



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXIV No. 2

November 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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If you failed to attend the general membership meeting on September 22nd at PGCEA, you missed a great event – enthusiasm, a little business, and a lot of fun definitely were the order of the day.

Bonnie Brose, our past-president and now president of our state association, the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, joined us for the meeting and was warmly welcomed by all. Bonnie related how much she misses being deeply involved with PGPSRA and how her life has changed now that she travels across our state almost constantly. Bonnie is sorely missed by her many friends in PGPSRA.

With our September meeting following the primary election, we were able to have two very important primary winners address our group on their vision for Prince George's County. The apparent Prince George's County Sheriff-elect, Melvin High, described his vision of a better quality of life for the citizens of our county and what he sees as necessary steps to make his vision a reality. Sheriff-elect High was enthusiastically greeted by his numerous friends in the audience.

Rushern Baker, our apparent County Executive-elect and longtime friend of many of our educators, was out of town and could not attend. However, he sent one of his friends, Christian

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd!

There were many candidates running for election in Prince George's County on September 14th. We invited primary election winners for the offices of County Executive and County Sheriff to speak briefly at our September 22nd meeting. Mr. Melvin High, our next County Sheriff, (who was first a science teacher) spoke of his concern and plans for the safety of all county residents. He told of his leadership and involvement with other jurisdictions in the country. His experience in criminal work is extensive and will be a benefit to our county. Mr. Rushern Baker, our next County Executive, was unable to attend; however, he sent Mr. Christian Rhodes, who is going to be his education advisor. Mr. Rhodes, currently employed by PGCEA as a UniServ Director, has extensive knowledge of the school system. He and County Executive Baker plan to ensure quality education for students and to fully support teachers.

It is important that we continue to express our firm opposition to the shifting of 50% of the state retirement funding to the local jurisdictions. As has been mentioned before, if counties are forced to pay into the retirement fund, they must cut costs in other ways. We definitely

Rhodes, a member of the Transition Team for the future County Executive. Christian, who works at PGCEA and has a strong, positive relationship with Mr. Baker, described numerous presentations and interviews where Mr. Baker consistently set a high quality, public school system in Prince George's County as one of his highest priorities.

Lorraine Johnson, the chairwoman of the Membership Committee called each of PGPSRA's new members in attendance to the front of the hall where they were introduced individually and were presented with special gifts from members of the Membership Committee.

Our next General Membership Meeting is one you won't want to miss! The meeting will be at the Greenbelt American Legion Post #136, 6900 Greenbelt Road, in Greenbelt on Thursday, November 18th. Our guest speaker will be our friend and Maryland State Senator-Elect, Joanne C. Benson from Legislative District 24. As you know, Joanne spent her career in the Prince George's County Public Schools where she was a leader in seeking to ensure children received a high quality education. As a community activist and as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 1991, Joanne also is known for being an out-spoken advocate for human and civil rights for all. With her background and experience, we anticipate that Joanne's reflections on the November 2nd elections and the upcoming legislative session will be unusually perceptive. We look forward to seeing Joanne and hearing her remarks in November.

(Note: The meeting is on Thursday, November 18, rather than Wednesday November 24, because of Thanksgiving Day and the number of our members who probably will be traveling over Thanksgiving.)

I can't wait to see all of you on November 18th!

Carl Lancaster, President

don't want to see our health care benefits reduced, or eliminated. In September Governor O'Malley established the Public Employees' and Retirees' Benefits and Sustainability Commission (as directed by the 2009-2010 Legislature) to study and make recommendations on all aspects of state funded benefits and pensions provided to state employees and teachers. A report from the commission is due in December.

Frightening things are happening across the country with pensions. Illinois and Missouri recently changed their teacher retirement age to 67. Minnesota teachers took a cut in pay, the Governors of New Jersey and California have proposed pension and health care cuts, and several states, including Maryland, had no COLAs or step increases in pay this year. A number of states are looking at having their beginning teachers enroll in a 401K, or similar fund, instead of being a part of a state retirement system. Other states are promoting Defined Contribution retirement funds, rather than the Defined Benefit retirement system, as we have in Maryland. Unfortunately, Defined Contribution funds and 401K funds shift in value according to the economy.

There are fourteen states in which teachers do not pay social security. We are fortunate in Maryland to be able to collect both social security and our retirement/pension checks --- and, to retire before we are 67!

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

September Door Prize Winner

Florine Olmert

TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Balances:

Checking Account \$27753.72

Savings Account 3019.32

Checking Account:

Receipts \$1023.86

Expenditures 1889.45

Savings Account: No Activity

Balance as of September 30:

Checking Account \$26888.13

Savings Account 3019.32

Total Assets: \$29907.45

E. Vest, Treasurer

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Home and Hospital Teacher

For degreed teachers who are currently working (or recently retired)

Description: Teach individual students at home, school or hospital setting; hourly pay; mileage reimbursement; set own schedule

For additional information, contact:

The Prince George's County Public Schools Office
of Home and Hospital Teaching
Oxon Hill Staff Development Center, Room 202
7711 Livingston Road
Oxon Hill Maryland 20745

Telephone: 301-567-8642

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Last year, PGPSRA awarded four \$2000.00 scholarships to persons planning to enter college in the fall of 2010, majoring in education. In the spring of 2011, our committee's goal is to award six \$2000.00 scholarships with the same criteria. Through our budget line of \$10,000.00, our raffle donations, and our personal contributions, we are confident that we will have the monies available.

Applications for our scholarships, along with those for other scholarships sponsored by the Prince George's County Scholarship Fund, Inc., will be in guidance counselors' offices in all county high schools the first week of January 2011. Our Scholarship Committee members will have copies of the application at the same time.

Members are encouraged to share this information with family and friends. If you desire to make contributions to the scholarship fund, make your checks payable to PGPSRA and earmark Scholarship. Give your check to Dr. Vest or mail it to me.

Thanks for your support.

Alveta Jones, Scholarship Chairperson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We are seeking nominations for the next PGPSRA election. Nominees are needed for president-elect, secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer.

Nominations should be sent to Bonnie Brose at bcbrose@comcast.net or 14700 Willoughby Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Because the many and varied services which we've offered in recent years have been so successful in meeting critical needs, we have decided to continue providing school supplies, clothing, shoes, and food for children and families via area schools. After all, there's no need to fix that which isn't broken.

The particular schools to be serviced by this committee this year have not been selected at this time; however, we ask that you make an annual donation of school supplies at the January meeting.

Courtney Pringle continues to explore new ideas and has arranged for members of the committee to tour the new Barack Obama Elementary School, a true state-of-the-art facility, in Upper Marlboro on October 8th.

Our committee meetings will be held at PGCEA at 11:00 a.m. on the following dates: **October 6, 2010; December 1, 2010; February 2, 2011; April 6, 2011 and May 2011 – TBA.**

The committee, under the capable leadership of Delores Brown, is most pleased with past accomplishments and the awards we've received. We will continue onward and upward in service to others.

Gretel James, Newsletter Writer

NECROLOGY

We send our condolences to Margaret A. McLaughlin who lost her husband May 10, 2010. We regret the misprint in the last issue of *ECHOES*.

TRAVEL UPDATE

A trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 10, 2010, to visit some attractions in Baltimore. Places we would like to visit are as follows: *Fort McHenry, Shot Tower, Flag House, B & O Railroad Museum, Baltimore Street Car Museum, and Lexington Market*. Some of these attractions are free and some charge a fee. As of this writing, I do not have a price. I expect it to be \$100.00 or less per person. You should receive your November *ECHOES* by November 2nd or 3rd. You must call me at 301.572.9778 at once to get information and to send your check. There is a short time interval to do all of this if the trip is to happen.

Charles Hudson, Trip Leader

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday to Julia Derry of Hyattsville, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on the 28th.

Happy **December** birthday wishes to Dr. Dale Woodburn of College Park, who will be celebrating his 91st birthday on the 17th, and to Josephine Marzetti of Catonsville, who will be having her 92nd birthday on the 24th.

Mary Younger of Capitol Heights, MD, retired from Capitol Heights Elementary in 1990. After enjoying retirement for six months, she returned to the classroom to substitute at several schools in the county. She keeps busy with church work and belongs to the "Stay Young" club and a Bible study group. Mary is a widow with two daughters, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

BITS AND PIECES (Con't.)

Donald Conway of Beltsville, a retired physical education teacher and our resident "Volksmarcher" participated with his Negro Leagues Baseball Memorabilia collections in the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, in July. While there, Don enjoyed other presentations, a tour of the Civil Rights Institute, an awards banquet, and a visit to the oldest ball park still in operation, Rickwood Park, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in August.

Russell Eckert retired in 1973 from the Marlboro office for school buses. Russell is 96 years old now, and he enjoys spending the winters in Pompano Beach FL, then returning to Crownsville, MD, mid-May through mid-October. He still likes "playing" in his workshop when he is in Maryland. Russell has one son and one daughter, whom he occasionally visits in CA. He has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD WINNER

It is with pleasure that we announce Charles (Charley) Lingo Hudson of Silver Spring, as our county winner of the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Award for 2010. He was honored, as such, at a luncheon at Michael's 8th Avenue in Glen Burnie, MD. on October 21, 2010.

Charley is a retired Prince George's County teacher and principal (of 35 years), who has served on the Prince George's County Public School Retirees Association Board of Directors for 24 years, and as the group's

enthusiastic and capable Tour Director for 18 years. He continues to arrange day trips to theaters for our members several times a year. Charley also holds membership in the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

For over 42 years, Charley has been an involved member of Forestville Memorial United Methodist Church in Forestville, MD, where he continues as a lay minister and Sunday School teacher. He has served as President of the Men's Club for the past 20 years. He has been an active member of the social group "Young At Heart" for many years, and is currently serving as their Treasurer. Often Charley drives people needing a ride to church, or related social activities.

Charley is a life member and retired advisor of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials and the Metropolitan Baseball Umpires Association. He holds season tickets to all University of Maryland home games, and was recognized for his patronage last year, with a signed football from Coach Friedgen.

Charley and his wife, Ann, relocated to the Riderwood Retirement Community in 2005. There he is an active 87 year-old resident, who participates on the men's softball team. He is also a volunteer driver for those who need transportation to the grocery store. Charley has been an enthusiastic model train collector for almost 50 years. His present collection fills the extra bedroom at his Riderwood apartment, where he encourages people to come in and watch the three levels of trains run their course. His extensive train display is a popular place for the residents to take visiting grandchildren. Charley has spoken about model train collecting before several civic and social groups.

On May 21, 2010, the 50th anniversary of his graduation from the University of Maryland, Charley served as Master of Ceremonies to welcome the University of Maryland Masters and Doctorate degree students, and lead them in their graduation processional.

We are most pleased to recognize Charley as an outstanding Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Award winner, and an involved member of PGPSRA!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee was very pleased with the turn-out for Friendship Day on September 22. It was an enjoyable day, and it was wonderful to renew old acquaintances and to welcome our new members. Please continue to encourage your friends and former colleagues to join us in our efforts on behalf of our retirees. **REMEMBER: Numbers do count.**

Lorraine Johnson, Membership Chairperson

PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: November 18, 2010
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place; American Legion Post 136
6900 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD
Cost: \$14.00 per person

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 November 11, 2010.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ECHOES DECEMBER 1, 2010

DIRECTIONS TO NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

From 495 (Washington Beltway), take Exit 22 (BW Parkway N) to first exit, Route 193 (Greenbelt Road). Bear right (west on 193). At the top of the bridge, you will see a traffic light. Take the second right after the traffic light (Lakecrest Drive). Then, take an immediate left (Legion Road). The banquet hall and the parking lot are at the rear of the building. The address is 6900 Greenbelt road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. The telephone number is 301.345.0136.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM NOVEMBER 2010

Name: _____

Lunches Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Names of Guests: _____
