House of Delegates in 2023 and 2025. Kathy’s dedication to PghASR and PASR is clearly evident in her work for the past four years and she deserves to be honored for her service to both organizations. Thank you Kathy!

**Spring
TACO TUESDAY
April 28, 2026**

Taco Tuesday Attendees:

Mary Beth Herzberger, Marsha Cohen, A.Jay Gross,
Donna Dado, Ernestine Reed, Kathy Moran, Glory Getty



General Membership Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon

Once again PghASR's Education Support Scholarship Committee headed by Ellen Estomin and Donna Vlassich hosted our annual general membership meeting and scholarship luncheon on June 2nd at the Grand Concourse/Station Square. There were over 60 attendees including our two Laretta Woodson awardees and our three \$2000.00 scholarship recipients and their parents. Special guest Superintendent Dr. Wayne Walters was also in attendance for the festivities.



President Elect Anita Walker introduced the two recipients of the Laretta Woodson awards. The awards were established when PASR member Woodson bequeathed a generous sum of money to PASR to be used in the support of public education. PASR's Laretta Woodson Recognition Program's purpose is to honor one educator and one support professional, each year, for doing an outstanding job within a district or school.

This year's recipients were both nominated by their early childhood supervisor Alexis Ellermeyer.

Support Professional Nomination: Mrs. Jennifer Grimm - EAIIA Early Childhood Paraprofessional at Roosevelt Early Childhood Center Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Mrs. Jennifer Grimm, an Early Childhood Paraprofessional with 28 years of dedicated service to Pittsburgh Public Schools, is truly deserving of The Laretta Woodson Award for her unwavering commitment to young children, families, and staff. Mrs. Grimm consistently goes above and beyond by treating every child who enters her classroom with the same love, care, and compassion as if they were her own, creating a nurturing and supportive environment where all children can thrive. In addition to her incredible work with students, Mrs. Grimm plays a vital role in promoting positive school culture and staff wellness by organizing fun building-wide events throughout the year and ensuring every staff member feels valued and celebrated on their birthday.

Educator Nomination:

Mrs. Holly McCormick - Early Childhood Teacher Brookline Elementary School Brookline Early Childhood Pittsburgh Public Schools

Mrs. Holly McCormick, an Early Childhood Teacher at Brookline Early Childhood, is exceptionally deserving of The Laretta Woodson Award for her unwavering dedication, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of every child she serves. Mrs. McCormick goes above and beyond each day to create a joyful, engaging, and welcoming classroom environment where all children feel valued, loved, respected, and excited to learn. Her ability to foster meaningful relationships with students and families creates a strong sense of trust, safety, and belonging within her classroom community.

In addition to her outstanding teaching practices, Mrs. McCormick consistently demonstrates remarkable attentiveness and care for the children in her classroom. Most recently, her quick thinking and keen observation skills allowed her to recognize a significant health concern involving one of her students, leading to immediate action that ensured the child's safety and well-being. Her professionalism, calm demeanor, and dedication during this situation exemplify the profound impact she has on the lives of her students and families. Mrs. McCormick's compassion, leadership, and tireless commitment to supporting young children make her an outstanding candidate for The Laretta Woodson Award.

Ellen next introduced our three \$2000.00 scholarship recipients:

Liam Gedris

Graduated from Allderdice with a 3.788 GPA and will be attending Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts.

He has appeared in numerous productions at the Pittsburgh musical theater acting, singing, and dancing. He also has participated in karate and golf during his high school years.

Roman Gray

Graduated from Sci-Tech with a 4.0 GPA and will be attending Ohio Wesleyan. His goal is to build and support robotic and AI startups in Pittsburgh. His vision is to help Pittsburgh attract and retain technological talent using the expertise he gains from his college studies. During high school, he was captain of the varsity baseball team and appear mediator and mentor. He also served as a Pittsburgh promise ambassador.

Lily Roberts

Graduated from CAPA with a 3.871 GPA and will be attending Temple University in the Fox School of Business and Management, with a minor in dance.

During high school, Lily was active in community activities, her church, and school activities, including the superintendent's student advisory council. She served as a CAPA ambassador and was inducted in the National Honor Society of Dance.



We received 20 applications for the scholarships and the three recipients were selected by the educational support scholarship ad hoc committee of LaVerne Anthony; Anita Walker; Kathy Moran; in addition to Ellen.

A fundraising 50/25/25 raffle held during the luncheon raised \$105 for our Community Service Partner – H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow and \$104 for our scholarship fund with \$208 going to the winner.

Ellen mentioned that we would have liked to award scholarships to all twenty of the applicants because their achievements in the Pittsburgh Public Schools deserve the recognition. **Please remember that we are always seeking donations to our scholarship fund. Your support will always be greatly appreciated, and will guarantee PghASR's continued support to very deserving PPS graduates.**

Did You Retire in 2006?



20-YEAR RECOGNITIONS

Nancy Tall

Are you a PghASR member who retired in 2006? Let us know so we can honor you at the PghASR Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 7, 2026 for your 20 years in retirement.

Each year PghASR celebrates members who have been retired for 20 years (this year for those who retired in 2006). If you have reached this milestone, we want to hear from you! We plan to recognize you with a certificate at the Holiday Luncheon in December. If you cannot attend the luncheon, the certificate will be mailed to you at a later date. Please note for those of you who qualify, you **MUST** complete and submit the form below to Ms. Nancy Tall, 4143 Bigelow Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15213 by December 1, 2026 to be eligible to receive recognition.

★ ★ 20-Year Membership Recognition Form (2006 Retirees) ★ ★

To receive the certificate, you **MUST** return this form no later than December 1, 2026 to Nancy Tall, 4143 Bigelow Blvd. Pittsburgh PA 15213.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date of Retirement: _____

Work Location at Retirement: _____

Position Held at Retirement: _____

☐ I will be attending the PghASR Holiday Luncheon and will be sending in my reservation form with payment.

☐ I will NOT be attending the PghASR Holiday Luncheon.

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

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, 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.)



PIRATE BASEBALL 2026

by Debra S. Rucki

The Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees along with family and friends went to PNC Park on Thursday, June 25th in the afternoon to cheer on our Pirates against the Seattle Mariners. The “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” event is a summer activity that members enjoy. It’s an opportunity for members to spend a summer afternoon at our beautiful PNC Park rooting for our Pittsburgh Pirates and connecting with other PPS retirees. Thirty-Eight members and guests were in attendance this year. Our attendance has grown every year! We were seated in section 129 along the 3rd base outfield in the last five rows. This provides us ample overhead cover in case of rain or heat. We are also just a few steps away from concession stands and restrooms!

The starting pitcher for the Pirates was Chandler. Pirates scored quickly with a home run in the 2nd inning by Lowe. In the 3rd inning, the Pirates had a leadoff double by Callihan. Davis came up to bat and hit a homeroom. It’s the Pirates 3, Mariners 0. In the 4th inning the Mariners have the bases loaded with 2 outs. It was a hard hit ball to the left field. Mangum denied any runs with an awesome sliding catch to retire the Mariners. In the 5th inning the Mariners did score one run. With 1 out and a Mariner on 1st base, it was a hard hit to the shortstop, Triolo and just like that it was a double play and the Mariners were retired with only 1 run for the inning. In the 6th & 7th innings, the Pirates got out of both innings leaving the Mariners stranding bases loaded each inning! In the 8th inning, Davis came up to bat with a leadoff double. Lowe followed with a hit and Davis scores. Pirates increase their lead 4 to 1. With Davis on base, O’ Hearn gets a hit and Davis scores. The Pirates are up 5 to 1 at the bottom of the 8th. The Mariners put up challenges in the 4th, 6th and 7th innings by loading up the bases. Each time, the Pirates denied them any runs. The final score was Pirates 5, Mariners 1. The Pirates swept the series with the Mariners!

I would like to extend a thank-you to the Pittsburgh Pirates Organization for providing PghASR with the special discounted group rate for seniors. Looking forward to this PghASR sponsored activity in June 2027, I will contact the Pirate Organization again in January 2027 to inquire about a “senior citizen group rate.” If the group rate is offered, a reservation form will be in the Spring/Summer 2027 Newsletter. If you are past participant in this activity, I hope to see you again and if you’ve never attended this activity with other PghASR members, give it a try.



Let’s Go BUCS!!!

Membership Reminders

- We operate solely by using your dues and donations. 2026/2027 annual dues are \$25.00 and they were due to us by June 1, 2026. A Lifetime Membership is \$250.00 and then you never have to remember to pay your dues again. Donations for our Memorial Honor Fund; Scholarship Fund; Newsletter Fund; and Postage Fund are greatly needed and appreciated. We also accept donations for our Community Service Partner - H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow. Thank you for your support!
- Our active PASR/PghASR membership is now open to any person retired from any educational institution in the state of PA. Our associate membership is open to any person interested in the work of PASR/PghASR; any active school employee and any spouse of an active member of PASR/PghASR. If you are aware of any person who may be interested in becoming an active or associate member, please talk to them about joining. Refer them to PASR at pasr.org and pghasr.org for more information.
- PghASR publishes two newsletters each year. One for spring & summer and one for fall & winter. Your fall & winter edition will be arriving the middle of August and it will contain the RSVPs needed for the September 25th Region 12 Meeting and Luncheon and the December 7th PghASR General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon. Information is also shared by email (Is yours up to date?) using a service called Mail Chimp, and you can always visit our website for up to date information at pghasr.org. Oh, and check us out on Facebook too. If you have something that you would like to post on our Facebook page please forward it to Glory Getty/Administrator using Messenger.
- Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Volunteer Engagement Center is always seeking volunteers. PASR's 2026 Chapter Goals and Activities include the goal to "expand or improve services to others", which includes a suggested chapter activity "to alleviate hunger in our area". PghASR no longer includes this activity on the yearly calendar, but we do still encourage our membership to volunteer at the food bank. **Register at volunteer@pittsburghfoodbank.org**

Election Year Slate/Election & Installation at the General Meeting and Holiday Luncheon 2026

2026 is an Election Year for the Officers of PghASR. The term is for two years. The term begins on January 1, 2027 and ends on December 31, 2028. The Nominating Committee of LaVerne Anthony and Jackie Blakey-Tate once again prepared this year's slate of candidates.

The slate must be presented to the Executive Committee (at the July 16th meeting) and published in the Fall/Winter Newsletter (August). The election will take place during the December 7th General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon. Installation of the officers will also occur during that meeting.

The proposed slate of officers remains the same:

- President – Glory Getty
- President Elect – Anita Walker
- Treasurer – Eileen Gavin
- Assistant Treasurer – Debra Rucki
- Corresponding Secretary – LaVerne Anthony
- Membership Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. A. Jay Gross
- Recording Secretary – Kathy Moran

Any additional nominations (or volunteers) for all offices may be made with the nominee's approval by contacting the Nominating Committee. Note: According to the By Laws, treasurers and secretaries may serve consecutive terms through re-election. President and president elect are eligible for re-election subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Pittsburgh Association of School Retirees

General Membership Meeting and Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 7, 2026

- 11:00 Meet and Greet
11:30 General Membership Meeting
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Raffle Drawing

\$50.00

(INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY)

RIVERS CASINO

FT. PITT ROOM

Entrées (choose one)

1. Stuffed Chicken Breast with Traditional Stuffing and Chicken and Thyme Jus, with Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable
2. Miso Marinated Salmon with Ginger Scallion Sauce with Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables
3. Wild Mushroom Ravioli with Toasted Hazelnuts, Grilled Mushrooms, Parmesan and Madeira Cream

Garden Greens Salad with Shaved Fennel, Tomato, English Cucumber, Carrots, House Dressing
Fresh Rolls and Butter

Dessert: Chocolate Flourless Cake Raspberry Mousse with Raspberry Sauce

Freshly brewed house coffee and iced tea

Parking is free in the Casino Parking Garage

PGHASR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservations are requested no later than Monday, November 16, 2026. Make checks payable to PghASR and mail with this form to Eileen Gavin, 1120 Fairfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

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 address _____

Total number of reservations: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____ @ \$50 for each reservation

Please circle the luncheon selection and write the name of the person ordering it for the place cards.

1. Chicken Salmon Wild Mushroom Name of Attendee _____

2. Chicken Salmon Wild Mushroom Name of Attendee _____

3. Chickent Salmon Wild Mushroom Name of Attendee _____

Photographs will be taken at this event and may be used in the PghASR Newsletter. If you do NOT want your photo to appear in the newsletter, please opt out by putting a check mark here. _____

Basket Raffle Fundraiser and
50/50 Raffle will be held to
Benefit the Scholarship Fund
and our Community
Service Partner -
H.O.P.E. for Tomorrow.
Raffles are CASH ONLY.

PASR Updates

- July 12, 2026. Thanks to the incredible advocacy efforts of our members across Pennsylvania, the **COLA has passed!** This victory would not have been possible without the dedication, persistence, and passion of school retirees who answered the call, contacted legislators, shared their stories, and helped make our voices impossible to ignore. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to every PASR member who participated in our outreach efforts over the past months. Whether you sent an email, made a phone call, attended a meeting, participated in our phone interviews, or spoke with your local legislators, **you made a difference.** This achievement belongs to all of us.

The summary of the COLA language is: Section 1704 -N. Supplemental annuities for public school employees commencing 2026, this section provides for supplemental annuities, also known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), for eligible beneficiaries of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) who retired prior to July 2, 2001. These COLAs would commence with the first monthly annuity payment after July 1, 2026, and would amount to increases of between 15 and 24.5 percent of the current annuities of eligible beneficiaries depending on the beneficiary's year of retirement. The increase in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability attributable to the supplemental annuity shall be funded in equal dollar annual installments over a period of 10 years beginning in fiscal year 2027/28 using money allocated under Section 1706-N. The PSERS Board shall not factor this added liability into the setting and accepting of an annual employer contribution rate.

Please take a moment to **thank the legislators in your area** who supported school retirees and helped make this long-awaited COLA a reality. Positive feedback matters, and legislators should know that their support is appreciated. We also encourage you to send a **special thank you** to the two leading champions of our COLA legislation: **Senator Frank Farry and Representative Steve Malagari.** Their leadership, commitment, and unwavering support were instrumental in helping move this legislation forward. Please join us in letting them know how much their efforts mean to Pennsylvania's retired school employees.

While we are celebrating today, our work is never finished. PASR remains committed to protecting and improving the benefits and quality of life of all school retirees. **We will never stop advocating for Pennsylvania's school retirees and the issues that matter most to them.** As always, remember that **PASR is the only association dedicated to representing ALL school retirees—regardless of position.** Whether you served as a teacher, administrator, support professional, or in any other role within our schools, PASR is your voice in Harrisburg. Thank you for your support, your advocacy, and your commitment to our shared mission. Together, we achieved this victory—and together, we will continue to make a difference. **PASR: The Voice for All School Retirees.**

- **PASR RECREO - A BILTMORE CHRISTMAS ASHEVILLE, NC - Monday, December 7 – Friday, December 11, 2026 YOUR BILTMORE CHRISTMAS TOUR INCLUDES** • Round trip transportation via private motorcoach equipped with reclining seats and restroom. • Four (4) night's accommodations: One (1) night in Beckley, WV at the Hampton Inn; Two (2) nights in Asheville, NC at the Hilton Ashville Biltmore Park; One (1) night Beckley, WV at the Hampton Inn. • Seven (7) meals: Four (4) Breakfasts, Three (3) Dinners. • Candlelight Christmas Evening at Biltmore – self-guided evening audio tour of the mansion. • Visit to the gardens and grounds at Biltmore including the Conservatory. • Visit to Antler Hill Village at Biltmore, plus wine tasting at Biltmore Winery. • Private guided driving tour of Biltmore Estate • Tour of Asheville with local guide. • Visit to the Southern Highland Folk Art Craft Center, Asheville. • Admission to the Winter Lights display at the North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. • Visit to Mast General Store, Asheville. • Services of a Boscov's Travel Tour Director. • All taxes and gratuities for tour features, including gratuities for your tour director, motorcoach driver and local guides. Depart Lowe's, Monroeville, PA at 9:30 am, return approximately by 3:00 pm. **Go to pasr.org for more information. Payment is due by October 7, 2026.**

**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.



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):

FULL NAME	REASON (I.E., DECEASED, ILLNESS, KINDNESS)

Please respond to the following survey questions:

1. How can the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund serve you better?

2. What is your preferred form of communication?
____US Mail ____Email ____Mobile ____Home Phone
3. 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

Memorial Honor Fund

<i>DONOR</i>	<i>IN MEMORY OF</i>
Michaeline Srsic	Selma Ryave
Brent Johnson	Joseph Poerio
Paul Pollock	Robert Pinkerton
A. Jay Gross	Eugene Khorey Daniel Belisario Joseph Poerio Van Hughes Carol Schmidt Edward Ray Carmen Gonot William Fisher
Richard Meldon	Van Hughes Cassandra Kemp Eugene Khorey Gail Parker
Paula Poerio	Joseph Poerio Dan Belisario Van Hughes
Darla DelDuca Yannotti	Van Hughes
August & Patricia Spagnolo	Nancy Baker
Gloria Wolak-Gibson	Ray Klavon Helen Gaber
Bernadette Giillotti	JohnMorelli
Florence Fong	Martha Berdnik Kathy Novak

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.

In Memoriam

Margaret Burley	Jean Kabbert
Chester Chichin	Lee Nicklos
Wealthea Davis	Leo Peta
Marjorie Douglas	Carol Schmidt
Shirley Hart	

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

Jerome Halpern	Paula Poerio
Michaeline Srsic	<i>In Memory of Joseph Poerio,</i>
Mary Kay Kukic	<i>Dan Belisario and</i>
<i>In Memory of Gail Slesinski</i>	<i>Van Hughes</i>
Lummie King	August & Patricia Spagnolo
	Anonymous

Postage

Jerome Halpern	Paula Poerio
Michaeline Srsic	<i>In Memoiry of Joseph Poerio,</i>
Roger Hatfield	<i>Dan Belisario and Van</i>
Mary Kay Kukic	<i>Hughes</i>
<i>In Memory of Gail Slesinski</i>	Anonymous
Lummie King	Anonymous

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

6/2/26 50/50

PghASR Scholarship Fund Donors

Jerome Halpern
Michaeline Srsic
Mary Kay Kukic
In Memory of Gail Slesinski
Brent Johnson
In Memory of Joseph Poerio
Gloria Wolak-Gibson
In Memory of Ray Klavon & Helen Gaber
Diana Armstrong
6/2/2026 50/50
Anonymous
Marsha Tharp
In Memory of William A. G. Fisher & Joseph Poerio
Marsha Tharp
In Honor of Roz Sherman & A. Jay Gross
Debra S. Rucki
In Memory of Joseph Poerio, Charles Ptacek, Jr.,
& Doris Brown
Catherine DeRiggi
In Memory of Dominic Iannotta
Anonymous



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 dvllassich@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.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT REIMBURSEMENT

A. Jay Gross

Just an early reminder if you were a professional employee of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and retired between 1988 and 2008 and are eligible for a Medicare Supplement premium from the Pittsburgh Board of Education, you are reminded that your proof of Medicare Supplement Plan and annual premium payments must be submitted to the Retirement and Employee Insurance Office **no later than February 15th.**

You are eligible for this premium only if you were a professional employee (teacher, counselor, social worker, principal, etc.) who retired between June 1988 and July 1, 2008.

If you get your insurance through HOP, proof of coverage and premium payments can be obtained from the PSERS web site or from the local PSERS office sometime after January 1st.

If you have not yet set up an "Interactive Account" with PSERS to obtain this form (and copies of your 1099 forms), it can be done in only a few minutes by going to : <https://www.psers.pa.gov/> and clicking on the Member Login (MSS) on the right side below the picture of PSERS Headquarters and register for the account. These forms are available under My Documents in the heading selections.

If you get your Medicare Supplemental Insurance from some other source, request a month by month listing of your cost by month for this insurance.

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' and will now be available for you to get your health insurance Medicare supplemental or Advantage plan though. HOP offers a number of options for medical coverage for 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 you 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 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

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.

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: _____



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 to see the benefits that are available.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		Phone	Date of Birth
 PASR Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees	Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 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: PASR ☐ Annual Membership Dues ■ \$60.00 ☐ Associate Membership Dues ■ \$60.00 ☐ Life Membership Dues ■ \$700.00	
Phone: 717-697-7077 ■ Fax: 717-697-8742 ■ pasr@pasr.org ■ www.pasr.org Note: Membership dues payments are not deductible for federal income tax.			

PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RETIREES OFFICERS

President	Glory Getty	700 Woodbourne Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15226	412-389-8211	ggetty700w@aol.com
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Membership				
Secretary,	Kathy Moran	158 Oakbrook Cir. Pittsburgh, PA 15220	412-841-2485	kmoran056@comcast.net
Recording				
Secretary,	LaVerne Anthony	296 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221	412-973-1197	laverne.anthony07@yahoo.com
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Region 12	Robert Marko	704 Curran Ct. Valencia, PA 16059	724-687-0210	bobandsylvia855@gmail.com
Director				

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(Vacant)				
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(Vacant)				
L/PEC				
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Toni Kendrick	1004 Elizabeth Blvd., Pittsburgh 15221	412-841-4993	tsk1109@verizon.net	
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Janine Michael			Janine.Michael@gmail.com	
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LaVerne Anthony	296 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221	412-973-1197	laverne.anthony07@yahoo.com	
Jackie Blakey-Tate	463 Janice Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235	412-759-0838	jab0521@aol.com	
Recreo Planning				
Kathy Moran	158 Oakbrook Cir. Pittsburgh, PA 15220	412-841-2485		
Social Service and				
Memorial Honor Fund				
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
P.O. BOX 9056
PITTSBURGH, PA 15224

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TIME VALUE

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.

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.