

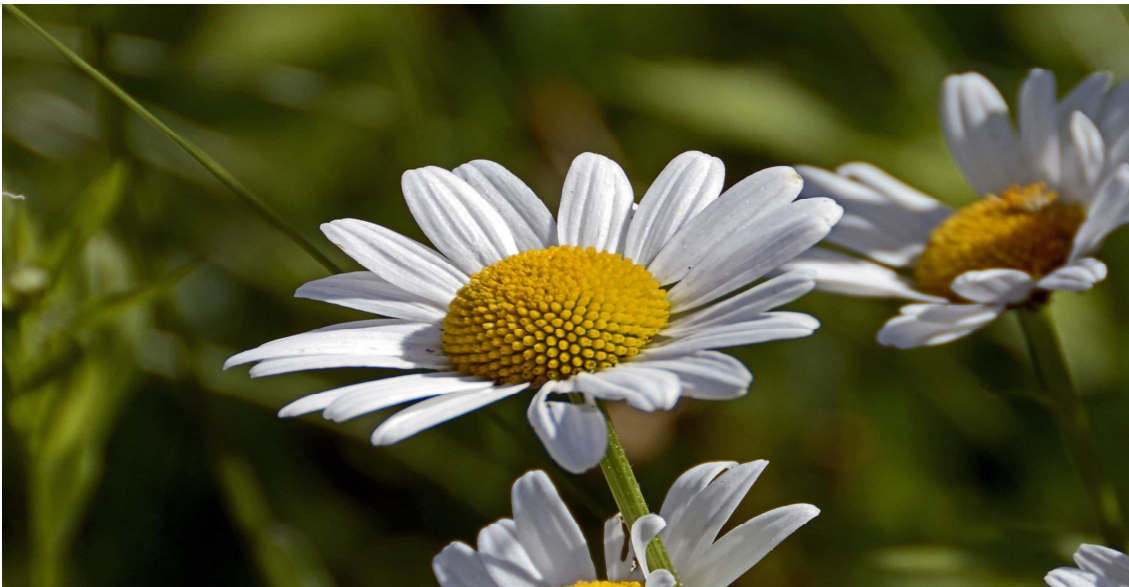
PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees
VENANGO CHAPTER

Summer Newsletter 2022

Message from the President Hartzell

PASR Venango is getting ready to welcome members to a very good program on **Social Security Fraud on Thursday, August 18, at 11:30 AM at Hoss's Meeting room.** You may order off the menu; everyone will get their own bill to pay. Be sure to be there by 12:20 to hear the speaker if you do not want to eat. We will be conducting a **memorial service for all Venango County PASR members who have passed away from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.** We will be awarding the **John J. Dillon award for PASR service to Eleanor Hrinya.** We will also award a **PASR Commendation award to John Downing.** Take an hour out of your busy day to support and thank these members. Hope to see you there.



2021-2022 Deceased PASR Venango members to be honored at the Memorial Service during the summer meeting on August 18

Sam Amendola
Kenneth Maurer

Harold Baker
Patricia Melat

William Clark
Duane Pat Patterson

S.O.S.

We need the current address for member Jean Ballard. Her mail is coming back with no forwarding address. Please call 814-676-6442 and leave the address or email dfes1@comcast.net Thanks for your help.

UNEXPECTED DEATH OF PASR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On July 16, 2022, PASR Executive Director, Mark McKillop, died suddenly at his home. Mark had a few health issues but was in relatively good health.

PASR was caught off guard with the loss of his leadership. Kristen Holjes was appointed acting Interim Director, and Mark Krempa, was appointed as acting Administrative Officer until a replacement is hired. Please be patient if you must call PASR headquarters.

The PASR executive committee will be advertising for a new executive director soon.

On page 3 is “The Cold Reality of Passing a COLA” written by Mark McKillop just prior to his death:

PASR Venango SSMHF team is hard at work sending cards to our nonagenarians. If you see our elves, be sure to thank them for their volunteer work!

Oil City Sch Dist- Dottie Valimont
Edith Bell

Valley Grove Sch Dist- Gloria Stevens
Josephine McCoy
Ida Gibbons
Eugene Sheffer

Cranberry Sch Dist- Diane Jackson
Eleanor Hrinya
Mary Lou Lazar
Marilyn Brandon

Franklin Sch Dist- Sandra Homer
Joan Schmidt
Ida Cardamone
Jean Ballard
Lenore Dalmaso
Julia Eckel
Ida Roseann Gibbons

Thanks to all chairs and officers for their hard work!

Birthday Cards for all Members- Freda Thurau

Community Service- Patricia Ralph

Greeters- Darrell Smith, Kenneth Nelson, and John Downing

Table door prizes- Evelyn Kolojejchick

Newsletter- Diana Fesenmyer

Ed Support- Diana Fesenmyer

Public Relations- Diana Fesenmyer

Membership- John Kolojejchick

Website- John Kolojejchick

Treasurer- John Kolojejchick

Secretary/ Vice President- Diana Fesenmyer

The Cold Reality of Passing a COLA

Message from the PASR Executive Director and Board of Directors

The 2022-23 Pennsylvania Budget passed and was signed into law by the Governor, our legislative and strategic goal was for the General Assembly to pass a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) during the budget process. Our approach was based on "now" is the right time to pass a COLA and the large budget surplus that existed this fiscal year. To be clear, any COLA bill would not be part of the actual budget but would pass on a specific piece of legislation. Unfortunately, to our great disappointment, the General Assembly adjourned for the summer without addressing this necessary, vital, and greatly needed legislation. Each time the General Assembly does not act, the pain level among our membership increases.

The chances of passing a COLA really should be better than what we have experienced for the last two decades. Between 1967 and 2001, there was a COLA about every 2 ½ years. Nothing since 2001. Right now, there are about 10 session days scheduled for the rest of the 2022 which makes passing legislation by the end of the year - a challenge. While we remain confident that the PA General Assembly will finally see the justice, need, and necessity of a COLA, we have no choice but to keep working to compel them to see the wisdom of passing this as soon as possible. We need all five legislative elements to support us (all four legislative caucuses and the Governor). We are working with other groups who share our legislative goals. We don't have the option of not trying every day to make this happen. We all know that inflation is very harmful to fixed incomes. We extend our sincere thanks to those who reached out to their elected representatives in support for a COLA. Without your efforts, our path to success would be much more difficult.

Mark McKillop, Executive Director

PASR Board of Directors