



# Inside PARSE

December 2022

## Message from the President

Dear PARSE member,

**A**s 2022 is ending, the Philadelphia Eagles are flying high and our PARSE Holiday Party is being reborn. The party was on hold for the past two years because of the COVID pandemic. This year we will gather on **Wednesday, December 28, 2022, 12:30 PM** at 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 and desserts. This year beer and wine are included. All other alcoholic beverages will be available at the 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 \$40.00 for non PARSE members. Your chapter will continue to absorb part of the rising cost. This is a benefit of membership.

Our chapter's membership during 2022 was stable. By the end of October, we recorded 1,957 members, about 98% of last year's total of 2,006. We will likely equal or top the 2021 level. Statewide, membership is up by over 2% to nearly 33,000. As we always say, **"There is strength in numbers."**

For the upcoming year, our chapter is focusing on three social events: a wine tasting in May, a casino trip to Atlantic City in August, and a Mural Arts Tour in the fall. These are in the planning stage. You will be notified as these events approach. You can also check our website at [www.philabucks.org](http://www.philabucks.org).

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

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Fred Bostwick     | John Molinari        |
| Kathleen Carroll* | Patricia Ann Philson |
| Mike Gart         | Carol Roberts        |
| Daniel Loftus*    | David Rosner         |
| Raymond Martinez  | Barbara Taylor       |
| Sonia Mendez      | *new board members   |

## President Emeritus

Leo J. Burke, Jr.  
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## **2023 Membership Dues!!!**

**\$20.00**

**NOW DUE**

Please go to the PARSE website [www.parseofpa.org](http://www.parseofpa.org) and select the "Pay Dues Online!" tab at the top right of the home screen and follow the prompts

or

Write a check made out to "PARSE" and mail to:  
Pennsylvania Association of Retired  
State Employees  
5000 Ritter Road, Suite 105  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

**Any unpaid 2022 dues can be sent to our chapter treasurer.**

Edward Finfer  
189 Harmony Court  
Bensalem, PA, 19020  
(215) 244-1330



## 2023 Social Security Increase 8.7%

According to various sources, Social Security's COLA is the mechanism designed to ensure that nearly 66 million beneficiaries don't lose their purchasing power to the rising price of goods and services (*inflation*). The COLA of **8.7%** in 2023 is the largest increase for Social Security benefits in 40 years. The larger Social Security payments will help retirees cover their regular expenses during the coming year.

Following what's seemed like more than a decade of minuscule cost-of-living adjustments (save for 2022), retirees are staring down a *truly historic increase* to their Social Security checks in 2023 -- and they have high inflation to thank for it. The rapidly rising costs for shelter, medical care, food, and energy are all playing a role in sending payouts noticeably higher for the program's beneficiaries in the upcoming year.

By December 2022, the Social Security Administration estimate monthly payouts for an assortment of beneficiaries will be as follows:

- Average retired worker: \$1,681/month
- Average worker with disabilities: \$1,364/month
- Average aged couple, both receiving benefits: \$2,734/month
- Average widowed mother and two children: \$3,238/month
- Average aged widow(er) with no children: \$1,567/month

Here's what these same monthly Social Security checks will look like once the 2023 COLA takes effect in January:

- Average retired worker: \$1,827 (\$146/month increase)
- Average worker with disabilities: \$1,483 (\$119/month increase)
- Average aged couple, both receiving benefits: \$2,972 (\$238/month increase)
- Average widowed mother and two children: \$3,520 (\$282/month increase)
- Average aged widow(er) with no children: \$1,704 (\$137/month increase)

Most Social Security beneficiaries age 65 and over have their Medicare Part B premium automatically deducted each month. Part B covers outpatient services for eligible beneficiaries. Part B premiums rise almost every year but will actually fall by roughly 3% from \$170.10/month this year to \$164.90/month in 2023. This reduction should allow retirees to retain more of their cost-of-living adjustment than usual.

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

Visit our

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



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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.