



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXX No. 3

January 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's time to say Happy New Year to all of our members near and far!

The Board approved the purchase of another filing cabinet, hanging files, and racks to hang files. These purchases will allow us to keep an accurate and organized system to record our organization's activities. By this issue of *Echoes* we will have most – perhaps all – of our files in order.

As promised, we are featuring two of our outstanding board members in this issue. The first member, Jennie Jones, serves on the Community Service Committee. Jennie is a native of Greenville, South Carolina. She began her teaching career in Dover, Delaware, in 1972. In 2002 she retired from the Prince George's County Public Schools after thirty years of service. Jennie joined PGPSRA shortly after retiring and now chairs the Community Service Committee. Jennie is married to William (Bill) Jones, and they have three children who are products of the Prince George's County Public Schools.

The second member we are featuring is Shirley A. Johnson who is our historian. Shirley also retired, after thirty-five years of service, from the Prince George's County system. Before coming to Prince George's County, Shirley taught in the Florida and Washington, DC school systems. As well as serving on our board since retiring, Shirley has worked as a substitute

and has tutored students in various areas, including MSA preparation. Shirley is married to Thomas Johnson and has two children, Susan and Kevin, and three grandchildren. She enjoys reading, crocheting, and traveling in her spare time.

We are proud to serve with both of these fine women, and hope that you will take a moment of your time to thank them for their outstanding job!

Kitty Walker

PGPSRA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 2006

As you are aware, on November 7, 2006, Maryland voted in a new Governor, Martin O'Malley, and a new Lt. Governor, Anthony Brown, along with a new Senator, Ben Cardin. Inauguration of the governor and Lt. Governor will take place in Annapolis on January 17, 2007. The General Assembly will convene on January 10, 2007, and end the session on April 9, 2007.

We are planning our annual Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. This trip is free to our members. We will leave by coach bus from the PGCEA parking lot at 8:45 a.m. and return about 2:45 p.m. During this trip you will be able to observe our Maryland

See Legislature, next page

Legislature in action, tour the Governor's Mansion and State House, and interact with some of our Prince George's County legislators during a sandwich/cookie luncheon. Special thanks go to Delegate James Proctor (27th District) who has once again agreed to be our sponsor for this event. Come join us for an interesting day! Call Janette Wundrow for reservations: 301-390-7324.

The annual MRSPA Legislative Day Workshop was held in Annapolis November 14, 2006. Judith Davis and I attended, along with representatives from all twenty-three counties, to hear speakers from MSTA, AAARP, MSRPS, the Department of Aging, Senator John Astle, and Delegate Charles Barkley, tell us about their concerns and priorities for the coming legislative session. Carl Lancaster of the Maryland State Retirement System was among them. Carl has served us most competently as a trustee for the past twenty years (come June). This is a very demanding volunteer position, and we greatly appreciate Carl's efforts and expertise. Fortunately, he and the MRSPA Board of Directors are endorsing a very competent candidate to fill the position. He is Donald O'Neal of St. Mary's County. MSTA is also promoting a candidate. The state-wide voting will take place in June 2007.

The United Seniors of Maryland Annual Rally will be held January 13, 2007, at St. John's College in Annapolis. This is always a very informative meeting with state-wide speakers. Every senior citizen in Maryland is invited to attend. The cost is nominal. Contact me for reservations.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The committee solicits your support to volunteer at Morningside and Oakcrest Elementary Schools. Your support is also needed for our canned food drive on January 24, 2007.

Finally, please make a monetary donation to the Good Shepherd School located in New Orleans. It is a private school that opened its doors to public school students after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Normal tuition and other fees were waived for those students. For more information on this school, please go to its website at www.thegoodshepherdschool.org. **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT.**

Please call for ways to help make a difference in the lives of our students. You can contact me, Jennie Jones, at 301-262-3828, or Jennie Thomas at 301-292-7285, or Delores Brown at 301-773-7245.

Jennie Jones, Co-Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of November 1, 2006

Checking Account	\$16,104.04
Savings Account	\$ 6,956.44

Income	\$ 1,232.06
Expenditures	\$ 3,750.12

Balance as of November 30, 2006

Checking Account	\$12,585.98
Savings Account	\$ 6,956.44
Total Assets	\$19,542.42

E. Vest, Treasurer

TRAVELING WITH CHARLIE

Charlie Hudson, our travel coordinator, is announcing plans for a trip to Memphis, TN, and Tunica, MS. The trip is tentatively scheduled for the third week in February for seven days and six nights. The cost based on forty people is \$475.00 – double occupancy. A coach bus with reclining seats and a restroom will be provided by Crown Bus Company. There will be two overnight stops, one going down and one coming back.

The trip includes four nights lodging at the casino in Tunica. Entertainment and meals are included. In Memphis, a sightseeing tour will include such attractions as Beale Street, the Peabody Hotel to see “The March of the Ducks,” and the Lorraine Hotel, where Dr. M. L. King was assassinated.

To register for this trip, contact Charlie Hudson at 301-572-9778.

Charlie Hudson, Travel Coordinator

UPDATE: ALASKA CRUISE/TOUR May 12, 2007

The Florida contingent of PGPSRA reminds the membership of the Alaska Cruise/ Tour they are sponsoring on May 12, 2007. The cruise will be aboard the Diamond Princess, a ship registered in Bermuda. The itinerary includes 12 days and 11 nights – a seven-night Voyage of the Glacier Cruise and a four-night land tour via Princess Rail. Note: If you choose the cruise only, you may book this through the AAA agent.

The destinations include Vancouver, the Inside Passage, Ketchikan, Juneau,

Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, College Fjord, and tours of Whittier, Denali, Mt. Mc Kinley, and Anchorage.

To make arrangements, travelers may contact Sherri Filer, AAA agent, at 941- 627 – 1544, ext. 266 or Fax 941-629-9268. The final payment is due February 1, 2007.

The cruise host is Donald Kiah, 255 W. End Dr., Unit 1403; Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5360.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our membership count seems to go up and then down. Keep letting your friends know about PGCSRA. My phone number is 301-559-8533. I'll be glad to send our membership brochure to anyone who calls for it.

Jane Jones, Membership Co-Chair

NECROLOGY REPORT

IN MEMORIAM

MEMBERS

Jane Randle 09-05-06

NON-MEMBERS

Myri Farrell 09-19-06

Eva Fry 09-29-06

Jose Lopez 09-30-06

Shirley Pearsall 10-06-06

Dorothy Pickard 11-04-06

Lorena Skourtis 09-16-06

Doris Stonebraker 09-10-06

Katherine Shunk 09-01-06

Herman Taylor 10-14-06

John Vogt 09-28-06

Ruth Ward 10-05-06

BITS AND PIECES

Charles Wendorf retired in 1979 as Director of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries. He then moved to Greensboro, NC, where he returned to the classroom to teach math and social studies at the middle school level. After ten years, he retired again! Charles and his second wife, Delores, now live in Mt. Airy, NC --- a place best known as Mayberry, Andy Griffith's home town. The Wendorfs enjoy travel and cruises. They have sailed to Alaska, the Eastern and Western Caribbean, and Panama. They cruised to Hawaii in 2006 to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. With five grown children, 14 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren, holidays are spent traveling to Charlotte, Virginia Beach, and Frederick, MD. Charles, a University of Maryland graduate, continues to root for the Terps and the Washington Redskins. He and Delores plan to join the Florida retirees at their February luncheon.

Doris Hall, of Upper Marlboro, traveled with her Morgan State University graduating class on a 10-day Mediterranean Cruise in September. The group flew to Rome, where they boarded the Noordam, a Holland American Cruise Line. The ship made stops in Monte Carlo, Monaco, Barcelona, Spain; LaGoulette, Tunisia; Palermo, Sicily; Livorno and Naples, Italy. Doris reports that it was a delightful trip.

Brenda Thomas retired from Scotchtown Elementary in 2004. Since then she has done some substituting. She has also taken a train trip to California, and a Caribbean cruise. This past October she flew to Seoul, Korea (for the third time). Brenda and her husband, Bill, live in Laurel. They have two grandchildren and four children, including a son who has lived near Seoul, Korea, for the past 12 years. Seoul resembles New York

City in size and weather, which was lovely this fall. While there, the Thomases attended a Korean wedding.

Marie O'Clair, of Clinton, flew with two of her daughters to Milan, Italy, in October. They rented a car, and with no itinerary except to see the country of her ancestors and visit relatives still there, they had a most rewarding trip. Marie was able to tour Sondrio, her parents' birthplace. She even visited the homes of her father and grandfather, the church where her parents were married, and the Port of Genoa, from which her father set sail for the U. S. A. in 1915. Other places of interest on the trip included Venice, the Adriatic Sea, Verona, the countryside of Tuscany, Montesilvano, and Rome, where she attended a Mass in the Basilica. On that Sunday, Pope Benedict gave his blessing to the crowd in the square.

Alice Hutchinson retired in 1998 from Hyattsville Middle School. She lives in Lanham. Most of her free time evolves around the active Seniors Program at Prince George's Community College. Alice participates in water aerobics, line dancing, bowling, seasonal parties, and especially enjoys the weekly hiking class during which the group walks vigorously for a couple of miles, usually ending up at a local historical or cultural site. Another favorite of Alice's is travel. She has been to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Gambia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. A memorable visit was to Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island. Alice is active in our PGPSRA, and this fall, agreed to become editor of or *Echoes* newsletter. (*OUR THANKS!) Alice has two sons and a daughter. One son lives in California, where she spent this past Thanksgiving. Her other two children live in MD. Alice's daughter shares her mother's passion for crossword puzzles, and on Sunday afternoons they can be found at

Barnes and Noble, having tea and working the *Post's* Sunday puzzle.

Donald Conway, of Beltsville, continues as our "resident Volksmarcher." In May of this past year he completed his A – Z Capital City walking program, when he walked through Urbanna, Xenia, and Yellow Springs, Ohio. Don and his wife, Joyce (a retired teacher from Montgomery County), vacationed in Canyon Lake, Texas, in October. While in the area, Don participated in four walks, while Joyce visited the Headquarters of the Delta Gamma Society in Austin. The next few months will find Don on the road displaying his Black History Moveable Museum. His extensive memorabilia collection will be shown at area schools, senior centers, libraries, and even the Red Hat Society's Black Women in History Program in Wilmington, DE.

Elizabeth (Betty) Kibler retired from Beltsville Elementary in 1974. Since retiring, Betty has worked as a substitute teacher and a travel agent, and has been active in her local women's club, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Her other activities include teaching Sunday School, quilting, water color painting, ceramics, and china painting. She has also traveled to Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, and several cities across the U. S. Betty lives in Greenbelt now, but she has also lived in Williamsburg, VA, and Outer Banks, NC (each for six years). Betty has been married to her husband, Milton, for 54 years! The Kiblers have three children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren

Jeanette Gould and Phyllis Evans, both of Fort Washington, experienced an interesting sixteen day land cruise across the western United States. They traveled 6300 miles through fourteen states viewing the beautiful

countryside and picturesque mountains and valleys. Some of the sites Jeanette and Phyllis visited included Hoover Dam, Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, the Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands, and other historical sites. It was a great trip!

Last spring MRSPA announced that all new members who joined the association by July 31, 2006, would have their names entered in a drawing. Three names would be drawn, and those lucky people would be awarded \$100 each. Surprisingly, two of the three names drawn were new members from Prince George's County: John Goldsmith and Linda Cobaugh! Congratulations winners!

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

E & PS COMMITTEE

Warning from Shell Gas - Re: Fueling Your Car

You should know that:

Mobile phones can ignite fuel or fumes. Mobile phones that light up when switched on, or when they ring, can release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition. Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boats, etc. Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable fumes or dust. **To sum it up, here are four rules for safe refueling: Turn off engine. Don't smoke. Don't use your cell phone. Don't re-enter your vehicle during refueling.**

Fred Novak, Chair

ADDIE MARTIN HONORED

On October 26, 2006, our very own Addie Martin was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame. This honor was bestowed upon her at the annual awards luncheon at Michael's of Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, when nominated seniors from all over the state of Maryland were recognized for their outstanding volunteer work.

Addie retired from the Prince George's County Public Schools in 1998. She immediately became active in our retiree organization, first as secretary, then as President during the 2004-05 term. She now serves as Professional Liaison to the Prince George's County Board of Education and as a member of the Membership Committee of Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.

Addie is the current President of the Prince George's Chapter of the Bowie State University Alumni Association and First Vice President of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association. She is a past President of the Bowie State Bull Dog Club. In addition, she is the Education Chair of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Addie's community activities are varied. They include weekly interaction activities at the Largo Manor Nursing Home, serving as secretary of the Brookwood-Holloway Civic Association and holding membership on the Prince George's County Board of Ethics and the Historical Society of Prince George's County. Addie continues her work in education by volunteering as the RIF Advisor at Thomas Stone Elementary

School and by working as a math consultant for Prentice Hall Publishers.

Addie also sings with the First Baptist Church of Glenarden Inspirational Choir.

Furthermore, this busy lady is the caregiver for her 87 year-old mother. Addie has one son, a daughter-in-law and a two year-old grandson, with whom she enjoys visiting in her spare time.

Our sincere congratulations to Addie, a deserving winner of the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame Award!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

All of life is learning. With that rationale in mind I volunteered to serve as editor of *Echoes*, our newsletter. In the few short weeks since assuming this task, I must say I've learned a lot. Not only have I become more computer literate, I've become much more aware of the goals of this organization and the dedicated efforts of its members to enrich the lives of our retirees. I appreciate all who helped or offered to help with this newsletter. I especially want to acknowledge Jannette Wundrow and former editor, Virginia Stufft, whose thoughtful notes and practical suggestions were invaluable in getting this issue published.

Finally, if you send me an e-mail, please make sure you put PGPSRA on the subject line so that I can readily understand that it is a legitimate piece of correspondence.

A. Hutchinson

LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORMS

What: Snack Lunch	Where: PGCEA Building
When: Jan. 24, 2007 - 11:00 a.m.	
Cost: No charge – donation if you wish	
Your name:	
How many:	
Please submit form to: Dr. Vest 7908 Klovstad Drive Fort Washington, MD 20744	

What: Luncheon Meeting	Where: Collington Retirement Community Landover, MD
When: March 28, 2007	Make checks payable to: PGPSPA
Cost: \$20.00	
Your name:	
How many:	
Please submit form to: Dr. Vest 7908 Klovstad Drive Fort Washington, MD 20744	

**Luncheon registration will be closed March 21.*

What: Luncheon Meeting	Where: Prince George's Community College
When: May 23, 2007	
Cost: \$20.00	Make checks payable to: PGPSPA
Your name:	
How many:	
Please submit form to: Dr. Vest 7908 Klovstad Drive Fort Washington, MD 20744	

• *Luncheon registration will be closed May 16.*

LIAISON / PROFESSIONAL

All retirees of PGCPS will receive soon informing them again about the Medicare Prescription Drug coverage available to everyone with Medicare.

Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare through Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Plans that offer prescription drug coverage. All Medicare prescription plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare.

PGCPS has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Carefirst BCBS is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage will pay. Therefore, if you are covered under the PGCPS prescription plans, your existing PGCPS coverage is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage.

If you decide to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan:

The PGCPS Prescription Drug Plan will not permit dual coverage. In other words, you may not be enrolled in both Medicare Part D and the PGCPS Prescription Drug Plan at the same time. If PGCPS are notified that you have enrolled in Medicare Part D, your PGCPS prescription drug plan will be cancelled.

NOTE: If you enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and subsequently change your mind, you will have a one-time opportunity to re-enroll in the PGCPS prescription drug plan during the

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is available in the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook.

For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage, contact:

Benefits Administration Office
PGCPS
14201 School Lane, Room 210
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-952-6322 or 301-952-6323

Addie Martin
Professional Liaison

HISTORIC SURRETT HOUSE

Built in 1852 as a middle class farm house for the family of John and Mary Surratt, the historic Surratt House also served as a tavern and hostelry, a post office, and a polling place in the important decade before the Civil War. During the war, it became a safe house in the Confederate underground system which flourished in Southern Maryland.

The previously mentioned activities could probably be said of many houses during that era. However, the story of Surratt House is shrouded with mystery, intrigue, assassination, and execution which had national implications for 19th century America.

This famous, or infamous, house will be the topic of a special presentation by a member of the Surratt Society at the January 24th meeting of PGPSRA. Please join us.

