

COMMUNIQUÉ

Pennsylvania Association Of School Retirees

Lancaster County School Retirees

Fall 2021

Mission: "To continue to support education, to serve others in need and to help one another enjoy retirement."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end."

Michelle Obama

After nearly a year and a half, LCSR is resuming in-person meetings and events. Over the summer there was the Mini Golf Outing at Village Greens attended by members and guests (mostly grandchildren). Then the Executive Board held a meeting at Centerville Diner on September 1 to plan our fall activities. That was followed closely by the Playin' Hooky Picnic on September 9. It has been wonderful to see others and interact.

Our next even will be a General Membership Meeting on November 15. This luncheon will feature a change of venue and a much-requested guest speaker. We will be meeting at the Eden Resort with Brian Roche of WGAL as our speaker. See the article on page 7 for more details. The reservation form is on page 8 and I encourage you to make sure and meet the deadline in order to participate in this event.

As you read this we will have concluded another PASR House of Delegates meeting, October 3-5, at Eden Resort. Region 4 hosted the event. Volunteers from our chapter helped to pack Welcome Bags for attendees and supervised a Basket Auction to benefit the Social Services Memorial Honor Fund. Dr. Daniel Wubah, president of Millersville University, was the keynote speaker. Over 120 PASR members from across the state attended.

Looking to the future, we face many of the same challenges as other organizations: dwindling membership and a reluctance on the part of members to assume leadership roles. Please help keep LCSR a vital organization that supports education and retired educators: attend an event, serve on a committee, encourage other retired educators to become involved. Maintain that forward motion!

Lauren Buchmann, President



Reach out to a friend or former colleague today. Your gesture is sure to brighten their day!



DATES TO REMEMBER

General Membership Luncheon	Monday, November 15, 2021
Executive Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 3, 2021
	Wednesday, January 5, 2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Lauren Buchmann	lbuchm9877@aol.com	717-413-5865
Secretary/Resolutions	Becky Peifer	beckypeifer91@gmail.com	717-492-8271
Treasurer	Marijane Ember	mjember@gmail.com	717-648-9296
Asst. Treasurer	John Bratton	doc.bratton@gmail.com	610-593-5532

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Community Services	Marge Rineer	margerineer@concast.net	717-361-5218
	Ruth Havercamp	ruthhavercamp@gmail.com	717-295-4401
Educational Support	Connie Ginder	ginder1894@gmail.com	717-653-8535
L/PEC	Mike Hoff	a.mhoffphoto@yahoo.com	717-898-1869
Hospitality	Sue Hoxworth	sueslh14@aol.com	717-295-9161
	Becky Peifer	beckypeifer91@gmail.com	717-492-8271
Membership	Lauren Buchmann	lbuchm9877@aol.com	717-413-5865
Necrology	Geri Kull	mkull50@yahoo.com	717-569-4908
Newsletter	Lauren Buchmann	lbuchm9877@aol.com	717-413-5865
Retirement Planning	Liz Loht	lizloht@comcast.net	717569-6017
	Carol Kurl	Kurl249@live.com	717-626-2435
RECREO	Carol Tangert	cettours@comcast.net	717-984-2108
Social Services MMF	Jean Young	jeanlyoung@aol.com	717-928-4432
Ways and Means	John Chesters	ches1505@aol.com	717-898-0042
Web Master	Nancy Frederick	nancyfrederick@comcast.net	717-942-8479

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: An audit of LCSR accounts was conducted on August 27. No irregularities were found. Marijane Ember, John Bratton, Jean Young, Lauren Buchmann served on the Audit committee

Membership Committee: In calendar year 2021 twenty-three members have been reported as deceased, and seventy-three were placed on the inactive list for delinquent dues. During that same time period we welcomed 11 new members.

Picnic Committee: Playin' Hooky Picnic was held September 9 at Long's Park. Entertainment, a sing along, was provided by Kristyn Beeman and Melanie Walborn of WB Music Therapy. Lunch was prepared by Peters Barbeque of Manheim. Games, trivia and door prizes rounded out the day.

SSMHF: Volunteers are preparing to resume visitation to members in nursing and care facilities. If you are interested in becoming a visitor please contact Jean Young at 717-928-4432.

Ways & Mean Committee: Monte Carlo, our main fundraiser for several years, will not be held in 2022. Millersville University is uncertain of the availability of the venue/food service we have used due to staffing shortage. If you have any ideas for other fundraising options, please contact John Chesters at 717-898-0042.

Nominating Committee: Seeking candidates for President-Elect, Public Relations Committee, Member Benefits Committee, and newsletter editor. Contact Lauren Buchmann at 717-413-5865

PSERS—In the News

By Mark A. McKillop, Executive Director

PASR Statement on PSERS

Due to recent news about issues involving the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) is compelled to respond as it funds our pensions in retirement. Since PASR represents only retirees and not active members, issues involving alleged malfeasance at PSERS significantly impacts our members and their livelihoods.

PSERS has acknowledged that there is an active FBI investigation along with a federal grand jury investigation into its recent operations. At this time, there is no evidence or information leading to the conclusion that any pension has been placed in jeopardy.

Please note that PASR and PSERS are separate operations without any direct connection, therefore the investigation does not directly involve our organization.

Reason for the Investigation

There is a shared risk provision with active (non-retiree) PSERS members under Pennsylvania State Law that is based on an investment “window” of nine years. If PSERS investment returns fall below 6.36 percent over that nine-year period, a shared risk provision increases the amount that public school employees, who were hired after July 1, 2011, pay into PSERS.

Originally PSERS certified that the nine-year return was 6.38 percent. Later, PSERS held a special meeting and changed that number to 6.34 percent which activated that shared risk provision.

News reports surfaced that indicated a possible investigation was underway at PSERS about the estimation of the nine-year investment return and the process it

took to reach that number. Recently, additional reports have indicated that the investigation goes beyond the process of the estimation. At this point it is speculation until there is a second party validation.

As a result of the pending investigations, PSERS has acknowledged hiring at least four outside law firms to represent them. Also, PSERS has acknowledged hiring an additional outside consulting firm to help with investments during the time their staff is under investigation. This will result in additional money being spent in addition to normal management and personnel costs. PASR will seek information on the impact of those additional expenditures.

Next Steps

The PSERS investigation will take time to run its course, and we must respect that process. It is important to note that the average federal grand jury investigation usually takes anywhere from 12 to 18 months to complete.

PASR will closely follow this issue and we are committed to providing factual updates to keep you informed as the investigation progresses. We are here to be a trusted resource and will continue to advocate on your behalf.

We sincerely appreciate our members and leaders who have reached out to us to comment and seek additional information. We rely on feedback from our members, and we will continue to be responsive.

HAVE YOU MET?

Art and history are lifetime pursuits for **Ken Hoak**, retired Solanco art teacher and department chair. In retirement Ken maintains his connections with both art and history through his many organizational affiliations. He is a member of the Echo Valley Art Group, an *invitation only* group consisting of just twenty-five members. His specialty is abstract sculpture. He is a former board member of the Lutheran Historical Society of Lancaster County and a Board Member of the Wolf Museum of Art and Music.

Ken is President Emeritus of Conestoga Historical Society and devotes much of his time to maintaining that collection. As a lifelong resident of Conestoga with ancestors dating back to 1730 in Conestoga Township, Ken is the third generation to reside on the same property. The Historical Society has a permanent display featuring toys from four generations of his family as well as a display of Easter Eggs from around the world. Ken's property covers 1 1/2 acres and has been featured on the Demuth Garden Tour.



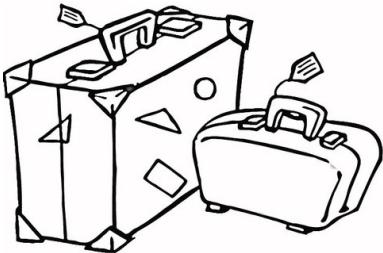
Ken also devotes much of his time to curating a collection of over 150 framed reproductions of great works from around the world that are on display at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Millersville. His work as Chairman of the Visual Arts Committee has lead to the development of this collection over the past decades. One special sculpture created by Ken is on display at St. Paul. It is a welded metal and river rock sculpture "**David and Goliath**" which Ken gifted to the church.

Ken received a B.S. in Art Education at Kutztown State College and an M.A. from Columbia University Teachers College. He interrupted his work toward a PhD in 1968 to make a 3 1/2 month trip around the world, a trip that could not be duplicated today due to the changing political climate in the middle east and eastern Europe.

While teaching at Solanco, Ken also served as adjunct faculty at Millersville University teaching Foundations for Elementary Education, Stage Craft and Theater Design. As an adjunct professor at Elizabethtown College Ken taught sculpture. He also taught Art for Gifted Students at Lancaster County Art Association.

Far from being *retired*, Ken keeps busy, actively pursuing his passions.





TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2021—2022

Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad Friday October 15th

Fall is the perfect time to head to Romney, WV to the Mill Creek Mountains along the South Branch of the Potomac River. We'll make a brief stop at Dillion's Country Treasures to browse & shop for unique décor & gifts.

Enjoy the beauty of the scenic South Branch Valley! Ride behind vintage diesels through historic farms & wind along the South Branch of the Potomac River. In the Trough, a six-mile canyon, spot American Bald Eagles that make their home in this isolated paradise. Enjoy this narrated tour aboard historic passenger cars for an authentic railroad experience you'll remember for years to come.!

A boxed lunch (ham sub or turkey sub, chips, fruit cup, Oreo's, & water) is included on your 3-hour ride. The group will ride in the table car featuring four people at each table. **PRICE PER PERSON: \$162.00**

Includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, driver gratuity, visit to Dillion's, box lunch, 3-hour train ride & snacks.

Departing 7:00 AM from Lancaster Shopping Center & returning approx. 9:30 PM.

Christmas at Longwood Gardens Friday December 10th

We begin with lunch at the Buckley's Tavern, dating back to 1817. It was a former Stagecoach stop, tollgate & private residence. Menu: House salad, Chicken Pot Pie, HB Meatloaf, Penne Pasta cream sauce with Salmon or Chicken, pan seared Salmon. Desert, Seasonal Cobbler with Ice cream.

After lunch we make our way to Longwood Gardens to explore the warm Conservatory adorned with decorated trees & poinsettias. Stop by the music room to enjoy the organ music or join in with the Christmas carol sing-a-long. Stroll the Outdoor Gardens, and see colorful lights – featuring a floating tree display, hundreds of sparkling snowflakes, twinkling tree forms, a 12-foot fountain of lights in the Main Fountain Garden and more. Price per person \$108.00

No refunds after: November 12, 2021

Danube River Cruise with Ama Waterways -- May 6--17, 2022 "Gems of Southeast Europe"

Roundtrip motor coach to airport, transfers,
One-night pre-cruise in Bucharest,
Two-night post cruise in Vienna,
Seven-night cruise aboard the deluxe and unique new river ship - AMAMAGNA. Includes: guided tours in port, guided shore excursions in every port. Unlimited wine, beer and soda at lunch & dinner. Daily cocktail hour, gratuities to ship's staff, baggage handling & Wi-Fi.
Also, Optional 2-night Bucharest & 2-night Brasov Pre-cruise tour extension.

The Staterooms are filling quickly. Please contact me for complete details and prices for this once-in-a-lifetime vacation.

Carol Tangert, RECREO Chair
cettours@comcast.net
717-984-2108

SOCIAL SERVICES MEMORIAL HONOR FUND

PASR's Social Services/ Memorial Fund at both the local and state levels is designed to make sure that our members are where they need to be, to see if they are in any specific need other than medical, and to connect with our members who are unable to attend our programs and luncheons throughout the year. This committee is the outreach we provide to others to let them know what's going on in the works of the organization.

During the course of the pandemic, we have contacted no less than 100 members with cards on three different occasions with personal messages inside to remind them that they are not alone and that our chapter is continuing to keep them in our thoughts. Several members have begun to visit these members where they live for the opportunity to have a personal interaction with other PASR members. Those who are confined by difficulties have often felt segregated by the pandemic more than ever. And sometimes our visitors are unable to reach out personally because the facilities where our confined members live are not allowing visitors due to restrictions for health reasons. But we keep trying!

If you would like to be personally contacted by a PASR visitor, whether in person or even by telephone, please contact **Jean Young** at **717-928-4432** to schedule an opportunity for a visit with a member. All visits can be confidential or in a small group as allowed. In any case, don't let another day go by where you feel you are not being served by the PASR community. We need to include you in our circle of retired friends, as much as you would like to be included.

Please keep in mind that if you would like to attend a PASR chapter meeting and need transportation or help with the cost of the meal being served at that meeting, we can arrange to help you meet that need. **If you are willing to help with transportation of a member, please contact Jean at the number above.

If you are planning your estate and would be willing to remember our organization and its members, please know that leaving any special funding for the organization will help PASR reach out to even more members as we all experience changes in our lives. The state House of Delegates held in October already began to raise funds for the upcoming year to financially reach out to the membership. Donations to the state on behalf of the SS/MHF are always needed and welcomed. You can contribute to the quality of life for our members in so many different ways. Even making a donation of postage stamps for sending out our cards and messages will be appreciated.

If you would like to share your talents by being a visitor to our members, please contact Jean. With nearly 100 members who might like to hear from someone, we can always use your help.



NEW MEMBERS

Catherine Cieslinski	Lisa Gleason
Charles Daubert	Paula Plum
Joseph Dziedzic	William Rhorer
Christian Eurich	Whitney Seltzer
Laura Frey	

In Memoriam

Janice Burkhart	William Hoffecker	Joan Masten
Francis Cassidy	Charles Jackson	Jeanette Miller
John Douglas	Richard Kline	Ruth Stas
James Forsha	Julie Levis	Ruth Walp
Wilma Jean Garland	Aileen Longenecker	Georgette Young
Leon Glover	Joan Manly	

General Membership Meeting

November 15, 2021

Eden Resort and Suites

Brian Roche - Luncheon Speaker

Brian Roche co-anchors News 8 at 5:30 each weekday.

He is also the 8 On Your Side consumer/investigative reporter for News.



Brian's work has been recognized by the Associated Press with the top honor for Enterprise Reporting in Pennsylvania and he's received several Emmy nominations. Brian has more than 30 years experience as a broadcast journalist, anchor and producer.

Brian was born and raised in Scranton, Pa. He graduated from Bishop Hannan High School in Scranton. He received his bachelor of arts in communications from Marywood University in Scranton.

Throughout his college years, Brian was an anchor/reporter for WARM 590 AM in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area. While on the radio, he was also the weekend weather personality on WBRE-TV in Wilkes-Barre. Upon graduation, Brian assumed a full-time position with WBRE as a reporter/anchor where he remained until 1995.

While at WBRE, Brian won several Associated Press Awards for Enterprise Reporting, Public Affairs and Spot News Coverage.

In November of 1995, Brian accepted the position of anchor and managing editor at KGAN-TV in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Brian was the only local news anchor to travel to the scene of a tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado and won an award from the Iowa Motion Picture Association for his work.

Brian is a member of the Board of Directors for Tabor Community Services in Lancaster. Brian has also served on the board of the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey.

He enjoys golfing, biking and home repair projects (really!) But above all, spending time with his active family.

Brian and his wife Kim (the real consumer expert in the family) are the parents of four young adults

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Traditionally at our November meeting we collect canned goods and monetary donations for the Lancaster Food Hub. This year we will be accepting only monetary donations for that organization. The Food Hub has sources of food that allow them to purchase quantities of the food they need to offer a healthy well-balanced diet to their clients.

According to their website, “\$25.00 = 25 bags of quality food”. “When you donate \$1.00, we can stretch it 6x to feed our food-insecure neighbors! Every donation you make is impacting the lives of families and neighbors—helping individuals thrive.”

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REGISTRATION

Monday, November 15, 2021

Eden Resort & Suites, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

AGENDA

10:00 Registration
10:30 Speaker—Brian Roche
11:30 Lunch
12:30 Business Meeting

MENU

Lemon Chicken Piccata
Salad w/ choice of Dressing
Baked Potato
Chef Choice of Vegetable
Rolls & Butter
Chocolate Layer Cake
Water, Coffee, Decaf. Herbal Tea, Iced Tea

DEADLINE for return of registration form: **Tuesday, OCTOBER 12**

Please return form below with check payable to LCSR/PASR to: Mrs. Sue Hoxworth

1693 Weaver Way

Lancaster, PA 17603

RESERVATION—GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 15, 2021

Name/Names _____ Number _____

Year you retired _____ District from which you retired _____

I will attend meeting only. _____

Cost of luncheon: \$20.00 per person \$ _____ (includes gratuity and tax)

Contribution to General Fund \$ _____

Contribution to Scholarship Fund \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

Legislative/Political Education Committee
CONTRIBUTION FORM



Name: _____

Did you know that a campaign to urge passage of a single piece of legislation can cost the association over \$200,000?

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LPEC. MAIL TO

878 CENTURY DRIVE, MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055-8406

Educational Support

Conestoga Valley School District received an Emergency Grant from LCSR to help with unexpected expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic.



Conestoga Valley

HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Michael M. Smith, Principal

Mrs. Rachel E. Metzinger, Assistant Principal
Mr. David F. Dunsavage, Assistant Principal

July 5, 2021

Lauren Buchmann
134 Creekgate Court
Millersville, PA 17551

Dear Lancaster County School Retirees,

Thank you very much for funding our air purifiers for the music ensembles at Conestoga Valley High School and Gerald Huesken Middle School. As you can imagine, the past school year had unprecedented challenges for our students and staff. Your kind donation, however, was a bright spot in our year. The air purifiers helped provide COVID mitigation to our singers. We were able to safely rehearse and perform as a result of your assistance.

Again, many thanks for your donation and support of our local schools. You continue to positively impact our students, and we are very grateful.



All the Best-

Elizabeth Carney

Elizabeth Carney
Music Educator

★CHARACTER

★COMMUNITY

★COMMITMENT

2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone: 717.397.5231

www.ConestogaValley.org

Fax: 717.397.8841

PHOTO GALLERY



MINI GOLF



PICNIC



Application for Local Membership

Lancaster County School Retirees

Please use this form to join as a new member or to renew your membership.

Send a check payable to LCSR/PASR and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Lauren Buchmann, Membership Chairman

134 Creekgate Ct.

Millersville, PA 17551

Please Check Membership Category:

Life (\$250.00) Annual (\$15.00) 3 Year (\$40.00) Associate (\$15.00)

Name _____ Phone _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Year Retired _____ District _____ Position _____

E-mail address _____

Visit our website at <https://thepasr.wixsite.com/lancasterpasr>

Application for State Membership

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

Please use this form as a new member or to renew your membership.

Make checks payable to PASR and send the application and check to:

PASR

878 Century Lane

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4375

Select your membership option:

Annual Membership (\$60.00) Associate Membership (\$60.00) Life (\$700.00)

3-Year (\$150) Half Life (2 payments of \$350.00)

Name _____ Phone _____ DOB _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

District _____ Retirement Date _____ Years of Service _____

E-mail address _____

Are you a member of a local PASR Chapter? _____ If so, which one _____

Note: Membership dues payments may not be deductible for federal income tax.

LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL RETIREES

Mrs. Lauren Buchmann

134 Creekgate Ct.

Millersville, PA 17551

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE CHECK ABOVE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND EXPIRATION DATE

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LCSR Membership as of 9/26/21

Annual Members	173
Emeritus Members	3
Life Members	453
Total	629

Complimentary (2020 Retirees) - 246