



Inside PARSE

December 2019

Message from the President

Dear PARSE member,

Once again the holiday season is upon us. That means it is time for the PARSE Holiday Party. This year the party will take place on Friday, December 27, 2019 at 12:30 pm. The site will again be the Waterfall Room of Swan Caterers, 2015 Water Street in South Philadelphia.

Our previous holiday parties have been unabashed successes with a vast array of foods, desserts, and a cash bar. Come one; come all, but respond early because seating is limited to the first 250 reservations.

Besides the food, the festivities will include music and dancing for just \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non PARSE members. Your chapter is absorbing part of the cost. This is a benefit of membership.

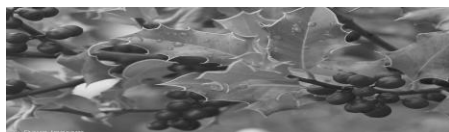
Our chapter's membership continues to grow. By mid November, we recorded 1,548 members. This represents our all-time high. Statewide, PARSE has topped 25,000 members; also a new plateau. In the last three years, total membership has risen by over twenty-five percent. As we always say, "There is strength in numbers."

For the upcoming year, our chapter is focusing on two social events. In May we are planning a wine tasting at Manatawny Creek Winery coupled with a smorgasbord at Shady Maple. During the summer, another casino trip is in the works.

Before you know it, spring will be here again, but until that time, I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year. In the mean time, let's enjoy our Holiday Party.

Sincerely,

Leon Cerullo
PARSE Philadelphia-Bucks Chapter President



Executive Board:

President	Leon Cerullo
Vice President	Luticia Gary
Secretary	Evelyn Y. Trent
Treasurer	Edward Finfer

Members

Ernestine Blackston-Brandon	Faye Matter
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Mike Gart	John Molinari
Gloria Hamilton	Patricia Ann Philson
Connie Johnson	Carol Roberts
Sandi MacLaren	David Rosner
Raymond Martinez	Barbara Taylor

President Emeritus

Leo J. Burke, Jr.

Member Emeritus

Myrna Brown

2020 Membership Dues!!!

\$20.00

NOW DUE

Please complete the enclosed membership application and include a check for your **2020 dues** of

\$20.00 per person, made out to:

"PARSE PHILA-BUCKS CHAPTER"

Mail to our chapter treasurer

Edward Finfer

189 Harmony Court

Bensalem, PA, 19020

(215) 244-1330

Please also include your December 27, 2019

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON reservation at

\$30.00 per member, \$35.00 per quest



(over)

2020 Social Security Increase

Per Kenneth Terrell, AARP, the **cost of living adjustment (COLA)** will increase social security benefits by 1.6% in 2020, an average of about \$24 per month for individuals. This is less than this year's increase, but higher than the average over the past decade (1.4%). The COLA will boost the average social security retirement benefit for a single person by \$288 per year. The average retirement check is expected to be \$1,479 in December 2019 before the COLA raises the benefit to \$1,503 in January 2020. Although modest, this increase will help social security beneficiaries and their families as they try to keep up with rising prices.

The monthly premium costs for **Medicare Part B** recipients are deducted directly from the social security benefit payment. Part B Medicare covers physician and diagnostic services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services and durable medical equipment. Some say that those 65 and older could see their Social Security COLA swallowed up by health costs, including the Medicare monthly premium increase.

Social Security is paid for by a payroll tax on workers' wages. Next year, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the social security tax will increase from \$132,900 to \$137,700.

The social security program does face long-term funding challenges. According to the 2019 annual report from the Social Security and Medicare Board of Trustees, the trust fund reserves that help pay for social security benefits will be fully depleted in 2035, unless Congress passes new legislation. Once those funds are exhausted, the program would only be able to pay out 80 percent of what each beneficiary should be getting.

For information about social security benefits and claiming strategies, those approaching retirement age may visit AARP's *Social Security Resource Center*.

Stay tune to "What's Happening" in PARSE.

Visit our



www.parsephilabucks.org

Directions to:

Swan Caterers' Waterfall Room, 2015 Water Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148, 215-389-2045

There is plenty of parking available under I-95, in addition to street parking.

SEPTA: Broad Street Subway or C Bus to Snyder Ave., Route 79 Bus East to Front St., cross street to Water St. and walk one half block north.

From I-95 North: Take exit 20 for Columbus Blvd toward Washington Ave, keep right at the fork, follow signs for Snyder Ave/Oregon Ave, turn right onto S Columbus Blvd, turn right onto E Snyder Ave, take the third right onto S Water St.

From I 95 South: Take exit 20 on the left for Columbus Blvd toward Washington Ave, turn right onto S Columbus Blvd, turn right onto E Snyder Ave, take the third right onto S Water St.

From I 76 East: Head towards Central Phila, take exit 344 on the left for I-676 E, merge onto I-676 S, continue onto Vine St Expy, keep right at the fork, follow signs for I-95 S/Chester/Phila Intra'l Airport and merge onto I-95 S, then follow I-95 South directions above.

From I 76 West: Head towards I-95 N, keep left at fork, follow sign for I-95 N/Trenton and merge onto I-95 N, then follow I-95 North directions above.