

ECHOES

Vol. LVII No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2023

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday. This is just a few notes as we enter the New Year of 2023.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the November Luncheon Meeting. We thank Dr. Brose and his daughter, Amelia who outdid themselves with providing all of our table decorations. Our guest speaker, Dominic Powell of the Educational System Federal Credit Union provided an overview of the credit union's customized solutions for the education community and support for education in Prince George's County. This resulted into a super informative meeting.

I need to give a shoutout to Dan Williams, our Inspiration Chair for inspiring us with a story about a wealthy CEO who chose to belittle a woman by asking her how much she makes as a teacher. It did not take long for her to respond that she can hold her head up high and pay no attention when people try to judge me by what I make because I know I make a difference in the lives of students. Instead of educating our children to be rich, we should educate them to be happy so that they know the value of things rather than the price.

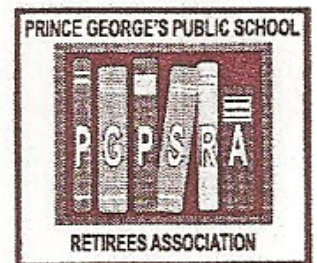
Thanks to Jannette Wundrow, Temporary Membership Chair for working with Dr. Vest to revise the PGPSRA membership and mailing lists to bring them up to date. We gained 19 new members in the past few months. I ask every member to individually invite any new retiree to join our organization.

Thanks also to our dynamic Executive Team! It's good to know that this small group can work together to make an impact on our organizational goals. There are several positions that are open. They are: Secretary, Bylaws Chair, Membership Chair, and Treasurer. Please say Yes if asked, or volunteer to help.

Now that the year, 2023 is upon us, I am looking ahead to the challenges that PGPSRA may face. We need to continue to be heard by our legislators. We need to be there for one another. We need to grow our membership as we continue to work together. I pray for health and happiness for all of our members in 2023.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms

obridge@verizon.net



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BITS AND PIECES

Happy **JANUARY** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Ms. Hilda Rubin of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 2nd; **Mrs. Ruth Trattner of Garrett Park, MD. will be marking her 103rd birthday on the 6th**; Ms. Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington will be having her 94th birthday on the 7th; Ms. Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be turning 97 years-old on the 11th; Ms. Helen Brewer of Waldorf will be observing her 93rd birthday on the 22nd; Ms. Delores Smith of Huntingtown will be having her 93rd birthday on the 23rd; and also on the 23rd, Mr. Michael Tronzo of Stafford, VA. will be having his 92nd birthday; Mr. Kenneth Turner of Robbinsville, N.C. will be marking his 91st birthday on the 28th; while Ms. Beverly West of Annapolis will be reaching her 95th birthday on the 30th.

Happy **FEBRUARY** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Ms Wilma Asquith of Hernando, FL. will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 1st; Mrs. Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Mildred Mitchell of Washington, D.C. will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 10th; on the 11th Mr. James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be turning 98 years-old, while Jewell Greer of El Paso, TX. will be celebrating 95 years; on the 25th, Ms. Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be having her 96th birthday, while Ms. Ann Rakow of Rockville will be marking her 92nd year; and Ms. Audrey Moore of Forestville will be observing her 99th birthday on the 29th.

Charlotte Faison of District Heights retired from Robert Gray Elementary in 2001. She currently participates in line dance and chair aerobics classes, Bible study, and a book club, as well as, church and Sunday School. She has a new interest in bread baking and is learning to play Chess using a self instruction guide. Charlotte takes pleasure in attending her grandchildren's baseball and volleyball games. She has enjoyed trips to Cape May, NJ., Los Cabos with a group of friends, attending her high school reunion in Newport News, VA., attending her college reunion in Greensboro, N.C., and she traveled to Arlington Heights, Ill. to attend her college roommate's birthday party. Charlotte has two sons and four grandchildren.

Judith (Judy) Combs retired in 1991 from Bond Mill Elementary in Laurel. She spent the next nine years as a docent at the Baltimore Museum of Industry and participating in community theater programs. She and her husband, Todd, have traveled to all seven continents. They are now enjoying living at the Brightview Rolling Hills Senior Complex in Catonsville.

Barbara Collins of Washington, D.C. retired from Surrattsville High School in 1995. Barbara is an avid scrapbook keeper, who has memorialized all of the important activities in her adult life through scrapbooking. She has become an Ordained Deacon at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church in Washington. She continues to sing in the choir, and has helped to plan family reunions. Barbara has enjoyed cruises to Alaska and the Bahamas. She has traveled to Canada, Hawaii, the Gullah Festival in S.C., Martha's Vineyard in MA., College Homecomings at A. & T. State University and Bluefield University in VA. Sadly, Barbara lost her husband, Phillip, of nearly 48 years of marriage in 2019. They did not have children; however, they had many nieces and nephews, whose graduations, weddings, and other accomplishments they were fortunate to have attended.

Jon Everhart relocated to Westerville, Ohio after retiring in 2010 from Largo High School. He continued his interest in teaching, and is a permanent High School substitute in the Columbus, OH. area. He has enjoyed vacationing in Florida. He has full-grown children with families. Jon has an interesting side-job, calling play-by-play Minor League Baseball on the radio.

Orabelle Wright (Price)-Washington of District Heights retired in 2017 from Central High School. She has since enjoyed attending plays and musicals, reading religious and historical books, working out, making jewelry, singing in her church choir, participating in church activities, and serving as Chair-person of the Scholarship Ministry at St. John CME Church in Washington. Orabelle has traveled extensively, visiting Alaska, St. Thomas, Aruba, Jamaica, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and Charleston, South Carolina for her 50th high school class reunion. She has one daughter, who is a kindergarten teacher in the Charter School System in Washington, D. C. Orabelle was remarried in April 2019, but sadly, lost her husband a year later.

**** To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact JannetteWundrow@comcast.net



Dr. Norma Martof

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms
(obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denny
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest552@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: Vacant

Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Vacant

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor (beatignor@aol.com)

Membership: Jannette Wundrow
(jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

Newsletter and Programs: Bonnie Brose
(bcbrose@comcast.net)

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

Recognition: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and
Linda Butler

Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Scholarship: Brenda L. Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)



PGPSRA was saddened to learn that Dr. Norma Martof passed away on November 12, 2022. She taught high school science for 34 years working at Fairmont Heights High School for 23 years and Flowers High School for nine years.

Dr. Martof was an active member of PGPSRA AND served in many roles in the organization. Recently, she was a member of the consumer Education Committee and the Program Committee. She also was active in the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association where she served on a number of committees.

Norma was, also, a member of the Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international sorority of key women educators.

We will all miss her dedication and constant smile.





New Member Recruitment Incentive!

Earn a \$10 gift card for each **NEW MEMBER** you sign up as a **DUES DEDUCTION** member.



This allows automatic renewal, so no membership interruption while saving trees 🌳, time ⌚, and postage 📧!

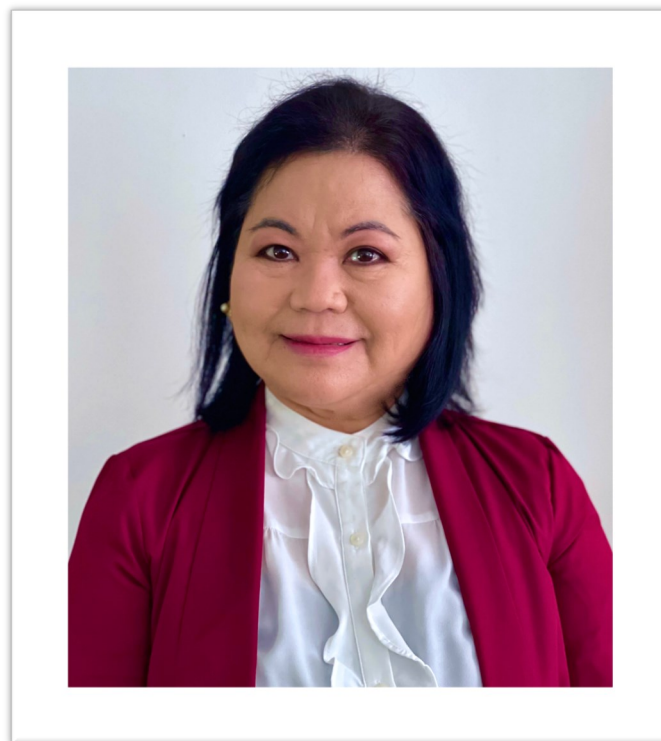
Write your name on the membership application, as recruiter.
Return the completed application to:

MRSPA
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A
Odenton, MD 21113

Questions: Email MRSPA at mrspa@mrspa.org or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517



Help PGPSRA recruit new members. If each of you enlists just one new member you will have helped our local grow and increased the opportunities to serve our community and our fellow members. Look at the incentive information above and recruit a new member today. YOU are the best recruiter for our organization. New members MUST become members of BOTH MRSPA and PGPSRA. The application form is available on our website--pgpsra.org



**Benjamin Tasker Math Teacher
Named PGCPs Teacher of the Year**

Congratulations to Evelyn Policarpio, eighth grade math teacher at Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie, for being named 2022 Teacher of the Year for the Prince George's County Public Schools.

Ms. Policarpio was nominated by school staff and Principal Dr. Kendra Hill for "going above and beyond to support her students and challenge them with rigor and engagement. Along with providing outstanding instruction, she creates a welcoming environment where students feel accepted, appreciated and valued". We look forward to seeing Ms. Policarpio in one of our upcoming General Meetings.

Inspirational Message

"We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there." Charles Kettering, engineer, inventor

Meanwhile, Alphonso Jiles, Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School director of instrumental music, was named first runner-up, and Menet McCoy, Melwood Elementary fifth grade science/social studies International Baccalaureate, was second runner-up.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service members met Wednesday December 7th, 2022 at the [PGCEA](#) headquarters to discuss our progress and plans for the ensuing year. We were joined at this meeting by our PGPSRA President, [Oretha](#) Bridgewaters-Simms. We had a fruitful discussion of ideas, projects completed, and visions of things to come.

Our President Bridgewaters-Simms shared suggestions that could be incorporated in our interactions with our point person in our respective schools.

We will use those suggestions as we continue down the pike of success in the new year.

We continue to spend our money wisely on those requested items needed in our Elementary Schools. We want to thank those generous donors of funds given to Community Service. Their participation in this endeavor makes the dream work.

Courtney Pringle, Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT – NOVEMBER - 2022

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$39223.57
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	1311.70
EXPENDITURES	3169.08

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

CLOSING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	37366.19
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86

TOTAL ASSETS	\$37493.05
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Respectfully Submitted,

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer



Door Prize Winners



Welcome

New Members with Oretha



Scholarship Committee

The Prince Georges Public School Retired Teachers Association will again award up to four \$1,000.00 scholarships this year. Applicants must be Prince George's Public or Charter high school seniors who plan to major in education. The applications can be found on our website **PGPSRA**. The completed application with all biographical and transcripts must be postmarked by February 28th, 2023.

We will also sponsor three or four \$300.00 mini grants for Prince George's staff members who need some financial assistance in getting their programs off the ground working with students in special programs. Our winners last year were from Woodmore Elementary, Lake Arbor Elem. James Harrison Elem. and Benjamin Tasker Middle School. This year's winners will be selected in February. We also need new members to work with our committee. Feel free to contact me if you are interested.

Brenda Barnes, Scholarship Chair

Blbarnes128@aol.com

Necrology

Flora N. Davis	09/23
Donald L. Gibbs	09/02
Jane V. Greenstein	09/09
Dr. Leroy Barton, Jr.	
Gail Alwine.	10/07
Richard J. Carrington	10/30
Charles E. Sparks	10/13
Dr. Norma Martof	11/12
Gloria L. Taylor	11/15
Lawrence. A Yore	10/02
Patricia M. Finnerty	10/17
Roy M. Freeman	11/03

Correction: Thomas. Carlton. McDaniels. 09/13/2022

Submitted by: Jayne Johns and Linda. Butler



PGPSRA Reservation Form

January 25, 2023

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. 18 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
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Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
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We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

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.