

ECHOES

Vol. XLIX No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2015

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks

November 19, 2015 PGPSRA Meeting Highlights

The November 19, 2014 meeting of PGPSRA at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, Maryland provided members an opportunity to hear from local politicians. We heard Dr. Eubanks talk about the vision of the Prince George's County Board of Education that he chairs. We heard Rushern Baker, County Executive, tell us about the improvements he has made in Prince George's County as well as the "life-changing" difference one particular teacher made in his life.



We were also honored to have the MRSPA President, Max Muller and Executive Director, Judith Zahren bring us updates and greetings from our state organization. President Muller noted the change in the governorship and suggested that we should remain cognizant of the legislative process. Ms. Zahren summarized the recent Legislative Workshop held November 13, 2014 at the Senate Office Building in Annapolis and attended by PGPSRA Legislative Chair, Sue Finan, Lorraine Johnson, MRSPA Board of Directors, and this president.

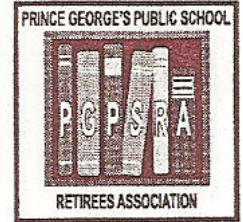
President Muller sent me a thank you note in which he called our meeting "inspiring and uplifting." I feel the same way. Thanks to the Committee Chairs for succinct reports to allow for business and to accommodate our speakers' schedules. The tables were decorated by center--pieces of sunflowers and Maryland flags. I appreciate so much the "team work" that contributed to this uplifting and inspirational meeting. Thank you PGPSRA Executive Board!

My plea going into 2015

We are on the eve of the 2015 Maryland General Assembly that opens January 14, 2015. I am urging all PGPSRA members to be vigilant and informed about legislative issues that affect both active and retired educators. Continue to contact your state delegates and senators before, during, and after the session. Let them know you are a voice for retirees. Express gratitude for our defined benefit pension plan and how retirees on a defined benefit help stabilize the economy particularly in "poor" economic times.

To help us stay abreast of proposed legislation the MRSPA website has been updated to make contacting our legislators easier. The PGPSRA Legislative Chair, Sue Finan has scheduled our annual visit to Annapolis for March 18, 2015. Legislators state they appreciate visits, telephone calls, letters, and emails from their constituents. They need to hear from us. Let our retiree voices be heard.

Norma



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PGCPS Payroll & Benefits Meeting

At our last Payroll & Benefits Collaboration Meeting held on November 6, 2014, the PGCPS Benefits Office informed us that all retirees who are covered under PGCPS board-sponsored benefits (ie, medical, dental, vision, prescription and/or life insurance) will receive a Benefits Confirmation and Summary statement.

This form will provide you with information regarding the benefits you are enrolled in at this time.

If everything is accurate, please retain the statement for your records.

If you have questions, please contact the PGCPS Benefits Office at 301-952-6200.

Addie Martin
Professional Liaison

President Norma Martof with
MRSPA President, Max Muller



JANUARY MEETING!

Calling all crafters and hobbyists!

Let me know what your interests are and reserve a table to show your wares at the January meeting!

Time will be given after lunch for all to mingle and view tables and talk with you about your interests.

bcbrose@comcast.net

Phone: 301 627 1097



PGPSRA

General Meetings

2014-2015 Calendar

September 24—PGCEA CENTER

November 19—Comfort Inn

January 28—PGCEA CENTER

March 25—Comfort Inn

May 27—Comfort Inn

Scholarship Committee

My name is Iyana Hunter and I am studying Elementary Education at Stevenson University. I love my school and I really love the Education program they offer me. My sophomore year, I will be going into the classroom to assist teaching. Therefore I will have the opportunity to experience it first hand and decide if it's really for me. I wanted to teach my whole life because I have a passion for changing lives in the classroom. I'm so excited because now I am only 3 years from actually making that happen.

I have a class load of 13 credits, which includes, Math, English, Sociology, Child Development, and Freshman Seminar. My school separates the seminar classes by major. So I am in a seminar class with all education majors. I absolutely love it because we all have the same goals and mindsets; it's almost as if I was a lost puzzle piece and I found where I belong. My school has this annual Lego Challenge where seminar classes get together and build something with Legos that represents Career Architecture. There are 40 seminar classes/teams, and my class earned 2nd place. Our education class was the first education seminar class in history to place in the Lego Challenge! Our dean was very proud.

As an education major, I was able to go to the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference. This was an experience I will never forget. I learned so much in the sessions I went to that I could apply to my classroom in the future. Attending this conference made me more excited to educate. I made so many connections and received so much information. This was a wonderful conference and I actually won a Starbucks gift card at the raffle. I am looking forward to more conferences.

I love my school and the environment. I feel secure at school and I am getting a valuable education. My professors really care about our learning. At first, I was struggling in my sociology class and my professor reached out to me. We set up appointments throughout the semester so she can better help me understand the lessons so I can better prepare myself for assignments. She has helped me improve so much and I am thankful to have all my professors.

College overall is a wonderful experience and you meet a lot of amazing people. This is where you make your connections for life. College is also not easy. It's so easy for your grades to drop because you don't have many assignments. Every single assignment counts. I recommend studying for each class everyday so the information will be fresh in your head. Also, it is very important to never miss class. You'll be surprised about how much information you'll miss in class. Most professors will help you catch up but you have to show that you want to. Everything isn't handed to you, you have to go get it yourself.

Iyanna was a 2014 scholarship recipient.

Please note that 2015 scholarship application will be in the high schools the week of December 15.

Alveta S. Jones and Delores C. Brown
Co- Scholarship Chairpersons





YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS!

TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$27076.85

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3025.75

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 1970.43

EXPENDITURES - 3417.65

SAVINGS ACCOUNT – NO ACTIVITY

BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 25629.63

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3025.75

TOTAL ASSETS - \$28655.38

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Past President: Lorraine Johnson

(Johnson6608@comcast.net)

Recording Sec.: Joann Sloan (wjsloan@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)

Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

BOE Liaison: Addie Martin

Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)

Consumer Ed. **Open: Interested? Contact Norma!**

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Rose Miller (rabbit183@verizon.net)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (J3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Webmaster: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Mary Isbell (misbell3030@comcast.net)

Parliamentarian: Bill Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)

Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)

Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)

Programs: Bonnie Brose with Maryclaire Dunlap

(beachbkmcd@gmail.com)

Remembrance/Necrology

Jannie Goldston, Chair

Joan Giannetti Bioglio 10/07/2014

Barbara Lois Crescenze 10/05/2014

David Duvall 10/19/2014

John Haslinger 10/14/2014

Alvin Morris Neale 11/22/2014

Rosetta C. Parker 10/29/2014

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on the 6th; and Ms. Anita Yates of Richmond, VA, who will be marking her 95th birthday on the 9th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to: Ms. Orine Cypert of Florence, AL, who will be turning 97 years-old on the 13th; Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring, who will be marking her 96th birthday on Valentine's Day; Mrs. Gwendolyn Sollers of Suitland, who will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 15th; and Mrs. Ann Chotiner of College Park, who will be having her 96th birthday on the 17th.

Anne Kauffman of Temple Hills retired in 2006, as the Clinton Grove Elementary Library Media Specialist. Since then, she has enjoyed babysitting grandchildren, reading, teaching children's Bible Class at Corkran Methodist Church, and "snowbirding" to Florida in the winters. She has experienced travels to China, the Canadian Rockies, Eastern Europe, and sailed on Caribbean cruises. Anne has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Bob LaFlollette retired in 1986, having begun his teaching career at Northwestern High School in 1957 as a teacher of chemistry and photography. His photography interests and expertise grew, and as a result, he was often called upon to make photos of various Board of Education events. Eventually, Bob left Northwestern to become a full-time employee with the Audio-Visual Office located in Bladensburg, that later moved to the Palmer Park Elementary Building. Bob worked with the Public Relations Office recording Board of Education Meetings, new school dedications, graduations, and many news-worthy events. He also produced film-strips and other materials. Video was just beginning to appear, and many workshops for teachers were held to introduce the new technology. Since retiring, Bob has kept busy with a variety of volunteer programs, including the College Park Rotary Club, Woodstream Village Home Owners' Association, and the Citizen's Advisory PGCPD. In 2005 he moved to Fairhaven Retirement Facility in Sykesville, MD, where he stays involved with many activities, such as chairing several committees and serving in positions on the Board of Directors for the Residents' Association. Sadly, Bob's wife died shortly after they relocated. He has two adult children. In 2011 Bob was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame. Since living in Fairhaven, Bob has enjoyed cruises to Alaska, Hawaii, Panama, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic Provinces of Canada.

Roland Johnson of Capitol Heights retired from the Bowie Bus Lot in 2001. Before becoming a bus driver, Roland acquired an M.A Education degree; however, after three weeks as a substitute teacher, he decided to be a bus driver! Roland also has been a private plane pilot for over 50 years. He retired as an Air Force Reservist, having served from 1952 through 1994. He is also a retired Federal Personnel Officer with time spent as a Federal Investigator between 1959 and 1984. His father was a WWI Vet, three older brothers were WWII Vets, and his three younger brothers fought in the Korean Cold War conflict.

Roland grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, the ninth of eleven children (eight surviving). Since February, he has spent most of his time back in Shreveport, caring for his 93 year-old brother and his 98 year-old wife. At 80 years of age, Roland is still confidently driving himself across country. He has one brother who retired as a teacher from the Nashville, TN. school system, and a daughter in this area, who teaches for Excel Academy. He has two other daughters who hold advanced degrees.

Roland has documented his family history beginning with his great-grandmother, who was 16 when slavery ended in 1865. She was fathered by her slave master's son, who was killed during the Civil War Battle of Vicksburg. His great-grandmother stayed on in a servant status with her white grandmother, along with her mother and her mother's husband. Roland's great-grandmother's mother was one of 12 slaves brought to LA. in 1837 by a white son of the Minniefield family of Georgia, to homestead one of the 500 acre -land grants in the new LA. territory. His great-grandmother married Frank Hall, a mulatto fathered by his slave master on the adjoining farm. They had 16 children, one of whom was his grandmother. The son of his great-grandmother's slave master was the executor of his mother's will, who left Roland's grandmother 90 acres of the homestead land. His grandfather inherited the blacksmith shop from his white father, as well as, a syrup mill. People would bring loads of sugar cane to the farm to be squeezed into syrup. Neighborhood drunks would hang around the barrels of the top syrup water drained from the boiling vats - a source of cheap rum!

Many of Roland's grandmother's children migrated to California, Oregon, Kansas City and Detroit during the Black Migration of the 1940's, as employment was plentiful in the shipyards and auto factories.

As Roland says, "This is a piece of American history, not found in the history books."

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

We will soon have a facebook



DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your
MRSPA website

for special offers for you.



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE
THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS:

COMMUNITY SERVICE

HELEN BUTLER

SCHOLARSHIP

THELMA BOYD

MILDRED EVANS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

On November 13, Norma Martof, Lorraine Johnson and I attended the MRSPA Legislative Workshop in Annapolis. The guest speakers focused on the benefits of defined benefit pension plans. Kelly Kenneally from the National Institute on Retirement Security emphasized the economic stabilizing effect pensions have.

Pensions are not subject to fluctuations in the economy.

When we spend our money, the economy improves and jobs are created.

Several speakers encouraged members to add a personal story to letters written to legislators. Note how your spending has a direct effect on helping the economy. To learn more about the workshop please refer to the MRSPA website. Log in and browse the publications section.

Our participation in legislative matters is so very important. Please plan to attend our Legislative trip to Annapolis on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. You may sign up at our next PGPSRA meeting or by contacting me.

sfinan77@gmail.com



These are the honorees at the Maryland Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame luncheon this year who are members of MRSPA. Our very own Don Conway and Delores Brown are 3rd and 4th from the left.

TRIPS

The following activities are being considered by the Trips Committee:

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater

Lancaster, PA

Funny Girl- March 26 to May 2

Oklahoma—June 18 to Aug. 1

A Mighty Fortress in our Basement

Sept. 24—Nov. 7

Rainbow Dinner Theater

Squabbles—Jan. 23 to March 21

Good Night Mrs. Puffin—Oct. 31 to Dec. 27

Toby's Dinner Theatre

Mary Poppins—Jan. 1 to Feb. 1

1776—Apr. 23 to July 5

Contact Charles Hudson if you are inter-

Community Services

PGPSRA

November 19, 2014

“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”

The Community Services Committee is off and running with zeal and enthusiasm!! They serviced 312 families in the Central Area for the school year 2013-2014. This year, they are serving schools in the Southern Area. The schools are:

Forest Heights Elementary

Fort Washington Forest Elementary

J. Frank Dent Elementary

Potomac High

Thurgood Marshall Middle

With your continued support, they hope to service at least 400 families. There is a great need in our schools.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Toys for Tots program at the November meeting. This new project was suggested by our President, Dr. Norma Martof.

Ethel Brown, Chair

PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 28 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center

Forestville, MD

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$10.00 for each lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by Jan. 21 mail delivery!)

**** I WOULD LIKE A TABLE TO SHOW MY CRAFTS/HOBBIES _____**



PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest
7908 Klovstad Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

Join us In January

Plan to Be There!
November 28
11:00 A.M.
PGCEA Center
\$10.00

