

# ECHOES

Vol. XLVIII No. 3    The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter    January 2014

## The President Speaks



**Lorraine Johnson, PGPSRA  
President**

County's leading officials attended and addressed our sessions. County Executive Baker was guest at our September meeting and our County's school Chief Executive Officer Maxwell met with us during our November meeting. Both leaders provided answers to many of the issues raised by our membership. Both assured us that both the county and the school system are on firm ground. Both men welcomed our organization's input and service.

Become active with PGPSRA. **NUMBERS COUNT!** Ours is a good organization. We have been contributing to the well-being of our community, schools, and members since our inception in 1964. We are excited! We are gearing up for our March 2014 meeting when we will celebrate 50 years as an outstanding organization. At the March meeting, we will proudly recall our beginnings. We will highlight those members who made the organization the success it continues to be. We will rejoice in our establishment and in the good works that have been performed by the membership as we strive to increase our involvement in our communities and schools and provide service to our membership.

Being president of any organization is both exciting and demanding. I welcome the opportunity to interact with fellow retirees as we strive to advance the issues important to us. As your president, I deem it a pleasure and privilege to occupy this notable office.

During our September and November meetings, two of the

Those who have served as presidents and members of executive committees over the years are asked to mark March 26, 2013 on your calendars and join us in celebrating your efforts in advancing the objectives and goals of this organization. Donald Conway and his committee will provide a pictorial presentation of the presidents, executive committee members, and members who have made positive contributions to our organization across the decades. If you have information that you feel should be included in this presentation, please feel free to contact Mr. Conway at 301 572 5574.

## Dr. Maxwell Speaks to Retirees

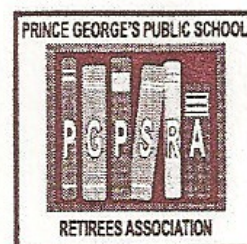


Members were treated to a visit from our new school superintendent, Dr. Kevin Maxwell. Many in the room had worked with Dr. Maxwell in some capacity when he worked in Prince George's County before and were delighted to see him back on his "home turf".

Now that he is in charge of all our schools, he outlined his plans for the future. It was a no nonsense description of the good and the bad. All left the meeting with high hopes for the education of the students in Prince George's County!

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## KUDOS TO JANNETTE!



Your Money is in Good Hands!

Here is the latest Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER - 2013

BEGINNING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$28,660.47

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3,024.24

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 3481.30

EXPENDITURES - 657.86

NO ACTIVITY - SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2013

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 31,483.91

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3,024.24

TOTAL ASSETS - \$34,508.15

Thanks!!

E. Vest



One of our favorite ladies was honored at the fall meeting. Even after being recognized by the Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame as an outstanding volunteer (in October), we felt she needed to be touted by her own people! Jannette Wundrow has been an outstanding helper to the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association since retiring. She seems to be everywhere! She has led our Legislative Committee in Annapolis and in Upper Marlboro so well that the legislators and Board of Education know what she is going to ask for before she even opens her mouth....and they usually do what we want because they know she will report back to us and keep hounding them until things go right!

Jannette also helps with the newsletter and makes sure that it gets printed and sent out in a timely manner.

She has been active on the state level also and has served on the Board of Directors as their secretary along with being on the Legislative Committee there—even serving as the chair for a term or two.

We thank her for all she does....plaques and flowers are the least we can do to let her know how much we appreciate her!

## DONATIONS!

We acknowledge with great appreciation donations from the following members to the Community Service Committee:

Ms. Nancy E. Meyer

And, for the Scholarship Committee:

Mrs. William K. Konze



### Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Lorraine W. Johnson (Johnson6608@comcast.net)

President-Elect: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@yahoo.com)

Past President: Gretel James (Gret22@verizon.net)

Recording Sec.: Joann Sloan (wjsloan@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)

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

Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)

Consumer Ed. Open

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Rose Miller (rabbit183@verizon.net)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77@gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

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

Recognition: Mary Isbell (misbell3030@comcast.net)

Parliamentarian: Janette Bell (njanettebell@verizon.net)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)

Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)

Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)

Programs: (Awaiting a new volunteer!)

## TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY

The Dutch Apple Theater

**Sequel** to the last play we saw

Run for Your Wife

February 25, 2014

\$100 per person (covers the trip, lunch and tip)

Deadline: February 1, 2014

Make checks out to PGPSRA

### Legislative Report November - December 2013

The MRSPA Legislative Workshop was held on November 14, 2013 in Annapolis at the Miller Senate office building. The day began with a presentation by Diane Oakley, director of the National Institute on Retirement Security. Ms. Oakley pointed out the importance of defined pensions not only to retirees but to the fiscal well-being of the state. Saving for retirement is very important and retirees who have a pension usually have their own personal retirement accounts as well.

Peter Franchot, Maryland State Comptroller and A. Melissa Moye, Chief Investment Officer reviewed the health of the Retirement and Pension System. Total returns have been strong, averaging 7.8% over the last 25 years and 10% over the last 3 years. Plan assets totaling \$40.25 billion indicate a recovery from the grim years 2008 and 2009. The fund is well diversified with public equity at 42% and 7 other pieces equaling 58%.

MRSPA Legislative Aide Tish Raff strongly encouraged everyone to contact legislators at least once during the Legislative session. Use the MRSPA web site especially checking Maryland Reports and Daily Updates. Use the site to access the Maryland General Assembly and to contact your representatives.

Christian Rhodes, Prince George's County Education



Legislative Report, cont'd.....

Policy Advisor, reviewed the transition occurring last spring in the county. He spoke about the appointment of Kenneth Maxwell as school CEO as well as school board appointees who better reflect families and parents in the county. He was most enthusiastic about the \$600 million hospital center due to open in 2016-2017.

The day was informative and fun. Lunch included the ultimate trick or treat bag complete with Slim Jims and fire balls. I encourage you to join us in Annapolis during the Legislative Sessions beginning in January.

Our very own Legislative trip to Annapolis is planned for Wednesday, March 19, 2014. We will leave PGCEA office at 8:45 am and return about 2:30 pm. While in Annapolis, we will sit in on short sessions of both House and Senate and tour the Governor's mansion. All of our Prince George's legislators will be invited to join us for lunch and to speak briefly to our group. There is no charge for this trip. Please sign up for the trip on our poster or contact me, Sue Finan, at [sfinan77@gmail.com](mailto:sfinan77@gmail.com) if you will be able to attend.

## PGPSRA Representation

Led by Bill Brown, Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Retired School's Personnel Association, representatives from all Maryland local associations attended the day-long workshop in Annapolis that discussed the issues due to come up during the 2014 legislative session. Prince George's County was represented by Sue Finan, Jannette Wundrow and Norma Martof. As explained in the MRSPA Legislative Brochure and referred to above, the issues to be emphasized this year are:

### For Retirement and Pensions

- Full actuarial funding,
- defined benefits



Bill Brown, MRSPA Legislative Chair

- increased understanding of the positive impact of pensions on the state economy

### Health Care Concerns

- Protection of local retirees health care benefits
- Promoting long term solutions

These, and other issues are vital for us and are in jeopardy in legislatures throughout the country. Keep alert!



Dr. Norma Martof, PGPSRA President-Elect

## Community Services Report

Your Community Services Committee has been hard at work and is partnering with the following schools for the 2013-2014 school year:

Hillcrest Heights Elementary School

Longfields Elementary School

Kenmoor Middle School

William Beanes Elementary School

Central High School

The selected project for the month of November was Share Baskets for Thanksgiving.

The January meeting of MRSPA will be dedicated to collecting school supplies for the students. We are still in need of coats for elementary and middle school students (new please). Monetary donations will always be accepted!

Bring your coats and school supplies to the January meeting. Contact Ethel Brown (202 581 0740) if you cannot attend and want to help.

Courtney Pringle

Newsletter Writer for the Committee



### ALICE HUTCHINSON - SEVEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

I am pleased to spotlight and salute Alice Hutchinson who has served as editor of *ECHOES* for seven years. I asked Alice to share her experiences as our editor. She obliged:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have served PGPSRA as editor of *ECHOES* for the past seven years. Though there were challenges, as there are with any endeavor, it was a task that I essentially took great pleasure in doing. In the process, I gained a whole new perspective about the importance of the work PGPSRA does on behalf of its retirees and about how important active participation is to the continued success of the organization. Furthermore, I learned a lot about myself and what I could do once I made up my mind, especially when it comes to computers. I must, however, give a special thank-you to Jannette Wundrow for her unfailing support and assistance during my tenure. We made a good team.

Over the last year or so, I have come to believe that *ECHOES* needs a make-over to create a smarter-looking, more attractive vehicle to showcase our aspirations and accomplishments. If that make-over or re-design is going to occur, then a more experienced hand than mine is needed. Fortunately, Bonnie Brose has agreed to become the new editor as of December 1, 2013. She and her husband Bill, our Webmaster, are well-suited to give our newsletter a facelift for 2014. Under their leadership, *ECHOES* will continue its mission of keeping our retirees informed, but with a new look and new features for the pleasure of our readers.

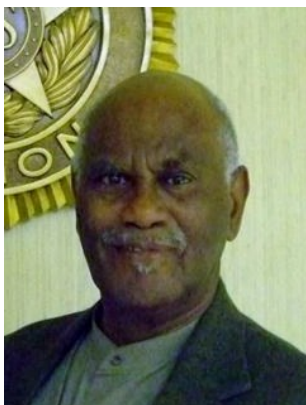
Thanks for the memories. Stay informed. Keep in touch."

Alice Hutchinson



Applications for 2014 scholarship awards were delivered to the high schools during the week of December 2, 2013 and are ready for seniors to pick up, complete and return by the February deadline. It is hoped that by the deadline, there will be at least five persons applying for our \$2000.00 scholarships. In the meantime, members of our Scholarship Committee are contacting the high schools counselors and will be visiting with many of them. If you know of high school seniors who are interested in teaching/education, please encourage them to check with their guidance counselor to get an application form. Members of the committee will have applications available at the January general meeting.

Alveta S. Jones and Delores Brown, Co-Chairs



Don Conway, PGPSRA Historian

## PGPSRA To Celebrate 50 Years!

At our March meeting, we are planning to celebrate 50 years of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association. Led by Don Conway, the committee is planning to present happenings from each of the 5 decades of retiree actions.

Plan to join us! Bring a friend—or two. We'll have photo albums, plaques, and powerpoint shows for you....and lots more.

**March 26, 2014 - Comfort Inn**  
Bowie, Maryland

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD, who will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Anita Yates of Richmond, VA, who will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>;

Happy **February** birthday greetings to: Ms. Orine Cypert of Florence, Alabama, who will be marking her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 13<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring, who will be having her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Valentine's Day; Mrs. Gwendolyn Sollers of Suitland, who will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Ann Chotiner of College Park, who will be having her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sandra Ingram of Upper Marlboro, retired from Eisenhower Middle School in 2010. Now she is enjoying French literature, travel, reading, line dancing, crocheting, and knitting. Sandra is also involved in volunteer work with "All Shades of Pink", Our Savior Comfort Ministry, the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, the Prince George's Continental Society, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Her travels have taken her to France, Korea, Senegal, Quebec, Canada, Alaska, British Columbia, Spain, Martinique, Haiti - - - all of the continents except Antarctica and Australia. Sandra has two daughters and one grandson.

Margaret (Peggy) Horn retired as a classroom teacher from Highbridge Elementary in 1999, after having begun her career in Prince George's County as a music teacher. She and her husband, Calvin, live in Lothian, MD. Peggy enjoys sewing, many kinds of needlework, decorating, and designing and maintaining her flower gardens. She is a member of the St. James' Church choir and acts as assistant to, and substitute for, the director. For the past four years Peggy has volunteered as an instructor for AARP Driver Safety classes, and recently became certified as a trainer for new instructors. For three years she was a volunteer for the Dyslexia Tutoring Program in Baltimore. She teaches piano to beginning students, and tutors both elementary and middle school students. Keeping fit and learning new crafts are important to Peggy; she enjoys Pilates and Yoga classes, and with her husband is currently exploring the craft of stained glass, designing and creating their own pieces. The Horns will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this May. They have three children and four grandchildren, with most of their family living nearby. Their youngest daughter lives in Plano, Texas, so most of their travel has been to visit them there, with some interesting side trips in between. Peggy and Calvin enjoy going to dinner and concerts with friends, and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Sue Finan of Dunkirk, retired in 2007, after 35 years of teaching at John Eager Howard Elementary. She had planned to spend much of her retirement time with her mother, who sadly, passed away a year later. Sue enjoys traveling with her husband, Jerry; however, this past October she went on a church Pilgrimage to Italy with her sister, Marion, and friend, Alice. The wonderful experience included Mass at St. Peter's with Pope Francis, and tours of various sights including the catacombs, Montecassino, Assisi, and Florence. Sue enjoys her involvement with PGPSRA as Legislative Chair, working in a pottery studio (where she creates large and small items), participating in her local Garden Club, playing Mah Jongg, and participating in groups at her church in Owings. Best of all, she loves frequent visits to New Jersey to spend time with young grandchildren Lillian and Roger. The Finan's have one son in Rockville and one married daughter in New Jersey.

### VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)

We will soon have a facebook page!

Keep in touch....if you have not already done so,



### Necrology Report

Butler, Eunice Hawkins

Holland, Ida

McDonald, William B.

Saltrick, Daniel

Spinks, Cloyce Isaac

Waters, Preston

You can shed tears that they are gone.

Or you can smile because they have lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back,

Or you can open your eyes and see all that they have left.

(adapted from "A Royal Farewell" read at the memorial service for Queen Mother Elizabeth.)

Jannie Goldson, chair



## DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity**

Your MRSPA website  
has special offers for you.

Take advantage of it all

Visit the site often!

From pizza to movies



### PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 22, 2014 at 11:00 A.M.

At PGCEA Center

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW BY JANUARY 15, 2014 TO:

Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check (payable to PGPSRA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ reservations for the January 22 luncheon. (lunches are \$10 each or you can contribute as below)

\_\_\_\_ I will attend and pay with \$10.00 worth of school supplies. I desire a box lunch.

\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend but enclosed is my donation for the community service committee.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE!!

## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



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**We're on the web!**  
[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)

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## Join us In January!

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

**Plan to Be There!**  
**January 22, 2014**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**PGCEA Center**  
**\$10.00**

This is a special meeting in that all proceeds will go to the Community Service Committee for their work. If you cannot attend, consider making a donation. You may also make a donation in lieu of the cost of your meal (we are not going to check the costs for the items you bring).

Donations can be, of course, money. You can also bring crayons, pencils, paper, binders....you get the idea.

The form to send in is on the back of this notice. Please fill it out and send it in. Let's start the new year with a great contribution for our students!