

PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

Special points of interest:

- Membership Update
- Service Projects
- Sign up for email delivery of the newsletter.

President: Judy Carl, 2708 Ben Franklin Hwy, Ebensburg, Pa. 15931 Phone 814-749-1418

E-mail jacar1123@comcast.net

President-Elect

Second Vice-President : Sandra Shepherd, 143 Shepherd Rd. Cherry Tree, Pa. 15724 Phone 814-948-7695

Vice President- Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Francis Rhoa, PO Box 157, 303 Beaver St. Hastings, PA 16646 Phone 814 247-5185

Treasurer: John E. Bem, 131 Lanark Rd., Hastings, Pa. 16646-6303 Phone: 814 247-8184 E-mail: jbem@verizon.net

Website Address: <http://pasrcambriacounty.w eBay.com/>

Upcoming Events:

Executive Committee Meeting; April 8, 2021 at the Beaver Street Café in Hastings, PA

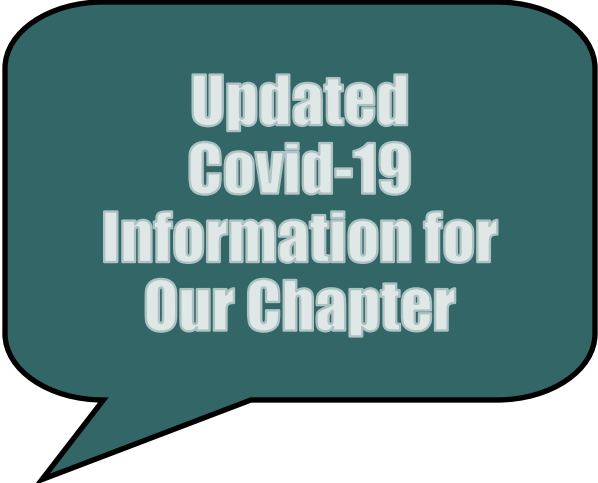
All future meetings are cancelled until further notice.

PASR State Recommends Postponement of Chapter Activities

During the upsurge of Covid-19 cases in the state, our State Organization has asked us to delay our activities and meetings for the first half of the year. They are asking us to schedule our meetings for sometime after May.

With this in mind, we are following our organization's guidelines for the Covid-19. It is with great regret that we must cancel our activities for the first half of this year. The executive committee knows how wonderful it is to get out and meet with the many friends we have made through the years.

There are several ways in which we will keep you



informed of the activities: the first is through snail mail. The second method is through the website. The third method, if possible, is through the email addresses you have provided us with.

Please take the time out to fill out the email address paper found in the newsletter. If possible we would like to give the option of emailing people the newsletter and any announcements.

Survey Results

As addition to the fall newsletter a survey was attached. This membership survey was used to determine the membership's feeling about future functions of the association.

Twenty-one members submitted the survey to

be considered by the executive committee. These results will figure in the planning of future events for the group.

The results of the survey will be found on the last page of the newsletter.

Thank you to all who par-

ticipated in the survey.



Legislative Update

The Impact of the Pennsylvania General Assembly Elections

By Mark A. McKillop, Executive Director

It is hard to imagine any aspect of life in the United States not being affected by Coronavirus/COVID-19. Activity in the Pennsylvania General Assembly is no different. The political world we knew in early 2020 has changed dramatically, requiring PASR to adjust to a new reality.

Any Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is dependent on the financial health of the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) and all items associated with the Pennsylvania fiscal year budget. Our goal to obtain a COLA for our members remains our priority; that will not change.

It is our job to keep this issue in the forefront of legislators' minds in the Pennsylvania State Senate and State House. Taking into consideration that the analysis of all state budgets projects a deficit for the current fiscal year, it is hard to imagine that our challenge has not become more difficult.

When we made the attainment of a COLA our legislative priority, we knew that our task would not be easy. In this respect, we will con-

tinue the course we have established. We are grateful to all members who contacted their legislator either by email, phone, text, letter, or in person. Your efforts truly impacted the issue and effectively illustrated the importance and urgency of this subject. We received a greIt would be an understatement to declare that 2020 was a very eventful election year. Even though there was a great deal of attention given to the race for President, remarkably little changed in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. At the time of the writing of this report, we are trying to confirm the results of all the elections at the State Level. Here is what we do know:

1. The Republicans will remain in control of both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives.
2. Entering the election, the Republicans held a 28 to 21 to 1 advantage (Republicans, Democrats, Independents). Each cau-

cus lost one member in the election resulting in no change.

3. Even though the results of the elections have not been certified at the time of this report, we are able to report that House Republicans elected four (4) new members in seats currently held by Democrats and the Democrats elected one (1) new member for a net Republican gain of three (3) seats. A Republican advantage of 110 to 93 is now an advantage of 113 to 90.
4. Governor Tom Wolf's current term will end in January of 2023. Governor Wolf was not on the ballot this year. Like with any election where representation changes, we will need to adjust to the new representation in preparing for interaction with the newest version of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Our legislative goal remains

Membership: Herman Carl

The annual dues drive is under way for the 2021 membership. Unfortunately with the Covid-19 virus we were basically unable to recruit new members for our chapter. This was caused by the closing of schools for the year. Hopefully we can reach out to the new retirees in the future.

There are several activities and donations that we make to local communities from our treasury. These donations give evidence that after

retiring from the school systems we are still interested in providing a service to the community. Therefore we need a strong membership to accomplish this task.

Please encourage the new retirees to join our group.

If you have already paid your annual dues, Thank You. If you have not yet renewed for the upcoming year please consider paying these dues.

Remittance to:

John Bem

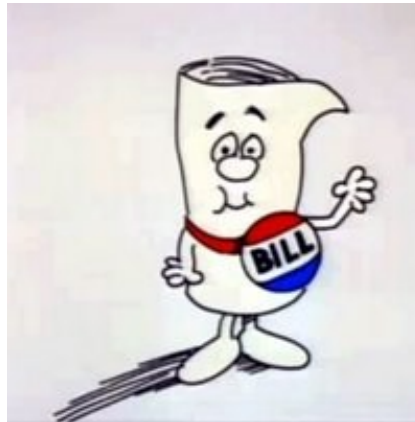
131 Lamark Rd

Hastings, PA 16646

Legislative Update (continued)

the same and we have work to do. First, it will be the task of the L/PEC in December and the Board of Directors in January to make decisions and take action to keep the focus on our ultimate legislative goal: the passage of a COLA. I want to express my thanks to all of our members who contributed to the L/PEC and who contacted their state elected officials on behalf of PASR. Speaking with one voice on key issues is a strength of our organization. at deal of feedback from the "Hill"

that your voice was heard. No matter what other issues and tests we face in Pennsylvania, the necessity and fairness of a COLA will not change.



It is also important to note that it will be essential to closely follow the Pennsylvania State budget and how it impacts school districts throughout the year. Along with this issue, it will be important to follow what aid the federal government grants to states, counties, and municipalities.

Thank you for being members and thank you for all that you do to make PASR a better Association.

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Retirement Planning : Sandra Shepherd (adaptive plans for recruiting)

Each May the school districts are contacted in order to compile a list of retirees at the conclusion of the current school term. However, with the school districts monitoring access to their schools we are depending on you to assist us finding new recruits to our organization.

Recently the State PASR has provided us with a spreadsheet from

the PSER's of the recently retired school personal. It is our hope that we can reach out to these individuals and invite them to join our chapter.

If you are already a member, thank you for joining our chapter.



Webpage Update: Herman Carl

Now more than ever the website will provide current information on the status of our group activities. Since that State PASR committee recommends that all actives be postponed until further notice.

When the activities for 2021

resume they will be posted on the webpage. Along with the forms for our activities.

Currently the website has been updated with the year end activities.

The newsletters are assessable on the website.

Check it out for yourself. Go to www.pasr.org .

- Click on **Local Association** - click on **Region 6**
- Click on **Cambria**.

We were one of the first chapters in Region 6 to have a website. Let us know if you have any suggestions to put on our site.

E-mail: hecarl@comcast.net

Website:
www.pasrcambriacounty.weebly.com



Message from Our Local Chapter President Judy Carl

Greetings from Home,

Winter is most assuredly here, as I write during a snowstorm. Outdoor activities may be fewer now, but I still get out for several walks each week with a friend.

Our chapter of PASR is following the guidelines from the state organization and we will not have any in-person meetings for now. The executive committee will meet in April and you will be updated as soon as any activities are scheduled.

We hope that the vaccines rolling out now will help us return to something like a normal life before too

long.



In February, PSAR is fighting hunger by supporting Feeding Pennsylvania. Donations can be made at their website feedingpa.org or by sending a check made out to Feeding Pennsylvania to:

PASR

878 Century Drive

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Yours,

Judy Carl

Possible Email Use for Future Newsletters

Covid-19 has brought us to looking to the future. It was proposed that we look at the possibility of reducing costs in our mailings.

With this in mind, an experiment in using electronic mailings is slated to start with this newsletter. The first group of emails will be sent out to the people who signed up for this electronic by means of survey.

For this to a cost savings for the chapter, we would like to see a fifty percent participation from the group.

Many outside organizations have resorted to using electronic email to save costs. We hope to efficiently bring this about in the future.

Please fill out the information found to the right of this column and mail to the address provided. We are testing the system with the individuals who requested this in the survey with this newsletter.

Email Information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Send to: hecarl@comcast.net or

Herman Carl

2708 Ben Franklin Hwy

Ebensburg, PA 15931

Social Services Bonnie Lou Ludwig

A tradition of handing out baskets to our shut-in members continued with fifteen baskets passed out to these members.

With the COVID-19 restrictions the baskets were delivered contact free to the individual. Hopefully, next year the drop-offs will be an actual visit.

As of now, Ludwig has mailed out the Valentine Day cards to the various members in assisted living facilities. The number of Valentines Day's cards were nineteen.

Ludwig is also planning to distribute Easter cards to the various

shut-in members of our chapter. Please if you know of anyone please notify the Chapter the phone numbers for individuals to be reached are found on the front of the news letter. This tradition hopefully will continue in the upcoming years.

Remembrances were sent out for the members of the families who passed away during the past year.

They are: John Frontino, Paul Benigni, Stella Jenkins, Thomas Link, Ronald McMullen, Helen Miller, Arlene Pawlikowski, and Rebecca Selestok,



Member Benefits Zoom Presentation

PASR's greatest strength is our membership, and member retention and recruitment remain important factors in keeping our Association strong.

In order to help reach potential members, PASR has begun contacting newly retired public school employees through email, postcards, letters, and free Zoom presentations that introduce non-members to the many benefits of joining PASR.

PASR will be holding a Zoom presentation for prospective members covering our most popular member benefits on April 21, 2021 at 10:00 am.

The presentation will provide an introduction to our insurance offerings; including dental, vision, home and auto, and more!

To register, please complete our [registration form](#) by April 12, 2021.

We ask that our members check our website for more details and invite any prospective members they may know to attend.

Website Address is:
<https://www.pasr.org/insurance-presentation-registration/>

Click on Zoom if using the PDF form of this newsletter



Column1	Column2	Column4	Column5	Column6
Membership Survey				
Cambria County Chapter PASR				
1. Are you satisfied with the current setup of our meetings?	Yes	No	NA	
	18	1	2	
2. Would you prefer to have a full meal at the meeting?	Yes	No	NA	
	8	9	4	
3. Would you prefer a lighter meal such as soup and salad?	Yes	No	NA	
	14	6	1	
4. Since our desserts cost extra would like to continue having desserts?	Yes	No	NA	
	11	9	1	
5. How much are you willing to pay for the food at the meetings?	\$10-15	\$16-20	\$20+	Whatever
	6	8	3	4
6. On a different note, should we keep the webpage operational	Yes	No	NA	
	13	2	6	
7. Do you feel that we should cut the number of activities?	Yes	No	NA	
	8	12	6	
Please circle the ones you believe should be eliminated.	Number			
St. Pat's Day Celebration	3			
Membership Breakfast	3			
Summer Picnic	7			
Woodsen Banquet	2			
Christmas Party	1			
Fall Meeting	1			
Spring Meeting	2			
8. How often do you say you access the webpage?				
	0	11		
	1-5	7		
	6-10	1		
	11+	2		
Email to you in PDF form.	Yes	No	No Computer	
	11	9	1	