

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXI No. 3

January 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The PGCRTA Executive Committee held its third regularly scheduled meeting of the year on November 14, 2001. Of all the topics on the agenda, I would like to report on two of them that were discussed and acted upon. The first was a motion that the president appoint an Ad Hoc Committee that would specifically be charged with the responsibility to review all of the line items within the current budget; investigate areas where the Association could increase donations to causes which directly involve students of the Prince George's School System; attempt to project our financial requirements over the next several years; and recommend an annual dues amount that could enable us to meet the goals of the Association. The committee will be asked to make recommendations to the Executive Committee before it begins work on the development of the 2002-2003 budget.

Secondly, the Executive Committee approved a motion to join with the active teachers association (PGCEA) in supporting the "Read Across America" program for the approximately 73,200 students enrolled in the county's elementary schools. Five hundred dollars was approved and donated toward the printing of bookmarks that will be given to each student this year. In unanimously approving the motion, the members of the Executive Committee welcomed this opportunity to not only support a good cause, but to also demonstrate our continuing commitment to quality education.

The holiday season is now over. I sincerely trust that it was a season of joy for each of you - a joy that comes from renewing close relationships and serving those in our communities who are less fortunate. And yet, as I have observed so many of our members throughout my retirement years, they do this all year long! Stay active - stay involved - and as I have seen on so many bulletin boards recently, continue to - **"Be Determined."**

Bob Miller
PGCRTA President

ANNAPOLIS TRIP - MARCH 7, 2002

It was wonderful to see the response at our November luncheon of those interested in attending the Thursday, March 7, 2002 trip to the PGCRTA Legislative Day in Annapolis. You may still join the group until March 5th, by calling Jan Wundrow at 301-390-7324.

We will be leaving the PGCEA Office by motorcoach at 8:45 am and returning about 3:00 pm. The Executive Board voted to set aside funds for this trip so there will be NO CHARGE. While in Annapolis, we will sit in on a legislative session, have lunch at the Lowe Office Building, where we will be joined by several of our county representatives, and then tour the Governor's House. In lieu of the tour, you may choose to observe some of the committee hearings in progress, look around the State House on your own, or wander down some of the cobble stone streets of our state capital (a street map will be provided). We will depart for home at 2:15 pm.

Remember, we are all lobbyists for retired teachers and senior citizens across Maryland, so come along and voice your concerns, or approvals, to our state legislators.

Jan Wundrow
Legislative Chair

FLORIDA RETIRED EDUCATORS LUNCHEON

The Sea Watch Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, will be the location for the annual retired teacher's luncheon on Wednesday, February 27, 2002. Letters have been mailed with the luncheon information. Anyone not receiving a letter and interested in attending should contact:

Jeannette and Bill Yates
8590 SW -18th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324

Phone : 954-474-6913

TRIP POSSIBILITIES FOR 2002

WHICH OF THESE TRIPS INTEREST YOU ???

Contact Charlie Hudson 301-736-6946

1. WEEK LONG TRIP

A repeat of the proposed Western North Carolina trip to Asheville and the Biltmore Estate, Railroad trips, and other museums.

2. TWO DAY TRIPS

a. Strasburg, PA, in March or April to see "DANIEL" at the Sight and Sound Theater, and the show at the American Music Theater, Wheatland (home of President James Buchanan), Railroad Museum, and Amish markets. Two dinners, one breakfast, and one night motel accommodation will cost \$230-\$250 for 40 persons. (It will cost more if less than 40 people sign up.) Bus transportation is included.

b. Foxwood Casino in Connecticut with food coupons, museum coupons, and/or other sight seeing if not interested in gambling. Three days - two nights, includes bus transportation. Cost is \$185 per person if 40 people sign up.

c. Johnstown and Allentown, PA, to see the Flood Museum, Heritage Museum, Railroad Museum, and the Antique museum. The approximate cost per person is \$230-\$250, if 40 people sign up.

d. Richmond, Petersburg, VA, areas to see the State Capitol, Civil War Museum, and Battlefields. Probable cost will be \$200 per person, if 40 people sign up.

3. ONE DAY TRIPS

a. Matinee Dinner Theater - Wednesdays

ANNIE January/February

FOREVER PLAID selected dates January/February

b. Covered Bridge Tours and Museums in Frederick County area.

c. Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and Upper Eastern Shore

4. TWO WEEK CRUISE

Cruise down the Intercostal Waterway for about \$2400 per person, which includes meals and room accommodations, if 30 people sign up.

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT

At its quarterly meeting with the Board of Education's Health group in November, the Coalition members were informed that the merger of Capital Care Blue Cross/Blue Shield with Maryland Blue Cross/Blue Shield became fully operational as of November 9, 2001. The new name is Care First Blue Shield.

For those of us enrolled in the Board of Education's Medical Plan, the merger now opens the network of the former Maryland Blue Cross/Blue Shield and its many hospitals in the city of Baltimore, including Johns Hopkins Medical Center with its 1800 specialists. Our members now have access to Johns Hopkins Hospital under Option 1. For years, the members of the Coalition had asked to have the opportunity to use John Hopkins as an Option 1 choice.

The network has been expanded to include the city of Baltimore and the counties of Baltimore, Hartford, Cecil, and Queen Anne's. It was stated that Care First Blue Shield intends to expand into the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland during 2002.

Allan I. Chotiner
Professional Liaison

"Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children."

Walt Disney

BITS AND PIECES

Lloyd and Charlotte Hoover spent 17 days vacationing in Sorrento, Florence, Capri, Siena and Rome, Italy last March. The trip proved interesting and sometimes frustrating (encountering a pickpocket and an extortionist in Rome).

Kitty Walker and Phyllis Truitt (Worcester County RTA and MRTA president-elect) enjoyed a marvelous 16 day trip to Arizona and Wyoming in November. They experienced drastic weather changes going from the 95 degree desert temperatures of AZ to 30 degrees with ice and hail in the mountains of WY, but both relished the different scenery. They traveled around the Grand Tetons - up the Idaho side and down the WY side. Kitty said that this area of the country is definitely one of the beauties of the USA.

Since July, when Anne Prince went to Boston for the International Convention of Alpha Delta Kappa, she has been quite involved with her church (trustees, United Women, Service Fellowship Guild, and Constitution Committee). Anne had a cataract removed from her right eye, and that went extremely well.

Marguerite Laird suffered a stroke last May, and remains in Hill Manor Nursing Home in Adelphi.

Dan and Linda Williams, along with Linda's parents, drove to Chicago in October to visit their daughter, Melanie, at her new home and job at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of American Headquarters. They stopped to see cousins along the way, and then drove on to Washburn, Wisconsin, where they visited Lynette Corrine (a former PG County teacher). The next weekend, Dan and Linda went to Bridgewater, VA to participate in the Applebutter Festival.

Ray and Thomas Smith have been on a series of trips this past year that included San Antonio, TX, Myrtle Beach, SC, Ocean City, MD, Las Vegas, NV, and Niagra Falls, Canada. This last trip with a group of Seniors was most enjoyable and picturesque, as they took the scenic route, traveling through the mountains in October, at the height of the fall foliage season.

Doris Hall, her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson spent 5 days in the Bahamas last October. It was a lovely and relaxing vacation.

Charlie and Ann Hudson spent a week in Sunset Beach, NC, playing golf and swimming in the ocean. They also took two trips to Pennsylvania last fall: one, to Johnstown and Altoona to see the Flood Museum and the Train Museum; the other, to Falling Waters to see the home that Frank Lloyd Wright built over a waterfall.

Carl Lancaster was in Salt Lake City, Utah, in early October. While there, he was able to research his Lancaster ancestors back to 1790. It was an exciting series of discoveries.

Ron and Jan Beury became the proud grandparents of a 10 pound baby boy, Thomas Preston Mason, on August 8, 2001.

In November, J. Davis was re-elected as Mayor of the City of Greenbelt for a third term. She represented Greenbelt at the National League of Cities Conference in Atlanta, GA, in December. J. is also President of the Prince George's County Municipal Association.

Tom Barron has retired from his third career since teaching (tutoring, park ranger, pipe organ repairman) and is currently acting as handyman, cook, and fisherman—still looking for new vistas.

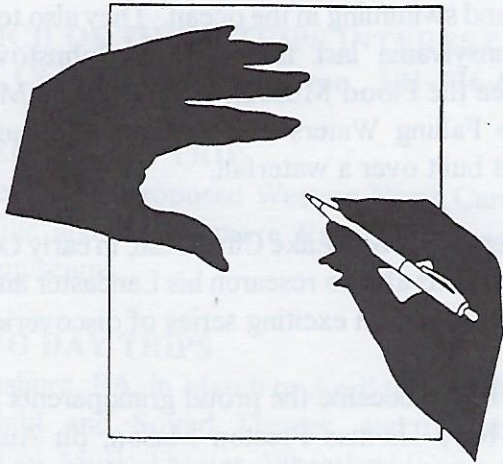
Wanda Antonacci and Isabella Macpherson took a very interesting trip across Canada in October. They flew from BWI Airport to Toronto and onto Vancouver, where they boarded a motorcoach for a tour of the city. Next they traveled by train to Kamloops, Banff, and Jasper, and later returned to Toronto by rail. They observed the gorgeous Canadian Rockies, Lake Louise, and lots of wildlife (elk, mule deer, a wolf, sheep). Wanda and Isabella enjoyed good company, magnificent scenery, delicious food, and good weather.

Jannie Goldston and her husband traveled to Taipei, Taiwan, in June, stopping off in Tokyo, Japan. They found Taiwan to be a beautiful country, and they enjoyed every minute of the 10 day trip, including the 13 hour and 40 minute plane ride from New York to Tokyo.

Walter and Annie F. Pinkney, of Clinton, celebrated 52 years of married bliss on December 17, 2001. Our congratulations to them!

Joseph and Maud Pinkney spent 10 days in Los Angeles, CA, with their son and daughter in October. From there, they went to Las Vegas, NV, to visit friends and see the Red Rock Canyon.

IN MEMORIAM



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our membership is growing very slowly at this time. We are near 1800 members. There are 50 members who have not renewed for the 2001-2002 year.

If your spouse would like to be an associate member of PGCRTA, fill out the application below and mail it to me. There are no dues for associate members when the spouse is a member.

Several members have moved recently and have forgotten to give me their new address. The post office does not forward the ECHOES. One member told me she had not received her dues renewal bill from MRTA last April. Any changes in your address are forwarded to MRTA when I receive the change. If I don't know you moved, MRTA probably does not know either.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip Code _____
 Phone # _____
 Name of member spouse _____

Send to: Jane Jones
 5912 -36th Avenue
 Hyattsville, MD 20782-2924

MEMBERS:

Harry R. Bock	12-07-01
Pauline W. Bowden	12-01-01
Elizabeth F. Burslem	?
Jean Colbert	11-02-01
Barbara A. Curley	11-14-01
Juanita L. Harris	11-05-01
Dorothy Holloway	10-21-01
Naif Louis Mahan	11-09-01
Ada Mae Neumann	?
Dorothy Statler	09-25-01

NON-MEMBERS:

Pearl Boone	09-28-01
Jerome Brooks	10-11-01
Otis F. Cleveland	?
Esther Coley	11-25-01
Thomas B. Contee	11-22-01
Catherine L. Cook	11-29-01
Sophie M. Gondek	09-23-01
Eartha Goode	10-18-01
Edna Govan	11-21-01
Price Grier	09-25-01
Mary C. Hager	11-17-01
John M. Hendrix	11-26-01
Whilhelmine Hermani	10-17-01
Lois M. Hilton	09-25-01
Rosalie Kim	03-14-01
Dewey Marshall	09-13-01
Jack McNeel	11-18-01
Elma M. Means	10-17-01
Charlene B. Moreland	10-03-01
Vera M. Ramage	08-15-01
Margaret L. Shipe	11-17-01
Carroll Sisk	11-24-01
Marie E. Smith	09-26-01
Kathleen Smith	10-10-01
Elizabeth Steiner	09-26-01
Ruth S. Weyel	09-29-01
Dorothy M. White	10-27-01
Loretta Wiseman	09-22-01
Susan K. Wyatt	11-01-01
Hilda Yeager	10-19-01

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

Lenore Dehnel and her son went to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in November to help Lenore's sister and her husband celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful occasion!

Mozelle Harris took a scenic train trip to Spokane, WA, to visit her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter last summer.

Edward and Jean Clement took time out from their energetic grandchildren to go to Daytona Beach for a week of relaxation and enjoyment.

Leon Farrell retired from Robert Goddard Middle School in 1989, and joined PGCRTA at that time. Due to other community activities, Leon only attended his first luncheon meeting in November, where he said that it was great to see some of his old colleagues and friends.

Judy Proctorstein came for her first meeting, too, in November. She taught in New Carrollton for about 30 years, before retiring on disability. Judy now enjoys her time at home in Bowie with her husband, Pat, and children, Adam and Jayne.

Dr Allan Chotiner recently took time out for heart surgery. He is home, recovering rapidly, and busy monitoring Board of Education Health issues.

Isabella Macpherson was the recipient of the November meeting door prize. Who will win it next time ????

Happy

New

Year !!!

ECHOES STAFF

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maryland Retired Teachers' Association held their annual Legislative Day meeting in Annapolis on November 14, 2001, and there, we were reassured by members of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System that our monies are safe and growing again after several months of declining dividends.

The Retirement Board is comprised of 14 members, 8 of whom are appointed. At one time there were 15 people on this board, and MRTA would like to see that 15th person reinstated through an election process - and that it be a retired teacher. Presently, Bill Brown represents active duty teachers, and Carl Lancaster represents retired teachers. Other groups with two representatives each on the board are state employees and state police; however, retired teachers make up 47% of all Maryland retirees, so it is felt that our representation should be increased. MRTA plans to introduce a bill addressing this issue at the General assembly in January, and we are currently seeking legislative sponsors.

PGCRTA has introduced a "Legislative Buddy" chart. This was a suggestion of MRTA's as a way to have direct contact with our local politicians. Our county legislators are listed on the chart by districts. If you know one of the delegates or senators personally, and would be willing to contact them on specific bills that may come up in this 2002 Legislative Session, would you volunteer to be a designated caller? I will give you their toll-free Annapolis phone number and let you know when an issue of concern to our organization will be coming up for a vote. Then, you can contact them on behalf of PGCRTA or MRTA (or both) to ask for their support. This does not eliminate your calling as an individual, if you choose, also.

Sorry to report that Medicare reform and Prescription Drug Coverage increases have been put on hold because of the sudden drop in state and national revenues and unexpected defense expenditures; however, MRTA will continue to press for changes.

As you are probably aware, several bills concerning the reorganization of our PG School Board will be introduced this Legislative Session. A state task force was appointed to study what should be done about funding the school system in light of the conflicts between board members, the superintendent, and the continuing low test scores. You may want to keep alert to resulting proposals about this issue in Annapolis.
(Jan Wundrow - Chair)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
9624 Small Drive
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(Non-Profit Org.)
U.S. Postage
PAID
Riverdale, MD
Permit No. 2906

DATED MATERIAL

|||||
JANNETTE
WUNDROW
1007 PACKTON LN
BOWIE, MD 20716-1761



CALENDAR CHANGES

January - NO membership meeting

March - Membership meeting date changed

to

March 20, 2002