



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV No. 5

May 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Through the personal involvement of its members, the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association has been actively engaged in a number of important activities during the 2010 – 2011 membership year.

Continuing to perform at an outstanding level, the Community Services Committee conducted successful coat drives and shoe drives for youngsters in need of these articles of clothing.

PGPSRA's Scholarship Committee will be awarding over \$13,000 in scholarships to at least six students later this spring.

The ECHOES newsletter has provided current information to members every other month in a clear, easily understood format.

PGPSRA has had an ongoing presence in Annapolis during this year's legislative session. The Board of Directors, at its meeting in June 2010, adopted "an enhanced presence and involvement with the legislature" as a goal for this year. Included in the association's activities calendar for this year were visits to Prince George's County legislators' offices in January, February and March, 2011. Most recently, thirty-five of our members spent about one-half day on March 16 in

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Special thanks go to thirty-four PGPSRA members who participated in our annual Legislative Day in Annapolis on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. We were recognized from the floor of the House and Senate. Seven of our Prince George's County legislators and six aides representing other legislators, along with County Executive Rushern Baker, stopped by during lunch to speak briefly with our members in attendance. Delegate James Proctor of District 27, who is also a member of our organization, sponsored this trip for us. Senator Mike Miller arranged for his personal photographer to take a photo of everyone on the State House steps.

The Maryland General assembly concluded on April 11th. As you may remember, Maryland was facing a \$1.6 billion budget deficit as of January 1, 2011. The General Assembly was looking for ways to conquer this deficit. Deep cuts in education were proposed, as well as increased taxes on gasoline and alcohol. The suggestion to shift part of the funding of pension costs to the counties is still a prominent topic. There were several suggestions made for active and newly hired teachers in order for them to keep their current retirement benefits. All involved added payroll contributions and years of service. Unfortunately, because Prince George's County will receive considerably fewer dollars from the state in their 2012 budget, many educational staff positions will be eliminated. The federal government also played a part in the county's education budget by eliminating funding for

Annapolis.

From time-to-time, the General Membership Meetings are used to educate the members on important and relevant topics. The main presentation at the March 23rd meeting dealt with "Eldercare" and a wealth of valuable information was reviewed with those in attendance.

PGPSRA has continued to support the school system at the fall and spring Pre-Retirement Seminars. Our volunteers briefly interacted with the attendees, distributed MRSPA and PGPSRA literature, and urged the attendees to join our organizations.

PGPSRA will be winding up this year with its traditional membership meeting at La Fontaine Bleu on May 25. Be sure to sign up to attend; details are in a separate article.

Carl Lancaster
President



2372 Head Start children's positions in Maryland.

The United Seniors of Maryland Rally was held on March 9, 2011, at St. John's College, Annapolis. Joyce Fitzgerald and I attended this informative all-day meeting, where Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, House Speaker Michael Bush, and Department of Aging Secretary Gloria Lawlah spoke. A most insightful, thought-provoking film "Having the Conversation" produced by Hospice was shown. It discussed the end of life decisions that many of us must make and how we reach those decisions.

The contacts made by PGPSRA members to their legislators during the General Assembly session were greatly appreciated by our organization --- and were duly noted by our representatives in Annapolis. Thank You!

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

PROPOSED BUDGET 2011 – 2012

TREASURER’S REPORT

OPENING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	\$24572.76
Savings Account	3020.08
Checking Account:	
Receipts	\$505.98
Expenditures	2390.47
Savings Account	No Activity
Balance as of March 31, 2011:	
Checking Account	\$22688.27
Savings Account	3020.08
TOTAL ASSETS	\$25708.35

E. Vest, Treasurer

Category	Current Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012
Archives	100.00	100.00
Awards & Recognition	150.00	150.00
Operational	500.00	500.00
President	100.00	100.00
Secretarial	50.00	50.00
MRSPA Meetings	500.00	500.00
Treasurer	50.00	100.00
Newsletter/Publications	7500.00	8000.00
Consumer Education	500.00	500.00
Hospitality	1000.00	1000.00
Legislative	1350.00	1500.00
Membership	600.00	700.00
Program	1000.00	1000.00
Remembrance	100.00	150.00

Community Service	4000.00	4000.00
Convention Gift	00.00	50.00
Scholarship	10000.00	10000.00
Contingency Fund	1300.00	400.00
GRAND TOTALS	28800.00	28800.00
ESTIMATED INCOME		
Dues from Members @ \$15.00/Member		24000.00
Estimated Membership of 1600		
From Checking Account		4800.00
TOTAL		28800.00

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Our next and final meeting for this school year will be held on May 25, 2011, at La Fontaine Bleu. Important agenda items for that meeting will be adoption of the budget and the election and installation of officers for the coming year. Strong leadership and supportive members are essential in our struggle against cuts to retirement benefits and services. Come and bring a prospective member.

Standing for election at our May meeting are the following:

Gretel James – President-Elect
Dr. Edward Vest – Treasurer
Joann Sloan – Recording Secretary
Courtney Pringle – Corresponding Secretary

Bonnie Brose, Chair

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Eldercare: Pitfalls and Options

Guest speakers at the general membership meeting on March 23, 2011, were former Senator Gloria Lawlah, Secretary of Maryland Department of Aging, and Alice Hedt, of the Maryland Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Secretary Lawlah, a former Prince George's County educator, listed the following things to do before becoming ill or incapacitated:

1. Name a Power of Attorney.
2. Devise a will.
3. Devise a living will.
4. Have the documents notarized and registered with the county Register of Wills.
5. Share copies with family, friend, minister, doctor.

This is especially important for persons with no family and those who live alone.

Programs in planning for Maryland seniors are as follows:

- Dental care for seniors
- Use of wrap-around services for in-home care vs. nursing home

NECROLOGY

Patricia A. Bruce	January 14, 2011
Jesse R. Clay	July 20, 2010
Fred T. Jones	March 26, 2011
Dr. Jerry Keeney	February 3, 2011
Gail Livingstone	March 11, 2011
Freda Martin	March 6, 2011
Betty Terry	February 21, 2011

CORRECTION: It was Mary Zimmerman who lost her husband Raymond Zimmerman on January 19, 2011. We regret the error.

Jannie Goldston, Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee is one of the outstanding committees of PGPSRA whose duties are to provide service that may enhance the lives of local citizens. For the past several years the committee has chosen to lend their assistance to children and families, as identified by counselors/ principals in the county's elementary and secondary schools. In its effort to be equitable, each year the committee attempts to select four different schools, each in different areas of the county, to receive assistance as listed below:

* Share Baskets – a supply of fresh food at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

* School supplies – as well as small articles of clothing, toiletries, and new coats

* Shoe shopping – children shop for shoes of their choice in the spring with assistance of committee members

* Financial assistance with prom and

The Maryland Department of Aging may be contacted at 410.767.1100 or 1.800.243.3425.

Alice Hedt, herself an Ombudsman, briefed us on the Maryland Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The program helps residents in long-term care facilities by:

- Receiving and resolving complaints
- Educating consumers about residents' rights
- Providing information to the public
- Promoting community involvement through volunteer activities
- Empowering seniors to prevent healthcare fraud

There is no charge for the services of the Ombudsman Program. A contact number for Prince George's County is 301.265.8483.

Submitted by Gretel James

graduation fees – provided for homeless graduating seniors

Our focus this year has been on students and families at Concord and Suitland Elementary Schools and Drew Freeman Middle School. Selected students from Suitland High School will receive assistance with prom and graduation costs.

We have received awards for **Outstanding Community Service** at both the county and state levels; but more importantly, we have been richly rewarded by the appreciation expressed by those whom we have served.

Delores Brown, Chair

FROM CONSUMER CONNECTION

WATCH YOUR CREDIT CARDS

According to *Consumer Reports*, it is important to check your credit cards even after federal reforms. Fees have climbed and interest rates have increased. Rewards cards usually have higher rates particularly if you carry a balance. You would probably be better off with a non-reward, lower rate card if you don't pay your cards off every month.

Visit www.mrspa.org for more *Consumer Connection* hints.

FROM THE DESK OF ROSE MILLER
Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee announces the following door prize winners from the general meeting on March 23.

Don Conway won the \$20.00 grand door prize. Don, by the way, is featured on the front page of the April issue of MRSPA News. Congratulations to Don!

Winners of other gifts included: **Addie Martin, Joyce Lyons, Charlene Jacob, Laura Winters, Ethel Brown, Margaret Morgan, Bonnie Brose, Judy Naugle, Courtney Pringle, Phyllis Evans, and Calpurnia Arrington.**

Attendance at PGPSRA meetings keeps us connected and provides opportunities to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. More importantly, it helps us keep abreast of changes and information that affect our retirement. Perhaps you'll even win one of our charming door prizes! We hope to see you at our final meeting for this school year on May 25, 2011.

Lorraine Johnson, Chair

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **May** birthday wishes to **Mrs. Eileen Henderson** of Bowie, who will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 23rd.

Happy **June** birthday greetings to **Mrs. Ellen Kendrick** of Waldorf, MD, who will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 1st; and **Mrs. Juanita Lee** of Columbia, SC, who will be having her 92nd birthday on the 10th; **Mrs. Esther Vogel** of Falls Church, VA, who will be marking her 100th birthday on the 11th; and **Mrs. Grace Grant** of Denver, NC, who is going to be 93 years old on the 29th.

Happy **July** birthday wishes to two Maryland ladies: **Mrs. Sylvia Rothstein** of Silver Spring, who will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 2nd; and to **Mrs. Alice Konze** of Oxon Hill who will be marking her 91st year on the 31st.

Happy **August** birthday greetings to **Dr. Allan Chotiner** of College Park, MD, who will be having his 96th birthday on the 26th.

Sylvia Yaffe retired from Walden Woods Elementary in 1995, though she returned four years later as a "retired/rehired" elementary teacher at Calverton. Eleven years later she retired again, and now substitutes in various schools in the northern area. (This makes a total of fifty years of working in Prince George's County.) Sylvia and her husband Ted live in Potomac. They have been to many parts of the United States, including Alaska, and have traveled to England, France, Israel, and Australia. The Yaffes have three children and six grand children, whom Sylvia enjoys babysitting whenever she can do so.

John Belitza and his wife, **Donna Fredericksen**, are both retirees of Riverdale Elementary School. John taught physical education, and Donna was the music teacher there. Since retiring, they have relocated to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and are adjusting to a new lifestyle.

Anne Fotos retired from Bladensburg High School in 1994. She and her husband Anthony, also a retired teacher of forty-three years at DeMatha Catholic High School, live in Riverdale. Together they own and operate a charter boat – Blue Horizons – based in Baltimore Harbor. They also attend antique car shows and own three antique cars: a 1946 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet, a 1949 Lincoln Cosmopolitan, and a 1956 Buick Roadmaster. Anne serves on the board of St. Matthews Day School. The Fotos have enjoyed trips to California, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, St. Louis, Seattle, and yearly visits to Capon Springs, WV, along with cruises on the Royal Caribbean. Anne and Anthony have a daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren in Laurel, whom they enjoy babysitting weekly. They also have a son and daughter-in-law, both Naval Academy graduates, and four grandchildren who live in Seattle, WA.

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

HEALTH NEWS – WHEN TO DRINK MORE WATER

Drinking water at the correct time maximizes its effectiveness on the human body.

- 2 glasses of water after waking up helps activate internal organs.
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- 1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal helps digestion.
- 1 glass of water before taking a bath helps lower blood pressure.
- 1 glass of water before going to bed helps avoid stroke or heart attack.

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!

FROM YOUR *ECHOES* STAFF

Have a safe, happy summer.
To keep up with what's happening,
visit our website – www.pgpsra.org.
Submit articles for the September *Echoes*
by August 1, 2011
ahutchinson00@hotmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
PGPSRA Executive Board Meeting
PGCEA Center

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
MRSPA Annual Business Meeting
Michael's 8th Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD

Wednesday, May 25, 2011
General Membership Meeting
La Fontaine Bleu – 11:00 a.m.
Lanham, MD

Wednesday, June 8, 2011
Transition Meeting
PGCEA Center

PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: May 25, 2011
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: La Fontaine Bleu
7963 Annapolis Rd.
Lanham, MD 20706
Cost: \$25.00 (Buffet)

Please send your check, payable to PGPSRA, for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729. The reservation deadline is May 18, 2011.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM May 2011

Name: _____

Lunches Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Names of Guests: _____
