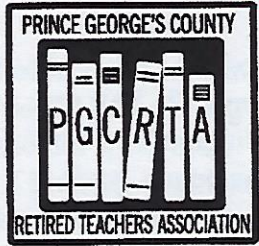


# Prince George's Public School Retirees' Assn.



## ECHOES

### THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXIII No. 3

January 2004

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

Each January brings us a symbolic new beginning, when we can seemingly "wipe the slate clean", and begin anew. We do this through resolutions and resolve. Of course, desire for change is essential, as well as, commitment to reach our goal. A recent survey states that 36% of us break our New Year's resolutions by the end of January! However, by using a measured approach of making one small change at a time, success will triumph.

Life is about choices. We all have reasons for the changes we want to establish in our lives. In order to achieve change, we must have vision and persistence. Sometimes it takes courage to face old, comfortable habits and determine that change is needed. At times adaptive and creative responses are required of us as we move in a more positive direction.

Our organization has faced the need for a change over the past few years as we began to discuss the idea of a different name for PGCRTA. Many of us knew it was time for our organization to become more inclusive in name. We have always encouraged anyone who was employed by the Prince George's County School Board to become a member of our organization, yet the current name does not reflect that membership composition. In the spring our Constitution and Bylaws Committee sent out a survey to each of our members, asking for name change suggestions. The outcome was chosen by more than half of our membership, and as a result, we will become the Prince George's Public School Retirees' Association.

Again, change takes time, patience, and persistence. Now we must take measured steps to make this name change a reality through legal channels (consulting a lawyer, filing of county, state, and Federal papers, submitting our books

for audit, etc.) When all of these requirements are met, we will have established and reached our goal of changing our organizational name. It will take a period of time to complete the legal process before we can celebrate this success, but the result will be very worthwhile.

As the saying goes, "No one can go back and change things, but anyone can start from now, and make a brand new ending." By working together for positive change throughout this new year, we are taking charge of tomorrow when we will become the Prince George's Public School Retirees' Association.

Jannette Wundrow  
President PGCRTA

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

This committee is pleased to report that there were 979 votes (more than half of our membership) cast for the new name of our organization. Comments on this change were invited at the November membership meeting and by mail. Just a few were offered, both pro and con. Number three on the list, Prince George's Public School Retirees' Association, won with 111 more votes than the next runner-up.

Several legal matters now need to be handled, such as changing the name on the bank account, changing the Logo and/or the acronym, and filing this name change with all the proper authorities. Hopefully these matters will be completed within a year.

Jannie Goldston /Elinor Ford

Co-Chairs



Interested in attending the Thursday, March 11, 2004, trip to the PGCRTA Legislative Day in Annapolis? You may still join the group until March 9<sup>th</sup>, by calling Jan Wundrow at 301-390-7324. The Executive Committee put funds in the budget for this trip, so there is NO CHARGE.

We are most pleased that Delegate James Proctor has very graciously sponsored our PGCRTA members on this legislative day trip for the past three years and will do it again this March.

We will be leaving the PGCEA office by motorcoach at 8:45 am and returning about 2:45 pm. 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 cobblestone streets of our state capital (a street map will be provided). We will depart for home at 2:15 pm.

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

AddieMartin/Jeanette Gordy Legislative Co-Chairs

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

It is time for the **JANUARY 2004 FOOD DRIVE**. Your donation of non-perishables will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to the January executive and/or the January 28<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

*THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!*

We would also appreciate you signing up to volunteer for one of the following: Read Across America, Science Fairs, and/or school of choice visitation.

Let's work together to do our best to support and make a difference in our public schools. If you have questions, or to sign up to volunteer, please call Jennie at (301) 262-3828

Jennie Jones  
Community Service Chair

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Members:

- Thomas Mays 10-07-03
- Betty Jo Petty 10-31-03

#### Non-Members:

- James E. Brooks 11-13-03
- Frank I. LaFontaine 10-27-03
- Charlotte W. Garrett 10-12-03
- William R. Kerby 10-26-03
- Ruth McLarney 08-29-03
- Margaret P. Smith 06-22-03
- Mary York 10-12-03

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.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have seventeen new members since September. Some members have been recruiting their friends which is a great help. Due to privacy concerns, retirees' addresses are not shared with us. Remember you are all members of this committee. I depend on you! As usual, I am willing to give or send membership brochures to any retirees. Encourage your friends to read the brochure so they will know all the things PGCRTA and MRTA are working on for their behalf. Stress the point that they can help themselves by joining - particularly in getting good Medicare prescription coverage.

Your reward for new members is a \$10.00 coupon from MRTA toward registration and meals at the 2004 convention in Ocean City. Be sure you sign your friend's application and then send it to me ( 5912 -36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hyattsville, 20782) with their check.

See you in January ! Jane Jones,  
Membership Chair

## BITS AND PIECES

Bernadine Spaulding retired as Guidance Secretary at Martin Luther King Middle School in 1996. Since then, she has spent much time pursuing her genealogy interest of tracking down her family tree, volunteering at church, learning more about her computer, crocheting, babysitting two grandchildren weekly and supporting their activities. Bernadine lives in Beltsville with the "wonderful man" she married in 1999. Between them, they have nine grandchildren. She and her husband have taken trips to NM, MI, TX, and CT to visit family, and also done much traveling around the world. Many of their trips have been with Elderhostel, which Bernadine reports, "is a great way to travel, as you learn so much and the price is reasonable".

Carolyn Mangel retired in 1995 as a Reading Teacher from James Harrison Elementary. Since then, she has been serving as an elementary school reading volunteer, but she is about to make a change to become Adult Literacy Volunteer. Carolyn and her husband live in Silver Spring most of the year, but spend the winter in Sarasota, FL. They also travel to Seattle, WA, frequently to visit their daughter and her family.

Arthur and Lillian Couchenour Mack retired from the Prince George's County School System; Arthur from William Paca in 1975, and Lillian from Waldon Woods in 1978. The Mack's live in White Plains, MD, but spend the winters at their home in Bradenton, FL. They have six adult children.

Ronald Beury and his wife, Jan, are celebrating the birth of their second grandchild, Laura Susan Mason. The Beury's live in Crofton, and have been working together since retirement as real estate agents for REMAX, in Anne Arundel County. They did take time during the past year, though, to take pleasure trips to Las Vegas, Williamsburg, and Brandywine Country.

Carolyn Dade was honored at the Greater Washington State Assembly of Church Women United in October. Carolyn is a member of the Southern Prince George's Chapter, which promotes an ecumenical movement that brings together women of all denominations for prayer and worship. Carolyn and her husband, Earl, live in Suitland, MD.

We welcome three new members to PGCRTA: Patricia McKees, Jessie Clay, and Linda Gonyeau.

William Rogers retired some years ago as Guidance Counselor at Northwestern High School. He relocated to Palm Harbor, FL, where he finds life much slower and relaxing. Last May, he returned for his 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion at Gonzaga, in Washington. He was surprised at some of the changes he saw - a new Northwestern High School, the increased amount of traffic, and the high prices at restaurants.

Dr. Edward Vest retired as vice principal at Friendly High School in 1989, but has continued in a teaching capacity since. He served as Assistant Principal at the Boy's School of the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria for 11 years, and is presently the Test Center Administrator for Prometric, a computer based testing center in Fairfax. Ed met his wife, Lou, when they were both teaching at Oxon Hill High School, and they were married in 1965. They continue to live in Ft. Washington. Recently they traveled to Charleston, SC, for a family wedding. In his spare (?) time, Ed serves as our most competent PGCRTA Treasurer.

Carolyn LeCrone retired from Crossland Senior High in 1992. After retirement, she taught basic skills part time for three years at the Pepsi Plant in Cheverly and at NRL, through a community outreach program for Prince George's Community College. Most recently she has worked with small groups at Potomac Landing Elementary as a volunteer. Carolyn enjoys playing golf, and is president of her local women's golf association. Carolyn gardens, and is active in both local and state gardening organizations. She and her husband live in Ft. Washington. Carolyn and her nine year old granddaughter share something special...they have the same birth date.

Barbara Groom retired in 1990 from Kettering Elementary. She and her husband live in Bowie. They have enjoyed traveling to the West Coast, Florida, and Maine. Barbara serves as a visitor to shut-ins and is a Deacon at her Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church.

Margaret Farley retired as Head Start Secretary in 1995, but she continues to put her secretarial skills to use by working three days a week at her church. Margaret and her husband, Frank (who has retired three times), live in Huntington, MD. They enjoy traveling, and since retiring have been to the Middle East, Europe, and the Caribbean as well as numerous other places.

Jan Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane, Bowie, MD 20716

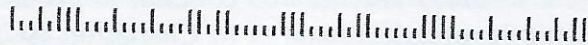
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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**ALVETA S. JONES HONORED**

It is with pleasure that we announce that our very own Alveta S. Jones was selected to receive induction into the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame. This honor was bestowed upon her on October 13, 2003 at the Annual Awards' Luncheon at Michael's of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Glen Burnie, MD.

Alveta has taught school in Queen Anne's County, MD, Istanbul, Turkey, and Prince George's County. She retired from the Prince George's County School System in 1982. She immediately became active in our retired teachers' organization, where she has served on numerous committees and even filled the office of President twice. Community activities also claim much of Alveta's time. She is involved with her church, local schools, and several senior citizen projects.

In her free time Alveta enjoys traveling, reading and visiting with her two daughters and their families.

Our sincere congratulations to Alveta on this award !

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

January 28, 2004

11:00 am

PGCEA Building

Light Luncheon (no charge)

Program - short special video

If inclement weather, our meetings follow the school system policy of cancellation. Delayed opening will mean our meeting will go on as scheduled.

Editor's note: We invite you to submit to this newsletter material of interest and pertinent to our membership. Content, amount of space available, and a committee's review will determine if and when it will be included. (With our current equipment, photographs do not reproduce well.)

Priority for inclusion in this newsletter is always given to committee reports; it is our goal and purpose to keep the membership informed of the organization's activities.