



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXXIII No. 5

May 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a very eventful year in PGPSRA. We now have a website and can get our information quickly and often ... and with a lot less expense than in the past. We are also connected there to our supporting organizations. If you have not already visited our website, grab a computer and go to www.pgpsra.org. I think you will be pleased with what you find.

Please plan to attend our May meeting at Riderwood Village in Silver Spring for the installation of officers for 2010-2011. We are being sponsored at Riderwood by our member, Charlie Hudson, who is making it possible to have this venue at a reasonable cost. Sign-up information and directions are elsewhere in this issue of Echoes.

Many of you know that I am resigning my position as President of PGPSRA in order to be able to perform my duties as President of Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. I leave you in the good hands of Carl Lancaster and our other excellent officers and committee chairpersons. Furthermore, I'm not going away... I'll be at our general meetings to see all of you.

Bonnie Brose

MARCH PRIZE WINNERS

Grand Door Prize Dotson Burns
50/50 Scholarship Raffle Karie McClellan

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Special thanks to thirty-four PGPSRA members who participated in our annual **Legislative Day in Annapolis** on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. We were recognized from the floor of the House and the Senate, and made our presence known throughout the day. Fifteen of our Prince George's legislators and two legislative aides, along with one delegate from Montgomery County, stopped by during lunch to speak briefly to our members in attendance. As you know, Delegate James Proctor, who is also a retired teacher, sponsored this trip for us. Senator Mike Miller arranged for his personal photographer to take our group's picture on the State House steps. He provided photos for each of the attendees pictured, along with a note saying how pleased he was "to welcome our fine group to the State House." On March 24, 2010, Senator Mike Miller's Senate Bill 959, which would shift 50% of the funding of the Maryland Retirement/Pension System to local jurisdictions, was to be heard. However, it was quietly withdrawn the day before, eliminating any opportunity for us and others to publicly oppose Senate Bill 959. Instead, it appears that the Budget and Taxation Committee, at Senator Miller's request, met and amended the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2010 to put the resultant shifting of funding change into the Governor's budget, anyway! This action was firmly opposed by the House Appropriations Committee, which asked for a delay in the shifting of funding in order to assess what the cost will be to each county and Baltimore City.

NOMINEES FOR PGPSRA OFFICERS

2010 -

2011

A final vote was not available on this controversial action until after our publication deadline. We do know that eventually (perhaps within the next year or two) the local jurisdictions are going to have to figure out how to pay for this added expense. When it is enacted, it will begin with newly hired teachers. It will **NOT** affect our retirement/pension checks.

House Bill 926, which Delegate James Proctor sponsored for MRSPA, received a favorable vote in the House, but no final vote has been taken in the Senate as of our newsletter deadline. This bill would give MRSPA permission to send out a “blind mailing” to new retirees of the Maryland Retirement/Pension System, who are not presently members of our organization, inviting them to join us.

A solution concerning the less than 1% Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded in mid-January by the United States Department of Labor, on which our yearly (July) COLAs are based, was still being discussed at our newsletter deadline. The General Assembly was deciding how the Maryland Retirement/Pension System would treat the resulting negative COLA. Most likely this July 1st, we will receive a 0% COLA, and an adjustment would be made in our COLAs during the following years when there is a CPI increase.

A most appreciative “thank you” goes to all our members who have contacted legislators during this legislative session, to let them know of our support or opposition to bills that were being proposed.

Delegate Proctor, District 27, received a special legislative commendation in March. It was the Matthias Award for demonstrating an outstanding spirit of bipartisanship. For those of us who know Jim personally, this was easy to understand, as he is a most congenial individual and politician.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

President	Carl Lancaster
Recording Secretary	Joann Sloan
Corresponding Secretary	Courtney Pringle
Treasurer	Ed Vest

TREASURER’S REPORT

The treasurer’s report for March 2010 is as follows:

Opening Balance:

Checking Account	\$21496.38
Savings Account	\$ 3017.82

Checking Account:

Receipts	\$ 2214.87
Expenditures	\$ 2856.22
Balance as of March 31:	\$20855.03

Savings Account	No Activity
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Total Assets as of March 31, 2010:

Checking Account	\$20855.03
Savings Account	\$ 3017.82
Total Assets:	\$23872.85

E. Vest, Treasurer

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Four graduating seniors are being notified that they are recipients of a \$2000.00 memorial scholarship from Prince George's Public School Retirees Association. These four persons are committed to teaching/education. They are as follows:

Airelle Campbell - Surratsville High School – Elementary Education - Cheyney State University – PA

Ashley Arscott – Huntington High School – Music Education – Towson State University, MD

Amanda Waller – South River High School – Elementary Education – Anne Arundel Community College – MD

Allison Walls – Elizabeth Seton High School – Early Childhood Education – Towson State University, MD

This is the first year since I have served on the Prince George's Scholarship Fund, Inc. that we have not had the number of applicants eligible to receive the five scholarships as included in our budget. Only one of the applicants met all five requirements.

Two of the criteria require that the applicant must be a high school senior or a graduate of a Prince George's County public high school, or a continuing student majoring in education from Prince George's County. In that three applicants did not meet the criteria and that their parents are employees of the Prince George's County Police Department, the members of the Scholarship Fund were interested in knowing if we would reconsider our requirements since we had only one applicant.

This matter was brought to the attention of the Executive Committee in March. After discussion, it was agreed that if the three applicants met the other three criteria to receive the award, the Scholarship Fund members could consider awarding each one of the PGPSRA memorial scholarships of \$2000.00 each. Thus, the four persons named above will receive our scholarships, once they follow the instructions for receiving the scholarship money.

Thanks to all members who support our budget, since our scholarship budget item is \$10,000.00. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets and made personal donations to the scholarship fund. These monies go toward a sixth \$2000.00 scholarship. We hope that we will have six or more applicants for 2011.

Alveta S. Jones, Scholarship Chairperson

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Once there was a little boy watching an old man plant apple trees. After watching for a while, he said, "You will never eat any of those apples because you're too old, so why plant them?" the old man answered, "Somebody will, maybe even you."

Our actions today can make a difference and have long-lasting, positive impacts if we give generously and unconditionally. By providing school supplies, toiletries, clothing, shoes, food and other assistance to children who attend Melwood Elementary School and G. James Gholson Middle School, we have made a difference during the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Forty-two children shopped for shoes of their choice on March 20th, when we conducted our annual shoe project at Payless shoe store in Forestville. Seven families were provided fresh food baskets for Easter, and four seniors at Frederick Douglass High School will be assisted with graduation fees and outfitted with prom attire. The children and parents expressed their most heartfelt thanks for all the services provided them. For this, we are very happy!

It is with much sadness that we inform you of the death of Doris Porsche, longtime member of this committee and past recording secretary. Doris was eulogized on April 1, 2010, at Allen Chapel AME Church in Washington, DC.

Gretel James, Newsletter Writer

TRAVEL UPDATE

The next one-day trip is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2010. We will go to the Sight and Sound Theater in Strasburg, PA, to see the biblical show *Joseph*, based on his life. The show starts at 1:00 p.m. After the show we will go to Hershey Farm Restaurant for an Amish buffet dinner at about 4:15 p.m. We will return to Maryland after dinner. The cost is \$115.00 per person and includes round-trip bus fare, bus driver tip, the show *Joseph*, the dinner, and all taxes. We must have thirty people for this trip to go; however, we can take as many as forty-five. Checks should be made out to PGPSRA - Tours and mailed to Mr. Hudson, 3154 Gracefield Road, Hunter Glen #319, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The deadline is May 8, 2010, as the theater must be paid thirty days ahead. Any questions? Call Mr. Hudson at 301.572.9778.

Allure of the Seas

In 2011, the Prince George's retirees in Florida are celebrating their 25th year of annual gatherings aboard the newest and largest cruise ship – Royal Caribbean's *Allure of the Seas*. They welcome you, your friends, and family members to join them for fun and fellowship. The trip dates are March 6 – March 13, 2011. For details and booking, contact: Sharon Oliphant, CTC, DS – at AAA Auto Club South – 941.627.1544, Ext. 265. This notice comes from Donald Kiah, your 2011 host.

College Park Aviation Museum Tour

Bob Kovalchik invites you to join him on the College Park Aviation Museum Tour of the United Kingdom, which features the Battle of Britain Air Show. It is a nine day tour, departing from BWI-Marshall Airport on September 1, 2010. The price is \$2,899.00 based on 20 – 24 travelers and twin room accommodations. Call 301.864.6029 for a detailed itinerary, or visit their website at www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.org.

SECURITY CHECK

At the PGPSRA general meeting on March 24, the session on protecting ourselves from fraud and scams was an eye-opening experience for some attendees. Perhaps some of our readers can benefit from their discovery also. If you are a member of our credit union, look at your account number. Is it the same as your social security number? If so, each time you write a personal check, you send out your social security number for anyone to see - a potential risk in this day of widespread fraud and identity theft. It is, however, very easy to close this loophole. Just go to the credit union, ask for a form for a number change, fill it out, and they will make the change immediately. (You may also call, request the form, fill it out, and return it by mail.) It takes only fifteen minutes or so, but it closes one more possible avenue to identity theft. Finally, always remember not to write your social security number on your checks or give it out indiscriminately.

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **May** birthday wishes to Eileen Henderson of Bowie, MD, who will be celebrating her 96th year on the 23rd.

Happy **June** birthday wishes to Ellen Kendrick of Waldorf, MD, who will be celebrating her 91st this month, along with Juanita Lee of Columbia, SC, who will be turning 91 on the 10th; Esther Vogle of Falls Church, VA, who will be marking her 99th on the 11th; and Grace Grant, of Denver, NC, who is going to be 92 years old on the 29th. Happy **July** birthday wishes to two Maryland ladies: Sylvia Rothstein of Chevy Chase, who will be having her 98th celebration on the 2nd; and Alice Konze of Oxon Hill, who will be marking her 90th year on the 31st.

Happy **August** birthday wishes to Dr. Allan Chotiner of College Park, MD, who will be celebrating his 95th year on the 26th.

Mabel Dominey retired from Employee Services in 1985 and moved to Asheville, NC the following year. Later she relocated to Melbourne, FL, where she worked as an Enrolled Agent of Internal Revenue and Master Tax Advisor for the past 23 years. This is a very challenging job, as tax laws change constantly. Mabel enjoys playing Bridge in the summer in both Asheville and Henderson, NC. She has traveled with a Melbourne, FL, group to national parks out West, and on a very special trip to the Hawaiian Islands to spend the Millennium New Year's Eve on the beach in Maui. Mabel has two adult children; one lives in Richmond, VA, and the other in Stansbury Park, Utah, along with her two grandchildren and one great grandson.

BITS AND PIECES

Anna Dixon of Crofton, MD, retired in 1980 from Kenilworth and Tulip Grove Elementary Schools as the first guidance counselor in Bowie. Previously, she had taught in Missouri and Colorado and had helped to start the first GED classes for the Air Force in Germany. She started a Red Hat group for fun several years ago, that has continued to grow. Anna is past president of both the Crofton Village Club and the Crofton Area Retired Persons. She is a weekly bowler, belongs to a senior travel group, and participates in several Bridge groups (both party and duplicate), and does volunteer work at her church. Anna has traveled extensively and has been to most countries and all 50 states. She has lived in Germany and spent two winters in Spain. On her most recent trip, she flew to Rome and boarded a cruise ship that sailed to Athens, Greece, through the Greek Islands, to Turkey, and back to Rome. Sadly, Anna lost her husband several years ago. She has four adult children and eight grandchildren, all of whom live within 25 miles of her.

Agatha (Delorise) Dougans of Washington, DC, retired from Buck Lodge Middle School in 1988. Her real joy in life has been to work with children.

After retiring, she did substitute teaching in elementary and middle schools. She also worked with the teen parenting program at Northwestern High School. Agatha celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary in 2007, and sadly, lost her husband the following year. Together they had three daughters, five granddaughters, and one great grandson.

Shelva Angle retired from Northwestern High School in 1994, and two years later moved to Hanover, PA, to assist her ailing mother. Shelva lives in a home she built on the family farm. She has done both long and short term substitute teaching at New Oxford High School. Her passion is flea market shopping, and she claims to have raided every flea market within a 50 mile range of her home. Her present collection focuses on German doll room boxes and early doll furniture. Shelva has participated in travels with Parkdale (MD) High School staff to Italy, Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Greece –where she was in a ship wreck. Shelva has one married daughter and two granddaughters living in Laurel, MD. She would enjoy reconnecting with those teachers with whom she taught in Prince George's County.

River, through many small towns, giving all of the friends a chance to shop and explore both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Patricia Carlton retired in 1993 from Bowie High School, and worked for the next three years at the Library of Congress. She also went back to college and obtained her Master of Library Science degree. Patricia moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2007. There she serves as a volunteer docent at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and at Ghost Ranch, where Georgia O'Keeffe lived. She also works to preserve and protect endangered prairie dogs. Patricia has enjoyed travels to Costa Rica and several European countries.

Alice Hutchinson of Lanham (our PGPSRA Newsletter Editor), and her daughter took a two-week tour of Italy in October, as a joint birthday celebration. The tour began on the beautiful Amalfi Coast, a hair-raising thirty-two mile stretch of coastline from Sorrento to Salerno. The views were simply spectacular! Other highlights included visiting the wonderfully preserved Pompeii, dining on the Via Veneto, standing in awe in front of Michelangelo's Pieta and David, making pasta at the Culinary Institute in Orvieto, wine tasting in Tuscany, and learning to navigate the subway in Rome and the canals of Venice. Alice says, "These few sentences barely begin to describe the many wonderful experiences we enjoyed." A knowledgeable tour guide introduced Alice and her daughter to many other places of historical, cultural, and artistic importance, but still allotted them time to explore on their own. Every day brought something new, different, amazing, and fun.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jannette Wundrow at jannetewundrow@comcast.net or 1007 Packton Lane, Bowie, MD 20716.

NECROLOGY

Patricia Bagley	03-11-10
John M. Hagan	03-07-10
Richard W. Marion, Sr.	02-16-10
Robert C. McCless	02-28-10
Ruth G. Moss	02-08-10
Charles W. Pinkney	03-07-10
Ruth Ward	

Jannie Goldston, Chair

PGPSRA LUNCHEON

Date: May 26, 2010

Time: 11:00 A. M.

Place: Riderwood
3140 Gracefield Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Cost: \$25.00

Please mail your reservation form with a check for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward N. Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20904.
Reservations are due May 19, 2010

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Lunches Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Names of Guests: _____

NOTICE:

PGPSRA members who live in Riderwood cannot use the May 26 luncheon meeting as their meal of the day. You must send Dr Vest the same as everyone else if you wish to attend this meeting, as we hope you will do.

DIRECTIONS TO RIDERWOOD

From PGCEA Building:

1. Take the Capital Beltway (1-95 N) toward Baltimore/College Park.
2. Come off the Beltway at US-1 exit (Exit 25)
3. Turn left onto US-1 (Baltimore Avenue)
4. Make a slight right turn onto Cherry Hill Road.
5. Go to the third traffic light.
6. Turn right onto Clover Patch Drive.
7. At the end of Clover Patch Drive Drive, you will be facing the entrance to Riderwood.
8. Look for arrows for the visitors' parking lot, where you will catch a shuttle bus to the luncheon site in the Town Center's Celebration Room. **Shuttle service for PGPSRA members will be provided from 10:00 to 11:30 and from 1:30 to 2:30.**

A THOUGHT FOR THESE STRESSFUL TIMES

If you have a clear conscience and good health,
If you have good friends and a happy home,
If your heart has kept its youth and your soul its
honesty, then cheer up –
You are one of life's fortunate millionaires.

PGPSRA PROPOSED BUDGET 2010 – 2011

CATEGORY	CURRENT BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET
	2009-2010	2010-2011
Archives	100.00	100.00
Awards & Recognition	100.00	150.00
Operational	500.00	500.00
President	100.00	100.00
Secretarial	50.00	50.00
MRSPA Meetings	2000.00	500.00
Treasurer	50.00	50.00
Newsletter/Publications	7000.00	7500.00
Consumer Education	500.00	500.00
Hospitality	1000.00	1000.00
Legislative	1350.00	1350.00
Membership	400.00	600.00
Program	1000.00	1000.00
Remembrance	100.00	100.00
Community Service	4000.00	4000.00
Convention Gift	50.00	0.00
Scholarship	10000.00	10000.00
Contingency Fund	500.00	1300.00
GRAND TOTALS	28800.00	28800.00
ESTIMATED INCOME	28800.00	
Dues from members @ \$15.00 per member		
Estimated membership of 1600		24000.00
From Checking Account		4800.00
TOTAL		28800.00

**FROM YOUR *ECHOES*
STAFF**

Have a safe, happy summer.
Check out our new website –
www.pgpsra.org to keep
informed.
Submit articles for the
September *Echoes* by August
1, 2010
(ahutchinson00@hotmail.com)

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3 Executive Board
 Meeting PGCEA
 Building 10:00 a.m.

May 26 General
 Meeting
 Riderwood 11:00
 a.m.