

ECHOES

Vol. LIV No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2020

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

From the President:

This past holiday season provided wonderful preparation for the new year. At the November General Meeting we were treated to a rousing performance by the Northwestern High School Concert Choir and inspiring remarks by Dr. Monica Goldson, CEO of the Prince George's County Public Schools. Many of our members got into the spirit of giving by making generous donations to the Scholarship and Community Service Committees to assist them with their valuable efforts. We also received a donation to cover the expense of the bus for the concert choir. We are grateful to those and others who have helped and continue to help in many ways to meet the needs of our organization.

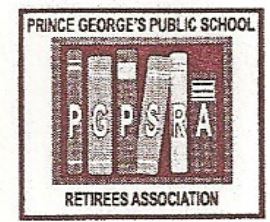
The Executive Committee has proposed to increase our annual dues by \$5--from \$15 to \$20--beginning with the 2020-2021 organization year. It has been about 10 years since we last raised our dues. This increase will help to bring our ailing budget back to health. The committee is expected to vote on the increase early this month.

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Charley Hudson, a long-time PGPSRA member and trip coordinator, and the illnesses of Delores Brown and Charline Jacob, both of whom have been dedicated committee chairs. We extend our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery for both ladies.

Membership continues to be a challenge for us. There have been some glimmers of light in the past two months, as we have had several new members join us through the efforts of Membership Chair Maryann Royall, Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms and others of our members. We hope that each of you will commit to attend meetings and to bring at least one person with you to our luncheons. There truly is strength in numbers, and we need to grow in order to provide greater service to our members.

Meanwhile, our committees are hard at work on your behalf. Please see Sue Finan's Legislative Report regarding our unit's trip to the State Legislature in Annapolis in March. The trip is free, and we hope you will sign up to attend. The Scholarship Committee is receiving applications in preparation for awarding scholarships to students in May. The Community Service Committee has been working to meet the needs of students at Surrattsville High School and four elementary schools. Our volunteers spend a lot of time visiting the schools and providing supplies and clothing.

(Cont'd on page 2)



President's Report	1
Officers/Committees	2
Membership	3
Community Service	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Legislative Report	6
Bits and Pieces	7
Remembrance	8
Meal Reservation	9



All of our committees continue to need volunteers to help them with their work. Please offer your help at the next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at the PGCEA Center in Forestville. You will find the registration form elsewhere in this issue. Also note the inclement weather policy at the bottom of the reservation form.

As always, you can find back issues of the ECHOES newsletter and lots of other valuable information about PGPSRA by visiting our website at pgpsra.org.

Meanwhile, it has been said that a New Year is like a blank book, and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself. Help us also write a beautiful story for PGPSRA in the coming year.

Thanks and best wishes,
George D. Denny, Jr., President

Northwestern High School Choir

We sincerely thank the students and teachers who came to our November meeting and entertained the members with a delightful program. Along with Dr. Goldson, we are most proud to have these students in our school system! What a treat!!

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)
 President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)
 Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)
 Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)
 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: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 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: Maryann M. Royall (maryakaroyall@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: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net), Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes
 Trips: Addie Martin



Arch-Decorations





Membership Committee

We had four (4) new persons to attend our meeting in November. Out of the four, one paid her dues immediately. That person was Dr. Juanita Miller. We welcome Dr. Miller to our group. The others were given applications and encouraged to join as well. We continue to strive to increase our membership. Let's commit ourselves to be responsible for bringing in one new member.

As of 11/4/2019 our total membership was 1248. We have 73 Emeritus Members, 1 unpaid member and 3 new members. The new members are: Ernest B. Conaway, John T. Davis and Deborah Stokes. We are happy to have them join MRSPA.

Maryann M. Royall, Chairperson



January Speaker

Theresa Mitchell Dudley

Ms Dudley is the current President of Prince George's County Educational Association. With all the news coming out about the Kirwin Commission we're hearing. Theresa will let us know how PGCEA sees the issue.

Come and hear and be ready to ask questions.

Oh, and visit with friends and have a tasty box lunch!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is presently helping the following schools in the southern area of Prince George's County:

J. Frank Dent Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary, James Ryder Randall Elementary, Glass Manor Elementary and Surrattsville High School. We are finding the need for assistance to be acute.

We want to thank our general body of PGPSRA for offering monetary assistance to our cause. We will continue to use the funds wisely and keep you apprised of our progress throughout the year. If sending donations by check, please write Community Service on the purpose line of the check.

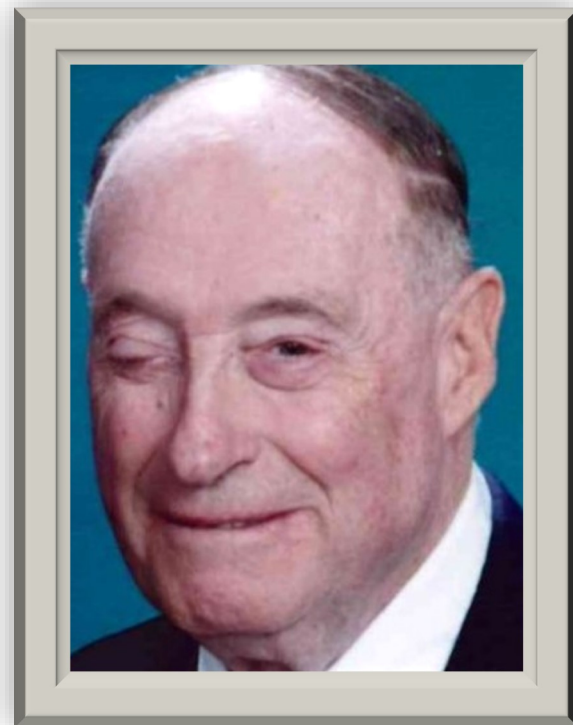
Submitted by: Courtney Pringle/Chairman

A Fond Farwell

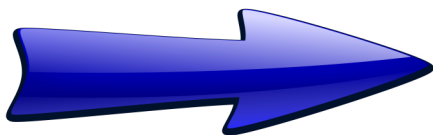
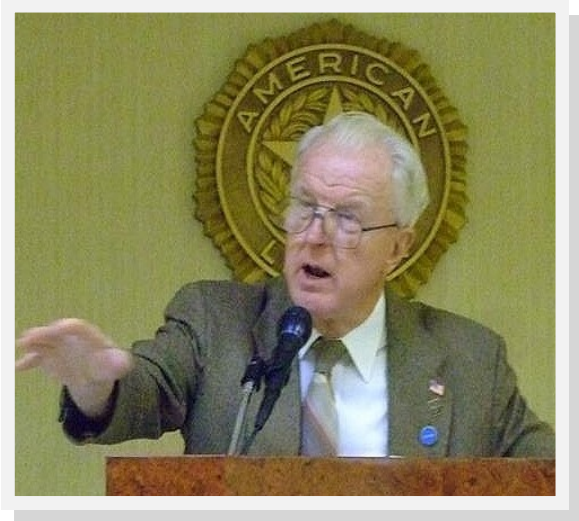
This fall brought us the sad news, first, of Anne Hudson. Anne was the wife of our long-serving board member, Charles Hudson who died just a month later.

Charley was a stalwart member of PGPSRA after a stellar career in Prince George's Schools. Charley was a born athletic coach. He coached baseball, soccer, wrestling, football and basketball for high school and for Prince George's Community College. He was a referee and an umpire and was given a lifetime membership of the International Associates of Approved Basketball Officials (of which he was a founding member) and the Metropolitan Baseball Umpires Association. Lastly he was a softball coach for the Riderwood retirement community team....and they won a championship in 2013.

He had a lifelong love of trains and had an extensive model train collection. He and Anne were active members of the United Methodist Church and they both loved to travel and learn!



CHARLES L. HUDSON



TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER – 2019

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$15543.49

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 26.83

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 2505.68

EXPENDITURES - 2242.87

ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

DEPOSIT - 100.00

CLOSING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 15806.30

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.83

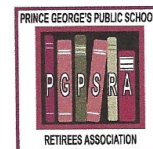
TOTAL ASSETS - \$15933.13

EDWARD N. VEST

PGPSRA Members Can Save a Tree, Help Our Budget



You can save a tree and help our budget by allowing PGPSRA to email the ECHOES newsletter to you as opposed to sending it to you in the mail. Not only will you get it faster, but you will also get it in COLOR!! Please help us by sending the following information to Bonnie Brose at bcbrose@comcast.net



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

On November 13, 2019, Brenda Barnes, George Denny, Dr. Norma Martof, Jannette Wundrow, Kenneth Haines and I attended the MRSPA Legislative Workshop in Annapolis.

Virginia Crespo, MRSPA Legislative Aide, encouraged members to participate in Lobby Day on March 3, 2020. This includes meeting with legislators and reporting back to the group. For information and to sign up you may contact the MRSPA office.

Dr. David Juppe gave a budget update pointing out that K-12 funding and school construction will be popular issues during the coming session.

Dean Kenderdine addressed the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System issues. Over \$4 billion yearly is paid in benefits, $\frac{3}{4}$ of which stays in the state. There are 79,000 retired teachers and school system employees with a total of 164,892 state retirees. By 2026 the fund is projected to be 80% funded and fully funded by 2039. Members are encouraged to visit the website by going to SRA.Maryland.gov

The Kirwan Commission was the focus of talks by Senator Pamela Beidel and Ms. Rachel Hise, Principal Policy Analyst MD Dept. of Legislative Services. The findings emphasize the need for improvement in K-12 education in Maryland. Ms. Hise addressed the plan specifics and Senator Beidel, the funding issues.

Our own PGPSRA Legislative trip to Annapolis will be held on Thursday March 5, 2020. For our new 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



Bits and Pieces

Happy **January** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Ms. Hilda Rubin of Silver Spring will be having her 91st birthday on the 2nd; **Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be turning 100 years-old on the 6th**; Ms. Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington will be marking her 91st birthday on the 7th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 11th; Mrs. Doris Hall of Upper Marlboro will be observing her 91st birthday on the 28th; and Mrs. Beverly West of Annapolis will be having her 92nd birthday on the 30th.

Happy **February** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Ms. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be marking her 96th birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Jewell Greer of El Paso, TX. will be observing her 92nd birthday on the 11th, and Mr. James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be turning 95 years- old on the 11th; Mrs. Eileen Reeder of Berkley Springs, W.VA. will be marking her 97th birthday on the 19th; Mrs. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be having her 93rd birthday on the 25th; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 29th – yes, it's Leap Year; she gets to celebrate!

Frank Parise retired from the Prince George's School System in 1983, having worked as an elementary classroom teacher, served as principal at four elementary schools: Greendale, Hollywood, Margaret Brent, and Yorktown, and worked in the Testing Office. He now lives in Melbourne, Fl., where he enjoys playing golf, gin, and poker. Unfortunately, he doesn't get the opportunity to participate in these activities so often anymore, because most of his former associates are deceased. Frank has traveled extensively; however, his favorite mode of travel is cruising, which has taken him to Caribbean countries and on an especially memorable trip to Alaska. Family get togethers on cruises have been very enjoyable. Frank fondly remembers the cruises he took with a group of Prince George's administrators; however, those cruises were disbanded some years ago due to the health issues and loss of several people. Frank has a son: David, who owns Cameo Bronze (a metal refinishing business) in the Maryland/D.C. area, and a step-son: David, part owner of A BETTER COPY (a print and promotional products company) in Melbourne, and two daughters: Vicki, who has a State Farm Insurance Agency in Fredericksburg, VA., and Karen, who is Director of Food Services for Melbourne Schools. Frank and his wife, Christine, a retired nurse, met as widowed persons and were married in 2006. Between them they have twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Phyllis T. Brown, of Silver Spring, retired from Templeton Elementary in 1994. She enjoys reading and is very active at St. John United Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where she serves as a Deaconess, teaches a New Member Class, is President of the Choir: Voices of Praise, and is Chair of the Board of Stoddard Global Care (a senior living residence). She is also a member of Beta Chapter - Phi Delta Kappa Sorority. Phyllis has been a caregiver for her great niece for the past three-years. She has enjoyed cruises to Bermuda, Greece, India, Hong Kong, and Australia. Phyllis has two daughters: Reverend Sylveta Brown, who lives with her, while continuing to work and study, and Katrina Brown, who teaches in Hong Kong.

Ray Smith, of Landover, retired from Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary in 1996. She began her career as a teacher's aide at Kenmore Elementary with Fred Cardano, as principal, in 1966. Shortly afterward, Bowie State University began a pilot program for aides and pre-school teachers to become certified. This was Ray's route to graduation with a BS degree Suma Cum Laude in Early Childhood Education. She began her teaching career with Head Start, then became a kindergarten teacher. After retirement, Ray worked as a substitute teacher for 10 years, became an active member of PGPSRA - serving as corresponding secretary for three years, and has been an involved member of Highland Park Church for the past 55 years. Ray has an affinity for travel and has been on six cruises that included most of the Caribbean Islands and the Hawaiian Islands. She has traveled to Italy, and toured with MRSPA to England, France, Germany, and Holland. She has also visited 41 of the 50 United States. Ray and her husband celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary last July. They have five children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

To contribute to "BITS & PIECES" contact Jannette Wundrow: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or by phone: 301-390-7324

Necrology Report

Remember these members who have left us since our last report. They will be missed.

Mary Bartman—May 26

Anne Creveling—June 4

Donald Keys—July 15

Mary Ttofa—July 22

Brenda. Skipwith—Oct 6

George Anderson—Oct 13

Harris Leonard—Oct. 19

Louan Dolan—Sept. 21

Roger Lynwood Brown—Nov. 11

Elizabeth Walp

Parker Bracken

Mary Hailes

Frank Rinaldo

Helen Meredith

Thomas Blake

Charles Bagley—May 28

Willie Thomas—July 14

Judy Smith—July 19

Anne Hudson—Sept. 10

Theo Workman—Oct 8

Charles Hudson—Oct. 17

Mary Kilbourne—Oct 20

John Marchette—Nov. 8

Richard Knode

Nora Barnes

Marian Forma

Catherine Mitchell

Susan Trent

Charles Ross

Jayne Johns, Chair of Remembrance

This year's Calendar of Meetings for PGPSRA

Board Meetings:

Sept. 4, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 6, 2019 “

Jan. 8, 2020 “

March 4, 2020 “

May 6, 2020 “

General Membership Meetings:

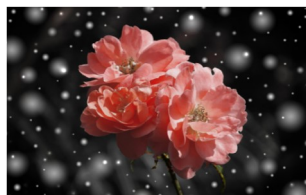
Sept. 25, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 20, 2019 “

Jan. 22, 2020 “

March 25, 2020 Comfort Inn

May 20, 2020 “





Dr. Monica Goldson, CEO of Prince George's County Schools and Mr. George Denny, President of PGPSRA after we heard Dr. Goldson share her vision for the county schools and take questions from members.



PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 22, 2020

PGCEA, Forestville MD

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed **\$15** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____
(We need the count by the Jan. 15 mail delivery!).

As usual in January, we can always expect the possibility of snow! If the county schools are closed our meeting is cancelled. In that case, please be aware that your \$15 will be considered a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

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

Jan. 22, 2020

PGCEA, Forestville

11:00 am

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.

