

# ECHOES

Vol. XLIX No. 4      The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2015

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

## The President Speaks



PGPSRA's meeting January 28, 2015 was a huge hit. The hobbies and crafts were delightful. Members were able to interact and share their hobbies and/or crafts. Bill Brose builds and plays harps while Charlie Hudson builds train tracks for model trains to run. Charline Jacob collects teddy bears. Sue Finan throws clay to produce beautiful pottery. Ruth Asbury builds terrariums and Carol Newman showed quilts with gorgeous designs. Displayed across the stage were tri-folds depicting years of Black History Memorabilia collected by Don Conway.

Thank you for buying all of the MRSPA raffle tickets to benefit the scholarships to be awarded at the annual meeting in May. We will get 30 more to sell at our March meeting. Members signed up for several opportunities to support PGPSRA activities. We will help register participants at the Pre-Retirement Conference on March 14, 2015 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Additionally, members signed up to be delegates to the Annual Meeting on May 12, 2015 as well as to attend the play, 1776 at Toby's Theater and attend PGPSRA Lobby Day in Annapolis on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Pension Reform and Retirees' Benefits

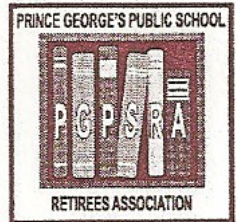
January 29, 2015 I attended a briefing on pensions at MSEA headquarters by Randy Meekins. The GOOD news is that Governor Hogan supports working toward full funding of the MSRPS by putting in the legislatively mandated amount of \$150 million of the previously required \$300 million to the fund. The fund is now nearly 80% funded and is recovering steadily. This session there are 70 freshmen in the Maryland Legislature—eight of them are Delegates in Prince George's County. Our Defined Benefits pension plan must be defended against a Defined Contribution retirement plan.

Pension reform shifted a portion of costs back to the local boards of education. According to Meekins this cost is more than originally calculated due to certain assumptions about the return on investments by the pension fund. In the news February 2<sup>nd</sup>, cuts to education by the Governor amount to \$144 million across the state. The cut in state aid to government for Prince George's County is \$45 million of the designated \$1.3 billion.

According to MRSPA President Max Muller the BAD News is that proposed cuts to educational funding to local boards are of great concern. Muller says retirees need to be extremely vigilant and lobby and/or work with the Benefits Office, Superintendent, and Board of Education to ensure that our health benefits are not jeopardized.

Numbers do count. We must continue to make our retiree voices heard. Contact your legislators before, during, and after the session. Contact your County Council representative and Board of Education representatives also.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Norma Martof



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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

I am pleased to welcome Brenda Barnes who was brought to our January meeting by Lorraine Johnson . Brenda not only joined PGPSRA but stated that she would willingly join me on the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. Special thanks to Brenda. She knows that to make an organization successful members need to not only join and attend meetings but should become ACTIVE on the committees -the bones that hold the organization together.

Something to think about: **Community Service , Scholarships and - as of the last meeting- Membership; are the only committees that have more than one member. The others -BOE Liaison- - Consumer Ed. - Historian- Inspirations- Legislation- Newsletter- Webmaster-**

Recognition- Remembrance- -Trips- Programs **are staffed with only( 1) one person. There is something wrong with this picture. Please consider how you might change it? You don't have to wait until the March meeting to sign on, decide which committee you could work on and contact the person named in the section titled**

### Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

Our Treasurer, Dr. Ed Vest always can give a list of reasons for being a member of PGPSRA: PGCEA members work to protect our pensions and provide school supplies and shoes and clothing to needy students. We provide prom needs and give 5 grads college scholarships each year. Charles Hudson leads us with interesting and enjoyable trips We give information to BOE workers who are nearing retirement at their pre-retirement meetings. Talk with Ed at the next meeting, he can lengthen this list. Best thing is that you get all this for only \$15.00 dues each year. Finally , you get to make new or renew old friendships as you enjoy low cost lunches at each meeting.

Several members added to the January meeting- they shared their hobbies and collections on over 11 tables. Now we know more about these members and I hope you will let the officers know if this event should be planned next year because YOU have something to share.

While speaking of reasons to attend meetings I forgot one important item.....this year two (2) \$25.00 door prizes are given out at each meeting. Charles Hudson and Carolyn Sullivan are the members who went home smiling in January. Two will be given in March and in May...COME ON OUT....You could go home smiling too.

We will be looking for you.

Membership Committee,

Charline Jacob

Brenda Barnes



### Necrology/Remembrance - Jannie Goldston

Phyllis D. Anderson	11/24/2014	Edythe Bolton	(date unknown)
William H. Clark	11/23/2014	Erma Louise Hooper Gibson	12/27/2014
Mary L. Gault	12/27/2014	Richard Hanrahan	12/30/2014
Linda Phillips	12/30/2014	David H. Pitts	08/30/2014
Fred Rummage	11/13/2014	Helene Wise	(date unknown)

## Scholarship Committee

Members of the Scholarship Committee have been calling and visiting Senior High School Guidance Counselors as a follow-up after the 2015 Scholarship applications were delivered to the schools during the week of December 15, 2014. At the same time the application was placed on our website by our webmaster, Dr. William Brose. Again thanks to the Scholarship Committee members and our webmaster for your help. We hope that many seniors will complete the applications correctly and return them to the Prince George's County Scholarship Fund, Inc. President on or before the February 27th deadline. We also thank PGPSRA members who have shared the scholarship information with relatives and friend and to those of you who contribute to the Scholarship Fund.

In our January edition of ECHOES, one of our 2014 scholarship recipients, shared with us. This month, two other 2014 recipients are briefly sharing. Jenna Isaac is a 2011 graduate of Suitland High School and Lauren Wynn is a 2013 graduate of Oxon Hill High School. She received a scholarship award for 2013 and 2014.

My name is Jenna Isaac and I am a senior at Coppin State University located in Baltimore, Maryland. I am majoring in Elementary Education and will be graduating May 16, 2015. I have been accepted into the the student teaching program and I began my student teaching on January 26, 2015 at John Eager Howard Elementary School in Baltimore City. I am teaching Reading and Social Studies to students in grades 3 for the next seven weeks. Then I will be assigned to another grade for eight more weeks. I find it exciting and I am really convinced that this is what I really want to do. I am applying to the following school systems for a job: Prince George's, Howard, Montgomery, Charles and Anne Arundel. After a few years of teaching, I plan to get my Master's Degree.

During my senior year, I have been serving as the Student Government Vice President. On November 16, 2014 I was initiated into the Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. I have maintained a cumulative grade point of 3.707 and have been on the Dean's List. My grade point for the past fall semester is 4.0.

Thanks again for my scholarship award.

My name is Lauren Wynn. I am currently a second semester sophomore at Florida Memorial University. During my time here at Florida Memorial University, I have learned so much and have had the opportunity to experience many new things. I achieved my goal of making the Deans List my freshman year with a GPA of 3.92 and continue to strive for a 4.0. I have also joined the Future Educators of America (FEA), an organization whose members are aspiring to become future teachers. As of this new year, I have officially started my education courses pertaining to my major. I am glad I made the choice to come to Florida Memorial University, and cannot say thank you enough to the PGPSRA for helping me in my endeavor to complete my college education.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Wynn

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

## TRAVELS WITH CHARLES

### “1776 The Musical”

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Toby's Dinner Theatre, Columbia

\$75/per person

Prices includes: show, dinner, coffee and tea, gratuity at Toby's and the cost of the bus. Deadline: March 15. Check to PGPSRA-TOURS to: Charles L. Hudson, hunter Glen Apt. 319, 3154 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Bus at Riderwood at 9:20 am and at Forest Memorial United Methodist at 8:45 am. Call 301 572 9778 for more details.



## YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS!

### TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY – 2015

#### OPENING BALANCES :

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$24348.10  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3025.75

#### ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 871.08  
EXPENDITURES - 3030.99

#### ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST - 0.38

#### BALANCES AS OF JANUARY 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 22188.19  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3026.13  
TOTAL ASSETS - \$25214.32

E.VEST

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following members to the Community Service Committee:

HELEN BUTLER  
LINDA BUTLER  
MARYCLAIRE DUNLAP  
CLAUDIA FARRELL  
SUSAN FORTGANG  
JANNIE GOLDSTON

Thank you.

E. Vest



### 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)

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **March** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring, who will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 1st; Ms. Ethel Perazzoli of El Cajon, CA. who will be marking her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; **Mrs. Pauline Story Banks of Alexandria, VA, who is turning 101 on the 11<sup>th</sup>**; and Mrs. Carrie Reid of Suitland, who will be having her 93rd birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **April** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Carolyn Cooper of Ft Belvoir, VA, who will be celebrating her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Dorothy McGinnis of Leland, NC., who will be marking her 96th birthday on the 12th; Mrs. Edna Gore of Cheverly, who will be having her 95th birthday on the 19th; Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY, who will be turning 98 on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and Alvetta Jones of Landover, will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 25th.

Elizabeth "Jean" Langston retired from High Point High School, the office of Guidance Counselor, in 1994. Along with reading and research, she has become involved in volunteer work as Director of the Frederick Douglas Museum and Cultural Center in Highland Beach, MD. (near Annapolis), volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis, the Annapolis High School Young Achievers organization, and serving as Chairperson for the Board of Elections in Highland Beach, MD. Jean and her husband, Ray, who live in Annapolis, celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in November 2014. They have three adult children and three grandchildren, including one granddaughter, Nisa, who is currently teaching kindergarten at Monarch Academy in Laurel. Jean and Ray have traveled extensively to Mexico, Canada, Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, West Africa, Morocco, Tangiers, the United Arab Emirates, China, Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, and sailed on Mediterranean, Baltic Sea, and the Panama Canal Cruises.

Edward (Ed) Klahr of Dunkirk, MD, retired as an art teacher from Eugene Burroughs Middle School in 2007. Since that time, he has been substituting in the Prince George's County school system. Ed is a member of the Chesapeake Community Chorus. He enjoys golf, gardening, church involvement, and travel. His travels have taken him to Alaska, Ireland, Arizona, and Florida. Ed and his wife, Evelyn, have been married 42 years. They have two adult sons, two grandsons and three granddaughters.

You can find these Prince George's County school retirees walking daily in the Frostburg area: Ralph Bender (retired from Benjamin Tasker in 1989), Darrell Harden (retired from Benjamin Tasker in 1989), Kay Nelson (retired from Northwestern in 1991), and Joan Lewis (retired from Riverdale Elementary in 2010). Ralph and Kay supervise the Frostburg Museum on Fridays in warm weather. Drop by and visit with them from noon until 4:00 p.m.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [jannettewundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannettewundrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324 (Bowie).

## SUCCESS !

Our hobbies and crafts sharing was a great success! Thank you to: Charles Hudson, Don Conway, Sue Finan, Carol Newman, Charline Jacob, Bill Brose and Ruth Asbury for bringing your wares. Due to space here, you need to go to our website for photos. ([www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org))

## VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and  
[www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)

We will soon have a facebook



## DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your  
MRSPA website  
for special offers for you.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Together Everyone Achieves More!

Happy New Year! We, the members of the Community Services, are thankful for all of your support!

Our projects are well received and beneficial. There is a vast need in the County!! We are fortunate to be able to give a helping hand towards those in need.

Whenever the "Teams" visit with the Share Baskets, tears of joy are seen. Hugs and thanks are shared.

In order to reach more families (312 last year), we still need your monetary donations.

We are serving schools in the Southern area this year. They are:

Forest Heights Elem, Fort Washington Forest Elem., j. Frank Dent Elem., Potomac High School  
and Thurgood Marshall Middle.

Again, thanks for all you do.

Ethel L. Brown, Chair

**"TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!"**

### 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



#### FRED RUMMAGE

We remember our old friend Fred Rummage who passed away this fall. Fred was the Executive Director for PGCEA and a former Maryland delegate (1966-1986). He was the mayor of Colonial Beach, VA until shortly before his death.

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT WANTED!**

WE DO NOT HAVE A MEMBER WHO HAS COME TO US TO VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER FOR NEXT YEAR AS PRESIDENT. CONTACT PRESIDENT MARTOF IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.





## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Delegate Jay Walker, chair of the Prince George's County delegation, was a guest on the afternoon news on January 26<sup>th</sup>. He addressed the issue of education funding in the state as a high priority especially in Prince George's county. Governor Hogan has stated that the GCEI requirement in the state school funding formula will be cut between \$20 and \$40 million for Prince George's county. Delegate Walker said that there is work to be done. He also spoke about the building of the Purple Line, which would connect Prince George's and Montgomery counties. Local funds are necessary to meet the goal. The Federal funding has been acquired. However, if the Purple Line is not built, the Federal funds revert back to the government; they may not be used for another project. The money would be lost to Maryland. Governor Hogan has not acted on this piece at this time.

Delegate Walker was pleased that monies will be allocated for the planned Regional Hospital in Largo.

Our own Legislative trip to Annapolis is on Wednesday March 18, 2015. You still have plenty of time to sign up or email me at [sfinan77@gmail.com](mailto:sfinan77@gmail.com). MRSPA will guide you when you wish to communicate with your legislators. To access the **MRSPA** website and discover what's happening in your organization, click on the internet explorer, or yahoo, then type in [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org) on the left side of the page will be many headings, from which you may choose to click on and find up to date information about all aspects of MRSPA.

### Finding Your Local Legislators

Click on internet explorer, or yahoo, then type in <http://mdelect.net/> Look half way down the page for this language "Find your Federal and State Elected Officials". Fill in your address in the address blank. Click on the text "Find elected officials". The listing of your local legislators will appear on the left side of the page.

### Contacting Your Legislators

1 -When calling your legislator in Annapolis, dial toll-free: 301-970-5400, or 410-946-5400, and ask to be connected to the office of your legislator.

2 -When e-mailing your Delegate, type in your delegate's name with a period separating the first and last name (Michael.busch) and add [@house.state.md.us](mailto:@house.state.md.us) (\*The final e-mail address would then read [Michael.busch@house.state.md.us](mailto:Michael.busch@house.state.md.us)) OR when e-mailing your Senator, type in your senator's name with a period separating the first and last name (george.edwards) and add [@senate.state.md.us](mailto:@senate.state.md.us) (\*The final e-mail address would read [Joanne.benson@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Joanne.benson@senate.state.md.us))

3- When hand-writing your legislator, you would need to call the Annapolis toll-free number to ask his/her specific building and room number, though the ending would be Annapolis, Maryland, 21401-1991.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

### PGPSRA Reservation Form

March 25 at 11:00 A.M.

Comfort Inn

Bowie, MD (off rt. 301 near rt. 50)

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$25.00 for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by March 17 mail delivery!)**

## PGPSRA

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

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



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**We're on the web!**  
[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)

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## Join us In March

**Plan to Be There!**  
**March 25**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**Comfort Inn**  
**\$25.00**

