

Our Mission:

To serve others in need and help one another enjoy retirement



Susan Zamzow

President's Corner

Alex Arth was a steward of our organization. Some of you only knew Alex since he retired and joined this organization. Some of us were blessed to have known him longer but we can all agree that he will be greatly missed. Our records show Alex became president-elect for CCPASR in 2006. He served two terms as president from 2008-2012 and treasurer from 2016-April 2021. He was a founding member of the Educational Enhancement Mini-Grants committee. Alex and his lovely wife, Mary Kay, have been regular participants in our lunch socials and field trips, as well.

After Alex retired, he continued to substitute teach for ten years. This was another demonstration of his love of students. He always had a novel to read while students did their work. Since we were like certified he would often be my sub. I made sure to clean my desk before his visit since he was much neater than me. He would happily correct papers for me and he has been my unofficial proofreader for years.

Alex love and respect for the English language was admirable. He was a crossworder extraordinaire and along with his great friend, Joe Beichner, they would complete the NY Times crossword on Sundays. Alex was an avid reader as true for many educators. The fact that he was modeling great reading habits

for the young men was an impressive quality.

We have lost other members during the past months. Mary Kirkpatrick was a steward of our organization working with social services and memorials. A fond memory of my years of CCPASR was riding with Mary to Pittsburgh Pirates game. What an enjoyable conversation! Mildred Rapp has been a participant in our meetings since I retired. It was a pleasure visiting with Millie. I did not personally know the other recently deceased members. Most certainly, their losses have caused holes in the lives of their loved ones.

We need more stewards for our organization so that our Clarion County chapter may thrive. We need committee chairs and new members for existing committees. Other chapters have found that friends sharing duties has been successful. We also need new officers with new ideas and initiative. We are seeking a president-elect and secretary. We would welcome your help in

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PPASR
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

Volume 5, Issue 6
May 2021

Are you ready to visit with longtime friends and make new friends?

*join us for a **picnic at Clarion County Park***

Thursday, May 20th Noon

Bring a dish to share. Perhaps a lawn chair. Rain or shine.

Guests are always welcome. Bring friends.





PASR 2021 Chapter Goals and Activities

GOAL 1: Expand/Improve Services to Others

Activity #1 — Develop/Participate In/ Expand a Project or Activity Serving Youth

Activity #2 — Increase Educational Support Grant(s))

Activity #3— Increase Social Services Memorial Honor Fund Services

Activity #4— Initiate or Expand a Project or Activity Alleviating Hunger

Activity #5— Promote Individual Giving to Memorial Honor

GOAL 2: Expand/Improve Social Opportunities for Members

Activity #1 — Conduct and Publicize Chapter RECREO Events

Activity #2 — Promote Participation in the State RECREO Event

Activity #3 — Develop and Submit a Plan for Chapter Activities

Activity #4 — Conduct New Retiree Welcome

GOAL 3: Expand/Improve Information to Members/Nonmembers

Activity #1 — Distribute PASR Materials at PSERS Foundation for Your Future Seminars

Activity #2 — Establish and Maintain a Chapter Website/Social Media Site

Activity #3 — Conduct Both a Pre-Retirement and/or a Post-Retirement Event

Activity #4 — Present Laurretta Woodson Awards

Activity #5 — Develop and Submit a Legislative Issues Activity Plan

Activity #6 — Plan and Conduct a Meet Your Legislators Event

Activity #7 — Promote an Understanding of Legislative Issues

Activity #8 — Expand/Improve Information to Members/Nonmembers

GOAL 4: Expand/Improve Economic Benefits for Members

Activity #1 — Publish State MB&S Articles in Chapter Newsletters

Activity #2 — Utilize a Speaker from One of the State Endorsed Benefits

Activity #3 — Publish MB&S Testimonials

Activity #4 — Increase Number of Members Logging PASR Website

GOAL 5: Grow and Strengthen Your Association

Activity #1 — Recruit New State and Chapter Members

Activity #2— Nominate a Volunteer of the Year

Activity #3 — Elect a Chapter President-Elect

Members we have lost since the start of 2020:

Ben Kundrick. 1/13/20

Elizabeth Clowney 7/8/20

Dona Palaggo 7/27/20

Evelyn McGuirk 9/27/20

Mildred Rapp 9/27/20

Vada Roof 11/22/20

Rose Lowman 12/11/20

Joyce Lignelli 1/9/21

Francis Baptist 1/25/21

Mary Kirkpatrick 2/20/21

Alex Arth 4/19/21

PASR Memorial Honor Fund

The PASR Memorial Honor Fund assists members who need moral support and financial aid and encourages the work of the local chapters in activities related to services for unfortunate retirees who, due to illness or old age, are confined to their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes.

PASR MHF Donation

I wish to make a donate \$_____ by check payable to **PASR Memorial Honor Fund** in _____ honor or _____ in memory of _____.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Mail to PASR, 878 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Using the strength of its large membership, PASR has negotiated attractive group rates on a number of products and services. PASR endorses services and products as a value added benefit to its members and does not receive financial compensation for endorsement of any product or service.

The philosophy that has always governed PASR's endorsement of commercial products is "Any financial benefits that might be derived from extending the PASR's name to endorse a commercial product must accrue to the individual members who elect to purchase the product, not to the organization." In short, PASR does not solicit commissions or rebates from the companies it endorses and insists that such considerations be passed on to the individuals in the form of lower prices. We do not endorse to raise monies but to provide an additional service to our membership. Expenses related to marketing of the endorsed programs are typically paid by the companies and not by the association. So, PASR's endorsements do not cost the association or its members. The following endorsements offer members the opportunity to save—just another way that your PASR membership works on your behalf.

If you are currently a member of PASR and would like to access more information on your member's only benefits, applications for the benefits, or PASR member-specific discounts codes for the discounts listed below, please log in to the Member's Only Section.

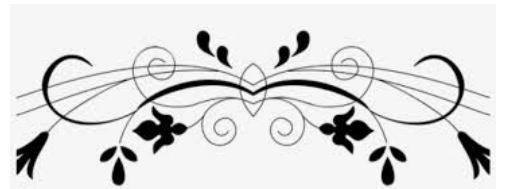


You will find your member ID on the label of the state newsletter. It is the number you will use on the members only pages. You may then print out the card.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Alex Arth, outgoing CCPASR Treasurer

Checkbook Balance as of October 17, 2019	\$1,975.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,909.68
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,138.41
Checkbook Balance as of April 5, 2021	\$2,747.0
Savings Account Balance as of April 5, 2021	\$462.21
Certificate Balance (5)	\$2,600.43



Previous Enhancement Grant History

2020

no grants

2019

Deven Laird, Redbank Valley SD science teacher, Pollinators' Habitat project

Tammi Starcher, Redbank Valley SD kindergarten teacher, Sensory Pathway project

Dr. Joe Harmon, Redbank Valley social studies teacher, Holocaust Library project. (Members' personal donations)

2018

Erin Hockenberry, Clarion Limestone Area Elementary Counselor, "Ruling Our Experiences" (ROX) for their sixth-grade girls intends to cultivate higher self-esteem and decrease bullying and incidents of relational aggression.

CCPASR recognizes the important foundation laid by public education. We wish to support our public schools in their educational focus and encourage innovative classroom ideas and professional development. Although we had a pause in 2020, we are awarding three proposals this year. We had twelve applications with representatives from each district.

Bridget Rivers, Keystone Health and Physical Education teacher, was awarded a \$294.62 grant for her fitness drumming with black lights project. This will allow students to get fit while having fun.

Caitlin Holley, Redbank Valley English teacher, was awarded a \$150 grant for her games and chess club project. It will bring students together and promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Natalie Anderson, Samantha Harling, and Jennifer

Knight, Clarion Area Learning Support teachers, were awarded \$150 for their elementary Cool Kittens Café project. It will benefit students with hands-on learning with real world applications.

Congratulations to our 2021 awardees. We salute them going the extra mile for their students.

We will do official announcements in the fall.



(Educational Enhancement grant history continued from page 3)

2017

Bradley Kirkwood, Debbie Shirey, and Jake Weckerly, Union SD teachers, 4-12 rocketry project
Clarion County United Way’s Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

2016

Tammi Starcher, Kim Merwin, and Tina Moore, Redbank Valley SD primary teachers, Buddy Bench
Ed Baumcratz, North Clarion SD art teacher, Glass Mosaic

2015

Bradley Kirkwood, Union SD physics teacher, rocketry
Bridget Irwin, Keystone SD physical education teacher, body bars for fitness circuit
Union SD Kindergarten Math/Reading Books

2014

Michelle Higgins, North Clarion SD nurse, before school fitness program
Tonya Stewart, Union SD math teacher, web cams for instruction/professional development

Educational Support Donation

I wish to donate \$_____ by check payable to **CCPASR** for the Educational Support Fund in Clarion County. I know the money will be used for grants to Clarion County educators and support staff from our schools.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Mail to CCPASR, Debbie Whisner, 321 Liberty Street, Clarion PA 16214

By Paula Bowersox, Chair

Chapter Membership chairs were recently asked to verify their roster of “dual members” for the purpose of establishing the number of delegates each chapter is entitled to send to the PASR meeting of the House of Delegates, which at this time is scheduled for October in Lancaster. This makes now an excellent time to examine the changes in Clarion’s membership since our last Membership meeting in the fall of 2019.

“Dual members”, not surprising, are members who belong to both the State and the Local organizations; Clarion chapter has 66 of those. Our total membership is 130 members and the numbers break down as this way:

52 Local-only members
12 State-only members
66 Dual members

It would be interesting to know the total number of members for other chapters but that is not information that the state shares with me.

A sobering note when discussing our chapter numbers: a total of 11 members have passed away from the beginning of 2020 to today. Not only is this a sad occurrence but it also is a reflection of the advancing age of our members. It is no secret that many members are becoming quite elderly and this trend of attrition due to age will inevitably continue. Throughout this same period the Clarion chapter has acquired no new members. This is, no doubt, in large part due to our fragmentation during the year of COVID 19. Retirees were not motivated to join when face-to-face meetings were impossible. Also, access to retiree information has become harder. Access to schools was restricted making information about new retirees harder to come by while at the same time schools have become more and more concerned about privacy and are reluctant to share contact information.

Fortunately the State PASR is starting to help address the issue of obtaining retiree information. They have managed to get PSERS to agree to share the names of new retirees, something that they have resisted in the past. However, PSERS is not so cooperative as to provide the contact information to go with these names, forcing PASR to hire an agency to research and determine likely matches. PASR then appeals to local chapters to verify questionable matches and fill in where information is incomplete. This results in retiree lists which are less than comprehensive, but it is at least a good supplement to the information we are able to acquire from local schools. It is surprisingly difficult to find accurate contact information especially in light of the proliferation of ‘people search’ websites.

But even accurate information and fancy invitations do not very often translate in acquiring new members. **It bears repeating (again and again) that personal outreach is the best way to sell PASR to new retirees. Once we are able to meet in person again, invite a retiree to a meeting or activity!**

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*For words, like Nature, half reveal
and half conceal the Soul within.*

-Alfred, Lord Tennyson



(Membership continued from page 5)

Annual local dues time is coming up again. Local dues should be paid **no later than July 1st**. Our local dues remain at \$20 and can be paid directly at **pasr.org** (and they will send the money back to us.) Or send cash or a check made out to **“CCPASR”** to me (see info below).

State dues notices come to you directly from the State organization and your renewal date is determined individually. Annual State dues remains at \$60. If you wish to pay both entities at the same time you may do so as I described above:

1. pay directly at **pasr.org** (and each entity will get their portion of the funds), or
2. send both dues payments to me in one check made out to “CCPASR” (and the State’s portion will be forwarded to HQ).



(President’s Corner continued from page 1)

whatever form you are comfortable. On page 2 you will find a list of goals to aim for this year. Where would you like to help us?

We thank those of you who renewed your membership during this disrupted year. We need help getting our momentum up again after the pause. We miss our spring and fall meetings which in the past have been well attended. We miss sharing field trips with friends. We miss monthly luncheons where we share fascinating conversations and sample area restaurant menus.

Although currently, state PASR recommends only Zoom meetings, some members suggested a picnic. Everyone contacting me suggested that we are all fully vaccinated thus a picnic would be fun. We will meet Thursday, May 20th at Noon at the Clarion County Park. We do not pay for power, but the shelters are nice. We will meet rain or shine. If it is raining, we will try for the large shelter. Please join us for an hour or two!

Special thanks are needed for our long serving committee chairs: Paula Bowersox, Membership, Kathy Dinger, Community Service and Social Services/Memorial Honor, Barb Speer, RECREO, and Tim McCloskey, Member Benefits. Our Educational Support is our largest committee with Barb Speer, Nancy Keen, Kathy Dinger, and me. Alex Arth served on this committee, so we are seeking new members. Will you

join us?

We welcome Debbie Whisner as our new treasurer. Alex had the foresight to contact me in early March to say he would like to step down. Deb did not hesitate to provide him with the peace of mind knowing that the job would be handled. Thank you so very much for your willingness to serve, Deb!

In closing, please know that you are loved and appreciated by CCPASR. We hope that you will join us in serving and socializing. Late in life friendships enrich our experiences. If you have lost someone close to you this past year, as Helen Steiner Rice once said, “May tender memories soften your grief.”



Support Those in Our Communities

Community Action provides Weatherization & Energy Education, the Job Readiness and Employability Project (JREP), Homeless Assistance, Community Food Bank, Senior Corps Project, low-income housing, and a variety of additional services in support of its mission.

Community Action, Inc.

30 S Sheridan Road Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 226-4785 Office

Thank you for considering a donation to Community Action, Inc. Each year, they serve approximately 7,800 Clarion and Jefferson County Residents. Their administrative costs are under 10% of the total budget

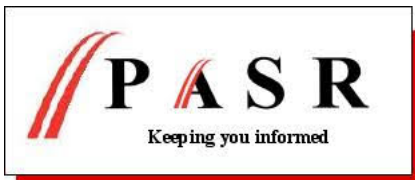
Keeping in Touch

To meet the needs of our retirees, CCPASR is continually researching the best ways to communicate announcements and important information. The email list must be modified to notify our members of timely information (**your email address will NOT be given out.**) If you would like to receive an occasional email from CCPASR, please email your address to Paula Bowersox @ pbox@comcast.net or Sue Zamzow, suezamzow@ccpasr.com or fill out the form to your right and mail it to Paula Bowersox.

Please let leadership know of our members in need of some TLC.



*We need accurate emails to keep you better informed.
Have you sent us yours?*



***Who could you invite to join our group?
Word of mouth is our best promotion.***

**Membership Application or Renewal
CLARION COUNTY PASR**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____ Phone* _____ Email _____

District from which you retired _____

Year Retired _____

CCPASR ANNUAL

(July 1—June 30) \$20 _____

CCPASR Life \$100 _____

STATE PASR ANNUAL \$60 _____

STATE PASR 3-YEAR MEMBERSHIP \$150 _____

STATE PASR LIFE \$700 _____

Please mail this form with your check made payable to
CCPASR to:

**Paula Bowersox
16 Horizon Heights
Clarion, PA 16214**

* This information will NOT be shared with 3rd parties.



“A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again” – Maya Angelou



Susan Zamzow
401 Liberty Street
Clarion, PA 16214

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Current CCPASR Officers:

Debbie Whisner (CA), Treasurer
Susan Zamzow (CA), President
Nancy Keen (CA), Past President
Open, Secretary
Open, President-Elect

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