

# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXI No. 4

March 2002

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The PGCRTA Executive Committee met in early February to finalize the 2002/2003 Budget that will be acted upon at the General Membership Meeting in March. As the budget development process began in January, an Ad Hoc Committee that had been appointed by the president took considerable time to review the Association's budgetary priorities that have become the norm during the past five years. The committee also accepted the challenge to attempt to project our financial requirements over the next several years, and recommend an annual dues amount that could enable us to meet the goals of the Association.

It was indeed a lively process that resulted in a set of recommendations for the Executive Committee and the membership to consider. Some of them simply recommend minor changes in the way the line-up items are organized in the budget, while others focus on several topics that should receive increased attention. One example highlights the expanding difficulty we are having in distributing ECHOES, especially with the bulk mailing dilemma. On this topic, the recommendations call for the Association to explore the feasibility of contracting with a distribution service, and to seek a way that the address and label files can be professionally maintained.

Another recommended priority centers around various ways that we can assist needy students within the Prince George's School System. The hope here is that in the years ahead we will be able to expand the amount that is set aside for the scholarships for county graduates who plan to enter the field of education, and to investigate possible ways that individual members of the Association could make an additional donation to the scholarship fund if they so choose. Included within this priority is the strong feeling that we should also increase donations to worthwhile causes within Prince George's community.

Other recommendations included such topics as

programs for the General Membership meetings, the Executive Committee stipends for the MRTA Annual Convention, delegates to the MRTA Annual Business Meeting, and the PGCRTA Telephone Tree. And it was also recommended that we attempt to maintain the current PGCRTA annual membership fee of \$10.00 for the foreseeable future.

The Executive Committee favorably received the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee at its meeting in February, and extended a vote of thanks for the work that had been done. While they generally agreed with the series of priorities that had been recommended, the committee quickly began to realize that the Association is not currently in a position to fully fund everything at this time. However, as the budget was being worked on, they did attempt to shift monies to move toward improving the difficulties that surround ECHOES, strengthening the programs for membership meetings, and some increased assistance for students. And then voted to use the remaining recommendations as potential goals for future planning.

Bob Miller  
PGCRTA President

### NOMINATING SLATE

Election to be held March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

President - Alveta Jones

President-Elect - Jannette Wundrow

Treasurer - Mary Frances Doyle

Recording Secretary -

Corresponding Secretary - Ray Smith

# PRINCES GEORGES COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS BUDGET

	A	B	C	D
1	CATEGORY	BUDGET		BUDGET
2		2001-2002		2002-2003
3	ASSOCIATION EXPENSES			
4				
5	Archives	100.00		50.00
6	Liason AARP	100.00		50.00
7	Liason Professional	100.00		50.00
8	Operational	800.00		800.00
9	President	150.00		200.00
10	Secretarial	100.00		300.00
11	MRTA Meetings	1,800.00		1,500.00
12	Telephone Tree	350.00		
13	Treasurer	100.00		100.00
14				
15	NEWSLETTER and PUBLICATIONS	9,000.00		8,000.00
16				
17	COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
18				
19	Ed & Prot. Services	300.00		200.00
20	Hospitality	1,000.00		1,000.00
21	Legislative	1,000.00		1,000.00
22	Membership	400.00		400.00
23	Program	900.00		1,500.00
24	Remembrance	300.00		300.00
25	Community Services	1,025.00		1,500.00
26				
27	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES			
28	Convention Gifts	65.00		65.00
29	Scholarship	5,000.00		5,000.00
30				
31	CONTINGENCY FUND	1,000.00		500.00
32				
33	GRAND TOTALS	23,590.00		22,515.00
34				
35	ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 2002/03			
36				
37	DUES FROM MEMBERS	17,500.00		
38				
39	FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT	3,525.00		
40				
41	FROM SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,490.00		
42				
43	TOTAL TO BALANCE BUDGET	22,515.00		

## BITS AND PIECES

Lucy Harrell has been on the go since retiring. She has traveled to Spain, Portugal, England, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, and Brazil. When at home, she keeps busy with quilting, embroidery, serving on church committees, and working on the genealogy of both her parents' families. Lucy also finds pleasure in attending her grandchildren's school programs.

Alfred Kubota retired from Woodmore Elementary in 1980. He lives in Annapolis, and has recently contributed to the Anne Arundel County school system by setting up a computer program for Indian Creek School. Alfred's daughter is a teacher in Houston, Texas.

Susie and Jim Proctor have joined a weekend walking club with the idea of accomplishing a goal: they plan to be among the pedestrians who walk the Chesapeake Bay bridge at the end of April. (We wish them luck!)

Sharon Ekstrand retired as guidance counselor of Largo High School in 1997. Upon moving to Windsor Locks, CT, she went back to work as a guidance counselor there for four years. In November 2001, Sharon and her husband moved to Palmyra, VA, where she hopes to become involved in community activities and volunteer work.

Peggy Boles and Joan Kaiser experienced an interesting and exciting trip to Spain and Portugal. They went with a diverse group of people from various countries. Their most memorable, though not most wonderful adventure, was walking very far in the rain to a shopping center that they never found!

Liz Vanden Heuvel retired as principal of Francis Fuchs Special Center in 1986, and began her next career by getting an MS degree in Family Therapy. She worked for 10 years at the Bowie Youth and Family Services Clinic, but now, does only contract work there and at the University of Maryland. Liz is now very involved in the Sierra Club of Anne Arundel County. She likes to canoe and has done this on the Yukon River, as well as, taken a weeklong trip on the Patuxent River. She also traveled to Newfoundland and St. Pierre last summer. Liz has three grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Both her daughter (P.G.Co.) and granddaughter (Baltimore Co.) are teachers. Her son lives in New York State

Anza Manning retired three years ago, and has since returned to teach kindergarten at Kenilworth Elementary. She likes everything about the job except those new report cards.

Richard Douglas retired two years ago from Plant Operations. Shortly afterward, he returned to work part-time, but now has retired for good, and is spending his time relaxing at home.

Fran Doyle and three of her neighbors took a Caribbean cruise in mid-January. They visited Grand Cayman, Roatan, Belize, and Cozumel. The ship was THE NORWEGIAN SUN, which served wonderful meals and had great entertainment. Everyone had a marvelous time.

Grace Hansborough retired from Brandywine Elementary as a media specialist, and has now returned to the same position, but in a part time capacity working only afternoons. (No more 5:30 am alarm awakenings!) She enjoys spending her free time with her son and her husband, a Prince Georges' Community College administrator.

Pearl Ellerin and her husband spend their year between Boston, MA, Vermont, and Florida (in winter). Grace is a quilter and belongs to a group of artists, all of whom displayed their handiwork at an exhibition last year. Her son has a summer camp for obese children in MA, where he teaches nutrition.

Mary Ellen McNamara retired as principal of Princeton Elementary in 1996. A year ago she and her husband moved to the Jersey Shore to be near their daughter, but in January and February, they like being "snowbirds" in Naples, FL. Since retiring, Mary Ellen has become a golfer. She also does volunteer hospital work and enjoys babysitting her 9 grandchildren and one great grand child. Last spring she took her granddaughter to Paris and London as a high school graduation gift. Mary Ellen and her husband travel frequently, and especially enjoy cruises - the next one being to Alaska.

Ellen Lamison moved to Bedford, PA, after retiring as a home economics teacher from Parkdale High School in 1994. She now volunteers one day a week as an office intake person with Love, in the name of Christ (a Christian

ministry that provides services to needy clients. Last year Ellen and her husband enjoyed a scenic train trip across Canada, and this winter, they are looking forward to a warm vacation in the south. Ellen also has had the pleasure of several visits from Thelma (Millie) Crawford, who stops by when she travels from Kentucky to Maryland. Millie, too, is a retired home economics teacher - from Largo High School.

Carol Gildner had a busy career in P.G. County. She taught at Spaulding Junior High, at Walker Mill Junior High and at Benjamin Tasker Middle School. In addition she taught staff development sessions on special education and workshops for family and consumer sciences. With all these experiences, she has written and just had published the book, ENJOY TEACHING, HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE CLASSROOM.

Charlie and Ann Hudson went south for the Orange Bowl game. Their son, Chris, and his family from Beltsville joined them. From there Charlie and Ann went to Naples to visit Charlie's brother, and to play golf. Charlie summarizes the trip as GREAT, except for the outcome of the football game (MD did not win!)

As a result of the suggested list of possible trips in the last issue, two trips have been definitely scheduled for this spring.

Exact dates and costs will be announced at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is suggested that if you plan to take either or both of these trips that you bring a blank check to the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to leave with Charlie as a deposit (the dates will be in the March/April time period).

Contact can be made with Charlie Hudson at 301-736-6946 and at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Trip 1. One day to Strasburg, PA  
Includes the show DANIEL  
Dinner at Hershey Family Restaurant

Trip 2. Three days/two nights to Foxwood Casino, CT  
Trip includes visiting the casino AND/OR  
Connecticut area sight-seeing

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

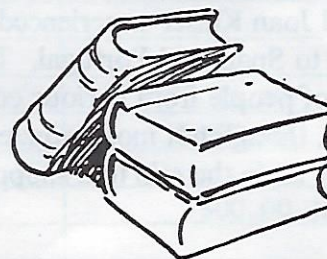
March 20, 2002

Place PGCEA Building  
Forestville, MD

Time 10:30 am

Agenda Business Meeting  
Entertainment  
Arrowhead Elementary  
"The Colors"  
Lunch (no charge)

**CANNED FOOD DRIVE**



**READ ACROSS AMERICA CAMPAIGN**

READ ACROSS AMERICA encourages you to read to children in a school on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Your participation will surely help to enhance and mentor our P.G. County students in reading. This is a program sponsored by PGCEA, and is becoming an annual activity. Keep this in mind and become a regular participant each year.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

If you are reading this, YOU have your ECHOES. If a friend tells you they haven't received their ECHOES, ask if they have paid their 2001-2002 dues. We have 50 people who did not pay. We and MRTA have removed them from the membership rolls. I have sent a letter to each inviting them to rejoin us.

The MRTA Membership Committee decided to ask members to voluntarily give us their birth date.. There is a plan to send birthday cards to members on their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday informing them they have reached emeritus status and do not have to pay dues.

When you sign in for the March meeting, you may add your birth date after your signature. I will pass the date on to MRTA.

Again, let me stress the need for you to inform me if you move. Neither ECHOES or MRTA-NEWS can be forwarded by the post office. My phone number is 301-559-8533.

Jane Jones  
Membership Chair



## SNACKING DOS & DON'TS

Do buy hard candies, such as butterscotch and Jolly Rancher, which can take the edge off your appetite.

Do try salsa and light creamy dressings with vegetables - and it may help you eat more of them.

Do eat low-calorie frozen fudge bars that taste like chocolate but have only about 40 calories each.

Don't assume that foods that sound healthful are low in calories.

Don't use flavored "health" drinks. They are often full of sugar.

Don't use reduced-fat peanut butter because it has as many calories as regular and still has lots of fat.

E & P COMMUNICATOR  
October 2001

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF PGCRTA/MRTA ??

<b>Application for Membership</b>		<b>UNIT #17</b>
<b>PGCRTA/MRTA</b>		
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003		
Dr. Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. _____	Social Security #: _____	
Street Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____	Date of Retirement: _____	
Dues per year:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association \$10.00	Return to:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Retired Teachers Association \$25.00	<b>Ms. Jane Jones</b> 5912 36th Ave. Hyattsville, MD 20782-2924
	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership and benefits of both organizations \$35.00	
Check enclosed for \$_____ (Make check payable to PGCRTA)		
— or — Sign the Dues Deduction Form on the reverse side.		

## IN MEMORIAM

### MEMBERS:

Maryann B. DeMarr	12-29-01
George T. Farmer	12-29-01
Elizabeth M. Harris	10-07-01
Ruthe W. Kramer	1-22-02
Florence r. Pumphrey	1-12-02
Burnadette Reid	12-14-02
Georgia Shaver	1-12-02
Gene Wilson	1-27-02

*Life is a coin. You can  
spend it any way you wish,  
but you can only spend it  
once.*

*Lillian Dickson*

### NON-MEMBERS:

Sidney Blum	1-23-02
Rosie M. Boddie	1-21-02
Jesse J. Catherwood	12-16-01
Robert T. Coombs	1-15-02
Agnes M. Edwards	12-27-01
Cleophas Floyd, Jr.	12-11-01
Ronald D. Holden	1-15-02
Paul Holford	12-31-01
Marion Hopkins	12-20-01
Judith A. Oates	1-15-02
Karen Olsen	1-07-02
Harriet E. Prince	1-04-02
Edna W. Pinkham	11-11-01
Dolly M. Pollard	1-07-02
Elizabeth V. Reynolds	1-18-02
Katheryn Sharper	1-15-02
Joseph D. Shifflett	1-23-02
James N. Smith	12-26-01

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

### DUES DEDUCTION FORM

*I hereby authorize the TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND to deduct annual membership dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the State and Local Retired Teachers Associations from one of my retirement checks each year.*

*This authorization is to remain in effect until revoked by me.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maryland General Assembly convened in Annapolis on January 9, 2002, and the 90 day session will end on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Several interesting legislative developments have occurred so far during this session.

Of considerable concern to us as retirees, is the fact that Governor Glendening did NOT budget \$65 million of the state's portion of money into the retirement pension fund this year. True, we are fully funded for the next ten years, but eliminating this year's state portion could set a precedent we do not like to see.

Governor Glendening has asked the legislature to delay the promised tax cut for this year. Meanwhile, the General Assembly approved "full market value" tax assessments for Prince George's County, which means property owners are experiencing a significant immediate increase in taxes.

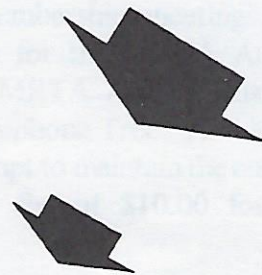
Hearings are continuing to be held in Annapolis on the merging of CareFirst (Blue Cross/Blue Shield's largest health insurer that covers most Maryland residents) with Well Point (of California). The merger would allow CareFirst to become a for-profit company, with main offices located in California. This would have a significant impact on Maryland residents, with raising of fees and making the filing of disputed claims more difficult.

MRTA's Legislative Committee is still moving forward with the promotion of a bill to add another retired teacher to the State Retirement and Pension Board. With the sudden resignation of Treasurer Dixon last month, business of the Board seems to be in a state of change at this time. Nancy Kopp, former Montgomery County Delegate, will assume the office of State Treasurer.

The United Seniors of Maryland, of which MRTA is a component, met with our delegates in Annapolis on January 30, 2002. Topping their legislative priority list this year are prescription drug costs, transportation for senior citizens, Medicare waivers, long term care, and health insurance for all Marylanders.

The AARP Legislative Committee, which includes several MRTA members, meets monthly in Annapolis to lobby our MD representatives about health care, insurance, and prescription drug costs also.

It is important that we stay alert to all that is going on with our legislature in Annapolis and Washington. You may contact them by phone by calling MD Representative information: 1-800-492-7122 and U.S. Government information: 1-202-224-3121. We must remind our legislators that we are partners in getting legislation passed. We are the voices that promote and press for change to benefit all seniors in Maryland.



### ANNAPOLIS TRIP - MARCH 7, 2002

Are you interested in attending the Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> trip to the PGCRTA Legislative Day in Annapolis? You may still join the group until March 5<sup>th</sup>, by calling Jan Wundrow at 301-390-7324.

The Executive Committee voted to set aside funds for this trip, so there will be NO CHARGE.

We will be leaving the PGCEA building by motorcoach at 8:45 am and returning about 3:00 pm. While in Annapolis, we will sit in on a legislative session, have lunch at the Lowe Office Building, where we will be joined by several of our county representatives, and then tour the Governor's House. In lieu of the tour, you may choose to observe some of the committee hearings in progress, look around the State House on your own, or wander down some of the cobble stone streets of our state capitol (a street map will be provided). We will depart for home at 2:15 pm.

Remember, we are all lobbyists for retired teachers and senior citizens across Maryland, so come along and voice your concerns, or approvals, to our state legislators.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
9624 Small Drive  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(Non-Profit Org.)  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 2906

DATED MATERIAL



JANNETTE  
WUNDROW  
1007 PACKTON LN  
BOWIE, MD 20716-1761

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

March 20, 2002

10:30 am

PGCEA Building

See "Box" inside for more information

May 22, 2002

Annual Spring Luncheon

Le Fontaine Bleu

See next ECHOES for details