

ECHOES

Vol. XLVIII No. 5 The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter May 2014

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks



Lorraine Johnson, PGPSRA

Greetings,

Our Golden Jubilee celebration was certainly an event to write home about!

On a day when areas in nearby vicinities experienced snow, rain, and violent winds, we were blessed with a day filled with beautiful sunshine resplendent with mild winds. What a blessing!

And what a blessing it was to see so many of you who made your way to our 50th celebration at the Comfort Inn in Bowie! Attendees were observed catching up on the last few years, embracing old friends, remembering colleagues and just having a great time being together.

“The Awakening: Accepting the Call to Service, 1964-2014”, the theme for the celebration, highlighted the Association’s 50 year history. An all inclusive program was based on research conducted by the 50th Anniversary Com-

mittee which included: Donald Conway, chair; Dr. William Brose, who prepared the power point presentation that accompanied the research; researchers Alveta Jones, Carl Lancaster, Lorraine W. Johnson and Charles Hudson; Dr. Edward Vest, financial adviser, Mary Isbell, recognitions; Bonnie Brose, program coordinator, and Mary Frances Doyle, who served as program presenter.

An enthusiastic and supportive audience seemed to enjoy the information presented and the memories it invoked. This was evidenced by the laughter, chuckles and comments of the members as the research was presented and the photos were flashed on the screen.

We were delighted to receive a message of congratulations from Governor Martin O'Malley, a Proclamation from County Executive Rushern L. Baker, an Official Citation from the Maryland General Assembly from Senator Ulysses Currie, Delegate Aisha N. Braveboy, Delegate Dereck E. Davis, and Delegate Melony G. Griffith of legislative District 25, and a Proclamation from the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

Thank you so much for your support and your response to our appeals to share this noteworthy occasion with us. We were pleased to have twenty-one new attendees at this celebration. We hope that more of you will join us as we remember that **NUMBERS COUNT!**

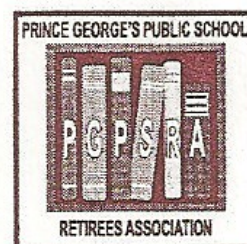
Our Association has a legacy of service. This legacy continues to define our organization. We are here to support our schools, our students, our teachers and our communities. Won't you join us in keeping this legacy strong for the next generation?

John Sisson has issued a challenge to our membership on the occasion of our 50th celebration: he invites us to match his \$50 donation to support the Community Services Committee or the Scholarship Fund.

Our 50th annual meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, Maryland on May 28th, 2014. At this meeting, we will have an opportunity to meet those young people who have been recognized by the Community Services and the Scholarship Committees. Won't you plan to join us?

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President's Message Continued....

Also, at the May meeting, our newly elected officers for the 2014-2015 term will be installed. These officers are: Dr. Norma Martof, President; Joann Sloan, recording secretary; Courtney Pringle, corresponding secretary; and Dr. Edward Vest, treasurer.

Again, thank you for the support you continue to give to this organization. It is only viable because of you.

Lorraine W. Johnson, President



Your Money is in Good Hands!

Here is the latest Treasurer's Report

MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$30523.71

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3024.62

CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:

RECEIPTS - 3226.22

EXPENDITURES - 6533.40

NO SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACTIVIT

TOTAL ASSETS AS OF MARCH 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 27216.53

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3024.62

TOTAL ASSETS - \$30241.15

Thanks!!

E. Vest



Special Attendees for our Celebration:

Helen Lewis, age 98; Charles Hudson, age 91; and Ann Chotiner, age 95

PGPSRA gratefully acknowledges the following financial gifts:

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Thelma Boyd-Nash

Maryclaire Dunlap

Claudia Farrell

Betty W. Green

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Margaret Boles

Thelma Boyd-Nash

John Sisson

Louise Tankerson



**Five Students Qualify
for
PGPSRA Scholarships**

Three high school seniors and two college students majoring in elementary education applied for the five \$2000.00 scholarships we are offering this year. All of them completed their applications correctly and met the criteria for receiving the scholarships.

The three high school seniors are being invited for an interview with the Prince George's Scholarship Fund, Inc. Committee in mid-April. Following the interview, the three prospective scholarship recipients will officially be notified that they will receive our \$2000.00 scholarship. They will be invited to attend the PGPSRA May luncheon meeting and share their plans for the future.

The college students will be notified that they are receiving a \$2000.00 scholarship and will be encouraged to write an article for ECHOES describing their plans for the future.

All awardees will receive their awards as soon as they submit proof to the Scholarship Fund Treasurer that they are enrolled in college.

Names and information about the recipients will be included in the September ECHOES.

The PGPSRA Scholarship Committee is pleased that we are awarding five scholarships this year. We hope to award the same number next year. We thank all of you for your contributions and for all who continue to encourage persons to enter the teaching profession. Thank you for your dedication!!

Alveta S. Jones and Delores Brown, Co-Chairs



PGPSRA TRIPS

If you are interested in seeing "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, call Charles Hudson at 301 572 9778 to get the exact date for the show and dinner after. The cost for 30 is \$115/person and includes all expenses and tips.

Remembrance/Necrology

Ronald Bailey	02/04/2014
Nancy M. Baldwin	12/27/2013
Maurice Charles Erly	03/10/2014
Conrad Koch	02/05/2014
Donald Lloyd	02/10/2014
Edward M. Felegy	03/30/2014
Joel Kuhank	
Sarah Wise	



**Officers and Committee Chairs of
PGPSRA**

President: Lorraine W. Johnson

(Johnson6608@comcast.net)

President-Elect: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@yahoo.com)

Past President: Gretel James (Gret22@verizon.net)

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

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

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

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

Consumer Ed. **Open: Interesse? Contact Lorraine!**

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: Janette Bell (njanettebell@verizon.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: **(Awaiting a new volunteer!)**

Legislative Report



I will begin by telling you about our annual Legislative trip to Annapolis on Wednesday March 19. We had 19 members on the trip. So sorry that 9 friends were unable to make it as that would have brought us up to 28 participants. After our video presentation and photo with Senator Miller, we sat in on the Senate. The House had already finished at that time. Jannette and I hurried off to set up the luncheon while everyone enjoyed the Governor's Mansion and tours of the historic rooms in the state house. We gathered for the luncheon at noon. During that time, we had the attention of Delegate Jim Proctor, our trip sponsor. We were visited by 15 delegates, Senator Benson, Senator Peters, several out of county legislators, Tish Raff from MRSPA and Hank Greenberg from AARP. All were eager to speak about the budget and answer questions our members had for them. After a smooth bus ride we were back at PGCEA by 2:45. A fun time was had by all.

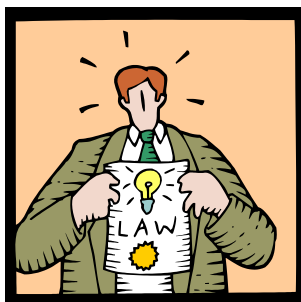
Budget news is ever changing and the piece that all of our guests kept emphasizing was that our benefits will not be affected. However, we must continue to fight for the benefits of those to come.

Instead of paying \$300 million a year more than required with the state pension system, the Senate's budget would contribute only \$100 million extra in fiscal 2014 and in fiscal 2015. This budget passed in the Senate 41 to 6. Supplemental payment would be restored in phases, reaching \$300 million by 2019.

Please, continue to check the MRSPA website for up to the date information and to contact your legislators.

Leaders in Maryland and other states such as Pennsylvania and Illinois seem to be dipping into retirement pension piggy banks to help meet the needs of their budgets.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair



Past Presidents of PGPSRA gather for a post-party photo.

1972-1973 Emma Bowman

1973-1974 Edgar Smith Sr.

1974-1975 Faith Loveless

1975-1976 Thomas Gwynn, Jr.

1976-1977 Alice Tolson

1977-1978 Elizabeth McMahon

1978-1979 Helen Taliaferro

1979-1980 Lydia Yowaiski

1980-1981 Lawrence Jackson

1981-1982 Dorothy Murray

1982-1983 Grace Cabaniss

1983-1984 Charles Bryce

1984-1985 Winifred Farmer

1985-1986 Ethel Schafer

1986-1987 Estee B. Wells

1987-1988 Howard Skidmore

1988-1989 Alveta Jones

1989-1990 Edna A. Arnn

1990-1991 Mary L. Hayes

1991-1992 Allan Chotiner

1992-1993 G. James Gholson

1993-1994 Ann B. Chotiner

1994-1995 Joyce A. Cowan

1995-1996 Ronald Mortimer

1996-1997 Anne P. Prince

1997-1998 Mary Frances Doyle

1998-1999 Ruth T. Cumbo

1999-2000 Robert B. Miller

2000-2001 Edward A. Clement

2001-2002 Robert B. Miller

2002-2003 Alveta S. Jones

2003-2004 Jannette Wundrow

2004-2005 Addie L. Martin

2005-2006 Rose W. Miller

2006-2007 Kitty Walker

2007-2008 Bonnie Curry Brose

2008-2009 Jennie Jones

2009-2011 Bonnie Curry Brose

2011-2012 Carl Lancaster

2012-2013 Gretel James

2013-2014 Lorraine W. Johnson

President-Elect for 2014-2015

Dr. Norma Martof

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **May** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: **Ms. Eileen Henderson of Bowie, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday** on the 3rd; Mrs. Henrietta Walker of Baltimore, who will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 11th; Ms. Maxine Cunningham of Annapolis, who is turning 93 years-old on the 13th; Mrs. Helen Endo of Silver Spring, who will be having her 93rd birthday on the 20th; and Mrs. Marjorie Miller of Rockville, who will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 28th.

Happy **June** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Ellen Kendrick of Waldorf, who will be having her 95th birthday on the 1st; Ms. Edna Long of Dameron, MD, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 7th; **Mrs. Esther Vogel of Sebastopol, CA, who will be turning 103 on the 11th**; Mrs. Dessamore Hillman of Leawood, KS, who will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 16th; Mrs. Mary E. Mills of Mechanicsville, MD, who will be having her 93rd birthday on the 20th.

Happy **July** birthday wishes to Mrs. Levonia Williams of Fort Washington, who will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 17th; Dr. Joseph Hall of Washington, D.C. who will be having his 92nd birthday on the 22nd; and Mrs. Alice Konze of Oxon Hill, who will be marking her 94th birthday on the 31st.

Happy **August** birthday greetings to Mrs. Leah Martin of Gaithersburg, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 1st, and Ms. Ada Warrington, of Seaford, DE, who will be marking her 97th birthday on the 27th.

Jayne Johns of Clinton, retired in 2001 as a sixth grade teacher at James Ryder Randall Elementary. She now volunteers at Longfields Elementary with the AKA Sorority's Popcorn Club. Jayne also enjoys participating in a book club, attending theater productions, going on day trips, and having fun as a Harmony Haller. She is an active member of the PGPSRA Community Service Committee. Jayne has traveled to China, where she spent a month visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, and Hong Kong. Another travel adventure took her to South Africa and Zambia, where she experienced a great safari. Jayne has also been fortunate to travel to Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Mexico, Canada, many countries in Europe, crossed the United States, and cruised to several islands. Jayne has two adult sons and daughters-in-law, and two granddaughters. Her son Darryl lives in New York, and her son Adrion Howell is a local political lawyer.

George Johnson retired from James McHenry Elementary in 1987, and relocated to Hagerstown, MD. Since retirement, George has completed his life-long dream of writing a book. Now in his seventies, he has two books published, and plans to complete his third book by the end of the year. The books can be found on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. George is a member of The Desert Rose Café Writers Group located in Williamsport, MD. He and his wife, Sharon, of 56 years, have five children, 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The Johnsons have taken cruises to Alaska, twice to the Bahamas, and celebrated their 50th anniversary with a Mediterranean cruise. They have also traveled to Belgium, France, Holland, Germany, Dominican Republic, Cancun, and Spain (three times), with the Greek Isles being their favorite trip.

Bob Kolvachik of College Park, retired as a baseball coach from Parkdale High School in 1991. He began the next interesting phase of his life as a volunteer at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where he has conducted (as of March 25th) 1624 public tours for local children and adults and visitors from all over the world! One of the tours he enjoys most is "African Americans in Aviation", which includes discussions of the Tuskegee Airmen, 13 African American astronauts, and Black women pilots of the 1930s and 40s. Bob piloted a CSN 152 plane for short distances for a number of years. He continues to be active in the fund raising organization "Field of Firsts" at the College Park Aviation Museum (where the Wright Brothers began flying in 1909). Bob invites retirees to join him (bkovalchik.mustang@verizon.net) on an exciting 10 day tour

sponsored by the College Park Aviation Museum, leaving Washington, D.C. on September 15, 2014. Stops in Europe will include London, Lancanshire, the Southport Air Show, Edinburgh, and the Royal Air Force Museum in East Fortune.

Adrienne Cannon taught Italian and Spanish language at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for 30 years. Since retiring in 1996, she performs as a clarinetist with local community bands and with the Windjammers Circus Band in Sarasota, FL. a few times a year. She serves as a tour guide at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Adrienne also enjoys writing, and has recently published her second volume of a collection of essays titled "Grace Notes". Her first volume was titled "Journey". Her writing has appeared in the WASHINGTON POST and online at SeniorWomen.com. Since the passing of her husband, Adrienne lives with her spirited terrier, Lucy, in Springfield, VA. She has three adult married children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Jenkins retired from Charles Carroll Jr. High School in 1980. He and his wife, Rebecca, of 64 years, now reside in a Mennonite Home Community in Lancaster, PA. Bob and his wife have enjoyed travels to various places over the years; in fact he has six DVDs full of the slides of his travels. However, now he enjoys reading about the travels of other retirees. Bob likes choosing books to read from the library where he lives, though it seems that the print has become smaller in many of the books. (It seems many retirees are noticing this!) An especially good thing about living in Bob's Mennonite Home Community is the fact that he doesn't have to shovel snow - - - which has really been helpful this past winter!

Donald Conway retired as a physical education teacher from Lewisdale Elementary. Don has kept busy since retirement with his hobbies of Black American Stamp Collecting, Black Baseball Memorabilia, and his "Moveable Museum of African-American History Memorabilia". The "museum" keeps Don traveling with his extensive collection much of the year. During January he carried his display to the 25th anniversary celebration of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections in Charlotte, N.C., and then returned to Maryland to set up the exhibit in Columbia for a "Celebrate the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Donation Drive". In February Don took the "museum" to several Black History Programs around the Washington metro area, including Rockville, Bowie, Tyler Elementary School in D.C., and Fort Washington Forrest Community Center. His "museum" was on view at the Good Luck Community Center in Lanham, the John E. Howard Senior Activity Center in Capitol Heights, Thomas Wootton High School in Rockville, the National Children's Center, and the Cedar Heights Community Center. In April the "museum" was set up at the annual career day at Dr. Brown Elementary in Waldorf and at the National Black Memorabilia and Collectible Show at the Gaithersburg Fair Grounds. Don serves as PGPSRA's most competent historian and photographer/ videographer. He and his wife, Joyce, a Montgomery County retired teacher, live in Beltsville. They have a son, daughter-in-law, and one grandson, who live in Ann Arbor Michigan.



Community Service Committee

Without YOU, there would be no US!! The team and I thank you for all that you've assisted us with thus far.

Our next major project is the Shoe Drive!!! We work with "Payless Shoes" to ensure that the boys and girls are able to purchase shoes for Easter.

Again, let me say "Thank You" to all who gave \$20 or more for **January's School Supplies**. The extra monies meant more for:

Hillcrest Heights Elementary

Longfields Elementary

Kenmoor Middle

William Beanes Elementary

Central High School

The Senior High students were ever so grateful due to their "Senior Graduation Packet" being nearly \$400 including Prom Tickets.

Again, thanks for your extra support.

We're looking forward to seeing more of you at our last meeting on May 28, 2014. Our "seniors" are some of the guest speakers. You are in for a treat!!!

Again, without **YOU** there would be no **US!!!!**

Together, Everyone Achieves More!!

"Teamwork is Making the Dream Work"

An Addendum from Community Services PGPSRA – 4/2/14

The Community Services Committee is requesting all donations be given for the fiscal year 2013-2014 to be donated before May 28, 2014. Thanks for all you do. We'll need your continued support for the ensuing year 2014-2015.

Ethel L. Brown

Chairperson

202-581-0740

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work."



About Our Party...by Bill Brose

One Thousand
Four Hundred
Thirty-Seven
(...and still counting)

This is really two stories in one. The first part revolves around the 50th Anniversary celebration of our organization. The second part revolves around the title... but, we'll get to that later in the story.

Last fall, your Executive Committee and President Johnson decided that it was important to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of PGPSRA. It was decided that this was a history project so our association's historian, Don Conway, was a prime candidate to lead the project. Don accepted the challenge, and began recruiting members for the new committee. Bonnie Brose, Fran Doyle, Charlie Hudson, Lorraine Johnson, Alveta Jones, Carl Lancaster, and Ed Vest were quick to sign on. Don suggested that the committee divide the time into decades and asked if anyone had a preference. President Lorraine Johnson volunteered to start things off and took the first decade. Bonnie got 1974-1983. Alveta took 1984-1993. Carl took 1994-2003 and Don got 2004 to 2014. Since Charlie has been our tour director since 1983 he volunteered to talk about some of the trips that the association has taken over the years. It wasn't until the second meeting of the committee that they realized they didn't have a way to present all of their research. It was suggested that they collect a bunch of pictures and make it into a slide show. That's when I came into the picture. Someone said that Bill could make it all into a PowerPoint presentation, (I think it was Bonnie, but she's not telling.) so I was asked to join the committee. Over the next few months each of the decades was researched. Details were verified. We found the old records of the association tucked away in a storage closet in the back of PGCEA Headquarters. With the records were a number of photo albums and back copies of ECHOES.

The photo albums were a great source of visuals for the presentation, but they didn't cover every year. Some years had a lot of pictures while many years had not. Independently, each member of the committee decided that a list of the presidents during their decade was important to their part of the final presentation. It became my job to find photos of each of those presidents. Where do you find photos of past presidents? Why, in past editions of ECHOES, of course. So, I began to scan through those old editions of ECHOES to find photos of presidents. In the process I found interesting photos of association members doing what was important at the time. I took some of the editions home and put them on my scanner to make digital copies of the photos. I planned to use them in the 50th Anniversary presentation.

Along the way, I realized that scanning most of the pages in an issue gave me a bunch of pictures, but they had no future. I decided to scan the entire issue; first page to last, even if they didn't have any photos. Those extra scanned pages without photos might not be useful to the 50th Anniversary presentation, but they could become extremely useful to the webmaster and every current and future member of our association. That moment was the beginning of the ECHOES Archives project. I began to scan every page of every issue of ECHOES that I could find. I started in the 1980s and began working forward and backward from there. After scanning one issue from a year I located other issues from the same year and scanned them. After finishing one year, I started another. Every year had five issues except for one that had six issues. One president put out a Transition Issue in June... before he even took office.

Most issues of ECHOES are six or eight pages long. The smallest issue I found only had four pages. The largest issue had sixteen pages. Scanning and more scanning... hundreds of pages. At one point I realized that my scanner was keeping count. That's where the title of this article comes in. At this point I have scanned One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Seven (...and still counting) pages of ECHOES. If it takes my scanner three to four minutes to complete a scan, depending upon the page complexity, how many hours have I been sitting at my computer waiting for the scanner to complete the page?

So why am I doing all of this work? I've spent hundreds of hours scanning. As you are reading this, PGPSRA will be adding a totally new and unique feature to our website. When this project is done, PGPSRA's entire collection of ECHOES will be on our website. That's volume one all the way through volume forty-eight... all five issues for each of the volumes. That's two hundred forty different issues, all available at your fingertips, whenever you want it.

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www. MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

We will soon have a facebook page!

Keep in touch.....if you have not already
done so,

send your email address to Dr. Vest!



DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity**

Your MRSPA website
has special offers for you.

Take advantage of it all

Visit the site often!

MRSPA 2014 EVENT

HAS BEEN CANCELLED

It is with regret that, due to low registration, this event has been cancelled. It was suggested, in several surveys and workshops that the bi-annual convention be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Association and be held in the center of the state. Planning was done to incorporate this idea.

The Annual Meeting, however, is not cancelled and will be held—as planned on May 6, 2014. If you signed up to be a delegate for this, please do attend. Your involvement in your association is important!

PGPSRA Reservation Form

2014 Annual Meeting

May 28, 2014 at 11:00 A.M.

At the Comfort Inn, Bowie

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TO BE RECEIVED BY MAY 21, 2014 TO:

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

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$25 for each lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by May 21st mail delivery!)

This is a buffet. You do not need to state a preference of entrée.

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 May

Welcome our 2014-2015 Officers

President: Dr. Norma Martof

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest

Secretary: Joann Sloan

Corresponding Secretary:

Courtney Pringle

Plan to Be There!

May 28

11:00 A.M.

Comfort Inn

\$25.00