

# PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

## VENANGO CHAPTER Fall/ Winter Newsletter 2023

### President Hartzell's Message for Fall/ Winter 2023 PASR Venango Members,

Greetings and a Happy Fall to all of you! My hope is that this letter finds you all doing well as Summer ended. The school year has started and we did not have to go back! Our Fall meeting is Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 11:30 AM at Hoss's in Cranberry. The Christmas get-together is Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 11:30 am also at Hoss's in Cranberry since there will be less people in the restaurant. Get into the Christmas spirit by wearing red/green or your special Christmas sweater or shirt. Come and see old friends and enjoy a social time over lunch. We'll have carols playing, the best time simply socializing, sharing Christmas plans. Look around your house for a White Elephant Gift you no longer need. (That box of whiskey chocolates sounds great) Wrap it up beautifully with Christmas paper and a bow. Bring a gift to participate in the White Elephant game.

If you forget, we may have a few extras as usual. We would love our members to attend both events.

Sincerely in PASR Friendship, Bev

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#### PLEASE NOTE

PASR VENANGO always meet in the Hoss's meeting room to the right of the entrance. Members simply order off the menu and pay their individual tabs. You may simply order a drink if you have already eaten. The PASR Venango Executive Committee has watched our numbers grow at meetings this year since COVID.. We had 16 attend the Spring meeting, 20 attended the Summer Picnic, 16 attended the Summer meeting, and 11 attended the back to school picnic. We hope more will attend the Fall meeting. We will hold the Christmas Party on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 11:30 am. We are wishing everyone a safe and happy Fall Holiday Season. May 2024 bring you and your family health, wealth, happiness and friendship!



<b>PASR VENANGO 2024 Tentative Calendar</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
14-Feb-24	Coffee Hour 9-10 AM Ideas Exchange	Log Cabin
15-Mar-24	Coffee Hour 9-10 AM Ideas Exchange	Log Cabin
11-Apr-24	Coffee Hour 9-10 AM Ideas Exchange	Log Cabin
9-May-24	Spring Meeting 11:30-2PM at the latest	Hoss's Steak
May	US POSTAL Food Drive	contact neighbors
May	SSMHF Month of Caring	
1-May-24	Lauretta Woodson Awards	Cranberry SD
6-Jun-24	New 2024 Retirees Luncheon	Log Cabin
27-Jun-24	Summer Subway Picnic 4:30 - 6 pm \$10/person 6 inch	Morrison Park
18-Jul-24	Summer Meeting 11:30 -2 PM at the latest	Hoss's Steak
13-Aug-24	Coffee Hour 9-10 AM Ideas Exchange	Log Cabin
August	Back to School Picnic tureen to share	Morrison Park
September	Ed Support Grants	Valley Grove SD
3-Oct-24	Fall Meeting 11:30-2PM at the latest	Hoss's Steak
October	RECRO	see newsletter
Nov-24	Coffee Hour 9-10 AM Ideas Exchange	Log Cabin
5-Dec-24	Christmas Party 11:30-2 PM	Hoss's Steak
December	SSMHF Month of Caring	

## **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NEWS**

**Two Cranberry School District Employees will be awarded P.A.S.R. (Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees) Venango County grants of \$250 each for improvements to their classroom. Diana Fesenmyer, PASR Venango vice-president, will attend the October 2023 School Board meeting to award these grants. The school board needs to be made aware that great things are happening in the Cranberry School District.**

**Each grant recipient must apply for the grant before October 15, 2023.**

**Decorate for Halloween soon.**  
**Thanksgiving is coming quickly**  
**Only 59 days until Christmas!**  
**Relax and Enjoy Family!**



**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE**

**PASR Venango SSMHF Team has been working servicing our confined members. If you see these elves, please thank them for their volunteer work!**

**If you know of someone moving to a nursing facility, please call 814-676-6442 and leave their name and nursing home. We will service our members who have had surgery or are hospitalized but we need to know.**

**Call and leave a message at 814 676-6442 and we will check if they are a member!**

**OIL CITY -Dottie Valimont  
Edith Bell  
Marilyn Bell  
Sally Lockhart  
Marilyn Karns**

**VALLEY GROVE-Gloria Stevens  
Ida Gibbons**

**CRANBERRY -Diane Jackson  
Eleanor Hrinya  
Mary Lou Lazar  
Marilyn Brandon**

**FRANKLIN – Sandra Homer  
Joan Schmidt  
Ida Cardamone  
Jean Ballard  
Lenore Dalmaso  
Julia Eckel**

A special thanks to FRED THURAU who sends birthday cards to members every year!

**MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER**  
**William Beightol, Gene Rexford, and Denny Clark**

Once again, we need your help if you hear of a retired teacher from our area schools who has passed away, please call 814-676-6442 and leave their name on the message machine.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD MEMBER RECIPIENTS of 2023-2024**

At the Fall meeting, a PASR VENANGO member will be awarded PASR certificates by President Beverly Hartzell.

Evelyn Kolojejchick will be awarded the John J Dillon Award for her service to PASR Venango. Her name will be on display in Mechanicsburg at PASR Headquarters. Evelyn was also awarded the PASR Venango Community Service Award.

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**Please contact legislators to vote yes for a PSERS Cost of Living raise:**

PA Senator Scott Hutchison (R21st) at 814-677-6345 or 717-787-9684 or  
senatorscotthutchison.com

PA Representative R. Lee James (R-64th) at 814-6776413 or 717-783-8188 or  
rljames@pahousegop.com

Our legislators have voted to raise their salaries every year since 2002; that was the last time PSERS recipients received a raise with the 2% multiplier only for new retirees.

Please take an interest in your retirement income.

## Report for PASR Region 9 Director and PASR Venango Vice President Diana Fesenmyer

PASR-Venango has invited guests from PASR- Clarion to visit us at our Fall Meeting and our Christmas Party. Please extend a warm welcome to these members. I have been traveling three to four times to the monthly meetings of PASR-Erie in 2023. I have traveled to PASR Warren/Forest three times to their meetings. Every second month since 2022 (POST COVID) I have been to PASR Crawford's meetings. We are seeing many PASR chapters across Pennsylvania unable to find leadership or volunteers to fill positions.

Many members across Pennsylvania feel they have already helped or held offices. Some even say it is time for the younger members to take over! This trend is common in other organizations like the ELKS, Moose Club, BPW/PA, and even School Boards.

Unlike these other organizations, PASR is a group of retired school employees. We have worked 25 to 30 to 40 years in schools with children, teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers, maintenance people, administration and principals. An eight-hour day was a reward. Many hours would be given to grading, room and lesson preparation, cleaning, mopping, and checking on our co-workers and our students. Many times, the cafeteria staff would let us know that kids were going hungry so we could help fund a meal or two. If a family lost everything in a fire, we were there to help with coats, shoes, and necessities. When I could not get out of my driveway due to snow, a former student would plow me out and say this was his way of saying thanks for helping when he needed help. PASR school employees need help across Pennsylvania.

I must have done something right! My two daughters became teachers, and spend hours a day helping children, teachers, and staff in their buildings. They even help me when I need help setting up a PASR picnic. We each have our stories and need to share our memories at our Chapter meetings.

**BE PREPARED TO SHARE ONE SMALL SCHOOL MEMORY AT THE OCTOBER 12 PASR-Venango Fall Meeting!**