



# Journey

## Butler County Chapter Newsletter

Website: [www.pasrbutler.org](http://www.pasrbutler.org)

Home Chapter of PASR  
State President Mary K  
Davis



### President's Message

**TIME CHANGE: Meetings begins at 11:00 from now on. SEE PAGE 2**

You and I have lived through periods of devastating episodes in our country. Some easily come to mind, such as Vietnam, Watergate, Iran hostages, riots, natural disasters, attacks on our nation, and the depressing list goes on. The point is... that it does go on. Each crisis brings doomsayers predicting the end of the government, our way of life, and future. Yet somehow, we are still here.

I cannot and will not use this platform for political or religious endorsements. But I can encourage you to absorb less broadcast and printed news if you find it upsetting. If certain postings on Facebook trigger anxiety, then block those posters. If

## December 2024

certain conversations with friends or relatives cause feelings of hostility, then be ready to change the subject and to distance yourself from those kinds of encounters.

Naysayers are already posting notices of doom and gloom. This is referred to as "Click Bait" online because it lures you in with a devastating headline with no documented support. I don't think that we "bounce back" from this kind of attack as easily as we did when we were younger, when we had time to evaluate. Indeed, there was less of it and we weren't inundated on a daily basis – or is it hourly? Don't blindly accept everything you see and hear. Evaluate and reflect before reacting.

Do you know your legislators? Go to [usa.gov/elected-officials/](http://usa.gov/elected-officials/) It will ask you to enter your physical address. Then it will display your local, state and federal elected officials. Click on each one to see contact information. Use those addresses to respectively contact them. Remember to edit your first thoughts!!!

**Butler Chapter Officers**

President.....Polly Shaw  
724-584-0371 pollyshaw3@gmail.com  
President-elect ..... **OPEN**  
Recording Secretary ..... Fran Geisel  
Immediate Past Pres ..... Peg Harding  
.....harding.margaret@gmail.com  
724-502-4065  
Treasurer .....James Huemme  
khuemme@zoominternet.net  
Asst. Treasurer Joanne Van Deusen  
Membership Secretary ..... **OPEN**  
Chapter Website.....www.pasrbutler.org  
Region 8 Director.....Polly Shaw  
State website.....www.pasr.org  
State President.....Mary K Davis

**Standing Committee Chairs**

Auditing.....**OPEN**  
By-Laws.....**OPEN**  
Community Service.....Peg Harding  
Educational Support Diana Bowman  
Legislative and L/PEC.....Peg Harding  
Program ..... Diana Bowman  
Public Relations.....Polly Shaw  
RECRO .....**OPEN**  
Retirement Planning ..... **OPEN**  
Soc.Ser/Memorial Honor Fund..Ruth Scott

**Ad Hoc Committees**

Reservations Donna Vogel  
Adventure Group.....**OPEN**

**PASR School Entity Area Chairs**

Butler.....Kay and Jim Huemme  
BC3.....Ruth Scott  
Karns City..... **OPEN**  
Knoch.....Virginia Shirey, Doris Herceg  
Mars.....Minette Thompson  
Moniteau.....Carol Ball  
Seneca Valley.....**OPEN**  
Slippery Rock .....Ellen McIntyre

**9:45 meeting hosts arrive to set up.**  
**10:45 members arrive to socialize.**  
**11:00 business meeting convenes**  
**11:45 luncheon**  
**12:30 program**  
**1:30 cleanup and leave by 2:00**

**IMPORTANT UPDATE!**

PASR Butler has been meeting at Christ Community Methodist Church since May 2014. As I recall, our original arrangements were made by Joanne Nolsheim, a Christ Community Methodist Church member. During these ten years, we never had any written direction or feedback about expectations. The PASR Butler Executive Committee met on October 23, 2024. Rev. Dawn Lynn came to us in person with concerns, or "hiccups". We listened to the concerns and options, discussed them, and decided how to best conform to the new expectations to use the church facility.

We will place our registration table inside the main hall. It can no longer be in the entry hall by preschool.

We use the restrooms in the hall. If there are any preschool students in the restroom when you want to enter, please **wait in the hall** until the children exit.

We have to finish by 2:00 because our later use of the parking lot can interfere with the parents' need to park who are picking up preschool children at the end of their school day at 3:00.

*(continued next page)*

**"To serve others in need and help one another"**  
**PASR Mission Statement**

Instead of beginning our meeting at noon, we have decided to convene at **11:00** with our business meeting first. Our catered lunch will be 11:45 instead of noon, and our program will begin after the luncheon, probably around 12:30. This should ensure that our meeting concludes before 2:00 and we can remove our table decorations in a timely manner. We must take our trash to the dumpster.

We pay \$100 for Oz Hall (3 times a year) and \$25 for the classroom used for Exec. Committee meetings (4 times a year). The rate has not increased, which we appreciate although for years there was a custodian who had the room prepared and took care of the trash. Now several of us arrive early to allow time to clear tabletops and sweep the floor, if needed, and arrange the tables for our needs. We are to add trash removal to those duties. Note that our May meeting is at Alameda Park. We will follow the same early time schedule for that meeting, too.

If you should know of a different rental facility that we should consider, please email any officer with details. That is the only way to return to our customary noon meeting.

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### ***2025 Meeting Dates***

Executive Committee meeting dates: **February 5, April 9, August 6, and October 22.** These are at 10:00 and are over by 11:15. All are Wednesdays in the small classroom at Christ Community Methodist Church.

General Membership meeting dates: **March 26, May 28, September 24, and December 10** at 11:00. (Please note that we hold our May meeting at Alameda Park in a shelter.)

### ***Region 8 Update***

Region 8 now includes Beaver, Butler, and Mercer Counties. Regretfully, Clarion Chapter has officially disbanded. As Region 8 Director, I chaired their final meeting and guided them through the process. They had less than ten members and no remaining officer except the treasurer. They will continue to meet on their own, strictly as a social luncheon group, but with no PASR relationship. Those who are state members continue with those rights and benefits. Any are free to join any other Chapter.

Mercer Chapter is also going through change. The chapter is active with Book Club, Game Day, Picnic, luncheons, and scholarships. However they have no President for the new year so the Chapter is in an uncertain state with a lot still unclear. They working on a committee format to guide the Chapter. The state Parliamentarian is being consulted with regard to Bylaws.

This is an even number year which means election year for Region 8. Email was used for the Region 8 election. Polly Shaw will continue for an additional term as District Director and Margaret Harding will continue as Treasurer. Currently, there is no secretary due to the resignation of Ruth Leone, and the Director-elect has been vacant for several years. I have notified the chapters that I will only serve this one additional term. We need new members to step up and continue the leadership of all Chapters.

### ***Butler Chapter Elections***

Peg Harding, as Immediate Past President, is Nominating Chair. The slate to be presented for a vote at the December meeting, includes President, Secretary, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

Polly has been President since January 2019, after four years as President-elect. This will be her last term. The easiest transition in January 2027 will be from President-elect to President but that position is now vacant. It is time now for each member to consider how to best step up and support the Butler Chapter.

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### **CARDS of CHEER**

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#### **Fran Geisel**

553 Callery Road  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

#### **Kay Huemme**

119 Shanor Heights  
Butler, PA 16001

PASR Butler County



### **General Membership Meeting September 25, 2024**

Our president, Polly Shaw, welcomed us with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Butler Area Representatives hosted the luncheon and said Grace. The Monroe Hotel catered the event.

Reports: Secretary Report - Minutes from the Journey were approved - Ruth Scott moved and Bob Scott seconded. Treasurer Report - the report was approved - Ruth Scott moved and Donna Vogel seconded.

President - Polly invited the leadership and members of PASR Region VIII to attend our luncheon. This included Beaver, Mercer, and Clarion counties. Unfortunately, none of the three Chapters were able to attend. The main purpose for the invitation was to meet and discuss concerns with the state PASR President Mary K Davis, the Executive Director, Kristen Holjes, and the Assistant Executive Director, Mark Krempa.

Community Service - Volunteer Survey sheets need to be submitted to Peg Harding. The 2024 Volunteer of the Year will be presented at the December luncheon. Education Support/ Woodson Award - the Karns City Area Superintendent has been notified about the 2024-2025 PASR Butler Chapter Woodson Award and mini grants. He will contact his principals and let our chapter know who the two recipients (Professional and Support Person) are by February 2025. The awards should be presented at their March or April school board meeting. John Dillon Award - Margaret Hoffman will be presented this award at her 100th birthday celebration on Nov. 2, 2024.



Here is what our president, Polly Shaw, wrote concerning Margaret's involvement with PASR. "Margaret Hoffman reaches her 100th birthday on November 10, 2024. For many years she was a faithful and productive member of the Butler Chapter of PASR. In particular, for over 20 years she arranged successful RECREO trips without personal gain. She did this as a service to several organizations. Whichever one was the sponsor of a particular trip, received the profits from that trip. In that way, Butler PASR and other organizations benefited from her trip organizational skills. She promoted the trips among all her favored organizations so that the buses were usually full of members of any of her organizations including a core who loved to travel with her. She was PASR Butler RECREO Chair for many years and was renowned for her trip planning skills that included a variety of destinations, all carefully planned and delivered. Thank you, Margaret!"

Nominations - Peg Harding directed the membership that nominations and the election for PASR Butler County President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary will occur at the December meeting. Please let her know if you would like to

nominate a member to any of these positions.

Program State PASR President Mary K Davis discussed the present State Board Committees which include the following: By-Laws, Chapter Outreach, Executive, Finance, Personnel, and Policy. She, also, reviewed the State Committees which include the following: Community Service, Educational Support, Leadership Development, Legislative/ Political Education, Member Benefits and Services, Membership and Retirement Planning, Nominating, RECREO, and Social Services Memorial Honor Fund. The specific details for the Board and State committees were written in the program for the luncheon.

State PASR Executive Director, Kristen Holjes, has been with PASR for 27 years in various capacities. She discussed Winter ZOOM meetings that will be available online from January 16, 2025 - March 6, 2025. PASR will be awarding a \$100 VISA gift card for the best recipe submitted as well as upcoming Book Club info. PASR, in service to its mission, also provides scholarships to students, grants to staff members and advocates in the PA General Assembly for the welfare of public schools. In fact, PASR, partnering with Grove Financial & Associates, is offering educators a grant of up to \$5,000 this coming fall, 2024. Over 1,663 applications have been collected. Kristen listed other areas where the state PASR is helping our local chapters in need.

State Assistant Executive Director, Mark Krempe talked about the 7 employees at the Mechanicsburg, PA State office who are our greatest resource. He explained how a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) will help those state

employees and PSERS retirees, especially those who retired pre July 1, 2001. They received a 2% multiplier for each year of service while anyone retiring after July 1, 2001, under Act 9, received a 2.5% multiplier. In today's world, these retirees are in their 80's, 90's, and some even 100 plus years old. They represent 1/5th of our pensioners and are receiving about \$18,500 per year! He mentioned 2 options that the State General Assembly could use to bring back the COLA. We only are asking for the COLA for Pre Act 9 retirees. Option #1 - use surplus funds over the next ten years. Option #2 -use the bank interest from various banks where the funds are being held over a 10 year span. The State House has already passed a bill for a COLA, but the State Senate has not. 2 On October 2, 2024, beginning at 10:30 AM, PASR will join other advocates for COLA legislation (HB 1416) at a press conference and lobby day at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, PA. Those attending will include PASR members like us, along with members of PSEA, AFSCME, PA Professional Fire Fighters, SEIU, PA AFL-CIO, and UFCW.

Tablework - each table was asked to write down the successes and challenges that our local PASR chapter is facing. Here are some of the

responses: Successes- Awards (Woodson, John Dillon, Community Service, Scholarship), Center Ave. School, Butler Life Bingo prizes, luncheon programs, helping volunteer organizations, cards of cheer, etc. Challenges - ways to bring in money for our chapter, leadership positions, recruitment, outside Recreo activities, etc. Donna Vogel won the 50/50 raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret (Peg) Harding  
Substitute Secretary

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### **PASR COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT**

Thank you for your many and varied service hours for our Butler County Chapter of PASR in helping others in our community. I realize many of you are out there helping others, even though you didn't submit the survey to me this year. I am happy to announce that our 2024 Volunteer of the Year will be



recognized at our annual Christmas luncheon. Please come and congratulate our local member of PASR for the many, many ways in which she has helped in our communities.

We are still collecting items for the **Butler Life** Bingo, which are greatly appreciated by the participants. Food and drink items such as individual pretzel and potato chips bags, juice drinks, individually wrapped candies as well as notes cards, jewelry, word puzzles, 2025 calendars, etc. are great items used as prizes. Thanks, again, for all that you are doing in assisting others in our neighborhoods, churches,

schools, and many other areas where we are needed. LIFE Butler County, pictured page 6, is at 313 West Diamond Street, Butler, PA.

**CENTER AVENUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Just a reminder that Ruth Scott collects throughout the year for Center Avenue Community School. At this time, she will only collect for gift cards from Walmart or Target. The amount per card is \$10. You can bring **cards or cash** to our next meeting in Dec. when we have our luncheon **OR** mail to Ruth Scott, 221 E. Muntz Avenue, Butler PA 16001

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TREASURER'S REPORT  
July 1 - September 30, 2024

RECEIPTS:

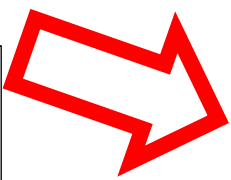
Local Dues	\$ 110.00
State Dues	120.00
Luncheon	530.00
Raffle	41.00
Donation	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 841.00

EXPENSES:

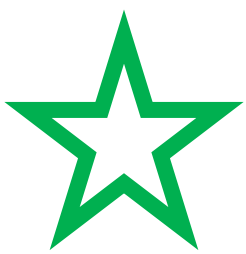
PASR Dues	\$ 240.00
Office	67.50
Minuteman Press	144.36
Hall Rent	125.00
Decorations/Raffle Tickets	48.77
	<hr/>
	\$ 625.63

Beginning Balance	1,933.51
Receipts	+ 841.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,774.51
Expenses	- 625.63
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,148.88
Savings	+ 6,962.46
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 9,111.34

**ONE  
Hour  
Earlier**



**11:00 Meeting  
Lunch 11:45  
Program 12:30**



**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**  
Catered by Monroe Hotel      Host: BC3

We will meet in the Oz Fellowship Hall of Christ Community Methodist Church on Duffy Road, Butler, PA. At the road entrance, bear right and up the rise to the parking lot and rear entrance with glass doors.

**Luncheon Main Meal**

Ham Balls  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Carrots  
Tossed Salad  
delicious dessert (caterer's choice)  
coffee, tea, raspberry ice tea, water

**Alternative**

Chef Salad  
  
delicious dessert  
coffee, tea, raspberry ice tea, water

**Reservation due November 22, 2024**

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

Butler Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Butler 1st time retirees and nifty nineties are free!

Number of reservations: ham at \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Chef salad at \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Total due: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Butler County PASR. Mail to:**

Donna Vogel, 148 Spithaler School Road  
Evans City, PA 16033



will be speaking on balance and safety.

Our December program will be presented by a Representative and a Physical Therapist from Concordia who



Our meetings now start at **11:00** with lunch at 11:45. See page 2!

**REMEMBER:**

11:00 business meeting  
11:45 luncheon  
12:30 program