

ECHOES

Vol. LVI No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2022

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



From the President,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are now enjoying New Year 2022.

If you were not among the attendees at the November meeting, you missed a very informative and fun filled one. We had a most successful November meeting with wonderful reports and time for friendly introductions and informal chat at the end.

If you are a member who normally attends the meetings and was not there, you were noticeably missed. If you are one who does not attend, we invite you to

come aboard on Zoom and join us from the privacy of your home or wherever you are. Invite others and help us keep our focus on why we exist. PGPSRA's main purpose is to look out for the welfare of retired Prince George's School Retirees' state pensions, health insurance, etc. Therefore, we advocate for ourselves at the legislature. We want every retired educator to belong to the organization and help support our issues. We are all in this together.

We are saddened to report that we are continuing to lose many retired educators each year that have made such an impact on the youth in our community, have given tirelessly to educating others and have served in many other volunteer capacities in the community. Thanks to Dr Vest for informing us on a regular basis. We miss all of the retired school personnel and especially those who continued to serve the cause for our organization.

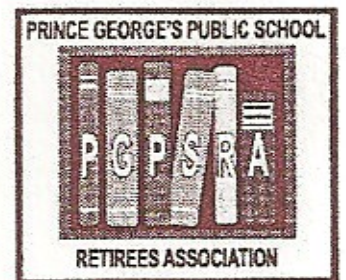
As we approach the new year, it would be great if each one of us recruit at least one new member. Better times lie ahead and we all look forward to meeting in person when the time is right.

Thank you. Be safe and be careful.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms



Happy New Year!



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BYLAW ADDITION for VOTE

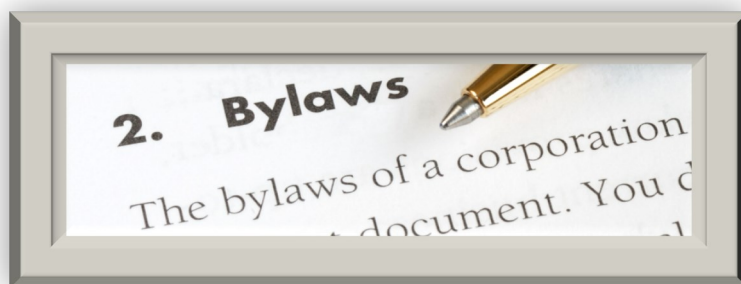
After our first reading in November, this change will be voted on at our January meeting. It is an addition to allow the board, officially, to hold meetings virtually. The interlined section, in red, is to be deleted, is a requirement to set all meeting dates at the first of the year. The new material, in blue, will make it possible for the organization to allow for unforeseen happenings.

Article II

Members

SECTION 3. Place of Holding Meetings. All meetings of members shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation or elsewhere in Maryland as designated by the Board of Directors. Meetings of the Corporation shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. If necessary, the meeting dates may be adjusted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. *at its first meeting of the fiscal year. In the event of a national or local emergency, the Board of Directors may authorize holding Executive Committee and/or General meetings virtually or with any similar electronic form of communication. Participation in such meetings shall constitute presence for the purpose of business conducted during those meetings.*

Please attend the meeting if you intend to have input and vote on this change.



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms
(obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denny

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest552@comcast.net)

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

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)

BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Bylaws: MaryLouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)

Membership: Maryann M. Royall (maryakaroyall@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Vacant

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and Linda Butler (lidab127@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)



MRSPA Fund Donations

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in schools across Maryland. In the past, funds for these scholarships and mini-grants were partially obtained through in-person sale of raffle tickets statewide. Last year, we sold raffle tickets via this newsletter and via local newsletters with great success. This year we are again seeking *donations* to the *MRSPA Fund* to continue our work. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

To show our appreciation, your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation. Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket, and donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2022 Annual Business Meeting, whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$150 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$75: Cooking, Spa, Wine Lover, Movie Night, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state basket winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

1. Make your check payable to "The Community Foundation of Frederick County"
2. Write **MRSPA Fund Donation** on the FOR line
3. Date and sign your check
4. Mail check and completed form to:
MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A,
Odenton, MD 21113

Due by March 22, 2022

Please, include the form below with your donation.
Receipts will be sent via email or US Mail.



MRSPA Fund Donation

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____



THIS IS KEISHA THORPE BLACK!

Keisha is a teacher at the International High School at Langley Park. She has received the Global Teacher Prize at the Paris headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Her high school students come from mostly immigrant families. Her project is to help these students in her English classes with college applications and scholarships within her classes with the help of a non-profit organization that she formed with her sister. Her work is now being enhanced with this million-dollar prize.

CONGRATUATIONS, KEISHA!





TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2022	
OPENING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	\$36420.96
Savings Account	126.86
ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:	
Receipts	260.32
Expenditures	2304.87
NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
CLOSING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	34376.41
Savings Account	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$34503.27
Edward N. Vest Treasurer	

REMEMBRANCE

Henri E. Hill	09/29/21
Elizabeth Glover Porter	09/28/21
Edward H. Weber	09/11/21
Blondell M. Barnes	10/05/21
Lucy Wiseman Marr	10/19/ 21
Charles R. Kilbourne	10/20/21
Marian Joan Geason	01/20/20
Cecilia Stotesbury	
Anita Hayes	09/10/21
Antonio Moore	09/20/21
Elizabeth Graham	11/15/21
Jack B. Pevenstein	11/24/21
Dr. Waveline Starnes	10/09/21
Catherine Carter	11/22/21

Correction: Dr. Ronald John Seibel's name was misspelled in the last issue. We are sorry for this mistake.

Submitted by Jayne Johns and
Linda Butler, Co-Chairs

ARE YOU READY!!



Bits and Pieces

Happy **JANUARY** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Ms. Hilda Rubin of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 2nd; **Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be marking her 102nd birthday on the 6th**; Ms. Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington will be having her 93rd birthday on the 7th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be turning 96 years-old on the 11th; Mr. Lawrence Yore of Greenbelt will be marking his 91st birthday on the 21st; Ms. Helen Brewer of Waldorf will be observing her 92nd birthday on the 22nd; Ms. De-lores Smith of Huntingtown will be having her 92nd birthday on the 23rd and Mr. Michael Tronzo of Stafford, VA. will also be having his 91st birthday on the 23rd; Ms. Doris Hall of Upper Marlboro will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 28th; and Ms. Beverly West of Annapolis will be reaching her 94th birthday on the 30th.

Happy **FEBRUARY** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Wilma Asquith of Hernando, FL. will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 1st; Mrs. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be having her 98th birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Mildred Mitchell of Washington, D.C. will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 10th; on the 11th, Mr. James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be turning 97 years-old, while Jewell Greer of El Paso, TX. will be turning 94 years-old; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.V. will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 19th; on the 25th, Ms. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be having her 95th birthday, while Ms. Ann Rakow of Rockville will be having her 91st birthday; Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be marking her 98th birthday on the 29th.

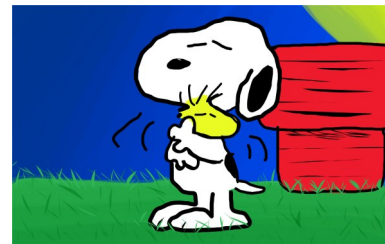
Joan Ahrens of Berwyn Heights retired from H.W. Wheatley Special Center as an Early Childhood Speech-Language Pathologist in 2004. However, this retirement didn't last long, as she was asked to substitute for her replacement, who was on leave. The substitute job lasted for a couple of years! Joan then worked as a contract employee with the Infants and Toddlers Program until retiring again in 2011. Since then, she has volunteered with Meals On Wheels in College Park, and in a variety of capacities with her church, Hope Lutheran in College Park. Joan and her husband have always liked to travel, and have taken several trips to Europe and Asia. Recently they have done more cruises, including to Eastern Europe, Greece, and Russia. Since the coronavirus pandemic, they have spent more time at their cabin in the mountains of West Virginia. Their most recent cruise was in September, when they sailed from Chicago to St. Louis on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. This was a fun and safe cruise, during which they learned a lot about the history of that part of the country. Since a daughter and grandson recently moved to Florida, the Ahrens next trip will probably be to visit them. Joan and her husband have three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with an enjoyable family party.

Clare Bennett retired in 2019 as a teacher at Dr. Henry Wise Junior High School. She has relocated to Arlington, VA. Her interests include fitness, biking, hiking, and reading. She volunteers with the Arlington Democrats and with Arlington 55+ Parks and Recreation. In October 2021 she vacationed in Hawaii, where she and John rented bikes and mopeds, snorkled, and hiked around the beautiful island. Clare is a caretaker for her elderly parent. She has three adult children: Rachel, who married on Halloween day in 2021 and held her reception in Asbury Park, N.J.; Jason, who was married last June; and Matt, who graduated from UMBC and works at the Pentagon.

Ralph Bender of Frostburg retired in 1989 from Benjamin Tasker Middle School. He has been a Host at the Frostburg Museum for the past 16 years, and served as Treasurer of the Museum for eleven years. Ralph has traveled to Las Vegas for fun and games **50 times** since retirement! Since 1999, he has walked six days a week with fellow retirees Kay Nelson and Darrell Harden! Ralph continues to enjoy communicating by Facebook with students he taught at Benjamin Tasker School in 1961.

Calpernia Arrington of Upper Marlboro retired from Melwood Elementary in 2004. She has since served as a Missionary at First Baptist Church of Highland Park. She has always loved to travel by cruising, and has sailed to the Caribbean areas, the Merditeranean, Alaska, and Hawaii. Calpernia has one son, Michael, and one daughter, Linda.

***To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net
or 301-390-7324



Beatrice P.Tignor Ed.D.

Our friend, long-time educator and member of PGPSRA. She has been recognized by Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame! Her accomplishments are far and just amazing. Finally, someone has recognized her as one of the very best. For full details, just go to Google and you will find this woman is amazing! We are proud to have her as a member and to know that she will continue to support education. Thank you, Bea.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER

The House passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, sending a major infrastructure package to President Joe Biden’s desk.

Here’s a look at what Maryland gains from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:

Provides funding to repair 273 bridges and over 2,201 miles of highway in poor condition.

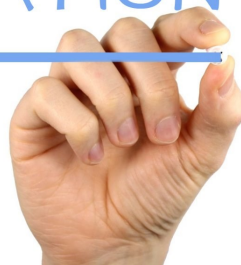
Makes historic investments into our public transit system with an expected \$1.7 billion over the next five years to improve public transit in our state.

Expands quality broadband access across Maryland with a focus on households most in need.

Makes strides to protect our environment and takes action on the climate crisis.

Sue Finan, Legislative Chair

INSPIRATION



12 Rules to live by from Colin Powell

1. It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
3. It can be done,
4. Be careful what you choose: you may get it..
5. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
6. You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.
7. Check small things.
8. Share credit.
9. Remain calm. Be kind.
10. Have a vision. Be demanding.
11. Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
12. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

Dan Williams, Chair

RESERVATIONS FOR JANUARY

Our **January 19th, 2022** General Membership meeting will be held virtually once more. Due to the continuing issues with the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to “distance” it is felt that we should be cautious and not try to meet in person, just yet. We have had to move the date because of conflicting meetings with MRSPA.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than January 12th. You will be added to the list of attendees and you will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. You will receive the agenda for the meeting by email.

Ed Vesthomevest552@comcast.net

We hope you will be able to join us!

PGPSRA

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We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

VISIT THESE WEBSITES www.MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

If you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr. Vest

To get the latest, quickest news.

CHECK IT OUT
WE'VE HAD A DATE CHANGE!!

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