

ECHOES

Vol. L No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2016

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks

Happy New Year!

Thanks to all who attended the General Meeting that was held on November 18th. Our speakers were MSRSPA President Max Muller, MRSPA & Director Judith Zahren. They brought us an update on issues of the MRSPA. Judith mentioned if you'd like to receive the MRSPA newsletter via email, just let them know. You will be added to the electronic distribution list. You will receive the publication faster and help reduce printing costs. Email your request to: mrspa.org and put **Newsletter by Email** in the subject line of the email. Please include your full name and your email. We can reduce printing costs by signing up. Tammy Bresnahan, AARP Legislative Liaison for the Care Act brought greetings from AARP. She brought everyone information on what is happening in Maryland's AARP, our link to our link to National issues.



Max and Judith sent a note how they enjoyed the meeting and learning all the ways our association is involved in the community.

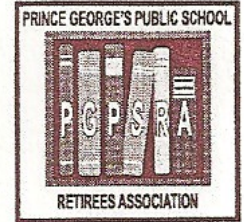
The MRSPA annual Legislative Workshop was held on November 4th in Annapolis. Brenda Barnes, president elect, Sue Finan, PGPSRA Legislative representative and Lorraine Johnson, MRSPA Board of Directors were in attendance to hear issues, as the General Assembly is preparing for the 2016 General Assembly. Our member, Jannette Wundrow was there and introduced a speaker and was responsible for helping to plan the meeting and arrange our meeting space. Jannette is a member of the State Legislative Committee.

The MRSPA Legislative Committee will be meeting regularly during General Assembly. The focus will be on impact bills that will have on retirement benefits: health care, quality of life safety and consumer protection. They will also review some issues that challenge earnings in this economic period. These issues are of concern to all of us.

As we continue to focus on the goals of PGPSRA, we encourage the members to be involved in social, physical and cultural activities in the area and grow as a strong united retirement organization.

Thanks for all you do!

Cordially,
MaryLouise J. Isbell, President



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SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee needs your help in encouraging 2016 high school graduates that our association is offering five \$2,000.00 scholarships to students graduating from our County high schools who are planning to enter the teaching profession. The 2016 scholarship applications were sent to the high school guidance offices the week of December 7, 2015 and the application is on our website: www.PGPSRA.org. The deadline for submitting the applications is January 29, 2016. If you have questions, please call Alveta Jones or Delores JoJones.

Our committee tries very hard to stay in touch with our scholarship recipients. Amanda Weller and Troiah McCorkle, two of our 2015 recipients, are sharing with us this month.

To the Prince George's County Public Schools Retirees Association,

I would first like to take a moment and thank the association for the scholarship money that I received for this semester and next. This scholarship money has given me the chance to further pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity that has been given to me.

This semester has been one filled with challenges and excitement for me as this is my final year at Towson University. I am currently a senior with a 3.56 GPA studying Middle School Education with a concentration of science and social studies. I am aware that anyone reading this usually pauses to take a look back to make sure they really read Middle School Education, and the answer is yes that is exactly what you read. Without a doubt Middle School is stereotyped as being the most unruly, filled with unbridled adolescent hormones and hourly drama, we have been categorized as the messy middle stuck between elementary and high school. But the truth is, I absolutely love every minute of it. This past semester I have started my internship at Middle River Middle School in Baltimore where I have been given the opportunity to work with some of the finest educators. When I walk into this middle school I know that this day will be nothing like the day before, but I also know that I am walking into a classroom filled with the same faces who are already as eager as I am to see what the day has in store for them.

My internship this semester began with a rotation in science where I worked with two 7th grade GT classes and one standard 8th grade. I was welcomed into this classroom not only by the teacher but the students as well, who were more than open to the idea of helping to teach a future teacher. My first teaching segment was on plants (the roots and vascular tissue), I had stations set up for the students to move into groups where they would have the chance to explore different types of plant roots and tissue. The students were eager to participate and liked the hands on approach that had been provided to them (I have found that middle schoolers love nothing more than to be able to move around). After finishing the stations it was time to discuss plants, having been up the night before studying all there is to know about plants, I was ready for their questions, or so I thought. At this moment, my students taught me a valuable lesson, that no matter how much preparation I have done I still do not know it all. I am still as much a student as they are, and I found that they liked me even more for not knowing their answer.

I have just begun my second rotation in my social studies content, in my next teaching segment I will be introducing the 8th grade GT U.S. History class to the major battles of the American Revolution. With this semester winding down I cannot help but to feel the anticipation building up for next semester when I will be completing my full time internship. I hope that this letter allows the Association to see that the scholarship that has been given to me allowed me to have these experiences that have helped shape me as a future educator. So again I thank you for your generosity in providing me with this scholarship and look forward to the other experiences that are soon to come.

Sincerely,

Amanda Weller

Dear Prince George's County Scholarship Fund,

My name is Troiah McCorkle and I am a recipient of the Prince George's County scholarship. I want to thank you for your donation, which has helped to offset some of my college expenses. I am a sophomore at the University of Maryland, majoring in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. I chose this area of study because children are the most impressionable, so it is imperative that they receive a great education while they are still young. To me, a great education means more than just teaching academics. I believe that a great education should include teaching life skills and encouraging the students to be involved in extracurricular activities, along with strengthening their understanding of the core subjects.

My college experience has been great thus far. I have already started to take some education courses, which are instructing me on how to teach certain subjects and even involve early childhood placements. I have shadowed special education and general education teachers in an early childcare center and an elementary school. With shadowing, I have gotten the opportunity to assist some students with their studies, giving me a glimpse of what it is like to be a teacher. Since I have been in college, I also started working at a childcare center on campus. The different opportunities that I have already gotten within my first two years of college reinforced my desire to be a teacher and ultimately a childcare center owner.

Community Service Committee

“Together, Everyone Achieves More”

This very active committee is again serving your county's schools! This year we are providing school supplies, share baskets and coats/uniforms for needy students. The schools chosen for this year are:

High Point High, Adelphi Elementary, Rogers heights Elementary, Thomas S. Stone Elementary and Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School.

Please bring your contributions of coats and/or school supplies to the January meeting. Our members will be there to take your contributions and to thank you.

P.S. Checks are always welcome!

Ethel L. Brown, Chairman

Come Join the Fun!!



YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS

TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER – 2015

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$18749.41
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3027.26

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	1610.86
EXPENDITURES	-	2619.14

NO ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	17741.13
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3027.26

TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$20768.39
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Ed Vest, Treasurer

DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your
MRSPA website

for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

if you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr.Vest

Payroll and Benefits Collaboration Report

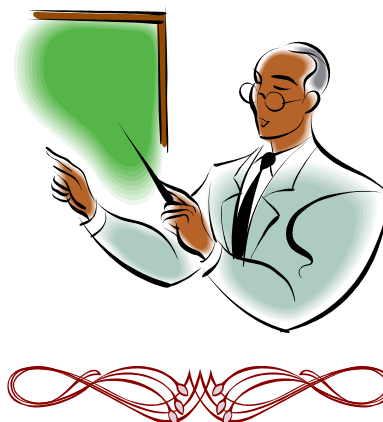
The Payroll and Benefits Collaboration Committee met on Monday, November 23, 2015 at the Prince George's County Board of Education.

We were informed that the Fall 2015 Pre-Retirement Planning Conference was held October 31st at Wise High School. There were 267 attendees, 60% plan to retire within the next 3 years. The next Pre-Retirement Conference will be held in the spring. Please let your friends, who plan to retire, know that Retirement Coordinators are available at the Board and are assigned by location. Moreover, let them know that the Benefits Office Retirement Coordinators are available to help them through the process and can be contacted by calling the Payroll and Benefits Office at 301-952-6200

Open Enrollment was held this year between October 26th and November 20th. There was more action from active employers. Remember, open enrollment is a time when retirees, too, if they so desire, can make medical insurance changes. Important: If you have lost your spouse or divorced your spouse and still carrying them on your health insurance --- you need to notify the Payroll and Benefits Office as soon as possible; these changes are not restricted by open enrollment.

Medicare - If you are a retiree of the Prince George's County Public School System, 65 or older, and receive your health insurance through the System and not receiving Medicare, you will be receiving a letter from the Benefits Office in December. It is now required that you complete the necessary forms for Medicare.

Addie Martin
301-868-6081
Professional Liaison for Benefits



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 Past President: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 President-Elect: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler
 (maryakaroyall@aol.com)(lindabl1217@verizon.net)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.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: Fran Doyle (penguincl@msn.com)
 Parliamentarian: Bill Brose (wmbrose@comcast.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: Maryclaire Dunlap (beachbkmcd@gmail.com)

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

President Mary Isbell, Addie Martin, and Lorraine W. Johnson thank you for your overwhelming support of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's Scholarship fundraiser at our last general membership meeting.

Necrology/Remembrance

Thomas Batson	10/12/2015
William "Doc" Blandford	11/19/2015
Arthur Clessuras	10/10/2015
Thomas R. Rae.	10/09/2015
Linda Turner	04/13/2014
Edith Willoughby	11/24/2015
Millicent A. Rose	2014

Jannie Goldston, Chairman

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD, who will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 6th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to several other of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Ellen Burgess of Silver Spring, who will be having her 92nd birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on Valentine's Day; Mrs. Ann Chotiner of College Park, who will be marking her 97th birthday on the 17th; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.VA, who will be having her 93rd birthday on the 19th; Mrs. Gwendolyn Sollers of Suitland, who will be turning 95 years-old on the 25th; and Mrs. Audrey Moore of Forestville, who will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 29th.

Mrs. Leah Martin of Gaithersburg celebrated her 95th birthday last August. She retired from Surrattsville High School in 1973. She no longer participates in volunteer work, but does continue to Chair her Book Discussion Group. Leah has traveled extensively over the years to Japan, China, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Greece, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Russia, Western Europe, Hawaii, Alaska, and cruised through the Panama Canal.

Mrs. Constance Mack of Upper Marlboro, retired from Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center in 2002. She presently volunteers at the Bowie Interfaith Pantry. Constance has enjoyed travels to Utah, Colorado, California, Texas, and Arizona. She has three adult children, and seven grandchildren – ages 2 to 21 - one of whom is teaching EMS at Prince George's Community College, another works for Amtrak, and one works with the Social Security Office in Baltimore.

Mrs. Helen Patchen Endo of Silver Spring, retired in 1986, after working as secretary at Templeton and Parklawn Elementary Schools. Following the death of her first husband, Harold Patchen, Helen involved herself in academic studies including creative writing, history, and computer science, at Anne Arundel Community College. After marrying Burton Endo, they enjoyed many family holidays and vacations together with their combined families, that included her three adult children and five grandchildren. Helen and Burton traveled extensively across the USA by way of a car camping trip, to most European countries, China, Mexico, and Japan – where they hiked to the top of Mt. Fuji. Sadly, Burton passed, and in 2012 Helen sold their Annapolis townhome and moved to Riderwood. There she enjoys a very active retired community life, shared by many good friends. Helen celebrated her 94th birthday last May.

Clara Martin retired as the Assistant Principal at Largo High School in 1990. Immediately afterward, she and her husband, Grant, who has since passed, became “snowbirds” – spending November to June in Ocala, FL, and returning to their home in Landover the other five months of the year. Clara volunteers with several organizations, including AAUW (American Association of University Women), has served as Past President of a church women's organization, has been involved with the Zion UM Church “Master's Table” (serving food in the fellowship hall to people in the community who are in need), and the “Clothesline Ministry” (where people in need may select items of used clothing, along with used microwaves, TV's, etc.). Clara enjoys sightseeing trips to various parts of Florida, sailing on cruises with friends, and using a time-share in different locations. She and her husband traveled frequently to the Caribbean Islands, countries in Europe, destinations in South America, and took cruises through the Panama Canal, to Haiti, Aruba, Venezuela, and the Bahamas. Clara has one adult daughter (at NIH – Bethesda) and three grandsons – two of whom are twins.

Mary Markey of Laurel, retired in 2000 as an English teacher from Northwestern High School, and had previously taught for 25 years at Parkdale High. Following retirement, she operated a day care center for several years, then opened a flooring store in 2010, which has since closed. Mary has enjoyed being involved with the Ladies of Charity and Sons of Italy groups. Her travels have taken her to Italy, Greece, Sechelle Islands, Kenya, Egypt, Spain, France, Aruba, Costa Rica, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, and throughout the United States. Mary has five children and 17 grandchildren.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact Jannettewundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324 (Bowie)

MEMBERSHIP



MEMBERSHIP.....Happy 2016!

Can't find your 2016 weekly calendar book? Then you must not have attended the November meeting . So that members would be able to start planning for the new year all were given the new booklets at the registration table. I hope you all enjoy the meeting handouts as much as I enjoy getting them for you. Come out in January to getthe next item ;-)

Delores Brown and Lorraine Johnson were the winners of the two \$25.00 door prizes. One new member was welcomed. Because of the lack of participation by members , I am not going to continue posting 4 questions for each meeting but I thank Brenda Barnes and Ethel Brown for writing answers for the last two meetings.

Do you ever ask yourself why the same officers continue in positions for years and years? The answer might surprise you...THEY ARE INTERESTED IN CARRYING OUT THE WORK OF PGPSRA. I would hope that many who are reading this also want to see this organization continue to be active and a service to future retirees as it has been for over 50 years. Fires burn bright but as the wood is used up other logs are added. YOU can be the fuel that will keep PGPSRA alive and burning bright by bringing in new ideas and suggestions.. Consider joining a committee or running for an office in 2016. PGPSRA is only as good as you, the members, make it.

Charline Jacob, Chairman



AARP Representative

Tammy Bresnahan

Scholarships, cont'd:

I am also involved in extracurricular activities on campus including Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company and the W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society. This society will also provide me with mentoring and tutoring opportunities. These extracurricular activities speak to my vision of a great education. While I am still excelling in academics, with a 3.8 GPA, I am still involved in other ways on campus that will help to make me a well-rounded student.

Your donation has helped to fund a portion of my tuition, which is important for my future success. My career goals cannot be possible if I do not receive the proper education on how to effectively teach children. Your donation has contributed to my education, which ultimately is contributing to my goal of becoming a teacher and owning a childcare center. Thank you for contributing to my future; it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Troiah McCorkle

Alveta Jones and Delores Brown, Co-Chairmen



Legislative Report September 2015

Legislative Workshop on November 4th

MRSPA President Max Muller greeted us and told us that retirement benefits and health care will continue to be important issues during this coming Legislative session. Tish Raff reminded us to contact representatives and to stay informed. R. Dean Kenderdine, director of the state retirement and pension system, reviewed the actuarial funding system and its growth.

Deputy Chief of the consumer protection division of the Attorney General's office, Steve Sakamoto-Wengel, spoke at length about consumer protection. The consumer guide for Marylanders is on order. This covers consumer scams, health issues and financial matters. Oag.state.md.us You can view the booklet on line.

Delegate Eric Ebersole spoke about Education issues including charter schools and tax breaks for private schools. AARP's Tammy Bresnahan encouraged our participation in upcoming bills including secure choice, a retirement plan for employees in a small business, the care act, which assures support and training for at home caregivers and utility rates.

We will be going to Annapolis on Thursday March 10, 2016 for our own Legislative day. Depart PGCEA at 8:45 AM and return by 2:30 PM. Our agenda includes an introduction, sitting in on House and Senate sessions, Governor Mansion visit, lunch and greetings from several legislators. Please put this date on your calendar and contact me at sfinan77@gmail.com if you are ready to attend this very worthwhile association event. Remember, there is no charge.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

THE NEED IS GREAT

Thank you for the tremendous support you have given to our Scholarship Committee and Community Service Committee. However, the need continues to be great. We ask, in this season of giving, for your donations to these committees.

Checks (payable to PGPSRA) should be sent to our treasurer at the following address: Dr. Edward N. Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729. The committees will also accept donations at our General Membership meeting on January 27, 2016 at PGCEA. Donations may be in the form of cash for the Scholarship Committee or the following items for our Community Service Committee – a ream of copy paper, notebook paper, composition books, pencils, crayons, gloves, mittens, underwear, socks or other clothing items and, of course, cash donations are welcome. Best wishes to all members for a safe and enjoyable holiday season. God Bless!!

JANUARY MEETING!

Calling all crafters and hobbyists!

Let me know what your interests are and reserve a table to show your wares at the January meeting!

Time will be given after lunch for all to mingle and view tables and talk with you about your interests.

bcbrose@comcast.net

Phone: 301 627 1097

PGPSRA

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

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

January Meeting

PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 27 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$10.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by Jan. 20 mail delivery!)

This is our annual drive for the Community Service Committee. If there is no school, because of inclement weather, there will be no meeting. If this occurs, your \$10 for this event will be donated instead of returned to you unless you notify the treasurer.

**** I WOULD LIKE A TABLE TO SHOW MY CRAFTS/HOBBIES _____**