

# PASR

## Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

Volume VI Issue I

Spring 2025

### *Special points of interest:*

- Membership Update
- Christmas Donations
- Sign up for email delivery of the newsletter.

**President:** Sandra Shepherd

**President-Elect:** Vacant

**Second Vice-President :**  
Judy Carl, 2708 Ben Franklin  
Hwy, Ebensburg, Pa. 15931  
Phone 814-749-1418 jac-  
arl123@comcast.net

**Vice President- Elect:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Kathleen O'Rourke

**Treasurer:** Herman Carl  
hecarl@comcast.net

**Website Address:**  
<https://thepasr.wixsite.com/cambriacountychapter>

### **Upcoming Events:**

St. Patrick's Day Party,  
March 20, 2025 11:00 AM  
Kosta's.

General Meeting: May 15,  
2025 10:30 AM Kosta's

Summer Picnic: July 24,  
2025, 11:30 AM Revloc  
Pavillion.

Annual Awards Presenta-  
tion and General Meeting:  
Thursday, Oct.16, 2025  
10:30 AM

Christmas Party, Dec. 4,  
2025 11:00 AM Kosta's

## Chapter Awards



On Thursday, October 17, 2024, the Cambria County Chapter of Pennsylvania Association School Retirees (PASR) met at Kosta's Restaurant in Ebensburg to present its annual chapter awards. The awards are the Lauretta Woodson Awards for professional and support staff of schools represented by the chapter. The other awards are for members of the chapter. Service to the chapter by

a member is recognized with the John J. Dillon Award. Recognizing a member who is an asset

to the community in which they live is presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Cambria County Chapter presented the Professional Lauretta Woodson award to Dennis Link. Dennis Link is a member of the Portage Area School District. Link is the technology education teacher. The Educational Support Lauretta Woodson award was presented to Denise Mos-

chgat, the Executive Secretary of the Portage Area School District.

Cambria County Chapter also honor two members of the chapter with awards for their service. Service to our chapter was presented with the John J. Dillon Award. The recipient of the award was Sandra Shephard. The Volunteer of the Year Award recipient was Mary Ann Phillips.

Mary K. Davis, President of PASR for the state, was hosted by Cambria County Chapter. Davis was happy to present various awards to these individuals. She spoke on the importance of the State PASR various interest in all school retirees.

### **Christmas Donations**

For the year 2024 our third annual drive for Christmas Donations concluded. This past year \$880.00 was collected through out the year.

The money was donated to a food pantry in each of the School Districts and IU 08 that are represented by our chapter. As a

result, each food pantry received \$126.00. The recipients will be mentioned at the General Meeting in May as part of the treasurer's report.

Each food pantry replied with a thank note and was very happy to received the donation. The money assisted in providing fami-

lies with food during the holiday season. We are here for the children and their families

Thank you for the kind contributions to our Christmas Food Pantry drive. We will continue to collect for next year at our events.

## Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for our chapter was held at Kosta's Restaurant in the Ebensburg Mini Mall on December 12, 2024. At the party were members of our Association and guests.



This year twenty-three bags were made up for our members who are no longer able to attend our

functions. These bags were distributed by members of our Chapter. The distributors all mentioned how touched the shut-ins were that they were remembered.

In addition to the gifts to the shut-ins various items were donated to the veterans residing in the Veterans home in Hollidaysburg. In addition to clothing, calendars were also sent to the Veterans Home.

This was a wonderful time of celebrating with members of our group. Please, if you are able join us on December 5, 2024 for our next Christmas Party.

## Mini-Grants

Once again the Region 6 of PASR is asking for nominations for the awarding of Mini-Grants to the school districts with in our region. Last year, the Region mini-grant was awarded to Brittney Daisley of Northern Cambria, the grant assisted in funding 3-D printers for her class.

Two other mini-grants proposals were submitted for the mini-grants. It was decided that these grants were very worthy of consideration by our Chapter. We decided to fund two of the requests.

Matthew Kline, a Northern Cambria Tech instructor, requested funds to assist his STEM group in competitions. Kline had a very successful season with his club receiving many honors during these competitions.

Katlyn Kmetz, a Forest Hills staff member, submitted a request for office materials to assist in her project. The project was the Future Ready Rangers program which prepares student to become leaders within their communities.

These grants will aid the students in these school districts. As of now we have four proposals for 2025.

## Early Risers



One of the great pleasures of life is rising early in the morning and witnessing the brilliance of a sunrise. It is a quiet time of the day to reflect on many different things that could come though out the upcoming day.

Many great moments are caught in this quiet part of the day. The quiet of the night ending and dawn beginning. As the time of reflection goes on, the various sounds of the day begin.

The lapping of waves on the shore of a lake creates a very serene sound on one's ears. The early morning wind whistling through trees of a wooded area. Sounds of birds beginning their search for food at first daylight and so much more.

This is the time to enjoy your various activities such as your daily walk. In some cases capturing images at the start of the day.

Herman E. Carl

## **Membership: Herman Carl**

We will be starting our 2025 Annual Dues Drive in June. If you are an annual dues member, you will be receiving your renewal form in the mail.

These dues assists us in publishing our newsletter, purchasing Christmas gifts for the shut-ins, postage and various other activities. These include our expenses that we incurred during the fiscal year for our chapter.

Dues for the upcoming year are set at \$10.00. These dues have not gone up in price for at least the fourteen years that I have been a member of this group. Your executive committee has attempted to keep the dues the same.

Last year we had about fifty members pay their dues. These dues covered the postage for our mailings. Fortunately, we have hope-

fully found a way to continue publishing our various mailing for the cost of two reams of paper.

Thanks for considering paying your annual dues. Several local chapters have become inactive while our Chapter attempts to provide you with events and other activities. Please plan to attend our activities and consider becoming involved as officers or committee members.

## 2025-2026 Budget Proposal

The annual 2025-2026 Budget Proposal was presented at the January Executive Meeting. It was approved by the Executive Committee. We will be seeking approval for this budget from the members at the General Meeting in May

Located to the right of this column is the proposed budget for the year.

Respectfully submitted:

Herman Carl (Treasurer)

### PASR Cambria County Chapter Proposed Budget 2024-2025

Income	2023-2024	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Budgeted	Actual	Proposed
Dues	\$ 500.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 500.00
Life Membership Drive	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State Dues Collected	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Convention PASR	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Social Services PASR	\$ 800.00	\$ 410.56	\$ 800.00
Refunds	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00
CD Transfer	\$ -	\$ 86.87	\$ -
50-50 Drawings	\$ 180.00	\$ 173.00	\$ 180.00
Donations/Christmas FP	\$ 700.00	\$ 595.00	\$ 700.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 48.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 48.00
General Meeting Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ 467.00	\$ 500.00
Picnic, St. Pats Day, Christmas	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 545.00	\$ 1,100.00
PASR Reimbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Door Prizes	\$ 150.00	\$ 224.00	\$ 150.00
Special Dinner Fee	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
MC Intrest Savings	\$ 52.00	\$ 0.88	\$ 52.00
	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 2,655.11	\$ 4,400.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Convention	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
PASR Honor Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
Meeting Speaker Gifts	\$ 100.00	\$ 114.90	\$ 100.00
Refunds to Members	\$ -	\$ 54.00	\$ -
Membership	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Website & Postage etc	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Newsletter (2)	\$ 200.00	\$ 160.60	\$ 200.00
Region 6 Meetings Meals	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Fall	\$ 500.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 550.00
Summer Picnic Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 360.40	\$ 400.00
St. Pat Party Expenses	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Spring	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Christmas Party Expenses	\$ 350.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 400.00
Charity Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Christmas Food Pantry	\$ 550.00	\$ 882.00	\$ 550.00
SSMHF	\$ 550.00	\$ 490.84	\$ 550.00
	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 3,062.74	\$ 4,400.00
Total Revenue vs Expenses		\$ (407.63)	\$ -
Budget Surplus/Deficit		\$ (407.63)	\$ -

## Retirement Planning : (OPEN)

Due to the restrictions placed on school districts about privacy, we have lost a way to contact future retirees. So with this in mind, we are looking for information for new retirees. It appears that only by word of mouth can this be accomplished.

The PASR does provide a list of retirees using the data from PSERS. This is limited in its scope.

The best recruitment is by the members talking about the advantages of joining our Chapter.

We need new people in our organization to help us with the committees that have vacancies.

We are also in need of new ideas for our Chapter. One of the ideas is for a member to invite a fellow retiree as your guest at one of our func-

tions. This may show them the importance of our chapter.



## Webpage Update: Herman Carl

Since the last webpage update it was found that our Weebly website was compromised. Upon seeking the reason why, it was not determined the cause for the corruption.



At the general meeting in October 2023, I was told of a possible solu-

tion. Our website is now being hosted on the state server. Here you will find our current updates and event schedule along with our reservations for our activities.

Check it out for yourself. Go to [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org).

- Click on **Local Association** - click on **Region 6**

- Click on **Cambria**.

We were one of the first chapters in Region 6 to have a website. Let us know if you have any suggestions to put on our site.

E-mail: [hecarl@comcast.net](mailto:hecarl@comcast.net)

Website:  
<https://thepasr.wixsite.com/cambriacountychapter>

# Message from Our President.

## Activities Continued



Happy 2025! Hope everyone is safe and well. I am Sandy Shepherd and will be your new presi-

dent.

I would like to encourage everyone to consider accepting a committee position for this year. We need volunteers to continue our chapters work.

So far we are a strong chapter and want to continue in this manner but we need new members and workers. Notify any officer if you

are aware of potential new members. Hope to see you at the meeting luncheons in this new year.

Sandy Shepherd

## Winter, Spring & Summer Activities

As winter is either winding up or down at this time, you maybe on the look out for some activities till fall. Here are some ideas.

Pa State parks offer a variety of opportunities for adventure. During the winter both indoor and outdoor activities are offered. Check out the following website for these activities:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/pages/default.aspx>

Also there are historical societies in our region that offer programs. For Example: Cambria County Historical Society offers spring lectures on various topics.

For this and more ideas visit our website at:

<https://thepasr.wixsite.com/cambriacountychapter/about-4>

Also there are various activities provided by Indiana Friends of the Parks. They generally run through January to October.

# Possible Email Use for Future Newsletters

If you have been following the information provided by the PASR State, you will see that they are considering emailing their newsletters to cut cost.

For this to be a cost savings for the chapter, we would like to see fifty percent of our members receive the newsletter by email. Currently we have about 30 members receiving the newsletters by email. However, the cost of postage continues to rise and we need more to sign up to make this cost effective.

Many other organizations have resorted to using email to save costs. We want to be efficient and cost-effective.

Please fill out the information found to the right of this column and email to the address provided.

If you have already signed up for



our emailing's, thank you. If you do not recall, please do not hesitate to resubmit your information. There will be an option for you to do so at all gatherings.

Once again thank you for considering this as an option to receive information and the newsletters from our Chapter.

## Email Information

**Name:**

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**Email:**

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**Send to:** [hecarl@comcast.net](mailto:hecarl@comcast.net)  
or

**Herman Carl**

**2708 Ben Franklin Hwy**

**Ebensburg, PA 15931**



## Social Services: Kathy O'Rourke

The SSMHF (Social Service Memorial Honor Fund) committee charged with the task of rendering assistance to its members in terms of visits, communications, and when necessary, financial assistance.

This year, 79 birthday cards were sent out to members for whom I had birthday information. (If you did not receive a card, that means that I don't have your birthday information, so please let me know by e-mail [orourke1248@comcast.net](mailto:orourke1248@comcast.net) or phone (814) 247-6334 to add your information to my list).

SSMHF delivered 20 Christmas

gift bags and had some wonderful visits with PASR shut ins during the month of December. If you are a shut

in and did not receive a gift bag it is because we do not know about you. Please rectify that by getting in touch with us.

We know that receiving a card or a call from a

friend always perks us up and makes us happy to know that someone is thinking of us. The SSMHF Committee is interested in sending cards and well wishes to all of our PASR friends, so please let me know if you are aware of someone who needs a note, card or phone call.



Most importantly, we ask your help in letting us know of any member who may be having financial difficulties. SSMHF has funds set aside to assist when necessary.

Our members served our children and communities for many years and now it is our turn to reciprocate, but we can't do it without your help. We do not want them to feel that we have forgotten them. Thank you for your help in this effort. I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to serve as the chapter SSMHF Chair.

Kathy O'Rourke

*Thank you*

## Meetings and Events For Our Members

The first event for the 2025 year will be our St. Patrick's Day party. The event will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Kosta's Restaurant in Ebensburg. **Entertainment will be provided by Swigle Mountain Brass Quintet.**



On May 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM a General Meeting and luncheon will be held at Kosta's. At this meeting our nominations for the annual awards will be discussed. At this meeting, Herman Carl will

present a program dealing with nature photography with limited mobility issues. Carl has presented this program twice at Yellow Creek State Park.

The Annual Summer Picnic will be held at Revloc Park on July 24, 2025 at 11:30 AM. This is a wonderful opportunity for socializing with the other members of the Chapter. Island Barbeque will be catering the event. Please think about bringing a guest to this picnic.

Finally, on October 16, 2025 at 10:30 AM at our General Meeting we will

award the Lauretta Woodson Awards, John Dillion Award and the Volunteer of the year award. Please inform the various officers and Committee chairs of anyone that may be deserving of these awards. Kosta's will be the meeting place for this event.

To round out the year, our annual Christmas Party will be held at Kosta's on December 4, 2025. At this annual event the gifts for our shut-in members will be given out and distributed by the members present at the meeting. The recipients of the gift greatly appreciate that we remember them during the year. Thank you for assisting with this annual event.

At all meetings, we will be collecting for our Christmas Food Pantry Donations.

### St. Patrick Day Reservation

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Cambria County PASR **St. Patrick's Day Party** on **Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM** at **Kosta's Resturant in the mini mall in Ebensburg, PA.**

**Menu:** \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef, Potatoes, salad, rolls, and beverage

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked Haddock, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls, beverage

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a guest @ \$18.00

\_\_\_\_\_ #Roast Beef

\_\_\_\_\_ #Baked Haddock

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Persons @ \$18.00\* each Total Owed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ .

Make Check payable to "**Cambria County PASR**" (**NO SHOW NO REFUND**) Make reservation to:

**Herman Carl 2708 Ben Franklin Hwy Ebensburg, PA 15931**

**Deadline: March 13, 2025**

### Spring Meeting Reservation

**The Cambria County Chapter of PASR Spring meeting will be at Kosta's Resturant in the mini mall in Ebensburg, PA. Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM**

**Menu:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Ham steak, vegetables, salad, rolls, and beverage

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked Haddock, vegetables, salad, rolls, and beverage

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a guest

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #Grilled Ham

\_\_\_\_\_ #Baked Haddock

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons @ \$18.00 each Total Owed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Make Check payable to "**Cambria County PASR**" (**NO SHOW NO REFUND**)

Make reservation to: **Herman Carl 2708 Ben Franklin Hwy Ebensburg, PA 15931**

**Deadline: May 8, 2025**

## Summer Picnic Reservation

I will attend the Cambria County PASR Summer Picnic on **Thursday, July 24, 2025 at Revloc Community Park at Pavillion #5 Rt. 422, Revloc, PA. 11:30 AM with meal at Noon.**

The Chapter will supply the dessert and drinks. All guests are welcomed.

**Menu:** BBQ Pigs in the Blanket, Peogries, Cole Slaw, fruit platter, rolls w/ butter, soda, water and dessert.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a guest @ \$15.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Persons @ \$15.00 each.....Total Owed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Price includes Tax and Gratuity**

Make Check payable to “**Cambria County PASR**” (No Show No Refund)

Mail reservation to: **Herman Carl, 2708 Ben Franklin Hwy, Ebensburg, Pa. 15931**

**Deadline is July 17, 2025.**

## State Representative Contact Information

If you are interested in writing to your Representatives about COLA, you will find listed below the contact information for your representatives.

**Pennsylvania House of  
Representatives**

## District 71

Hon. Jim Rigby  
432 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202071  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 772-9924

## District 72

Hon. Frank Burns  
332 Main Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 202072  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072  
(717) 772-8056

## District 73

Hon. Dallas Kephart  
53A East Wing  
P.O. Box 202073  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2073  
(717) 787-7099

## State Senate District 35

Senator Wayne Langerholc Jr.  
Senate Box 203035  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035  
Room: 281 Main Capitol  
(717) 787-5400

Thank You.

## Christmas Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

PASR Cambria County Chapter

Please note that is a Christmas Donation.

Send Check to:

Herman Carl (Treasurer)

PASR Cambria County Chapter

2708 Ben Franklin Hwy

Ebensburg, PA 15931