

PASR VENANGO 2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1



**HAPPY SPRING IN
NORTHWEST
PENNSYLVANIA!**

- **PASR IS REQUESTING ONLY ZOOM MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**
- **PRESIDENT BIDEN THINKS SMALL GROUPS MAY BE ABLE TO MEET IN JULY IF EVERYONE GETS VACCINATED.**
 - **STAY SOCIALLY DISTANT**
 - **WEAR YOUR MASK**
 - **GET THE COVID VACCINE**
 -
- **THE SPRING MEETING IS CANCELLED FOR MAY 4 DUE TO RISING COVID**

WE HOPE TO MEET IN PERSON ON JULY 13, 2021 AT OUR ANNUAL PICNIC AT MORRISON PARK! WE CAN STAY SOCIALLY DISTANT IN THE OPEN AIR.

THIS GATHERING IS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION IF COVID NUMBERS IN VENANGO COUNTY CONTINUE TO RISE.

- **THE SUMMER MEETING WILL BE MOVED TO AUGUST 3, 2021.**
- **WE WILL MOVE COFFEE HOURS TO AUGUST 3, AND 4**
- **ALL EXECUTIVE MEETINGS WILL BE 40 MINUTE ZOOM MEETINGS.**

OUR NONAGENARIANS AND CONFINED MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A GIFT IN MAY BY MAIL. VPASR-CONTINUES TO SEND CARDS EVERY 2-3 MONTHS TO THESE MEMBERS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Despite the 2020-2021 Pandemic, PASR Venango continues to survive. I thank every one of the over 190 Venango County retirees who paid \$10 for their membership last year, but had no meetings to attend, no picnic, no coffee hours and no Christmas party due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As your president, I hope everyone remains masked, and socially distancing by at least 3 feet in public. Stay home if you can until the numbers go down! I chose to cancel all events last year due to the CDC recommendations, limitations on meeting size, PASR Executive guidelines, and to ensure the safety of our members and guests.

I have delivered two grant awards to three Valley Grove staff members on March 23 at the regular Valley Grove Board meeting.

I have tweaked the 2021 PASR Venango calendar in hopes we can meet.

I will contacted all 2021 school retirees by mail and invited them to join PASR Venango. Last year we had five new members join. I hope they will rejoin this year.

I sent in all reports to PASR state as required. I attended PASR ZOOM meetings to stay aware.

I also plan to honor our 2020 PASR-Venango Volunteer of the Year when we can meet with Marilyn Brandon. She has over 600 hours of volunteer hours.

I also want to honor our most valuable and helpful John Dillon Recipient of the 2020 Year: Darrell Smith.

Please turn in your volunteer hours for 2021.

Our older confined members received cards five times throughout the year and gift cards in May and again in December thanks to the Social Service Memorial Honor Fund Committee.

Every member should receive a birthday card thanks to our valuable volunteer member: Freda Thurau.

PASR VENANGO is only as strong as our members.

2021-2022 Executive Board

Diana Fesenmyer, President
_____, Vice President

John Kolojejchick, Treasurer

Diana Fesenmyer, Secretary

Committee Chairs

Pat Ralph, Community Service

Diana Fesenmyer, Ed Support

Membership: John Kolojejchick/Diana Fesenmyer

SSMHF Committee Chair, Diana Fesenmyer

Real SSMHF Workers

Sandy Homer: Franklin SD

Diane Jackson: Cranberry SD

Gloria Stevens: Valley Grove SD

Dottie Valimont: Oil City SD

Ken Nelson & Darrel Smith, Meeting Greeters

John Kolojejchick, Webmaster

Evelyn Kolojejchick, Table Decorations

Freda Thurau, Birthday Cards

Diana Fesenmyer, Newsletter Editor

LOG IN TO PASR at

www.pasr.org

Benefits for state members are listed on this site.

Help us reach the goal of 25 or more members logging on. Check it out!

Log in to Venango PASR website : vpsar.org

For the latest information about both local and state activities.

See what the committees are doing, and view other resources.

“A GOOD PERSON HELPS OTHERS ENJOY THE DAY NO MATTER HOW THEY FEEL!

Cherish Those You Love!

If you have time, please consider volunteering to simply call/ or distance visit neighbors or friends.

Educational Support:

Hope you read the Derrick on March 23. PASR Venango made front page and page 5 news.

Two Valley Grove third school teachers, Tammy Kline and Julie Plumer, received a PASR Venango \$250 Educational Grant. The Third graders made door hangers for residents of Sugar Creek Station. Plants were also purchased so residents knew someone was thinking of them during these difficult times. On April 7th, the staff delivered the items to Sugar Creek Station and more pictures and publicity for PASR

A \$200 Educational Grant was awarded to Marjorie Hart to purchase material, thread, elastic, sewing machine needles, and scissors so her students at Rocky Grove High School can learn to make masks to prevent the spread of COVID.

I was so proud to award these honors for such wonderful projects!

WAY TO GO!

PASR MHF Donations

Thanks to everyone who will donate to the Memorial Honor Fund and Educational Support Fund. Since you cannot attend meetings, please consider making a donation to the Educational Support Fund locally or to the Memorial Honor Fund on the state level. The forms needed to donate are below.

I wish to donate \$ _____ by check made payable to **PASR MEMORIAL HONOR FUND** in ___ honor or in ___ memory of _____

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Date ___/___/___ County _____
PASR Venango Member

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

Educational Support Fund

I wish to donate \$ _____ by check made payable to **PASR Venango** for the Educational Support Fund in Venango County. I know the money will be used for grants and scholarships for Venango County educators and support staff from Franklin SD (2021), Oil City SD (2022}, Cranberry SD (2023), and Valley Grove SD (2024) on a yearly rotational basis to ensure all school districts are represented.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Date ___/___/___

mail to Venango Chapter PASR , John Kolojejchick, 1238 Shaffer Run Rd., Oil City, PA 16301

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Dues

I wish to pay my PASR VENANGO dues of \$10 for 2021 - 2022

Name _____

EMAIL _____

Address _____

Check # _____ AMOUNT _____

Mail check payable to Venango Chapter PASR and mail to John Kolojejchick, 1238 Shaffer Run Rd., Oil City, PA 16301



**CONGRATULATIONS TO 2020:
PASR Venango Volunteer of the Year:
Marilyn Brandon**

And

**2020 John Dillon Award Recipient
For 2020
Darrell Smith**

THANKS TO FREDA THURAU

Birthday cards are sent out on every member's birthday. Freda is our Birthday Helper, and we all need to say THANK YOU when we see or talk to her!

THANKS TO SSMHF HELPERS

Special thanks to all Social Service Memorial Honor Fund workers for PASR Venango. My job is simply to send Walmart cards to our confined members, which do include our over 90 year old members in May 2021 and again in December 2021. At least 5 additional times throughout the year, cards are sent by the following elves to remind these members they are not forgotten

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Oil City | Franklin | Valley Grove | Cranberry |
| Dottie Valimont | Sandy Homer | Gloria Stevens | Diane Jackson |

THANKS TO ALL THE PASR VENANGO VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you hear about a member who has been hospitalized, had surgery, has a terminal illness such as cancer or COVID 19 or has been moved to a nursing home, please call Diana Fesenmyer (814) 676-6442 and leave your name, phone number and a brief reason for the message or email the info to dfes1@comcast.net. Cards, and /or flowers may be sent. These members may be placed on our confined list if they are eligible due to a terminal illness/confined to their home/ or in a nursing home. We, as PASR Venango, are only as strong as our members. Please keep us informed!

MEMBERSHIP HELP

If you have lunch with a retiree that is not a member of PASR Venango, please invite them to join PASR Venango. Let Diana Fesenmyer know at (814) 676-6442 or at dfes1@comcast.net, and she will send them a newsletter.

Deceased members of PASR Venango from July 1, 2020 to present:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Florence Recht Heyison | 08/14/2020 | Cranberry School District |
| Mary (Gussie) Patterson | 10/31/2020 | Oil City School District |
| James C. Albright | 11/10/2020 | Franklin School District |
| Raymond S Goodwill | 11/11/2020 | Oil City School District |
| JoAnne Axelson Taylor | 12/21/2020 | Oil City School District |
| Mary Ann Wilkinson | 2/10/2021 | Franklin School District |
| Brian Thomas | 3/20/2021 | Cranberry School District |

SYMPATHY TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Once a member reaches the age of 90, PASR Venango places these members in an elite group called NONAGENARIANS. We send cards 5 to 6 times a year to every one of these nonagenarians. In May and December, we send a small token gift to each of them. The SSMHF committee services nonagenarians from each of the school districts in Venango County.

PASR VENANGO NONAGENARIANS for 2020

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jane Allen | Jean Ballard | Edith Bell | Ida Cardamone |
| Lenore Delmaso | Julia Eckel | Eleanor Hryina | Kenneth Maurer |
| Josephine McCoy | Pat Melat | Olive Miller | Joan Schmidt |

TURNING 90 IN 2021: Gerald Beary Marilyn Brandon Mary Lou Lazar

Olive Miller will be turning 100 years young on April 21, 2021.

She shares the date with her twin sister.

Let's shower Olive with birthday cards. Her address is:



**Olive Miller
Sugar Creek Station
190 Sugar Valley Lane
Franklin, PA 16323**

P.A.S.R. Community Service Survey

TO ALL PASR Members - Thank you for being a volunteer in our community!

PASR Chapters are interested in documenting the hours of service that volunteer retirees contribute to their local communities. In doing this, our volunteers show to the community at large a positive picture of the activities of public school retirees. Please take a moment to complete this form, filling in the appropriate number of hours PER YEAR that you volunteer. A summary of this information will be shared with AARP, NRTA, and PSAR Headquarters.

EDUCATIONAL _____ HRS PER YR POLITICAL _____ HRS PER YR

SOCIAL SERVICES _____ HRS PER YR RELIGIOUS _____ HRS PER YR

SERVICE TO YOUTH _____ HRS PER YR TOTAL HOURS..... _____

I have served in special leadership roles as follows:

____ Total Hrs. / Year/All Categories Chapter: VENANGO

Phone Number _____ Date _____

Name _____ E-mail _____

____ Yes, I want my hours counted, but I **DO NOT** want to be considered for the Volunteer of the Year

Return this form to: Patricia Ralph, 4178 State Route 417, Cooperstown ,PA 16317



**PASR members raised over \$25,000 for the “Feed America” campaign .
Food Banks throughout Pennsylvania received the money.**

HELP!
An older relative
Mary Sweeny
Needs rides to
Pittsburgh,
PA
for eye
Dr. appts.
this summer
Call
Mary at
814-676-6604
for more
information.



Scams are Rising

Do not give out your bank information or your social security number over the phone.

Be aware of Look Alike emails from Comcast. When you check the Email address it is a Gmail address.

Do not answer phone calls you do not recognize. let them leave a message.



We always receive thank-you notes from our nonagenarians for their Gifts every May and December. No matter what they receive, they are so grateful. We even receive thank-you notes for the cards sent throughout the year. You may be the recipient of these gifts and cards when you reach ninety years old. PASR's motto is "To Help Retirees in Education Enjoy Their Retirement."

Revised Calendar

| CALENDAR | 2021 Venango PASR Revised Calendar | COVID 19 cancellation if necessary |
|-----------|---|--|
| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION AND TIME |
| April | PASR Venango Zoom Mt Exec Board | 10AM Zoom meeting |
| May | Loretta Woodson Awarded | Board Meeting at Franklin S.D. |
| May | SSMHF Month of Giving | Confined Members and Ill |
| May | MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN | Pay \$10/year dues to remain active |
| May | Members canvas neighborhood | USPS Stamp Out Hunger Collection |
| 4-May | Spring Meeting-cancelled | Rise in COVID Cases |
| 13-Jul-21 | PASR Venango Picnic | Morrison Park -Pavilion by pond |
| 3-Aug | PASR Venango Summer Meeting | 11 AM place to be decided |
| 4-Aug | New Retirees Meet and Greet | 1 to 2 PM place to be announced |
| 5-Aug | Coffee hour :McDonalds :Oil City | 9 AM -10 AM |
| 6-Aug | Coffee hour :McDonalds :Franklin | 9 AM - 10 AM |
| 17-Aug | Back to School Supplies Project | Community Services/ Local Radio |
| 30-Sep | Executive Board meeting Zoom | |
| 12-Oct | PASR Venango Fall Meeting | 11 AM place to be decided |
| October | Educational Grants Awarded | Franklin SD Board Meeting |
| December | SSMHF Month of Remembering | Shut-ins and Confined members |
| 4-Dec | PASR-Venango Christmas Party | Hoss's at 11:30 AM |
| | | |