

ECHOES

Vol. LII No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2018

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

Greetings PGPSRA Members,

We hope that everyone discovered during the recent holiday season that we all have much for which to be thankful, even if at times we forget to count our blessings. We also hope that you spent the holidays celebrating with family and friends, and that you are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the new year.

At the November General meeting we were pleased to have Frances (Fay) Miller, President of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), induct Quinn Patterson, a long-time teacher in the Prince George's County Public Schools, as President-Elect of PGPSRA. Quinn stepped up to the plate to help our association for the coming two years. You will have a chance to learn more about Quinn, and to hear his presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen at the January 24, 2018 General Meeting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

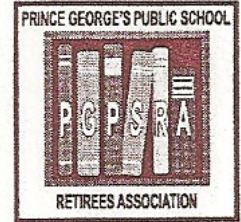


We also heard from Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, who shared comments about many of the exciting programs and development projects taking place in the county. He also announced the ground breaking date for the long-awaited Regional Hospital slated for Largo.

PGPSRA presented a certificate of Appreciation to James William Thompson, a student in the Class of 1968 at North Forestville Elementary School and the Class of 1974 at Suitland High School, for his monetary contributions for the library (media center) and for teacher recognition at both schools.

Our many PGSPRA committees continue to work hard on your behalf. The **Community Service Committee** interacts with several schools to assist their neediest students with food, clothing, school supplies and more. The **Scholarship Committee** is working to identify qualified applicants for our scholarship program. The **Legislative Committee** has already scheduled our visit to meet State Legislators in Annapolis for Thursday, March 8, 2018. Our new **Senior Outreach Committee** is seeking ways to help members who are confined to their own homes, are in assisted living homes, are ambulatory, in need of transportation, or who just want to talk with other educators. Our **Travel Committee** conducted another successful trip, this time to see *The Miracle of Christmas* at the Sight and Sound Theatre, Strasburg, PA. The **Membership Committee** seeks your help in attracting new members to help us with all of our activities. Our volunteers also plan our programs, publish our ECHOES newsletter, maintain our website, and liaise with the Board of Education regarding our benefits.

If you have not volunteered for a committee and are interested in becoming more involved, please e-mail me at george.dilden@yahoo.com, or call me at 301-641-3147. We can discuss the committee responsibilities and you will be given the contact information for the appropriate committee chairpersons. (cont'd on page 3)



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BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to some of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be celebrating her 98th birthday on the 6th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be having her 92nd birthday on the 11th; and Ms. Adele Talbot of Adelphi will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 14th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to several Emeritus members: Ms. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be having her 94th birthday on the 7th; Mr. James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be marking his 93rd birthday on the 11th; **Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 14th**; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.VA. will be having her 95th birthday on the 19th; Ms. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be turning 91 years-old on the 25th; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be marking her 94th birthday on the 29th.

Carolyn Davis retired from High Point High School in 1990. Nine years later she moved to Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, to be near her daughter and her family. There she lives in a retirement community near the Pacific Ocean. Since retiring, Carolyn has been active in doing "Volkswalks". She has completed 10-K walks in all 50 states and Washington, D.C., as well as, in several countries. However, at age 91, she no longer walks great distances. She has volunteered in her granddaughter's elementary school library for 16 years. (Her granddaughter moved on, but she was allowed to stay!) Carolyn traveled by bus, plane, and ship to all of the states, when she was doing the "Volkswalks". She has enjoyed family get-togethers at the Grand Canyon, Palm Springs, New Hampshire, California, and a visit to Oregon to see Lee Struglia (a former High Point math teacher). Carolyn has an adult son, Richard, who lives in Atlanta, GA., with his wife, (who is a teacher) and his two sons. She also has an adult daughter, Rebecca, who lives in Los Angeles and is Head of the Art Department at Cal State University, and has two daughters.

Crystal Morris of Adelphi, retired as an English teacher from Duval High School in 1992. For the past 14 years she has volunteered at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, donating a total of 4,348 hours! This has been, and continues to be, a most rewarding experience. Crystal has enjoyed travels to Houston and Boston for Regional Conventions and Las Vegas for a National Convention of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She has been married to Warren for 43 years. They have two married sons, Alex and Warren, and three grandchildren. Crystal's future plans include a trip to New Orleans with her family.

Helen Hendrickson Thiers retired from District Heights Elementary in 1974. She is currently living in Waynesboro, PA. Sadly, her husband, Wolfgang, of 51 years, passed away this past October. The Thiers had one son, also named Wolfgang, who lives in Arlington, VA. Helen enjoys crocheting and reading. Hospice has a program to honor Veterans, and Helen's husband was pleased to participate in this program before he died. Helen is now crocheting red, white, and blue lap robes for Hospice to donate to other Veterans. She is also active in her church, and enjoys going out to lunch with friends.

*** Correction to the November BITS & PIECES: Sharon and Carl Tannenbaum of Bowie, celebrated their **51st wedding anniversary** (not their 25th anniversary on December 25, 2017).

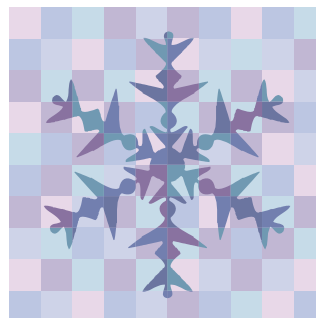
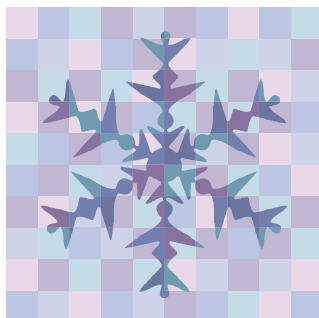
To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324

President's Message—Continued from page 1

If you want to learn more about PGPSRA, we encourage you to visit our redesigned website at www.pgpsra.org . If you want to know more about the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, please visit that website, www.mrspa.org .

When you made your New Year's Resolutions, we hope you resolved to attend PGPSRA meetings, get involved with association activities, and support this year's theme of "Each One Reach Out and Bring in One New Member."

Meanwhile, best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous new year.



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Our "Team" has been hard at work partnering with their selected schools for the 2017-2018 year. The schools are in the Southern Area: Clinton Grove Elementary, Friendly High, Panorama Elementary, Rose Valley Elementary and Tayac Elementary. Thus far, we are furnishing school uniforms, school supplies, monies for student lunches, and food baskets. We are on target for scheduled projects.

We thank all who have continued to support us. The team hopes to surpass the 2016-2017 year of assistance. Please assist in any area: school supplies, coats (all sizes/genders), and donations (monetary).

Even though we have a projected budget, we can do more with more. You may bring items to our General Meetings or call this chairperson at 202 285 5524, If you would like to join the committee, please come to the February 7 meeting at 11:00 am at PGCEA Center.

Ethel Brown, Chairperson

"TOGETHER, EVERYONE MAKES THE DREAM WORK"

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Board	General Meeting
Sept 8	Sept 27
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Jan. 3	Jan. 24
Mar. 7	Mar. 28
May 2	May 23

REMEMBRANCE

Chambers, Lynette Peyton	11/16/2017
Collins, Benjamin	09/12/2017
Daley, Jr., Edmund, K.	10/24/2017
Greene, Shirley J.	10/15/2017
McLeod, Bettie	10/06/2017
Nicholson, James	10/29/2017
Nixon, Joyce Ayers	11/24/2017
Robinson-Kontosios, Maxine	10/25/2017
Yee, Rosalind	10/25/2017

Jannie Goldston Chair



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)
 Past President/Nomimating: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 President-Elect: Quint Patterson (ipatter2@gmail.com)
 Recording Sec.: Nicole Dias (nicoledias134@gmail.com)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Bylaws: Marylouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 Comm. Service: Ethel Brown (202 285 5524)
 Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret22@msn.com)
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77@gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof
 Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) & Brenda Barnes
 Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net & Brenda Barnes
 Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias

New President-Elect!!

Our President for next year will be Quint Patterson. He was sworn in at the November meeting by MRSPA President, Fay Miller (with current president, George Denny looking on).

Be sure to attend the January meeting and meet Quint and find out more about him as you will be treated to his presentation of information about the Tuskegee Airmen.



Speaker at November Meeting

Members who attended our November meeting were able to get the latest about our county from our County Executive, Rushern Baker. He gave us a good update about all that has happened, and what he sees in the upcoming months. He, then, took questions from members. It appears that our county is on the upswing and there are good things happening.

For more information, go to the internet. Type in Rushern Baker and his website will pop up!



January Meeting

Be sure to put us on your calendar for January 24th!

We will be looking at the Tuskegee Airmen and their contribution to the country. I'm sure we will all learn new and interesting things about these brave men.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Report January 2018

Several members attended the Legislative workshop in Annapolis on November 14, 2017.

Speakers included State Retirement Agency of Maryland's Executive Director, Dean Kenderdine. Mr. Kenderdine said that "The pension system is doing well and getting better all the time." The goal of 80% funded by 2025 is well on its way at 71%. The agency is improving their computer system to better serve members and fully protect our information. The agency has hired three new staffers and has added several additional funds to their portfolio. This will allow them to maximize benefits.

Prince George's Delegate Alonzo Washington spoke about moving legislation toward free tuition for Community College, paid sick leave, and more attention to the Arts in schools.

MRSPA Executive Director Wanda Twigg guided us through the MRSPA web site and encourages everyone to make a habit of checking the site every two weeks during the Legislative session and become an active participant.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER – 2017

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$11933.28
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2030.14

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	2065.84
EXPENDITURES	-	1549.88

NO ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOVEMBER 30, 2017

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	12449.24
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2030.14
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$14479.38

THANK YOU

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer





DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your MRSPA website
for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarship Applications are in the schools. This year's applicants will need to have their forms in by February 24th. If you know a high school senior who is planning to attend college to prepare for teaching, do let him/her know to go to the guidance counsellor at school...or to go to our website to download.

November's 50/50 of \$135 was won by Jannette Wundrow, who turned back her winnings to the committee. Thank you, Jannette!

Submitted by: Brenda Barnes & Delores Brown
Committee Co-Chairs



VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www. MRSPA.org and **www.PGPSRA.org**

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

To get the latest, quickest news.





Remember This?

Don Conway has several hobbies and has shared them with us. We get positive responses to meetings where we do this. If you have a hobby you would like to bring in to share, please let us know. You can present like this....or be our speaker for the day. We teachers are talented. We are retired and sharing our talents in all sorts of activities. Others would like to hear from you!

Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof, Program Chairs

(contact information on page 4)



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Also, EACH ONE REACH OUT AND BRING IN ONE NEW MEMBER is our aim for 2017-18.

Help PGPSRA Grow Members

If you know anyone who is retiring, or has retired but not yet joined either PGPSRA or the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), please encourage him or her to do so today. The application form can be found under "Membership" on our website, www.pgpsra.org Joint membership in PGPSRA and MRSPA has many benefits, including Hearing Aid assistance, Computer Discounts, Legal Services Plan, Dental Insurance, Travel and Car Rental Discount Programs, Long Term Care Insurance, MRSPA Rewards Visa Card, Discount Parking at BWI, and much more. You receive a HUGE return on your relatively small dues investment.

Charline Jacob- Chair
M.Isbell- F.King- I.Woodley -Committee Members

PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 24, 2018 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center, Forestville

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 the Jan. 17 mail delivery!)**

Box Lunch

Weather Advisory for January, 24, 2018 PGPSRA Meeting

If the Prince George's County Public Schools close due to inclement weather on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, the PGPSRA General Meeting will be CANCELLED. If the County School System has a delayed opening on that date, the PGPSRA General Meeting will be held as scheduled.

As usual, if this meeting is cancelled, we cannot reimburse your \$15. We will add it to the Community Services fund. Thank you for understanding.



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

Next Meeting

January 24, 2017

PGCEA Center

11:00 am

