

ECHOES

Vol. LIII No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2019

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Have your presence, opinions and views been made known to the members of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association? Our MRSPA President Ann Marie Downey has challenged each unit to become an active participant in her administration's theme: "Connecting, Protecting, Making a Difference" by linking up, via colorful paper clips, with other members who attend our membership meetings. Our chain is growing, but we need you to help it continue to grow so that we will have a great representation at both the March and Annual Meeting in 2019. Our chain will then be linked to chains from other units. Please plan to attend the January 23, 2019 meeting and make your presence known.

The November 28th meeting was quite different and informative. Thanks to Jannette Wundrow, an invitation was extended to our newly elected state legislators: Delegate Michael A. Jackson, District 27-B; Senator Melony Griffith, District 25; Delegate Ron Watson, District 23-B; Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24; Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47. They brought greetings and extended thanks to the Association for the work teachers and other school employees have provided over the years to the Prince George's County Public School System. Several of the legislators remained and enjoyed a special Italian lunch.

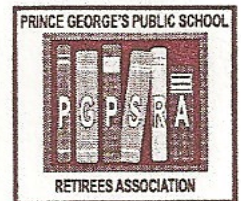
Many thanks to the members who purchased raffle tickets for the MRSPA Scholarship Fund. Donations to our scholarship fund are collected via the 50/50 raffle at each membership meeting. Many thanks to all of the members who have won the 50/50 raffle and donated their winnings back to the PGPSRA Scholarship Fund. Mary Claire Dunlap was the winner at the November meeting who returned her winnings to the fund.

This season of thankfulness is a reason for pause. Many of our friends, neighbors and colleagues are no longer with us and we are painfully reminded of their absence. But, as long as we remember them, they will always live. If there is someone you have thought about recently but have not contacted, take a moment to do so. That moment encourages and often inspires.

This Association has been in existence since June 18, 1964. Due to the dedication and progressive thinking of those who have led it throughout the years, we thrive. I am so grateful to all of you who have contributed your time, energy, knowledge, and finances to make this Association the viable organization it is. Taking that extra step for the good of your community, members, schools, and yourself, is a blessing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sacrifices on behalf of this organization.

It is my hope that 2019 will bless us with added participation, dedication, leadership, and good health. May you have a blessed holiday season and wonderful 2019.

Lorraine Williams Johnson
President, 2018-2019



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MEMBERSHIP

A BRAND NEW YEAR to Give you information from the MEMBERSHIP Committee !

We are so happy to be able to greet you in this first month of 2019 and to let you know some of the activities that went on in our last meeting of 2018.

The two \$20.00 door prizes were won by Mary Isbell and Delores Jones. First times were in high numbers in November and we hope to see it topped at another meeting. Thanks to Ida Patterson, Mary Isbell, Alice Hutchinson, Brenda Barnes and Thelma Barnes for bringing in Channie Johnson, Norwood Dobbins, Elizabeth Burley, Melissa Mackey, Laura Brewer-Heilig, Delores Jones and Laurie Crosby-Berry. Remember, we encourage all who attend to become members. This association and your state association works very hard to make sure that our retirement continues to be a comfortable time. Your help is vital for us to continue our efforts.,

A special shout-out goes to Ray Smith , a former secretary of PGPSRA , for joining us after being out for several years recovering from operations. It is always good to see old friends as we welcome many new ones.

To show how CONNECTED members are to supporting MRSPA/PGPSRA each person added a paper clip to a chain...(I could almost use it as a jump rope) if you were not at the November meeting we have a clip waiting for you to CONNECT with us when you attend a meeting. The PGPSRA chain will be added to all other local chains at the yearly meeting in 2019. We know you want to be included so expect you to CONNECT with us soon....hopefully at our January meeting.

Wishing you had all that you needed in 2018 and will be blessed to have the same in 2019. To help others with their needs you may want to consider joining the Community Service or Scholarship Committee of PGPSRA.

Happy 2019,

C. Jacob, M. Isbell and F. King
Membership Committee

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

Past President/Nomimating:

George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: George D. Denny

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 (**donconway5@icloud.com**)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.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 (penguinCI@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

NOTE! Don Conway has a new email!!

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **January** birthday wishes to some of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be having her 99th birthday on the 6th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 11th; and Mrs. Beverly West of Annapolis, will be turning 91 years-old on the 30th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to several other Emeritus members: Mrs. Wilma Asquith of Hernando, FL. will be reaching 90 years-old on the 1st; Ms. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 95th birthday on the 7th; two of our members will be having birthdays on the 11th: Mr. James Ruckert, of Chesapeake Beach will be 94 years-old and Ms. Jewell Greer, of El Paso, TX will be 91 years-old; **Mrs. Catherine Mitchell of Silver Spring will be turning 101 years-old on Valentines' Day;** Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.VA. will be marking her 96th birthday on the 19th; Ms. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 25th; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be having her 95th birthday on the 29th.

Eileen Reeder retired in 1974 from Surratsville Senior High School as the assistant librarian. She is a member of First United Methodist Church, where she has held several administrative volunteer positions, including as church librarian and singing in the choir for more than 40 years. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), where she has held a number of administrative positions, including Eastern District Director. From 1996 through 2003 Eileen ran "Reeders' Retreat" in West Virginia as a getaway for weekend guests. Since 1942 her hobby has been knitting and crocheting. Since retirement she has knitted over 109 afghans and gifted them to friends, relatives, and church members. Sadly, Eileen has lost her husband and youngest son. She now lives in Berkley Springs, West Virginia with her oldest son, Ronald.

Robert (Bob) Kovalchik of College Park, retired from Hyattsville Jr. High and Parkdale High School after teaching from 1959 through 1991. He has been a devoted volunteer at the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. since, and recently conducted his 2000th tour with a group of fourth graders from Virginia.

Dr. Jacqueline Reed of Milford, DE., retired from the Board of Education - Office of Research & Evaluation in 2000. She has continued her work in education at Suihua University in Suihua, China, teaching English vocabulary, listening, reading and writing skills to freshmen and sophomore students. She has also given lectures on American culture to Chinese university students and faculty. Jacqueline has enjoyed travels to Alaska, France, Germany, Belgium, Puerto Rico,

St. Thomas, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Marteen. In addition, she has taken cross-country rail trips to New York, Maine, Boston, Salt Lake City, Denver, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. When at home, Jacqueline volunteers with Delaware Hospice Center in Milford. She has one son, Cecil, and two grandsons, Caleb and Nolan.

Olivia Staton of Suitland, retired from William Beanes Elementary School in 1999. She spends her free time volunteering at her church. However, Olivia's passion is traveling, with a goal of visiting every state in the Union. She has been to the Grand Canyon in AZ., Hoover Dam on the borders of NV. and AZ., Williamsburg, VA., California, Hawaii and other states, and traveled out of the country to Canada and The Holy Land. Olivia has nieces, nephews, and God-children.

Natalie Nugent Straley of Columbia, MD. retired in 1999 from Broad Mill Elementary School. Since retiring, Natalie has traveled to several places: Germany, Holland, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Russia. She volunteered briefly in her grand-niece's first grade class in Howard County, and found it a treat spending time with the little ones. Natalie still enjoys seeing teacher-friends from Prince George's, Baltimore, Cecil, and Frederick Counties. She and her husband have a combined family of nine children, 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, and they love spending time with them all! This past October, their son, Michael, and friend, Candy, drove Natalie and her husband to her hometown in Berkshire County Massachusetts, where the fall foliage was magnificent. Berkshire County is a beautiful tourist area, noted for many musical, theater, and dance events, and the summer home of the Boston Symphony. There, the Straleys stayed with Natalie's high school friend at a lovely lake house, and were also able to visit with her kindergarten friend.

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

Bringing us information and promises of assistance were:
Representative Michael Jackson and Senator Melony Griffith.



In Remembrance

- Barton, Regina T.
- Brooks, Ellen P. 11/01/2018
- Eppard, Juanita D. 10/28/2018
- Gatton, Mary A. 10/30/2018
- Moore, Margaret Mary 11/15/2018
- Mitchell, Joyce 10//2018
- Pinkney, Atherine 11/26/2018
- Smith, Thomas Phillip 11/22/2018
- Talbot, Adele 11/07/2018

Jannie Goldston, Chair

Meeting Date Change!!

May's meeting date has been changed.

WE WILL MEET

May 15, 2019

Comfort Inn, Bowie



TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER – 2018

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	- \$13206.58
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	- 28.83

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	- 850.61
EXPENDITURES	- 1367.57

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	- 12689.62
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	- 28.83
TOTAL ASSETS	- \$12718.45

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

EDWARD N. VEST, Treasurer

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www. MRSPA.org](http://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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Every year the scholarship committee has been able to award large scholarships to students who want to specialize in education. Due to the decrease in membership this year our budget has been decreased. This year the committee's budget is \$2500.00. Therefore, we decided to give two one thousand dollar scholarships and any additional money we receive as book scholarships.

The students must be currently enrolled in the Prince Georges Public School:

Applications will be on the county website (www.PGCPS.org)

The website (www.pgpsra.org)

Or students may check with their guidance counselors

Students must follow the directions with dates etc.or they will be disqualified.

Thank you to all the contributors who donated to our 50/50 raffle.

A special thank you to Ms. M. Boles for a \$50.00 donation and to Susan Fortang who donated her 50/50 winnings.

We hope to hear from our recipients about their school in our next issue.

Brenda Barnes& Delores Brown Scholarship Co-chairs

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

On November 14, 2018, Lorraine Johnson, Norma Martof, Brenda Barnes, Jannette Wundrow, John Sisson and I attended the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Legislative Workshop in Annapolis. MRSPA Legislative Aide, Virginia Crespo, encouraged us to introduce ourselves to the new members of the House of Delegates through welcome letters and email. She also indicated that issues to watch this upcoming session include health care and, as always, maintaining strong pensions.

Dr. David Juppe, Senior operating Budget Mgr. gave us a thorough overview of Maryland's Budget.

Dean Kenderdine, executive director of Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, provided us with a pension update. Recent legislation has given the board control to hire and pay investment planners. Funding of our system continues to increase.

After lunch, we heard from Dr. David Hornbeck and Brit Kirwan. They reviewed the Kirwan Commission Policy Initiatives. They reported that Maryland schools rank 26th place according to the 2017 NAEP scores. The goals of the commission include expansion of early childhood education, recruiting high quality teachers, provide students with college and career readiness pathways, and provide greater resources for at risk students and increase governance and accountability. The initiatives will be addressed during the 2019 Legislative session.

Our own PGPSRA Legislative trip to Annapolis will be held on Thursday March 7th 2019. For our recent members, we leave PGCEA at 8:30 in the morning arriving by bus to Annapolis to view an introductory film, sit in on The House and Senate, Tour Historic Rooms and The Governor's Mansion. We join together for luncheon and visits from our Legislators. We return to PGCEA by 2:30. There is no cost for this wonderful trip! Sign up will be available at our January meeting or by contacting Sue Finan. Hope you will be able to join us.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

sfinan77@gmail.com



Our members with Dr. David Hornbeck at this year's Legislative Day in Annapolis.

MSCHF WINNER FOR
2018
MARY FRANCES DOYLE



Proposed PGPSRA Bylaws Change

The PGPSRA Bylaws Committee has proposed a change to our current Bylaws to establish two year terms for association officers. Below you will find the current language, proposed change to the current language, and the rationale for the proposed change.

The proposed bylaw change was presented to the membership for first reading and discussion at the Nov. 28, 2018 General Meeting. The second reading and hopeful adoption will occur at the January 2019 General Meeting.

If you wish to comment on the proposed revisions, contact MaryLouise Isbell, committee chair, at 301-735-5417 or by email at maryi32@verizon.net. You may also contact President Lorraine Johnson at 301-336-1173, Brenda Barnes at 240-383-8321, Bill Brose at 301-627-1097 or George Denny at 301-641-3147. Your input is valuable.

Current Bylaw Language

ARTICLE III, SECTION 2. Number and term of Office. The number of directors shall be equal to the sum of the number of officers of the company, and the number of standing committees plus the Historian. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall never be less than seven (7) directors. The directors shall serve for a period of **one (1) year or until the next annual meeting**. At each annual meeting, the successor officers shall be installed to hold office for a term of **one (1) year**. After each annual meeting the President shall appoint the chairs of each standing committee and each chair shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Proposed Change

Effective July 1, 2019, the directors shall serve for a period of **two (2) years**. At each annual meeting **following their election**, the successor officers shall be installed to hold office for a term of **two (2) years**.

Rationale

With two-year terms, nominees are better able to complete goals and to utilize the experience gained during their terms of office.

Community Service

Children first!

Oppportunity to support schools.

Middle schools' assistance

Making a monumental difference.

United "team" efforts.

New members welcomed.

Integrated growth for all.

Together, everyone achieves more.

Your continued financial support is needed.

School supplies and shoes for Easter.

Elementary schools' assistance

Retired Teachers Association Members

Volunteers for a worthy cause.

Invested in future leaders.

Coats for warmth.

Efficient and effective.

Seniors end of year matriculation assistance.

(graduation and prom)

Ethel L. Brown, Chairperson

202 285 5524

Representatives Ron Watson, Jazz Lewis and Malcom Augustine spoke of their plans to help the county.



Thank you!

This is the first issue for members, who have given us your permission, to receive Echoes by email. This will help us to cut some costs. With our membership decline, our budget is getting quite tight. We are trying to do all that we can to continue to be the best support possible for retirees from Prince George's County Schools.

If you want to add your name to the list, send your name and email address to:

Bonnie Curry Brose, bcbrose@comcast.net.



WELCOME

FIRST TIME

ATTENDEES!



PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 23, 2019

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** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the Jan. 16 mail delivery!).**

We will have a box lunch catered by member Nicole Diaz.

As usual for this meeting, if there is snow (or other weather) that closes the Prince George's Schools, we will not be meeting. If so, your reservation will be considered a donation to the Community Services Committee....and we thank you! If the schools are on a two hour delay, we will meet. :-)

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 23, 2019
PGCEA Center, Forestville
11:00 am

