

ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2024

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

Our holidays are over. I hope everyone had many opportunities to celebrate and spend time with family and friends. Now it is time to get back to our normal routines. **WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!!**



The New Year (2024) offers many opportunities for our members to be active in our organization and the community. It may be a little late, however, take a look at a few ideas for New Year's Resolutions:

- Volunteer in the community.
- Get involved by serving on a PGPSRA Committee.
- Attend upcoming meetings,
- Recruit members for our organization,
- Stay informed with state and local issues.

These resolutions are different ways to be more involved in our organization, PGPSRA. The members of the Prince George's Public

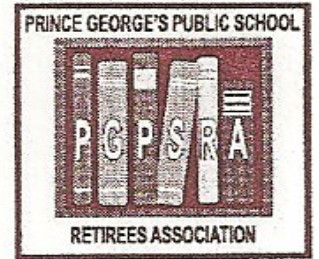
School Retirees Association Board want you to be informed and involved.

During our last meeting, we were honored to have a very special guest speaker, Mr. Les Greenberg, President of the Prince George's County Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America. He provided information relating to hearing loss and over-the-counter hearing aids. We learned how to be more effective in communicating and supporting ourselves or someone with hearing loss. Mr. Greenberg is truly a voice and an advocate for people with hearing loss.

Thanks to our Trip Liaison, Addie Martin for organizing a very successful trip to Toby's Theatre in Columbia, Maryland. Participants enjoyed the musical, "Sister Act" as well as an enjoyable buffet. It was enjoyable by all.

We wish you and yours a very happy, safe, and prosperous new year.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, President



President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Inspiration	3
Remembrance	3
Bits and Pieces	4
Scholarship	7
Reservation for January	7



TREASURER'S REPORT

November – December 2023

Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$37,986.69
Receipts	1,041.15
Total	39,027.84
Expenses	3,171.48
Ending Checking Account Balance	\$35,856.36
Ending Savings Account Balance	\$126.86

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer



Echoes

As another step to getting us closer to the goal of digitalization, this issue is being sent electronically to all those that have emails on file.

1. Snail mail will arrive if we have not heard from you.
2. Continue to send us your email addresses so that we can close the gap
3. Notify this editor, if you have no way to receive the newsletter electronically

We are currently sending out to all of you that have given us your emails and to all that MRSPA has on their list. Please send in a working one, if you do not receive this electronically. If you are not a computer user, please find someone who will agree to accept it and get it to you (children, grands, neighbors or friends). Doing this will allow us to use your funds to better support the students and teachers in Prince George's County and your Association.

I am working hard to keep my lists current and correct. Any correspondence that will help me with that is appreciated!

Bonnie Curry Brose, Newsletter Chair

Les Greenberg

November speaker



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President and Past President/Nominating: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

Recording Sec.: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Barbara J. Atwater
(Barbaraatwater703@yahoo.com)

Corr. Secretary: Sharon Collins (Sjcollins1908@yahoo.com)

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble
(pepper3495@aol.com)

BOE Liaison and Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Bylaws: George Denny @aol.com
(George.dilden@yahoo.com)

Community Service: Betty J. Nicholson
(sonyaquattlebaun@comcast.net) and Lillie B. James
(Ljam210@aol.com)

Consumer Ed. and Scholarships: Brenda L. Barnes:
(blbarnes128@aol.com)

Historian: Vacant

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

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

Membership: Jannette Wundrow
(jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

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

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

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Inspiration for November

“The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice.”

Mahatma Ghandi

Dan Williams, Chair

Jayne Terry Howell Johns



Our long-time and faithful board member, Jayne Johns has peacefully passed away this October. Jayne headed up the Remembrance Committee for our Newsletter for many years and was always at the board and general meetings. Jayne was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1938. She will be missed by all of us.



BITS AND PIECES

Happy **JANUARY** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Hilda Rubin of Silver Spring will be having her 95th birthday on the 2nd; **Ruth Trattner of Frederick will be celebrating her 104th birthday on the 6th**; Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington will be marking her 95th birthday on the 7th; Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. will be reaching 98 years of age on the 11th; Helen Brewer of Waldorf will be observing her 94th birthday on the 22nd; two members will be having their birthdays on the 23rd: Delores Smith of Huntingtown will be turning 94 years-old and Michael Tronzo of Stafford, VA. will be turning 93 years-old; Kenneth E. Turner of Marietta, GA. will be marking his 92nd birthday on the 28th, Beverly West of Annapolis will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 30th.

Happy **FEBRUARY** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Wilma Asquith of Hernando, FL. will be having her 95th birthday on the 1st; two ladies will be marking their birthdays on the 7th: **Eileen Burgess of Silver Spring will be reaching her 100th year of age**, while Ina Lou White of Burke, VA. will be reaching her 97th year; Mildred Mitchell of Washington, D.C. will be observing her 94th birthday on the 10th; two members will be having their birthdays on the 11th: James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be marking his 99th year of age and Barbara Taylor of Frederick will be marking her 91st birthday; two other members will be sharing their birthdays on the 25th, namely: Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington who will be turning 97 years-old and Ann Rakow of Rockville who will be turning 93 years of age; and **Audrey Moore of Forestville will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 29th**.

Gloria Curry of Washington, D.C. retired as a Spanish and English teacher from Thomas Pullen Performing Arts School in 1988. She also taught Spanish and reading at Francis Scott Key School. Following retirement, Gloria served on the Vestry Committee and the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Chairwomen of Calvary Episcopal Church. She has enjoyed travels to Canada, Prince Edward Island (where she savored the lobster suppers), the Bahamas in the Caribbean, Panama, Venezuela, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the U.S.A. Sadly, last August, after 73 years of marriage, Gloria lost her husband, Tuskegee Airman John C. Curry. Together they had two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Gloria celebrated her 94th birthday on July 21, 2023.

Edward Brune of Columbia retired from the Prince George's School System – Information Technology Office in 2006. His interests since then include trading stock options, meditation, practicing and teaching Martial Arts, and Reiki. He had a most interesting visit to Japan in 2019, and while there, he passed his 6th Dantest and Teacher Certification in Martial Arts. Edward has two sons attending graduate school in Cyber Security and another son, who is in law school.

Pat Drizd retired from Paint Branch Elementary in 1999. Following retirement, she worked as a contract trainer for the Federal Government. Pat and her husband relocated to Bethany Beach, DE. in 2004. They have enjoyed living near the beach and making new friends. Pat and her husband volunteered with Friends of the South Coastal Library for a few years, serving on the House Tour Committee. Pat had the opportunity to work for the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays as an Environmental Educator at the James Farm Ecological Preserve for the next 10 years. Her association with CIB provided many other volunteer opportunities. She helped to start a volunteer program, then served as the Volunteer Coordinator for 15 years. Pat also served as Chair of their Native Plant Sale, participated in reforestation activities, counted and tagged horseshoe crabs, represented CIB at many events, and did much more. She is currently volunteering at the local elementary school, bringing integrated language arts and science activities to second graders. Retirement has allowed her plenty of time to build on her quilting skills, as well as, become a member of several quilting groups. Pat and her husband have enjoyed traveling throughout Europe and the British Isles. They have journeyed to many islands and a few countries in Central America. They have also traveled up and down the east coast to Alaska, and taken a train trip from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco. Pat's son's family and her stepdaughter's family are living in the Washington, D. C. area, along with two adult grandchildren and a middle-school grandson. They enjoy visiting with each other often.

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

It's almost graduation time for our seniors. Our \$1000.00 scholarship applications are now on line at pgpsra.org. Call your family members and their friends to apply. The deadline is February 23, 2024. We hope to extend scholarships to four or five students this year. Due to the lack of students majoring in education we are now accepting applications from students regardless of their major.

Please encourage as many students as possible to apply for this wonderful opportunity.

Brenda Barnes

Scholarship Committee Chairperson



Members at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia





Speaker for January—Jesse Tubb

Come and meet Jesse Tubb, a former member of the U.S. Army Field Band, "Pershing's Own". He was the soldier who selected as the model for the taps player at the visitor's center at Arlington National Cemetery. We will have the video of his experience and he will tell us of his involvement with students and veterans since retirement.

Our connection, here, is quite personal. Some of you may remember our own Col. Whiting, who organized the First Combat Infantry Band that later became the U. S. Army Band. Col. Whiting taught music in our schools and was the Chairman of the Prince George's County School Board from 1967 to 1980.

PGPSRA January Meeting

January 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

Forestville, Maryland

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater

2101 Willow Switch Lane

Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-4216

Barbaraatwatter703@yahoo.com

Phone: 301 442 1964

"We can always expect the possibility of snow in January. If the county schools are closed, our meeting will be cancelled. In that case, please be aware that your lunch payment will be contributed to the Scholarship Fund."

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed **\$18** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each box lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by the January 17th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)

Membership Report

Your attendance at our five yearly meetings is most appreciated. I think you will find our meetings interesting, and a way to connect with retiree friends. Also, at each meeting we award two \$25 door prizes. The winners in September were Lynette Lewis and Ernestin Bivins, and the November winners were Ceci Aikens and Ayana English-Brown. Thank you for supporting PGPSRA/MRSPA with your membership. Our organization works to protect your pension, advocates for your retirement benefits, and is the voice of retired educators on issues that matter to each of us. We encourage all of our members to pay their yearly dues by “dues deduction”. This way, you do not need to remember to write a yearly check, and you will barely miss the dues that are deducted each August 1st, as we have always received a COLA increase in our July retirement check.

Jannette Wundrow, Membership Chair



PGPSRA member, Ayana K. English-Brown is on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. She replaced Ken Haines in August, after retiring in July of 2022 as a Career Technical Education teacher from Prince George's County. She works on the Administrative Committee and has input there on changes to Board policies that promote effective administration to benefits.

Ayana has been attending our meetings and is available to us as our representative. Our involvement helps to assure the best possible retirement for us all.



PGPSRA

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer
2101 Willow Switch Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



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 Bonnie Brose

To get the latest, quickest news.