



# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXXIII No. 1

September 2009

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Education Enthusiasts:

It is a pleasure to greet you once more as your President. There is much going on at this time, and I hope that you will be able to participate in some of the activities.

First, there is the **MRSPA** Convention in Ocean City! We will be meeting on September 8, 9, and 10, 2009, at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, and it is not too late to register to come and take part in the many events. Please email me or call if you want forms. Forms are also available in the latest issue of the **MRSPA News** and online at [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org).

Then there is the September meeting of PGPSRA at the PGCEA Center. This will be a meeting where you can come and meet your local legislators and hear what is coming up this year and to ask questions. We have heard from several legislators who will attend. As usual, we will have a box lunch for you. What is not usual is that it will **NOT** be a free event. We are doing it this way for two

A chart was displayed at the May luncheon, and certificates were presented to those in attendance. Others were mailed. The Scholarship Chairperson needs addresses for a few donors. If you have not received your certificate, please contact her at 301.772.5594.

#### Platinum Donors (\$100.00 or more)

Mattie Coats  
Jannie Goldston  
Alveta S. Jones

Dallas Dean  
Betty Green  
Donald Kaufman

Virginia Gibson  
Gretel James  
Rose Miller

reasons. First, we will be having two legislative events this year because of the importance of the legislative actions on our retirement – so there will be a trip planned during the legislative session also. Secondly, we are using the September meeting as a kick-off for the first membership drive for the year. The Membership Committee is offering a free lunch to those who sign on two new members at this time. So bring two friends to sign up and your lunch will be free. Forms to qualify for the free lunch are in the newsletter with the luncheon information.

It is important to have more of our retired teachers sign up to join our association. We are there to oversee that retirement packages are retained and to be on the look-out for other ways to enhance the years we have after leaving the school system's employment ranks. We need the help of all retirees to do so. There are thousands of former employees of the Prince George's Public Schools who are not members. You know who they are, and we are counting on you to bring them on board.

Let's "fill the house" for the September meeting! We'll have a good time, learn some new things, and look at plans for the year as we hear from our committees and legislators.

Bonnie Curry Brose

**MEMBERS      CONTRIBUTE  
\$2000.00      FOR      SIXTH  
SCHOLARSHIP**

PGPSRA was able to award a sixth scholarship to a person going into teaching as a result of individual contributions to the Scholarship Drive. Other members donated their January luncheon refund and/or their door prize receipts, and many participated 50/50 raffles. Thanks to all of you!

Mary Walker

Dr & Mrs Edward Vest

**Gold Donors (\$50.00 - \$99.00)**

Delores Brown

Robert McClees

Marian O'Donnell

Marie O'Clair

**Silver Donors ((\$25.00 - \$49.00)**

Susanne Burgess

Nancy Myers

Imogene Woodley

**Bronze Donors (\$10.00 - \$24.99)**

Peggy Barba

Ronald Beury

Delores Brown

Ethel Brown

Earl Dade

Marilyn Doleman

Martha Franklin

Virginia Gibson

Charlene Jacob

Shirley Johnson

Jennie Jones

Ruby Macon

Mary Maher

Carl McMillon

Fred Novak

Anne Prince

Rita Robinson

Catherine Ross

Joann Thomas

Carrol Thorne

Thanks also go to **Mildred Evans**, the May door prize winner, who donated her winnings to the Scholarship Drive.

Our committee will be meeting in September to make plans for 2009-10. New members are invited to join us.

Alveta S. Jones, Scholarship Chair

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS CEREMONY**

What a wonderful experience I had on Wednesday, May 6, 2009! I had the pleasure of attending the Prince George's Scholarship Fund Ceremony. I sat in the auditorium of the PGCEA Center watching thirty prospective high school graduates file in to sit with peers in anticipation of receiving scholarship assistance from various organizations including PGPSRA's Scholarship Committee.

I was proud and pleased to see Mrs. Alveta Jones, Chairman of the PGPSRA Scholarship Committee, award scholarships to six deserving honorees from the following high schools: Bowie, Largo, Gwynn Park, and Surrattsville.

The guest speaker for the afternoon was Reverend Delman Coates, PhD, the dynamic minister of Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland. Dr. Coates spoke to the honorees about being agents of change and leadership in society. He emphasized the following points: 1.) Shape the culture rather than be shaped by it. 2.) Lead the pack. Set the trends. 3.) Know how to handle difficulty. Use trials and tribulations to enhance one's self. 4.) Set high goals. Reject the enemy called average. 5.) Aim high to attain your goals.

An enlightening and enjoyable time was had by the honorees, parents, and friends in attendance.

Submitted by Courtney Pringle

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

We were most pleased to have welcomed at our September 23rd luncheon meeting nine Prince George's legislators, including Senators Ulysses Currie, Nathaniel Exum, and Doug Peters; and Delegates Melony Griffith, James Proctor, Justin Ross, Joseph Vallario, Michael Vaughn, and Jay Walker. Their attendance and comments were greatly appreciated. We value their dedication to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland.

MRSPA continues to be concerned about funding issues that could affect all retirees; namely: any shifting of the retirement/pension system funding to local jurisdictions, and the proposed change of the present Maryland State Retirement and Pension (MSRPS) funding from the Corridor to the Full Actuarial Funding method. The shifting of funding could be devastating to retirees, as it would mandate several of our county legislators have accepted PGPSRA's invitation to join us for our September 23rd luncheon meeting at the PGCEA office in Forestville. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to speak with them individually about our concerns about shifting of retirement funding.

Following is a TALKING POINTS reference that will be helpful when you are speaking with legislators. To locate the names of your local legislators, go to the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's website: [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org). Remember to type in the number on the address label of your MRSPA newsletter, then your first initial and your last name.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

## **TALKING POINTS CONCERNING THE SHIFTING OF RETIREMENT/PENSION FUNDING TO THE COUNTY**

1. The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (15,000 members) strongly opposes shifting any part of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System funding to the local jurisdictions.
2. The state retirement system was created in the 1920's as a contractual relationship between the state and the enrolled members. It was revised in 1980 to create the pension system. Our members have trusted this method of participating in, and receiving monthly checks from, the retirement/pension system for many years. We cannot afford to see our retirement funds drastically reduced.
3. The Maryland Retirement/Pension system is presently governed by the state legislature. We are very concerned about how our funds would be regulated and protected, should funding of the system be shifted to the counties and Baltimore City.
4. County budgets are already strained and have only so much money to draw from for the various programs and agencies they support. If local jurisdictions were responsible for even partially funding the retirement/pension system, cuts would need to be made in services in the other areas of county spending. Our greatest concern is that our health benefits would be reduced, or eliminated, causing hardship for our retiree members.

### **LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

\*\*\*Though this is an issue for our PGPSRA members, it is really a state-wide issue that will be settled in Annapolis. Therefore, we must speak not only to our county legislators (on a personal basis), but to ALL Maryland legislators to oppose this proposed shifting of funding of the MSRPS responsibility to the local jurisdictions. (We say "local jurisdictions" because Baltimore City is a separate entity, not under any county governance.)

**To contact your local legislators: Dial 1-800-492-7122 (in Annapolis) and ask to be connected to your specific legislator.**

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Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

***CONGRATULATIONS TO BONNIE CURRY BROSE,  
NEWLY-INSTALLED PRESIDENT-ELECT  
of Maryland Retired School Personnel Association***

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report as of July 17 is as follows:

Balance Brought Forward - July 1	
Checking Account	\$8,612.33
Savings Account	\$3,014.41
Receipts – Checking Account	\$465.63
Expenditures – Checking Account	\$179.34
Balance - Checking Account	\$8,898.62
Receipts – Savings Account	\$1.13
Balance –Savings Account	\$3,015.54

### Total Assets as of July 17, 2009

Checking Account	\$8,989.62
Savings Account	\$3,015.54
Total Assets	\$11,914.16

E. Vest, Treasurer

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The committee ended the last year on a “high note” after having won the state award for outstanding service at the Annual Business Meeting of MRSPA, held in Glen Burnie on May 12. Our committee's work was also submitted for recognition at the national level. Be sure to check out our photographic display at the MRSPA convention in September!

We are gearing up for another great year of “caring and sharing” under the skillful leadership of Delores Brown. The first committee meeting of the year will be held on September 9, during which time, we will plan dates and projects for the ensuing year.

We are committed to service because we believe that one way to make change is by doing something for someone else. That's “what's in it for us.”

Gretel T. James, Committee Member

## 2009 – 2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 2 Executive Mtg. – 1:00 PM  
PGCEA Bldg.
- September 8,9,10 MRSPA Convention  
Ocean City, MD
- September 23 General Meeting – 11 AM  
PGCEA Bldg.
- November 4 Executive Mtg. – 1:00 PM  
PGCEA Bldg.
- November 11 General Meeting – 11 AM TBA
- January 13 Executive Mtg. - TBA PGCEA Bldg.
- January 27 General Mtg. – 11 AM PGCEA Bldg.
- March 10 Executive Mtg. TBA PGCEA Bldg.
- March 24 General Mtg. – 11 AM PGCEA Bldg.
- May 12 Executive Mtg. TBA PGCEA Bldg.
- May 26 General Mtg. - 11 AM TBA

## DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ECHOES – OCTOBER 1, 2009



## BITS AND PIECES

Belated birthday wishes to **Catherine (Kitie) Donovan** of Monroeville, PA, who celebrated her 97th birthday on March 26th. Catherine was the first principal of some of the elementary schools in the county (including District Heights and Parkway) that were built following World War II.

Belated birthday wishes to **Sylvia Rothstein** of Silver Spring, who celebrated her 97th birthday on July 21st.

Belated birthday wishes to **Dr. Alan Chotiner** of College Park, a retired principal of High Point High School, who celebrated his 94th birthday on August 26th. Dr. and Mrs. Chotiner will be celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary on October 3rd.

Happy birthday wishes to **Catherine Deck** of Ocean Pines, MD, who will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on October 1st, and **Eleanor Murray** of Phoenix, AZ, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on October 12th.

**Corinne Call** retired in 1994, after teaching all of her 30 years at Tulip Grove Elementary. She now fills her time with bowling and travel. Corrine belongs to three bowling leagues, so she can be found three days each week either with the Ft. Meade Seniors, the Crofton Seniors, or the Keglers in Annapolis --- and, she participates in NABI Tournament Bowling a couple of times a month, along with other tournaments! She also takes bowling trips around the country, travels monthly to Atlantic City, and sometimes to Las Vegas, where she plays Bingo. Corrine and her husband, Elmer, along with her 95 year-old father, live in Bowie. They enjoy traveling together annually to New England and across the country in an RV, towing a car for frequent side trips.

The Calls celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary in August. When asked if she is retired, she responds that she has “graduated from sixth grade.”

**Catherine Miller** of Bowie retired from High Point High School in 2005. Since then she has been trying to learn to speak Italian and enjoying travels to Paris, London, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti (where she got a tattoo!), Peru, Nazca Lihes, Lake Titicaca, and Florence (where she spent two weeks studying Italian). Catherine has two granddaughters, Jennifer and Kristen.

**Eileen Burgess** of Silver Spring retired as a librarian in 1989.

She has been a resident of the senior community of Riderwood since 2005, and highly recommends it as a great place to reside after retirement. She enjoys participating in various activities offered there, especially the bus trips, including a recent trip to President Lincoln’s summer home on the Old Soldier’s Home grounds in Washington. Eileen serves on the Riderwood Library Committee and is a Lector and Eucharistic minister at a local church.

**Carole Calhoun** of Upper Marlboro retired as an administrator from DuVal High School in 1991. Previously, she served as an administrator at Largo High School. Carole says she was born with wanderlust and has been fortunate to have traveled to many fascinating places. She spent this past April traveling to the Middle East, visiting Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel. In June she and her niece went to England, making her 10th trip to that country. She has visited many European countries multiple times, trekked across Tibet and descended into Nepal, climbed Macchu Picchu, camped on the Amazon, and nature-watched in the Galapagos Islands. Carole and her husband George enjoy stays at their home in Rehoboth Beach, sailing their boat, *Misty*, and visiting family in PA. After retiring, Carole joined the National Symphony Orchestra Women’s Committee to volunteer with fund-raising projects at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has also become an active member of the Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Society and volunteers at the Rehoboth Beach Museum. Carole is an avid opera buff and not only supports the Washington and Baltimore operas, but also travels annually to the Met in New York City and to other performances around the country and the world. She finds time to belong to two book clubs that meet monthly, as well as to on-line book clubs.

**John Sisson** of Lanham retired from high Point and Eleanor Roosevelt high Schools in 2007 as a teacher of Japanese. John also taught in Japan twice in two-year segments. The first was on a teaching/research grant from Kanagawa International Foundation (Kanagawa Prefecture is Maryland’s sister-state in Japan). There he did research on folk life festivals, which was published in the form of an English language guidebook. The second stint was teaching English in two high schools as part of a teacher exchange program. John has traveled to Japan twice since then and has even bicycled around the island of Shikoku. John is President of the Prince George’s Kiwanis Foundation and has assisted in the new Museum of Language in College Park. This past June, he went to Norway and took an Arctic cruise. Afterward, he accompanied a teacher/friend on a pilgrimage to Trondheim Cathedral with a group of Norwegian convicts! He reports that the scenery was spectacular, and it was immensely interesting to chat with the convicts – most of whom spoke good English. \*\*\* If you haven’t heard John sing 1950’s music duets with Dan Williams, you’ve missed a treat!

**Ferdinand Cardano** retired as principal of Kenmore Elementary in 1980. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife relocated to Debarry, Florida. Ferd has volunteered with the Meals on Wheels program for the past 15 years, making deliveries three times a week. He has a woodworking shop and enjoys doing various wood projects, including things for the house. He also enjoys cruises and has taken numerous ones over the years with a group of colleagues from the Prince George's School System. He has also hosted the annual retiree luncheon in Altamonte Springs, FL. Ferd keeps busy in retirement but likes having former school system retirees come to visit.

**Marianne Litman Gambler** retired in 1992, after having taught music for 25 years at Arrowhead Elementary. The following year, she and her husband moved to New Port Richey, FL., where they greatly enjoy living. Marianne volunteers at her church as music librarian. She had a knee replacement in June and is now getting around better than ever.

**Carol and Donald Proctor** are both Prince George's County retirees. Carol retired as music teacher from Langley Park/McCormick Elementary in 1993, and Donald retired as a physical education teacher in 1983. The Proctors have relocated to the little town of Hurlock, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. They have a lovely home which their son, Don Jr., a builder in the Washington/Baltimore area, built for them, with the help of some friends. Carol utilizes with her expertise in music as a church organist and member of the church choir. She is currently president of the Community Club of Preston, a non-profit community-based organization that supports the town and local schools with scholarships and donations. (Many of the club's members are retired teachers from Caroline and Dorchester Counties.) Carol is originally from California, so many of her travels are to the Los Angeles area to visit with family. She also enjoys trips back to the Western Shore to lunch with many of the retired teachers with whom she taught. Carol and Donald are looking forward to attending the Broadway show Jersey Boys in New York in August.

**Joyce Kintz Flora** retired in 1997, after having taught at Kenmore, Capitol heights, and Valley View Elementary Schools. She is now pursuing her interest in art with pastel painting, along with playing golf and Bridge. She has a son who lives in Oswego, NY, and a daughter and two granddaughters who live in Atlanta, GA. Since retiring, Joyce has traveled to Spain, Portugal, morocco, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, France, and England. She has especially enjoyed Christmas Markets in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest, Joyce and her husband, Robert Jacoby, "are a college couple recycled" (in her words), who now live in Milton, Delaware.

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

## PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: September 23, 2009  
 Time: 11:00a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.  
 Place: PGCEA Building  
 Cost: \$10.00 per person

Please send your check, payable to PGPSRA, for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744. The reservation deadline is September 16th.

### LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM SEPTEMBER 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Lunches Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT DRIVE

NOTE: Please do not forget to send the forms for your two newly recruited PGPSRA members to Lorraine Johnson before September 14th to qualify for the free box lunch. You may reach her at 301.366.1173 or elojohnson@verizon.net. (Feel free to duplicate the form.)

## TWO FOR ONE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Application was received & mailed:

Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus

Luncheon Reservation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ =

(for new member)

Total Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**  
**SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lunches Ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

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