




Volume 27
Issue 2
September 2025

GCASR FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

in association with



Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

GCASR website: <http://www.pasr.org/chapters/Greene/GreeneCounty.html>

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Lori Greene

OFFICERS

President	Lori Greene
President Elect	vacant
Secretary	Joyce Fortney
Treasurer	Colleen Valosen
Asst. Treasurer	Charlene May
Past President	Myleen McCollum

I have chosen to begin my message with this quote:
Life is about accepting the challenges along the way.
Choosing to keep moving forward.
And savoring the journey.
Roy T. Bennett

COMMITTEES

Legislative-L/PEC	John Areford
Membership	Nora Coldren
Community Service	Barb Ruschak
Member Benefits	Rosemary Andrew
SSMHF	Susan Lawrence
Retirement Plan.	Sandy Whetsell
Public Relations	Myleen McCollum
	Lori Greene
Scholarship/	David Schrock
Ed. Support Grant	Jane Schrock
Res/Bylaws	Kay Namolek
Recreo	Lori Greene
	Nancy Fox
Nominating	Myleen McCollum
Webmaster	Cathy Butcher

My life has been challenging over this last year. I want to thank my friends from GCASR for all of their love and support and I keep moving forward in my life’s journey. A good friend told me that it was time to reinvent myself after the loss of my husband in May. I have decided that sometimes reinventing yourself means continuing on the path you are already on.

As you are all aware, my time as president of GCASR is supposed to be coming to a close. I have made the decision to serve for two more years, if you vote for me at our upcoming luncheon. I made that decision only if there was someone willing to serve as president-elect during these next two years. There is a willing person who stepped up to say, “Yes, I’ll do that!”

In my final two years of service, I hope to bring some new and interesting ideas to GCASR to keep moving us forward. The group needs to attract new retirees, find people who are willing to serve and mentor them to become leaders. Our chapter is becoming stronger with new membership. (We continue to maintain our over 300-member goal.)

I remain dedicated to GCASR and the missions we support in our community and the activities we provide for our membership. We remain successful because of our membership’s willingness to support all of our activities. Our journey together is what makes us a strong, successful chapter. Thank you, GCASR!

MEMBERSHIP

Total	300 Members
Voting Members	254
Life	237
Annual	17
Associate Members	48
Life	27
Annual	21

Contents	
Officers/Committee Chairs.....	page 1
President’s Message.....	page 1
Committee Reports.....	pages 2-6
Golf Report.....	page 7
Reservation for GCASR Fall Luncheon.....	page 8

RECREO COMMITTEE

Nancy Fox and Lori Greene

Camelot - June 21, 2025

Forty-two GCASR members and friends enjoyed the outstanding production of the 1960 Broadway musical, 'Camelot' at The Benedum Center on June 21. Camelot most famously refers to the mythical court and capital of King Arthur's legendary realm in Arthurian lore, a symbol of his ideal world. It was followed by a family style meal at Angelo's in Washington.

Lancaster County, PA - May 21-22

Our 47 GCASR travelers had a taste of the Turkey Hill Experience on May 21. The Turkey Hill Experience features interactive exhibits which allow guests to create their own virtual ice cream and taste test a variety of flavors from the 50 Turkey Hill flavors. Additionally, we mixed our own unique ice cream flavor in the classroom with a pint of vanilla ice cream as a base followed by flavoring and inclusions.

We had an opportunity to experience Lancaster PA's premiere Magic & Wonder Dinner Theater following lunch at the Hershey Farm Resort. The 320-seat venue gave us an unforgettable journey of magical entertainment. Master Illusionist Brett Myers delivered an exhilarating blend of grand-scale illusions, sleight-of-hand, family-friendly comedy, and dynamic circus arts in a 2 hour show.

Other points of interest were Wilbur Chocolate Factory, Sturgis Pretzels, Kitchen Kettle Village, and Shady Maple Smorgasbord.

Noah Trip – August 20-21, 2025

GCASR members and friends traveled to Lancaster County, PA. Our preferred seating allowed us to see the live performance of NOAH at Sight & Sound Theatre followed by dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. After a good night's rest, we toured the Wheatland Estate, home of our 15th President James Buchanan. Our overnight trip ended with a buffet lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant.

Christmas in New York Trip – December 9-12, 2025 **(TRIP IS WAITLISTED)**

A 3 night, 4-day trip is planned to visit New York City and Bethlehem, PA. Highlights will be: Radio City Music Hall to see the Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes, 9/11 Memorial and Museum, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, and Lower Manhattan. A stop in Bethlehem, PA will feature a visit to the Christmas Putz and a Bethlehem-by-Night tour. Many other fun activities will complete this special trip!

SCHOLARSHIP and ED SUPPORT COMMITTEE

David and Jane Schrock

The following Scholarships and Ed Support Grants have been awarded for the 2025-2026 school year by GCASR.

Scholarships of \$1500 each were awarded to the following students:

Aislynn Linderman – Carmichaels, University of South Carolina, Major – Biological Sciences
 BayLi Barclay - Central Greene, Robert Morris University, Major - Actuarial Science
 Bryn Lahew - Central Greene - education major award, Waynesburg University
 Major – Elementary Education with a minor in Business
 Nevaeh Moore– Greene County CTC, Greene County CTC Major - Nursing
 Isabelle Bazzoli - Jefferson Morgan, Penn State - Fayette Major - Nursing
 Cody Downs - Southeastern Greene, Slippery Rock University Major - Mechanical engineering
 Pieper Whipkey - West Greene, Indiana University of Pennsylvania - Business Management

Ed Support Grants of \$750 were awarded to:

Grant Winner	Project
Central Greene - no applicants	
Greene County CTC - Natalie Goodwin and Dan Halliday	Special Education Learning Facilitator Grades 10-12 • 50 Students • Safety cones, Tool holders, Caution tape, Crime scene tape, Climbing rope, Straps, Arbour runners, Memorial plaque, Mesh laundry bags, Tactical door stoppers, Parking signs, Face shields • EMS training, Emergency response
Carmichaels - Cassie Menhart	High School Business/Personal Finance: Middle School Library Skills 100-200 students • Retractable banner stands, custom printed banners
Jefferson-Morgan – Brittany McIntire	High School Life Skills/ASD Support Indoor greenhouse, potting soil, seeds, gloves, planting supplies Creating a mini indoor farmer’s market that will include ELA, math, science and life skills, social development, and daily routine.
Southeastern Greene – Anita Stoner	K-6 Phys. Ed. / Health Ball Pit + 2 balls A safer alternative to dodge ball and innovative use of strategy
West Greene – Tonya Meek	7 th -8th Grades Learning Support Illuminated message boards, liquid chalk markers.
Jefferson Morgan – Megan Pierce Awarded the PASR grant of \$750	Chemistry, grades 9-12. Science fair materials, Science decorations, Medals, ribbons Materials for forensics instruction

These recipients have been invited to our fall luncheon to share their projects.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Nora Coldren



Membership Total 300

Voting Total 252 (Life 237 plus Annual 15)

Associate Members 48 (Life 28 plus Annual 20)

**New Annual Associate Member
John Cox**

Deceased Members

Chris Decker 05/05/25

Helen (Jean) Gusic 07/15/25

Caren Kulchock 08/08/25

MEMBER BENEFITS and SERVICES

Rosemary Andrew

This committee promotes awareness of the various money-saving, insurance and discount services endorsed by the State Association. It also provides information to members on topics to help them in retirement such as health information and consumer tips. Discount and special offers from local businesses in the Chapter Area are shared to help members save money. Members are also encouraged to be aware of various scams being used today. Members have used various discounts on restaurants, movies, amusement parks, pharmacy items and health appointments. Our members have been protected because of making them aware of scams.

PASR is sponsoring a **FREE** Zoom presentation on **October 16, 2025 at 4:00 PM**. Register at PASR.org to learn about the benefits and insurance options! You do not have to be a member to participate in the presentation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Barb Ruschak

Community Service Accomplishments Since Spring:

- Our donation to the Children's Mental Health Picnic brought the CTC Food Truck to the well-attended, family fun gathering.
- Collected crayons from elementary schools were delivered to Waynesburg University where they will be sorted, packed, and shipped to The Crayon Initiative in California.
- Fifteen GCASR members volunteered time at the Greene County Library Competition
- Stuff the Bus brought out 15 GCASR volunteers plus several others helped out in the prior days sorting clothing and shoes.

Upcoming Community Service Events in December:

- All Things Christmas
- Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army



Closing thoughts for autumn....

Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much. - Helen Keller

Unity in GCASR is our treasure.

Thanks to the 31 members turned in volunteer hours.

Unending gratitude for everyone giving their precious time in their special ways.

May this colorful season bring joy and togetherness to all!

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. - Aesop

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Myleen McCollum

GCASR publishes a monthly GCASR NEWS that is emailed to members with an email address and a semi-annual NEWSLETTER to all members. Members without an email are mailed a hard copy of the semi-annual newsletter. Articles of interest are submitted to the Observer-Reporter, Greene County Messenger, and Greene Scene.

This GCASR semi-annual newsletter is sent to you as an annual or lifetime member of the Greene County Association of School Retirees because you have an email or contact address. For address changes or submissions related to the goals and mission of GCASR, email us at GCASR19@gmail.com

SOCIAL SERVICES MEMORIAL HONOR FUND

Susan Lawrence

We have lost 3 members since last newsletter was published. Those members are:

Chris Decker, Helen (Jean) Gusic, and Caren Kulchock.

Alberta Jones, who has chaired this committee for 10 years has resigned. She has left us a legacy of love through her Christmas gift bags to our members, who are over 90 years old and to our shut-ins. She has conducted our yearly Memorial Services at our Spring Luncheons to honor our members, who have passed away.

At this time, I would like to thank Alberta, on behalf of our members, for all she has accomplished these past years in this position. She welcomed me and helped me when I became a committee member. Thank you for entrusting me with this position, and with Alberta's support and guidance, we will continue these treasured traditions.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carmichaels - Susan Lawrence	724-833-3411	
Central Greene - Margaret McCombs	724-966-5164	
Jefferson Morgan - Melaney Dufalla	724-833-3977	
West Greene - Rosemary Andrew	724-725-0789	Cell # -724-998-2036
Associate Members - Carlyn Grimes	724-499-5755	

LEGISLATIVE-L/PEC

John Areford

Here is a quick update on PASR's COLA efforts. Currently, there has been no change in the legislative status. The House has advanced the COLA discussion, and we are now waiting for the Senate to take the next step forward.

PASR encourages you to continue the outreach to your local Senators. Your efforts are making a difference. ***Keep making noise, we are being heard.***

How you can help:

If you haven't done so already, please complete the message here: <https://www.pasr.org/legislative-form/?id=14>

Ask family, friends, fellow retirees, and neighbors to do the same.

Continue thanking legislators who have shown support for the COLA. <https://www.pasr.org/legislative-form/?id=13>

To our PASR members: **THANK YOU!**

If you're not yet a PASR member, we invite you to join us. Your participation helps strengthen our mission. <https://www.pasr.org/membership/application/>

NOMINATING

Myleen McCollum

Every two years GCASR elects new officers. A new slate of officers will be presented for nomination at our October 2, 2025 fall luncheon. The floor will be open for any additional nominations. Interested members may contact any officer or committee chair if interested in serving.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Sandy Whetsell

The retirement planning committee is preparing for the new retirees' breakfast. The breakfast will be held on September 11th at 9:30 am at the First United Methodist Church in Waynesburg. Cards congratulating them on their retirement and letters of invitation to the breakfast have been sent out. If you see any of the new retirees, please encourage them to attend the breakfast and learn about GCASR. Our hope is to encourage them to join our organization and make it a part of their activities in retirement.

RESOLUTION AND BYLAWS

Kay Namolek

The purpose of this Committee is to study and recommend revisions of the Chapter Bylaws to the Executive Committee. Our current bylaws have been reviewed and are in compliance.

5th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Sue Dugan

The 5th Annual GCASR Golf Outing on June 13 was another successful venture! On a pleasant and somewhat overcast day, sixty golfers teed off at the Greene County Country Club for 18 holes of golf, skill contests, basket raffle, food and fun. Prizes were awarded to:

1st Place team - Matt Karpeal, Chris Haines, Craig Conklin, Mike Cipoletti

2nd Place team - Bob Dugan, Rod Wheeler, Dennis Garrett, Tom Yanak

3rd place team – Greg Niverth, Mike Marino, Angelo Marino, Frank Benamati

50/50 drawing – Dennis Garrett

‘Closest to the pin’ contest – Sandy Throckmorton

Special tribute was given to the five-year participants:

Sue Ann Headley, Chris Haines, Craig Conklin, Frank Grillo and Don Vajentic

GCASR thanks the winning teams who donated their prize money back to GCASR. This year's outing raised over \$10,000 for our GCASR Scholarship Fund. Thank you to the GCASR members who worked the outing, golfed, donated gift cards, bought tee sponsorships, sponsored prize money, and baked cakes. Our success is always a reflection of the hard work and generosity of our members. GCASR budgets \$15,000 annually to sponsor our scholarships and ed support grants.



**GCASR FALL LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025**

First Church of the Nazarene
115 Deerfield Lane
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Hosted by GCASR Retirees from the Southeastern Greene School District

Time: 9:30 -10:30 – “Chapter Chatter”

- Pick up our name tags, get various tickets, visit with friends.

10:30-Noon - Business Meeting, Award Presentations (Dillon Award, Woodson Awards, Volunteer of the Year Award, Board Commendation), Ed Support Grant Recipient Presentations

12:00 Luncheon - Back Bay Catering (Tossed Salad, Baked Italian Chicken, Scampi Over Angel Hair Pasta, New Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Rolls and Butter, Fancy and Regular Cheesecakes, Bottled Water, Iced Tea, Lemonade)

1:00 Afternoon – Continue Ed Support Grant Recipient Presentations (if needed)

- Basket Raffle Winners, 50/50 Winner, Other Raffle Winners
- Special Announcements



Please cut off this reservation section and send by **October 14th** with **one check** made payable to: **GCASR** to... **Colleen Valosen 315 Ketchum Drive Canonsburg, PA 15317**

Member(s) Name _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

New Member Name Attending **Very First** GCASR Luncheon _____ FREE

Member Age 90 or Over - Name _____ FREE

Member Name _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Guest(s) Name (s) _____ @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

My Scholarship/Ed Support Grant Fund Donation (Not Tax Deductible) \$ _____

My Weekend Food Program Donation (Not Tax Deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (separate checks are not needed) \$ _____

***If you are unable to attend the luncheon but would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund and/or the Weekend Food Program, please use this form to submit your donations.**