

# ECHOES

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

VOL. XXXIX No. 3

January 2006

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! Unlike some areas of life, January does not represent a new beginning for the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association. Instead, it represents a 'continuation' of work begun previously. To support this, I refer to the Scholarship Committee. Its members have made personal contacts with the senior class guidance counselors at all of the public schools in our system to clarify our goals for awarding scholarships, the standards required and the categories used. Time was also set aside for questions that might exist with reference to this effort. At this time, attention will be focused on the first week of January, 2006 as the period of delivery for the scholarship applications, by "Pony", to all high schools in Prince George's County.

Another committee that is continuing work begun previously is the Community Services Committee. An early appeal was made for non-perishable food items and monetary donations to purchase such items. This is to be accomplished at our next meeting scheduled for January 25, 2006 at the PGCEA Center located in Forestville. This is a membership meeting and will begin at 11:00 AM. An area will be designated for acceptance of donations.

Continuing rather than beginning can also be applied to our State Retirees Association because they are seeking a recipient for the MRTA Service Award. Specific information will be available at the meeting in January. Likewise, the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals is seeking an Executive Director. The deadline for applications is January 6, 2006 with the interviews scheduled for January 23, 2006. Because this is prior to our scheduled meeting, the information has been placed in our List Serve format and sent via our telephone tree. Hopefully, interested persons will be able to follow through because of this procedure.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that our Travel Coordinator, Charles Hudson, will have posted at the

January meeting, for our study, descriptions for some possible places to visit as a group.

Our Program committee Chair, Kitty Walker, has planned exciting and informational presentations for our enrichment. Specifically, information and demonstrative presentations of how to maintain balance and how to prevent falls. This will follow our business session. Membership meetings always include lunch and lunch is scheduled to begin at noon (there is no charge). Afterwards, we will hear about "Life" as presented by a nonagenarian. After checking your dictionary, please be curious enough to attend this meeting scheduled for January 25, 2006, 11 AM at the PGCEA Center..

Rose Miller, President

### THE ANNUAL FLORIDA RETIREES' GET-TOGETHER

For a variety of reasons, co-hosts of the Annual Florida Retirees' Get-Together, Dr. Robert J. and Patria L. Shockley, have decided that the 2006 affair will be a cruise-only event. This does not mean that the annual luncheon (which started in 1985) will not be held in future years.

This year's cruise is a 10-day event, departing from Ft Lauderdale, Florida on March 18 on the SUN PRINCESS. There are special rates based on double occupancy: Interior - \$1105 per person, Oceanview - \$1262 per person, and Balcony - \$1539 per person. These cabins are limited; therefore the reservations need to be made as soon as possible. Interested Prince George's County retirees, their friends, and/or guests can check with either Mary or Karen at Wal-Mart Vacations, using their toll-free phone : 877-532-9354.

If you have any questions concerning the annual get-together, call Dr. or Mrs. Shockley at: 321-255-1918.

## BITS AND PIECES

Laura Winters, of Lanham, retired in 1999 from Thomas Johnson Middle School; however, she continues to use her educational skills by subbing one day each week at Margaret Brent Special Center. Laura serves as the financial secretary at her church. She also exercises at her local recreation center two or three days a week. This past summer she went to a family reunion in CT, a wedding in WA, and enjoyed a cruise to Alaska! Laura has four children (each living in a different state - MD, PA, VA, and WA) and six grandchildren.

Donald Droneburg retired in 2004 from Bowie High School, after 39 years of teaching in Prince George's County. However, he is continuing to work in education, teaching part time at Anne Arundel Community College. Donald and his wife, who live in Annapolis, will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next August. They have three daughters and one granddaughter.

Jane Jones retired from Nicholas Orem Middle School as a special education teacher in 1989. Since then, she has been involved as a volunteer Prince George's "Help by Phone- Code Caller", is a member of their Executive Board, as well as, our invaluable Membership Chairperson (for a number of years). Before that, Jane served as co-editor of the ECHOES, along with Jean Harpster. Jane has four childhood friends in TX, AZ, and locally, with whom she stays close in touch through letters and visits. She has taken a cruise on a steamboat down the Ohio River, traveled to HI, MI, OH, and upstate NY, besides going by train to visit her daughter and family in CA. Jane celebrated the high school graduations of two of her grandchildren last June - one in OH, and one in Anne Arundel County. Jane has three children and five grandchildren. One daughter-in-law is a librarian at Bladensburg Elementary.

Jannette Wundrow, and husband, David, traveled to Appleton, WI, last summer to visit relatives in that area, to San Diego, CA, to celebrate a sister's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in October, and to Tampa, FL, for the wedding of friends in December. Jannette continues to volunteer at the Largo Public Library, at the Kennedy Center with the "instrument petting zoo", and serve on the Legislative Committees of AARP MD, MRTA, and PGPSRA.

Donald Wilson, of Bowie, retired as physical education teacher from Dodge Park Elementary in 1995. Since then,

he has found time to frequently enjoy his favorite sport of golf. Donald is involved in volunteer work at his church and the Glenarden Community Center, where he supervises various programs involving young adults. Other than a cruise for pleasure to Nova Scotia, most of Donald's travels evolve around sports events. He has sailed to New Orleans to attend the Bayou Golf Classic, gone to New York City's Giant Stadium for football, and traveled to play golf at Myrtle Beach, SC, Pinehurst, NC, and Hilton Head, SC. The highlight of this past summer was when he attended the President's cup at the Robert Trent Jones Golf club in VA. There, he was able to watch golfers, such as: Tiger Woods, Fred Couples, Chris DiMarco, Phil Mickelson, and many others - and, collect their autographs. Donald has nine children and nine grandchildren, all of whom reside in the county.

Bonnie Brose, and husband, Bill, of Upper Marlboro, celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Amelia, in November. October and November were very busy months for Bonnie, for as President of the Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra, she oversees their annual Decorator's Show House held throughout the month of October - and chaired this year by Prince George's educator, Margaret Williams.

Charlotte Faison, of Lanham, retired from Robert Gray Elementary in 2002. She has taken up an unusual retiree activity - belly dancing! Charlotte participates in this class at the University of Maryland, Performing Arts Center, where she has enjoyed meeting interesting people and having fun!

Jannette Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We always need proof readers for our newsletter, ECHOES. This job requires reading of the final copy for typos (we all make them) and/or grammatical errors. If you can help, contact Rose Miller, our current president, but next year's ECHOES editor. Contact her at: 301-248-7647

## SUMMARY 11/16/05 MEETING

1. Treasurer's report - November 2005 - Dr. Vest  
checking account - \$20129.49  
savings account - \$6911.40  
total assets - \$27040.89
2. Community Service - Delores Brown  
Committee members will be visiting selected schools, serving as parent liaisons  
Work with after school students  
Soliciting non-perishable foods for January food drive
3. Legislative report - Jannette Wundrow  
PGPSRA legislative day scheduled for March 15  
See report elsewhere in ECHOES
4. Liaison-professional report - Addie Martin  
See report elsewhere in ECHOES
5. Scholarship - Alveta Jones  
Committee members visiting high school guidance counselors to inform them of PGPSRA scholarships
6. Program was the Roosevelt High Madrigals who gave a dynamic performance

### RE: NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE

In the past few months you have received bulletins of information about the new Medicare Prescription coverage. As you review this material keep in mind the following points:

- You are not obliged to sign up
- If you already have good drug coverage you won't need to change (but it is wise to check).
- If you sign up later with Medicare than when you were first eligible, you will pay a penalty, except in certain circumstances
- To receive coverage you must sign up with one of the private insurance plans that Medicare has approved to provide
- All Medicare recipients will also receive the publication Medicare & You. This booklet will give you more detailed information and a list of some of the private insurance plans available in Maryland. (Please take note that any of the new plans can change for 2007 and each future year.)

## PGPSRA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

We are planning our annual PGPSRA Legislative Day in Annapolis on Wednesday, March 12. This trip is free to our members. We will leave by coach bus from the PGCEA office parking lot at 8:45 am, and return about 2:45 pm. During this trip you will be able to observe our Maryland Legislature in action, tour the State House and Governor's Mansion, and interact with some of our county legislators during a sandwich/cookie luncheon. Come and join us for an interesting day.

The Maryland Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) Legislative Committee met and discussed our members' concerns about the Lt. Governor's Commission on Education Report, which was made public on September 14, 2005. A letter was composed from MRTA to the Governor and Lt. Governor, and was presented before the MRTA Board of Directors at their December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following their approval the letter was mailed to Annapolis. Please be alert when the Commission on Education Report is presented during the Maryland General Assembly session, and don't hesitate to voice your concerns to your local legislators - or the Lt. Governor's office: 410-974-2804.

The MRTA Legislative Committee plans to resubmit two bills this coming legislative session: (1) forbidding local boards of education to eliminate retiree health benefits, and requiring them to discuss those benefits with a local association of retirees; and (2) requiring counties to count total Maryland service credit in determining retiree health benefits. Delegate James Proctor (District 27) has agreed to sponsor another bill to be introduced this session. It will build on a bill that Delegate Proctor got passed in 2002, which allows a retiree of the MD Retirement and Pension System who selects option 5 or 6 retirement allowance, to designate a new beneficiary if the retiree's original beneficiary has predeceased the retiree, or if the retiree does not choose a new beneficiary, to have his, or her, retirement benefits "pop up" to what they would have been had no beneficiary originally been named. The newly proposed bill would let retirees who choose Option 2 or 3 have the same possibility of a "pop up" if their beneficiary predeceases them and they opt to name no beneficiary.

Jannette Wundrow - Legislative Chair  
301-390-7324

Meetings

1. General membership meetings are held in September and January, usually at the PGCEA headquarters in Forestville. Luncheon membership meetings are held usually in November, March, and May at various locations. Only members and their invited guests may attend the PGPSRA luncheons.

2. Cancellation of the P.G. County schools, due to inclement weather, is announced on radio and T V. Our meetings will follow the school system policy. Delayed opening will mean our meeting will go on as scheduled.

The individual luncheon contracts will determine whether or not a luncheon can/will be canceled in bad weather.

Executive Committee

3. Executive Committee meetings are held at the PGCEA headquarters. Meeting dates are cleared for all meetings in the building with the office manager.

4. The Executive Committee transition meeting is held in June. Time is included for the outgoing Board to finish up business matters, and the new committees to confer, exchange documents, procedural guidelines, etc.

5. Members of the Executive Committee are the designated delegates to the annual MRTA meeting in May. If the number of delegates allowed is not met in this manner, others are selected by the president or by the president in consultation with the Executive Board. Preference is given to those members who have been active throughout the year in committee work. The number of delegates is determined by a state formula which is based on membership.

6. The MRTA convention is held at a MRTA designated site. Members of the Executive Board who desire to attend (there are no selected delegates) may receive a stipend.

Committees

7. This association awards scholarships (Memorial Scholarship of Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association) through the Prince George's County Scholarship Association. Scholarships are awarded in memory of deceased members. The number of scholarships and the dollar amount is determined each year at the time of the budget adoption.

8. Urgent local messages, as or if needed, are communicated through the Telephone Tree to the Executive Committee. Additionally, the ListServe list sends messages to those who have signed up with their e-mail address. All messages must be cleared with the president (and/or Executive Committee) first.

9. All scheduled social trips must be negotiated and administered by the PGPSRA trip coordinator.

General Items

10. This organization jointly sponsors the pre-retirement conference held each spring. The President-Elect is the representative to the joint planning meeting, and chairs the committee of at least ten people.

11. PGPSRA participates in a number of service projects throughout the year.

12. Reimbursements are given when requested by voucher for the following categories: committee expenses, mileage and associated expenses, and other expenses as determined by the Executive Board. Reimbursements will be made as determined by the PGPSRA executive board.

13. To go along with the Constitution requirements the proposed budget is presented at both the executive committee and the membership meetings in March.

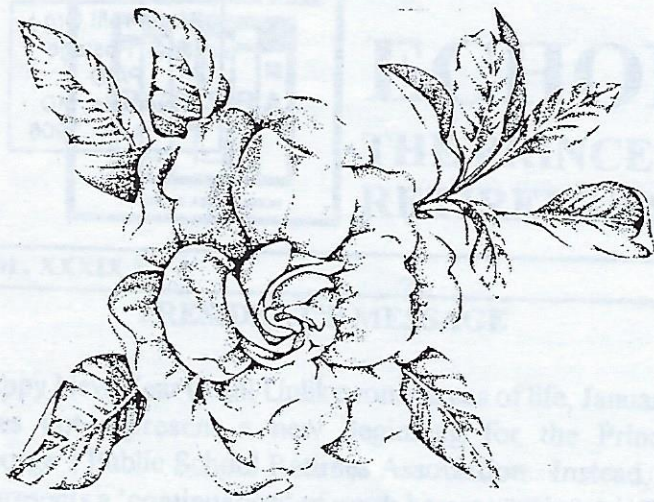
14. The proposed budget is to be published in the May issues of ECHOES, and is voted on at the May membership meeting.

15. An honorarium may be given to guest speakers/performers, with the amount to be decided by the Executive Committee.

16. It is the policy of this organization that no soliciting or selling except for products or events authorized by PGPSRA may be made at executive or membership meetings.

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Accepted by Executive Board 11-09-05



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to winter in Maryland. We made it to our meeting in sunny but chilly weather, and then autumn really arrived. There were almost 100 people at our November meeting. The Madrigals were a joy to hear.

We have approximately 40 people who have not renewed for the 2005-2006 year. Please check to see if you have paid your dues or this will be your last ECHOES.

We have a correction to make. We had listed Irene Harrield as deceased; we were misinformed. She is alive and living in a nursing home in Ewing, NJ. Our thanks to her step-daughter for letting us know.

Joseph W. Richter was the winner of our door prize. Dan Williams had brought him to our meeting hoping he would join.

Hope to see you at our January meeting.

Jane Jones  
Pat Thompkins - Co-Chairs

## IN MEMORIAM

### MEMBERS:

Erma Green	10-17-05
Elizabeth B. Johnson	10-31-05
Joseph A. Logan	05-12-05
Hazel D. McCoy	10-31-05
Maude Riordan	06-26-05
James Schrodt	07-22-05
Virginia Williford	06-12-05

### NON-MEMBERS:

Marjorie Atkins	08-02-05
Dorothy Baird	07-29-05
Joan Cavanaugh	09-14-05
Grace Davis	02-08-05
Shirley Dillard	09-12-05
Lucile Dobbyn	09-07-05
June Donahue	07-27-05
Cecelia Forsyth	09-14-05
William Hodge	08-26-05
Niola Howze	11-10-05
Patricia Johnson	09-24-05
John La Vanway	09-13-05
Maria McMullen	02-20-05
Bobbie Pearsall	07-13-05
Priscilla Robinson	04-16-05
Bernard Spicer	05-14-05
Shirley Toy	08-26-05
Catherine L. Woodward	10-15-05

## UNITED SENIORS OF MD

The annual United Seniors of Maryland Rally will be held at St. John's College in Annapolis, on January 24, 2006, from 9 am until 2:30 pm. Topics of discussion will include the restoration of funding for senior programs, long term care (in your home, or another setting), Medicaid funding, and affordable prescription drugs. There will be an opportunity to meet with some of your state legislators. Registration is \$10.00 in advance, or \$12.00 at the door. For tickets, call 1-800-60-SENIOR.

## EDUCATION & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The E & P Committee would like membership input as to topics in which you have an interest or concern for further research, and reports back to you. We also invite and welcome new members to the committee...please VOLUNTEER !

Fred Novak - Chair  
301-937-6606

PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

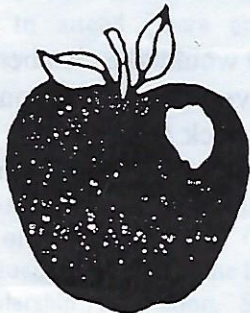
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DATED MATERIAL

**REMINDER:**  
Our meetings follow the school system policy for cancellation due to inclement weather. Listen to your radio and/or TV for announcements. Delayed opening will mean our meeting will go on as scheduled.

JANNETTE WUNDROW  
1007 PACKTON LN  
BOWIE MD 20716-1761



**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

January 25, 2006

PGCEA Building

11:00 AM

Lunch provided