



# PPSREA SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Philadelphia Public School Retired Employees Association*

PASR/Region XI

5398 Wynnefield, Avenue Suite LL3 Philadelphia, PA 19131

[www.ppsrea.org](http://www.ppsrea.org)



### Greetings PPSREA Members,

2023 was an amazing year! The Philadelphia Public Schools Retired Educators Association (PPSREA) achieved a major goal this year: getting new leaders to serve as Officers, Directors and Committee chairs. We are also elated to be able to welcome more members as new committee volunteers. The 2024 PPSREA Calendar and the Leaders who are responsible for making things happen are on page two (2). Our Leaders spend many hours helping the organization serve its members, public schools and the Philadelphia community at large. We're taking this opportunity to send HEARTFELT THANKS to the outgoing Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs-Judy Gaskins, John Ferrier, Vernard Trent, Dr. Stephanie T. Childs, Caren Wilder, Yvonne Jones, and Stephen Spence. Brief bios of the new PPSREA leaders are included in this edition. The 2024-26 Officers and Directors were installed at the May General Membership Meeting. Terms for Directors are staggered. There will be seven Director vacancies for the 2025-2027 term. If you're interested in serving, a petition is inside this edition.

This year's Calendar includes many familiar activities that were deemed to be successful according to our members' feedback and attendance. We're excited! The new Fitness Chairs suggested expanding our program to include opportunities for members to actively focus on Fitness while reconnecting with former colleagues. CPR Training, Chair Yoga, Line Dancing are the first offerings. By the end of 2024, participating members will learn more strategies to promote doable fitness routines. All sessions are customized for our audience. Registration is required for planning. Ideas for new programs from members are always welcome. Please let us know what programs that you would like our association to plan.

### THE ARTS

PPSREA has a group membership for the Barnes Museum. This permits our group to enter at a significantly reduced rate during the year. If you are interested in joining a small group for a tour at the Barnes, please contact email [info@ppsrea.org](mailto:info@ppsrea.org) or call 215-921-5056.

We have enjoyed a matinee at the Kimmel Center this past year. Ten participants are required for a group. The Price is Right! Are you interested?

### MEMBERS MATTER

Did you know that PPSREA had 3268 members in December 2023: (2438) life members and (830) annual/associate members. Since 2016, the numbers have declined by more than 400. Annual membership dues currently subsidize \$17.00 of the cost of the meal at the spring and fall membership luncheons, postage for mailing the newsletter and other correspondence and a small portion of the refreshments served at some events. Fortunately, the stewardship of former leaders, grants, funds bequeathed by members and member donations enable PPSREA to uphold its mission. We appreciate members who pay their annual dues. Nonpayment of dues will result in an inactive status at the end of a year. Please stay with us!

Our local chapter, PPSREA, is also designated as a Region in the the state chapter's organization of chapters. Please visit [pasr.org](http://pasr.org) for information about benefits, services and informational zooms. Consider joining the state chapter- PASR!

Thank you very much for your loyalty,

Mamie E. Bryan  
President

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## BOARD OFFICERS

President.....Mamie E. Bryan  
Vice President.....Stephanie Mitchell  
Treasurer.....Stanley Field  
Assistant Treasurer.....Donna Young  
Recording Secretary.....Donna Malkowski  
Corresponding Secretary...Claudine Colmon

## DIRECTORS

Marie Bonner – Dr. Stephanie Childs - Joan Flores -  
Ann Gardiner – Yvonne Jones – Karin Kull  
Jennifer Plumer-Davis - Carol Ray – Iris Rothstein –  
Dr. Cora Turpin – Celestine Welcome - Stuart Wohl  
PASR Regional XI Director .... Mamie E. Bryan

## COMMITTEES

### AWARDS

Educational Support..... Stanley Field  
Nonagenarian..... Theresa Jackson  
PRIDE of PPSREA..... Mamie Bryan  
Hazel Ranieri..... Bonnie Uditsky  
PPSREA Scholarship..... Ann Gardiner  
Dr. Wm. Ross Scholarship..... Ann Gardiner  
Lauretta Woodson (PASR)..... Bonnie Uditsky  
Stanley Field  
Communication/Newsletter..... Iris Rothstein  
Mamie Bryan  
Celestine Welcome  
Donna Malkowski  
Historian..... Sherry Morris  
Photography..... Vacant  
Program..... Mamie Bryan  
Finance..... Stanley Field  
Membership/Retirement Planning.. Celestine Welcome  
Jennifer Plumer-Davis  
Service/Townsend..... Marie Bonner  
Leonard Kaltz  
Community Service..... Joan Flores  
Donna Malkowski  
Cultural..... Claudine Colmon  
Fitness..... Bettyann & Jack Creighton  
Member Benefit Services..... Stuart Wohl  
Seminars..... John Ferrier  
Social..... Stephanie Mitchell  
Sunshine/Memorial..... Mamie E. Bryan  
Donna Malkowski  
Other Administrative (Ad Hoc)..... Mamie Bryan  
Action..... John Ferrier  
By--Laws..... Jennifer Plumer-Davis  
Leadership..... Sherry Morris  
Legislative/LPEC (PASR)..... John Ferrier  
Dave Kaplan  
Nominations..... Carol Ray

## PAST PRESIDENTS

\*Louis R. Nuebaum (1947-1960)  
\*Sydney A. Farbish (1961-1963)  
\*John Guthrie (1967-1969)  
\*John F. Thomas (1972-1973)  
\*Mary E. Summerfield (1977-1979)  
\*Helen H. Dutcher (1995-1995)  
\*Hazel Ranieri (1983-1985)  
Frank W. Houser, Jr. (1989-1981)  
Dr. Florence H. Scott (1998-1999)  
Sara L. Dean (2002-2003)  
\*Martin A. Labb (2006-2007)  
Henry Blasczyk (2011-2013)  
Vivien H. Hansbury (2016-2017)

\*Edmund A. Thompson (1955-1960)  
\*Phillip A. Boyer (1964-1966)  
\*Serena F. Davis (1970-1971)  
\*Benjamin L. Stackowski (1974-1976)  
\*Anna P. Simpson-Pullar (1980-1982)  
\*Doris W. Wilson (1986-1988)  
Henry J. Balczyk (1992-1990)  
\*Walter H. Collins (1996-1997)  
Dolores R. Seiberlich (2000-2001)  
\*Carole A. Robbins (2004-2005)  
\*Barbara W. Barnett (2008-2010)  
Bonnie Uditsky (2014-2015)  
Sherry O. Morris (2018-2019)

## PPSREA 2024 Calendar of Events

*Mission: To help others in need and to help one another enjoy retirement!*

Message from our President, Mamie Bryan:

The 2024 PPSREA Calendar lists the events that have been planned. We hope that you will join us and enjoy those that are of interest to you. Information, reservation forms and updates will be in the newsletters, on the website (ppsrea.org), and in periodic email blasts. Please email info@ppsrea.org or call 215.921.5056 for more information.

## **CALENDAR** **Celebrate Health**

**February 1, 2024** Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**February 1-29, 2024** Feeding Pennsylvania (Details to follow)  
**February 6, 2024** CPR Training, 10:30-12:30, Tiffany's on the Boulevard (Registration required)  
**March 2-10, 2024** Philadelphia Flower Show (Tickets available by calling 215.921.5056)  
**March 14, 2024** Chair Yoga, 10:30-12, Tiffany's on the Boulevard (Registration required)  
**April 4, 2024** PPSREA Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**May 2, 2024** Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**May 6, 2024** Senior Day Phillies Game, 1:05PM, Citizens Bank Park (Details to follow)  
**May 16, 2024** PPSREA Spring General Membership Luncheon honoring Nonagenarians (Registration form will be in the newsletter)  
**June 4, 2024** PPSREA Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**June 12, 2024** PPSREA New Member Breakfast, 10:30, Tiffany's  
**September 5, 2024** PPSREA Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**September 22, 2024** PPSREA Celebrates Centenarian Day  
**October 17, 2024** PPSREA Fall General Membership Luncheon and Award Recognition (Registration form will be in the fall newsletter)  
**November 3, 2024** PPSREA Celebrates Giving Tuesday  
**November 7, 2024** PPSREA Board of Director's Meeting and Region 11 PASR Meeting  
**November 11, 2024** PPSREA Veterans' Day Recognition and Luncheon, Mission BarBQue  
**December 5, 2024** PPSREA Board of Director's Meeting

### IMPORTANT ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

**PA. Association of School Retirees (PASR)**  
878 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717-697-7077

**Public School Employees' Retirement System**  
(PSERS – Pension Office)  
5 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Harrisburg PA 17101  
717-787-8540

**Phila. Public School Retired Employees Association (PPSREA)**  
5398 Wynnefield Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131 215-921-5056

**PASR Dental/Vision Plan – 717-697-7077**

**School District of Philadelphia Benefits Office**  
215-400-4630

**School District of Philadelphia Retirement Office**  
215-400-4680

## Membership Notes

Hello PPSREA Members,

Welcome To Spring 2024!

The weather is a blessing and we are experiencing a new birth of flowers growing and trees beginning to show growth with leaves. It is a wonderful time to reconnect with friends and family plus planning activities with the warmer weather. We are planning another “New Members Breakfast” on June 12, 2024 at Tiffany’s on the Blvd at 10:30 am. An invitation will be sent to new members that joined in 2023. Please RSVP by email: [info@ppsrea.org](mailto:info@ppsrea.org) to Donna Malkowski or leave a message (215-921- 5056) by June 5, 2024. We hope all new members attend that day!

Our website is [www.ppsrea.org](http://www.ppsrea.org) to read about us and our updated information with pictures. The Annual Dues continues each year for \$15.00 and Lifetime Members continues as \$200.00. We also encourage everyone to join our State Chapter – PASR (Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees) for yearly dues of \$60.00. A Special Thank you to Dale R. Croxton for submitting her check to me for Lifetime Membership during a holiday luncheon with me in December 2023. Membership Renewals began on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Thank You for your continued support! We appreciate everyone attending our luncheons and the many activities plus events during the year! Tell your friends and former co-workers about joining PPSREA!

Have Fun During Your Retirement!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Celestine F. Welcome,  
Membership Chairperson

### **Fitness Memes Guaranteed to Make You Laugh**

*by Iris Rothstein, information from the Internet*

Maintaining your personal fitness can feel like an uphill battle but these funny memes prove at least you're not alone. Give yourself a much needed LOL (Laugh Out Loud) break- and then get back to work on those reps.

I wish I could outsource my exercise.

I'm into fitness. Fitness whole pizza in my mouth.

I'm going to the gym so I can tell you I'm going to the gym.

Just wanted to let you know that it's possible to exercise and then not post about it on Facebook.

My main fitness goal is to get thin enough to stay dry under an umbrella.

My hour-long workout playlist overshot my endurance level by 53 minutes.

CrossFit is a mix of cardio, strength training and incessantly talking about CrossFit.

I'm hiring a personal trainer so I can stop lying to myself about my health and start lying to someone else.

I wanted to go to the gym..but wine.

Just bought some new gym clothes to wear to the grocery store.

If you want to go running with me, you'd better be prepared to walk a lot.

I wish I got even half the exercise that my dog does.

The most exercise I'll get this month is yelling at professional athletes to play better.

My version of a workout buddy is someone who tells me I look so good I don't need to work out.

My workouts are pretty long if you count the amount of time I wait for exercise machines to free up.

I only joined a gym because I don't have basic cable.

Exercise is a great way to justify binge eating after exercising.

I'm thinking about increasing the number of days I lie about going to the gym.

For someone who jogs all the time, I still have the ability to make it look like it's the first time I've ever tried.

I've been avoiding exercise for so long, you might say I'm in the Fitness Protection Program.

Thanks for thinking I may have gone to the gym this morning as opposed to just sweating on the way to work.

While I was running today I heard someone clapping, it was just my thighs cheering me on.

**PPSREA Welcomes the following New Annual Members**  
**(from April 2023 to December 2023)**

Sylvia Acey	Francine Essner	Janice Mann	Susan Shucker
Linda Alten	Ellen Foley	Brenda McCleary	Lisa Smith
Wanda Atkinson	Michael Foley	Eve-Lynn Miller	Shirley Smith
Maria Barracca	Michele Gordon	Dawn Moore	Barbara Still
Kathy Bender	Marianne Gradl	Maria Monras-Sender	Maxine Tayzer
Gail Bullock	Claudette Granderson	Rochelle Nocito	Samuel Tigah
Arlene Campbell	Anne Hairston	Margaret Ann Ramsey	Joann Wilkins
Gwendolyn Cottman	Judy Heffernan	Antoinette Robinson	
Brenda Drayer	Cynthia Jackson	Susan Senner	

**New Life Members (from April 2023 to December 2023)**

Darren Oates	Dale Croxton	Elaine Wells	John Gillard
Kathleen Konicki			

**Member Condolences (2023)**

Leslie Adderly-Long	Marcella Dworkin	Hildebrand Pelzer, Sr.	Harold Whitney
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**PPSREA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**PRESENT MEMBER: (Membership valid for: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)**

**PPSREA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – PAYABLE TO PPSREA**

**5398 Wynnefield Avenue – Suite LL3, Philadelphia, PA 19131**

*Please select member type / payment amount:*

Life (\$200)       Annual (\$15)       Associate (\$15)

*Please make any corrections / additions to your information!!*

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



**THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

*General Membership Luncheon*

**Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 11:30 AM**

**Penn's Landing Caterers**

**1301 S. Columbus Blvd/Philadelphia, PA 19147**

**(AMPLE FREE PARKING)**

SIT DOWN LUNCHEON MENU

*Entrée #1*

*Stuffed Herb Chicken Breast*

*Entrée #2*

*Baked Salmon  
w/Orange Ginger Glaze*

*Entrée #3*

*Puff Pastry stuffed  
w/grilled Vegetables*

*All meals: House Salad ~Roasted Herb Potatoes ~ Green Beans in Garlic & Oil ~ Dinner Rolls & Butter*

*Dessert*

*Cheesecake*

*Coffee-Decaf & Regular - Hot or Iced Tea*

RESERVATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed, please find **\$35 for each person**. If members/guests would like to sit at the same table, all money and names are to be sent together.

Make check payable to "PPSREA". The deadline for payment is **May 3, 2024**. Refunds will not be made after the deadline. **Send to: Stephanie Mitchell ~ 703 West Chelton Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19126 ~ Questions? Call Stephanie Mitchell at 215.924.7764**

<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Entrée Choice</u>
1. _____	#1 #2 #3
2. _____	#1 #2 #3
3. _____	#1 #2 #3
4. _____	#1 #2 #3
5. _____	#1 #2 #3
6. _____	#1 #2 #3
7. _____	#1 #2 #3
8. _____	#1 #2 #3
9. _____	#1 #2 #3
10. _____	#1 #2 #3

## NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND CHAIRPERSONS

We would like to introduce and welcome our newly elected officers and directors, and newly appointed chairpersons.

Stanley Field, had previously been the PPSREA treasurer for over 10 years prior to 2019 and he is assuming the role again. He retired after 40 years with the School District of Philadelphia where he served as High School Math Teacher, roster chairperson, and Building Rep.

Ann Gardiner was the elected director of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Chair. She is a retired Principal from the School District of Philadelphia. Ann has been a Director with our organization and is assuming the role of Scholarship Chairperson.

Iris Rothstein. Iris resides in Florida. Iris has been an elected Director, the Assistant newsletter Chair and this year will be the Newsletter Chairperson. Her role with the School District of Philadelphia was as a Teacher Leader at the G. W. Childs School.

Donna Malkowski is the Office Secretary for our organization, and now the Secretary of PPSREA. Donna retired from the School District of Philadelphia after 38 years. During her tenure there, she was a Secretary in Elementary, Middle and High Schools as well as the recruitment office secretary and Confidential Secretary for the Northeast Regional Office.

Donna Young, newly elected Assistant Treasurer of PPSREA. She retired after 40 years of service with the School District of Philadelphia serving as both a secretary and a School Operations Officer.

Stephanie Mitchell, newly elected Vice President, was a school administrator and has been the Social Committee Chairperson for several years. She also helps at our Veteran's Day Celebration each year.

Marie Bonner, newly elected Townsend Chair, served as the Executive Director of Title I for 18 years. She worked in the Administrative Offices of the School District as well as the Archdiocesan Schools. She was a compliance officer for 18 charter schools.

Jack and Bettyann Creighton, Fitness Committee Co- Chairs. Jack and Bettyann were Health & Physical Ed Teachers. Jack was the Athletic Director at Frankford High School before retiring after 40 years. Bettyann was the Executive Director of Health and Physical Education before retiring. They were both involved with the Special Olympics and healthy school initiatives as well as getting external defibrillators in every SDP Building.

Joan Flores, Community Service Co-Chair, was a school secretary and then a school counselor for over 40 years.



## Awards for Service

PPSREA celebrated the many contributions that students and school district employees make to our schools and community by presenting the following Awards at the Fall General Membership Luncheon Meeting.

1. The PASR Laretta Woodson Award for a Teacher was given to Robert Williams, an Electrical Technology Teacher at the Mastbaum Vocational High School. Mr Williams was recognized for the exceptional manner in which his electrical program prepares students for career placements.
2. The PASR Laretta Woodson Award for school support staff was given to Michael Q. Levister, Climate support staff member at the Martin Luther King High School. Mr. Levister is considered to be a caring, committed supporter of students and their success in school.
3. The PASR Laretta Woodson Award was given to Jason Rindone, Building Engineer at the Bregy School.
4. The PASR Educational Support Grant was given to Jasmone Brockington, is an 8th grade ELS and ELL support teacher at the Mary McLeod Bethune School. The grant will be used to support the program.
5. The Volunteer of the year award was presented to Celestine Welcome for the many contributions to her community, her church, and social organizations. She is always willing to offer assistance when needed. Tyna has earned this recognition by donating her time, hard work and resources to a wide range of community activities. In our organization Tyna has served as Vice President, Membership Chairperson, member of cultural trips, finance, property, nominating and 75 th anniversary committees. She has represented our local Chapter on the state (PASR) membership committee and at the Biannual Meeting of the house of delegates. We thank Tyna for her generosity with her time and resources and commitment to serving others.
6. The PASR John Dillon Award was presented to Jennifer Plumer Davis for exceptional service to the state and local chapters. Jennifer has served on most local chapter committees, represented the chapter several times as a convention delegate and chaired the Bylaws and Retirement Planning Committees for many years.
7. The Pride of PPSREA Award, was presented to Ms. Novella K. Reynolds, Founder of Women of Faith and Hope, an organization that supports women with cancer.

The Hazel Ranieri Award was established by the late Ms. Rainier to recognize a teacher and student for service to the C. W. Henry School and community. This year's recipients received their awards at the Henry School. Ms Rainer's daughter Teri Ranieri presented the awards to: Kelly Harback and Kim Smith (teachers) and students Asher Walton and Linus Fackler.



## **Ms. Shirley A. Page Funds “Aspiring Teacher Scholarship”**



Ms. Shirley A. Page, long-time member of PPSREA and 2022 Nonagenarian, has donated \$10,000 to fund scholarships for future educators. One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually for the next five years to Philadelphia public high school graduates planning to major in elementary education at an Historically Black College or University. The first scholarship recipient will be announced in May 2024.

Ms. Page explains that for several years she had nurtured the intention of establishing a scholarship to encourage the next generation of urban teachers, but she had not chosen an organization to help her meet that goal. However, when she received the 2023 PPSREA Spring Newsletter which featured coverage of the 75th Anniversary Scholarship along with a photo of the winner, Shirley made her decision. She recalls, “I said to myself,

‘I’ll go this route. -- you guys seemed to have everything together.’” Reaching out first to

Mrs. Theresa Jackson, chairperson of the Nonagenarian Committee, Shirley proposed her plan. Mrs. Jackson then contacted our president, Ms. Mamie Bryan, and at the 2023 Fall Luncheon, Ms. Page formally presented her check to PPSREA.

Ms. Page was born in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh and attended the neighborhood elementary school. She recalls watching her fourth grade math teacher, Miss Boal, in front of the class and thinking, “I’d like to do that.” She attended Peabody Academic High School, where she was invited to join the History Committee and played intermural volleyball. Shirley graduated from Peabody High School in January 1950 and took a job in the dietary unit of a Pittsburgh hospital. But her destiny was elsewhere, for just prior graduation, Shirley’s Sunday school teacher, Emma Rose, a University of Pittsburgh graduate, had remarked to Shirley’s mother, “That child has to go to college.” And so, while Shirley worked at the hospital, Miss Rose worked with Shirley’s mother to make the dream of college a viable possibility, despite the financial obstacles.

Shirley applied to the State Teachers’ College at Cheyney (as it was then called) in the summer of 1950, and Cheyney replied with the offer of a four-year tuition scholarship. The remaining expenses were covered by her family and community. “My mother helped, my sister helped, Miss Rose helped, and the church [Rodman Street Baptist] helped.” Thus, in September 1950, Shirley left Pittsburgh for Cheyney, taking her first step toward a 44-year career in elementary education. Four years later in 1954, Shirley took the School District of Philadelphia qualifying exam and was hired immediately after graduation. Her initial assignment was the Joseph C. Ferguson School at 7th and Norris Streets, where she and seven other teachers taught grades 1-3 in 16 split sessions, with the eight classrooms occupied by different classes in the morning and afternoon. (Shirley taught first and second grade.) Many children spoke only Spanish, so she and her colleagues made do with their high-school knowledge of Spanish and the help of Puerto Rican students from the upper grades.

The annex closed in 1956 when Ferguson added a new 21-room wing. But the problem of overcrowding arose again at the end of the decade, when Ferguson’s 7th grade program was displaced to the 7th Street Methodist church, because the school needed classroom space to implement full day sessions for the 3rd grade. (This arrangement ended when Wanamaker Junior High opened its doors.)

The early years of Shirley’s career required great flexibility from teachers, parents, and the community, yet they also offered teachers unique opportunities for professional growth. In 1961 a Ford Foundation Great Cities School Improvement Grant was awarded to a cluster of six schools in District 5: Ferguson, Dunbar, Harrison, Hunter, McKinley, and Wamamaker Junior High. The grant introduced innovative instructional models and provided abundant funds for books, ancillary materials, films, summer and Saturday programs, and field trips. Each school also had the benefit of two School-Community Coordinators, a full-time classroom aid, and intensive summer professional development as well as monthly meetings during the school year for the teachers. In 1961 Ms. Page made the transition from third grade teacher to remedial reading teacher, and her principal also put her in charge of the grant sponsored Language Arts Skills Center.



It was in this exciting professional milieu that Ms. Page encountered Ida Kravitz and Rita Ciotti [Altman], gifted curriculum supervisors who guided and inspired the Great Cities teachers. Shirley recalls, “Rita and Ida were wonderful, and I learned a great deal from them. You didn’t mind going the second or third mile because you had that kind of support.” The reading center that Shirley created attracted district-wide attention and drew both teachers and administrators wishing to observe her methods. Although the great Cities grant ended in 1963, the District’s own Educational Improvement Program for Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5, allowed sufficient resources for Shirley to continue to refine the learning center model at Ferguson.

In 1968, under a new contract provision, Shirley obtained a voluntary transfer to the Belmont School, where the principal wanted to implement her reading center model. At Belmont, Shirley’s reputation as a leader in the reading center movement continued to grow, and ultimately, she “went downtown” to take the position of chief coordinator for the [Federal] Model Cities reading improvement framework, managing the budget, creating a summer training program for the 24 reading teachers selected to implement the program, and conducting site visits. This work brought Shirley the distinction of presenting at the 1973 convention of the International Reading Association in Denver, Colorado. According to Shirley, “The program worked well. But Model Cities folded [in 1973].” With the elimination of her administrative position, Ms. Page, who already held two master’s degrees, took a sabbatical and earned a supervisor’s certificate in reading at Temple. But her purpose was to grow as a teacher, not to become an administrator. For her heart was in the classroom, and that was where she would remain. “I always wanted to teach. I always loved the classroom. And I loved the kids.” In the 28 years between her return from sabbatical in 1974 and her retirement in 1998, Shirley taught at Leidy Elementary, Shawmont Music Magnet (where she delighted in sponsoring the African American Oratorical Contest), Morton McMichael School, William S. Pierce, and finally Belmont, whence she retired in 1998.

Looking back, Ms. Page cherishes the memory Jacqueline, her older sister, who helped her attend Cheyney and later worked as a paraprofessional in the Pittsburgh schools for 23 years. Together the sisters contributed 67 years to the children of their respective cities. Ms. Page also recalls with admiration and gratitude Rita Ciotti [Altman] and Ida Kravitz, to whom she attributes her rapid professional growth during those early years at Ferguson.

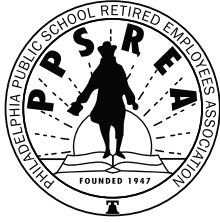
PPSREA is grateful to Ms. Page for entrusting the organization with her dream of helping aspiring educators and for sharing these memories of her career. Her experiences are personally unique, yet also emblematic of the challenges and rewards shared by many PPSREA members who also served the School District between 1950 and 2000.

Ann Gardiner  
Scholarship Chairperson

## **Townsend Service**

The Philadelphia Public School Retired Employees Association, (PPSREA) is pleased to make available to it’s members and retired School District of Philadelphia employees support to maintain adequate housing facilities and home healthcare services. This support is provided through the Laura A. Townsend Trust and the PPSREA Service Committee. To request support from our organization, a Confidential Request for Services Form must be submitted for review. Once reviewed, the request will be assigned a case manager, who will contact the person making the request and follow up with concerns about providing the requested support. The Service/Townsend Committee will not provide the total cost of the support requested. They try to work with the client and provide supplemental support for the request. Each year, the Committee will review the supports provided to retirees and determine if continued supplementary support will be available. Funding for this committee is under strict review and adherence to policy is required to assure that funds are available on a continuous basis. If you are in need of support, please complete the Confidential Request for Services Form and return it to: Philadelphia Public School Retired Employees Association at 5398 Wynnefield Ave., Suite LL, Philadelphia, PA., 19131. Attention: Marie Bonner, Chair

THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



5398 Wynnefield Ave., Suite LL3 Philadelphia, PA 19131 - 2344  
(215) 921-5056 www.ppsrea.org info@ppsrea.org

## Townsend

### CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR SERVICE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Last Position \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

INCOME / FINANCIAL AID (Indicate monthly amount)

School District pension \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security \_\_\_\_\_

Other pension(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

Medicaid \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_ N

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the nature of service requested and the approximate cost. Continue to the other side of the page, if needed.

**\*\*3 estimates for contracted services must be obtained from licensed and insured contractors\*\***

Please return this Request for Service to the office at the above address.

Any information provided will be held in the strictest confidence.

Region XI PASR

**P A S R**  
Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

## Veterans Day 2023

Veterans Day 2023 was again, a memorable event. The event was held at Mission Barbeque, 11000 Roosevelt Boulevard; coordinated by Shannon Sperduto. There were 21 in attendance. We recognized our veterans with certificates, acknowledging their service in the Military and service to the School District of Philadelphia. Veterans also received a gift bag containing a card and several gift items. All attendees received lunch provided by Mission Barbeque and PPSREA. “We Salute Our Veterans”

Special thanks to our president Mamie Bryan, coordinator Stephanie Mitchell, photographer Ann Gardiner; Theresa Jackson, Jennifer Plumer-Davis, Donna Malkowski, Bonnie Uditsky, Mr. Mitchell and everyone who helped make things run smoothly.



## House of Delegates 2023

PASR held its 56th Meeting of the House of Delegates in Cranbury, PA on October 15-17, 2023. The theme this year was PASR: Stronger Together: It Takes All of Us! We heard several important messages from speakers; Fraud against older consumers and Have you considered improving your networking skills? Keynote speaker, Mary Bach, is an independent consumer advocate and chair of the AARP Pennsylvania Consumer issues Task Force. As a volunteer, she spreads AARP’s strategic messages about fraud against older consumers.

Our Philadelphia Delegation, PPSREA Region 11 had the largest delegation of any chapter in the state. Our President, Mamie Bryan, was recognized for her service as outgoing state Chairperson for the Membership committee and Yvonne Jones for her service as outgoing Region 11 Director and a member of the State Board of Directors. Ms. Jones also served for four years on the state Leadership committee.

Our representatives were: Mamie Bryan, Yvonne Jones, Claudine Colmon, Jennifer Plumer-Davis, Stephanie Mitchell, Sherry Morris, Bonnie Uditsky and Celestine Welcome.

Sherry O. Morris  
PPSREA Past President

## Project Warmth

Thank you to all of our members for the enormous outpouring of donations we received at our October Luncheon. Soon after leaving the Luncheon, we started to assemble and communicate our first steps in getting the donations into the hands of as many men, women and children we possibly could. The hats, gloves, scarves and socks were donated to St. Francis Inn, Murphys Giving Market, Covenant House and Bethel Deliverance International Church.

Thank you again for your generosity.

### **Committee Members:**

Ann Gardiner - Theresa Jackson - Karen Kull - Stephanie Mitchell - Bonnie Uditsky- Joan Flores, Co- Chairperson  
Donna Malkowski, Co-Chairperson

### PPSREA

### “WE COME TOGETHER AND WE GIVE”

PPSREA is collecting toiletries for men, women and children of all ages. These items will be distributed to those in need. Please bring your donations of deodorant, shampoo, lotions, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, etc to our Spring Luncheon on May 16th.

Thank you for your support.

**Cola Update** - John Ferrier

It has been over 20 years since public school retirees received a cost of living (COLA) increase. The Republican party has controlled the state legislature from 1995 until last November when the Democrats took control of the General Assembly by a slim majority. Since the passage of Act 9 in 2001, the General Assembly has steadfastly refused to introduce any bill that would provide a COLA for retired Public School Employees. The argument has been that a COLA would place an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers, yet in 1995 the legislature enacted a bill granting Senators and Representatives a yearly salary COLA of 3%.

**The General Assembly, now controlled by the Democrats, passed HB 1416 which would provide a COLA of between 15 and 25% to those retired prior to July 1, 2001, but the Senate controlled by the Republicans has failed to act on this bill!**

HB 1416 is currently sitting in the Senate State Government Committee, which is chaired by Senator Dush. The population effected by this is on average over 80 years old and receives less than \$18,000 per year. If the Senate continues their strategy to delay action on a COLA for this population the likelihood is that they will die before a COLA is enacted. There is over 2 billion dollars in the state’s rainy-day fund therefore taxes need not be affected by the passage of HB 1416. Please contact Senator Dush and your state senator urging them to act to move this needed legislation.

*John Ferrier, L/PEC Chair*

***PPSREA VISIT  
SENIOR CITIZENS DAY AT THE PHILLIES  
MAY 6, 2024  
CITIZENS BANK PARK  
PHILLIES VS SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS  
GAME TIME – 4:05 P.M.  
SEATING LOCATION – SECTION 109  
TICKET PRICE \$35  
COMPLETED RESERVATION FORM AND COSTS DUE APRIL 1, 2024***

NAME-----

PHONE -----

ADDRESS-----

ZIP-----

EMAIL ADDRESS-----@-----

Make check or money order for the total cost payable to PPSREA.

Mail the form with payment check/money order made out to PPSREA, and a self-addressed envelope to Claudine R. Colmon, PPSREA, 1273 South 24th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146. Attn.: Tickets will be mailed first come, first served while supply lasts.

Email questions to [info@ppsrea.org](mailto:info@ppsrea.org).

**VOLUNTEER SURVEY RESPONSES**

Retirees are great volunteers! We are reliable, knowledgeable, punctual, good natured and happy to be helpful. Volunteering gives us a sense of purpose, develops new relationships and friendships, while helping the community.

Each year PPSREA submits a Volunteer of the Year and submits it to PASR for recognition. Please complete the Volunteer Survey and return it to the address listed on the bottom of the form.

**Thank you for being a volunteer and sharing your information with our Association.**

# PASR

Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees

## 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 PASR Headquarters.

<u>EDUCATIONAL</u>	HRS/YR
Historical Assn .....	_____
Library .....	_____
School Board .....	_____
Other .....	_____
Total	_____

<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>	
Boards/Committees .....	_____
Cancer Society .....	_____
Drug/Alcohol... ..	_____
Fire/Ambulance .....	_____
Fraternal Groups .....	_____
Other .....	_____
Meals on Wheels .....	_____
Office of the Aging... ..	_____
Red Cross .....	_____
Salvation Army .....	_____
Service organization .....	_____
Soup Kitchen/Food Bank... ..	_____
Visitation/Nurturing... ..	_____
Other... ..	_____
Total	_____

<u>POLITICAL</u>	HRS/YR
Advocacy... ..	_____
Boards/Commissions .....	_____
Elections .....	_____
Other... ..	_____
Total	_____

<u>RELIGIOUS</u>	
Adult Instruction .....	_____
Youth Instruction .....	_____
Organization .....	_____
Visitation .....	_____
Hospital/Nursing Home .....	_____
Total	_____

<u>SERVICES TO YOUTH</u>	
Alliance to Youth .....	_____
Classroom Volunteer... ..	_____
Head Start... ..	_____
Latch-Key Program .....	_____
Literacy .....	_____
Scholarships .....	_____
School Volunteer .....	_____
Sports... ..	_____
Tutoring... ..	_____
YMCA/YWCA .....	_____
Other... ..	_____
Government... ..	_____
Total	_____

I have served in special leadership roles as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Hrs. / Year / All Categories \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

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: Donna Malkowski 5398 Wynnefield Ave., Suite LL3 Philadelphia, PA 19131**

Please use the back of this form for clarification or to provide a more detailed description of your involvement with activities not listed.

# THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

5398 Wynnefield Avenue, Suite LL3, Philadelphia, PA 19131

215-921-5056 – [www.ppsrea.org](http://www.ppsrea.org) – [info@ppsrea.org](mailto:info@ppsrea.org)

## PPSREA Board Vacancies

We need 7 Directors. Directors are elected each year to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors. The fourteen Directors are responsible for assuring that the organization is run well and that its mission and goals are being advanced.

Directors must also be current members of the local and state chapters.

The PPSRREA Nominating Committee is seeking committed retirees to come on Board. We have the above vacancies for January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Positions are for a term of two years, and incumbents may seek a second consecutive term. All candidates must be a member of both PPSREA and PASR.

Visit our website: [www.ppsrea.org](http://www.ppsrea.org) for more information, or contact Donna Malkowski at 215.921-5056.

Applications should be mailed to:

Nominating Committee, 5398 Wynnefield Avenue, Suite LL3, Philadelphia, PA 19131.

The Application deadline is Monday, June 3, 2024.

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### 2024 NOMINATING PETITION PLEASE FILL OUT FORM BELOW (ALL FIELDS REQUIRED)

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Position held in the School District of Philadelphia: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of: Place a check on the line that applies to you.

PPSREA:  yes  no PASR:  yes  no

Nomination Position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe any relevant experiences with the School District of Philadelphia and community service.

Attach this information on a separate page.



THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED  
 EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
 5398 Wynnefield Avenue, Suite LL3  
 Philadelphia, Pa 19131  
 (215) 921-5056



**PPSREA FITNESS PROGRAM APPLICATION  
 FOR THE YEAR 2024– STIPEND \$60.00**  
*(Please Print and Complete All Information)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 (FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (STREET ADDRESS)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

FITNESS FACILITY WHERE YOU ARE  
 ENROLLED: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. #: \_\_\_\_\_ DO YOU ATTEND 3 TIMES PER WEEK: YES or NO

LIST THE MONTH YOU BEGAN IN 2024: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT YOU PAY AND FOR WHAT LENGTH OF TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE HAVE AN INSTRUCTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR FROM THE FITNESS FACILITY SIGN BELOW**

I CERTIFY THAT \_\_\_\_\_ IS PARTICIPATING IN A FITNESS PROGRAM  
 AT THIS FACILITY FOR AT LEAST THE LAST THREE MONTHS

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (FITNESS PROGRAM OFFICIAL) (TITLE) (DATE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

**YOU MUST BE A LIFE MEMBER AND GO TO THE FACILITY AT LEAST  
 3 TIMES A WEEK TO QUALIFY FOR THIS STIPEND**

**PLEASE NOTE:** AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM FOR AT LEASE THREE MONTHS, SEND  
 THIS FORM TO: PPSREA 5398 Wynnefield Ave. Suite LL3, Philadelphia, PA 19131

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2024 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2024 STIPEND***



THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

5398 WYNNEFIELD AVENUE - SUITE LL3 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131

(215) 921-5056 • [www.ppsrea.org](http://www.ppsrea.org) • [info@ppsrea.org](mailto:info@ppsrea.org)

PPSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
PERMIT NO. 7258

*Thank You for Your Continued Support!!!*

**P A S R** Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees  
878 Century Drive • Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-4375

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*(Please Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (MI) (Last)

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Yrs. of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive information about a local PASR chapter? (PLEASE SPECIFY):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please select your membership option. Make check payable to: **PASR**

- Annual Membership Dues - \$60.00
- Associate Membership Dues - \$60.00
- Lifetime Membership Dues - \$700.00

Phone: 717-697-7077 Fax: 717-697-8742 [pasr@pasr.org](mailto:pasr@pasr.org) [www.pasr.org](http://www.pasr.org)

*Note: Membership dues payments are not deductible for federal income tax*

**PLEASE ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING**