

# ECHOES

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

VOL. XXXII No. 4

March 2003

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

More than half of our year serving as elected officers and chairpersons of PGCRTA is over. With your support, we hope we are making a positive influence for the retired personnel who have joined us. Your cooperation and support are always needed.

We hope that you are keeping up with what's going on in the General Assembly in Annapolis. You already know that your communication with your elected officials in Annapolis will make a difference. You do not have to wait for a "telephone tree" alert. Your call, e-mail, and/or letter can express your opinion anytime.

Some of you usually help with the Pre-Retirement Conference in March. At this writing, the Board of Education has cancelled the conference for this year.

Are you planning to join us in Ocean City for the MRTA Convention May 12 - 14? Please read your MRTA Newsletter for details. We hope you will join us.

Alveta S. Jones - President PGCRTA

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

2003-2004

President -	Jannette Wundrow
President-Elect	Vacancy
Treasurer	Dr. Edward Vest
Corresponding Secretary	Ray Smith
Recording Secretary	Addie L. Martin

Nominating Committee:

Robert Miller, Chair

Carolyn Dade

Wanda Antonacci

### TULIP FESTIVAL TRIP

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

May 4 through 9, 2003

#### Included in cost:

- 1- Round trip bus transportation - Deluxe Reclining seats, video, lavatory
- 2- Five nights accommodations - one night in Ohio, three nights in Michigan, and one night on return to Forestville
- 3- 3 full breakfasts and dinners (all in Michigan)
- 4- A guided tour of Holland through the tulip lined streets
- 5- A visit to the DeKlomp Wooden Shoe Factory
- 6- Reserved seats for the colorful Volksparade
- 7- A visit to a Dutch Village - offers 125 acres of picturesque canals, gardens and authentic Dutch architecture
- 8- A visit to Veldheer Tulip Garden - Holland's only tulip farm
- 9- Enroute a visit in Dover, Ohio to the Warther's Museum
- 10- On the return trip a stop at the Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village in the Detroit area
- 11- Baggage handling - one suitcase per person...may take a carry on bag
- 12- Hotel taxes and gratuities for meals included

#### NOT included:

- 1- Meals on way to and from Holland
- 2- Bus driver tip (No tip for Mr. Hudson)

#### COST per person - double occupancy

30-34 people = \$570.00

35-39 people = \$540.00

40-52 people = \$515.00

Single supplement - \$196.00 additional

**Deposit** of \$100.00 required ASAP. Must get 30 people to go or deposit will be refunded. Balance due by April 2

**Make checks** to P,G,C.R.T.A.- Tours

**Mail check** to Charles Hudson

6710 Kipling Parkway

Forestville, MD 20747-2344

Phone - 301-736-6946

## BITS AND PIECES

Ann Bertsch retired as a special education vision research specialist from Highland Park, in 1995. She continues to remain involved in this program serving as a substitute, consultant, and educational surrogate. Ann has also done some traveling in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Catherine Weincek retired from the ESOL Program (English for Speakers of Other Languages) in 1993, and has since moved to a new residence in Edgewater, MD. For seven years after retiring, she held an interesting job in Annapolis, working as an administrative aide in the MD General Assembly for several Delegates and Senators. Catherine has enjoyed traveling in the U.S., to Alaska, Spain, England and the Panama Canal. When possible, she likes spending time with her 13 grandchildren.

Judith "J" Davis enjoyed Christmas holiday visits with Family members in Sun City, AZ and Topsail Island, NC. Now in her sixth year as Mayor of Greenbelt, J was elected Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments in January. (Our congratulations!).

Jan Stocklinski retired in 1998, as Director of the Comer School Development Program of Prince George's County; however, she continues to work with the program at Yale University. Jan and her husband relocated to Calabash, NC, where she often sees several other county retirees. It seems they all enjoy the beautiful beaches and abundant golf courses in the area.

Natalie Straley and her husband, Ralph, traveled to Italy in December. They toured several cities in Italy, including Venice and Florence, where they marveled at the magnificent works of art, especially Michelangelo's Cistine Chapel painting and the Statue of David, along with the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Natalie had a most personal experience in Florence, where she stood on the Pontevecchio Bridge - the same spot as where her mother stood in 1929! In February, the Straley's are off to Punta Gorda, FL, for a 10 day vacation.

Eileen Reeder retired from Surrattsville Senior High School in 1874, and returned permanently to her hometown of Berkley Springs, WV. She and her husband, Ron, built a cottage on their 200 acre farm, where they enjoyed gardening and fishing. Since Ron's death in 1995, Eileen rents out the cottage, named "Reeder's Retreat" to vacationing couples. She stays busy volunteering with the

Red Cross Bloodmobile, singing in her church choir, serving in other church venues, being involved with the Daughters of the American Revolution, knitting, crocheting, and reading. Eileen has one surviving son and one deceased. She has many good memories of all those with whom she has worked at Surrattsville High.

Pearl Ellerin retired in 1986, from Nicholas Orem Middle School — and spent the next three years straightening her house and getting rid of the accumulation of lesson plans, pictures from art classes, and numerous unneeded books. Since then, she and her husband, Albert, have moved to Boca Raton, FL, where they enjoy their home bordered by Palm trees, water on two sides, and with garden where Pearl demonstrates her plant-growing skills. At one point, she was on her way to becoming an addicted quilter (keeping hundreds of yards of materials in her house!), and now has completed 11 queen-sized quilts. She also volunteers at her local library. Both she and her husband have traveled to the Canary Islands, Morocco, the eastern and western Carribean, and made several car trips to Quechee, VT. Pearl and Albert celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have two children and two grandchildren. (Sadly, their 22 year-old granddaughter was murdered in CA two years ago.)

Rosalind Yee, a former county reading specialist, and her husband, John Helmick, an Allegheny County retired shop teacher, enjoy living at Heritage Harbor, Annapolis. Rosalind is President of the Women's Club of Heritage Harbor, and both she and her husband are active in the National Education Association Retired. As a NEAR Board of Director's member, Rosalind traveled to Florida for a January conference.

Ann Carter retired in 1986 from Employees Services, where she was a secretary, and her husband, Richard, retired from the School Board's Maintenance Department, as a plumber, in 1994. Ann and Robert live in Aquasco, MD. They have been avid motorcyclists for many years — even riding as far away as Pigeon Forge, TN, Cherokee, NC. And Niagra Falls, NY. They've also taken car trips to Florida and Maine. The Canters will celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in May. They have three children (all of whom work for the County School Board) and five grandchildren

Gloria Shelton retired from Duval High School in 2001. She has recently returned to work in the education field as supervisor of student teachers at the University of Md. Gloria serves as President of the Seabrook Recreation

## BITS AND PIECES - continued

Council. She has been involved in a most challenging and rewarding project the last few years: the reopening of the Seabrook One Room School House. The original school opened in 1896, and closed in 1953. The complete restoration and reopening occurred on June 8, 2002.

Faith Loveless has celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and continues to travel extensively. In 2002 she has been to San Antonio, TX, on a Caribbean tour, a trip to Paris, a cruise on the Seine River, and through our western National Parks ending up at the Grand Canyon. The final trip of 2002 was Las Vegas, where the slots ate up her money in a hurry!

Leroy A. Battle, a Tuskegee Airman, was honored by GIANT and their PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE program. A special autograph signing of his book, EASIER SAID, was held at the Marlboro Giant on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Congratulations !

Our January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held on a cold winter day, but we were warmed by the delicious homemade soup, sandwiches, and cookies prepared and served by June Readen, Connie White, and Dottie Futzko and her daughter. Our bodies were further warmed by the Charles County Senior High-Steppers, as they performed and then invited anyone who wished, to join them in lively dance steps.

Jan Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
(dwundrow@erold.com)

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The good news from Maryland politics is that Governor Erlich has proposed putting \$30 million in programs for the elderly, disabled, and troubled teenagers. He has also proposed designating \$194 million to reinstate services in Medicaid and mental health care. He continues to say that he will not increase taxes and that putting slot machines at race tracks will bring the state \$800 million.

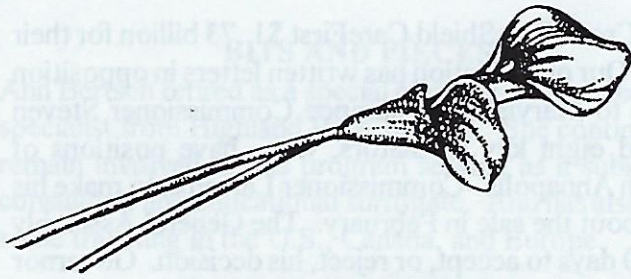
The "not so good" news is that MD is facing a \$1.8 billion deficit over the next 18 months. WellPoint continues to

offer BlueCross/BlueShield CareFirst \$1 .73 billion for their company. Our organization has written letters in opposition to the sale to Maryland's Insurance Commissioner Steven Larsen and eight key legislators, who have positions of authority in Annapolis. Commissioner Larsen is to make his decision about the sale in February. The General Assembly then has 90 days to accept, or reject, his decision. Governor Erlich is, no doubt, looking at \$1.73 billion that WellPoint is offering, a large portion of which could be applied to the state deficit. Even if the sale is rejected by the General Assembly, the Governor can name a new Insurance Commissioner in June, when Commissioner Larsen's term expires, and the whole sale process could begin all over again !

The Maryland Retired Teachers' Association meets every other week in Odenton to review House and Senate Bills, and voice our written or verbal support on specific proposed items, while the Legislature is in session (January 9 through April 8). We have given each Legislator a copy of our Priorities Trifold that emphasizes our four areas of concern: retirement and pensions, economic issues for older citizens, quality health care, and effective education in MD. Our greatest priority during the Legislative Session, is to see a bill passed that will add a retired teacher position to the MD State Retirement and Pension System Board. We have asked Delegate James Proctor of the House, and Senator Ida Reuben of the Senate, to sponsor this bill for us. We are asking that you contact your local representatives to ask them to support our bill. The bill will seek a more proportional representation of teachers on the Board, which now has two teachers: one, Carl Lancaster, a retired teacher who was first elected to the position while still teaching, and the other, an active teacher from Montgomery County. The Board is comprised of 14 trustees, and only two are teachers, though 40% of all retirees of the system are teachers, and 51% of all active members who pay into the system are teachers. Adding a retired teacher to the Board will give us three of the fourteen positions.

A good way to voice your opinion on many MD issues, would be to join us to go to Annapolis on March 6<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to come along with the group by bus, observe our Legislators in action, and have a sandwich/cookie luncheon, during which you can speak directly to your Delegate or Senator. We will be leaving the parking lot of the PGCEA office at 8:45 am and returning about 2:45 pm. There is no cost, so come along !

Jan Wundrow - Legislative Chair



## IN MEMORIAM

### Members:

Helen A Rodgers-Neal	01-10-03
Virginia D. Rogers	12-22-02
Lorraine D. Skidmore	12-22-02
Constance Vitori	12-07-02
Sarah HG. Watson	10-10-02

### Non-Members:

Earl Ball	11-12-02
Sylvester Barnet	11-29-02
Richard Bird	11-01-01
Jean Broderick	07-19-02
Edmond E. Cartier	12-31-02
James R. Collier	11-29-02
Eva Curtis	12-06-02
Charlotte A. Donaldson	01-13-03
Virginia Doyle	12-02-02
Frances M. Fox	01-01-03
Anna M. Huke	01-07-03
Denver Jones	01-14-03
Donna Krout	10-22-02
Clare R. Malloy	12-02-02
K. Fritz Marion	12-02-02
Samuel A. Morris	12-27-02
Lena Norfolk	11-13-02
Louis Novotny	12-26-02
Blair Overton	11-13-02
Esther L. Paavich	12-13-02
Mary Ann Lucas Perko	01-11-03
Gertrude M. Pinkney	12-26-02
Charlotte E. Polson	10-03-02
C. Lance Statler	01-24-03
Robert Stroup	11-13-02
Joanne Wrenn	12-01-02

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know 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.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA

March 3, 2003

Put this date on your calendar. Go to your local school and read to a child or children. Help our county students by lending your reading skills, knowledge and care. PGCRTA is working with PGCEA to make a difference in the lives of our students. Won't you join us !!!!

## MEMBERSHIP

It was a cold day but 65 of us met in Forestville for our January meeting. Betty Chaney was our door winner.

Do you have a spouse who would like to be an associate member of PGCRTA ? We have eleven associate members. Surviving spouses are also eligible to join. Since the latter no longer receive ECHOES, you will have to tell friends about the opportunity.

Our Constitution in Article III, Section 5, says: Associate membership may be accorded, without payment of dues, to members' spouses, or surviving spouses, who are supportive of the goals and purposes of the Association. Associate members shall be entitled to participate in all activities of the Association except chairing a committee, voting, and holding office. Spouses will apply for membership and membership cards will be provided.

Please join us. Use the membership application below.

Jane Jones - Membership Chair

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of member spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Jane Jones  
 5912 -36<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Hyattsville, MD 20782-2924

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We would like to thank all the members who were present at the January meeting for the canned goods, non perishable items and monetary gifts. The canned goods and non perishable items were distributed to two families from Patuxent Elementary and Phyllis E. Williams Elementary, and received with gratitude and thanks. The monetary gifts were given to the Food Bank.

A reminder-----following is a form we encourage you to fill out..

Volunteers, please fill out the form below as you complete your Community Service Activities. Return the form to one of the co-chairs of the committee (see below).  
RETURN DATE: : April 1, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

What I Did \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Time Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes

Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Long term

\_\_\_\_\_ Short term

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-CHAIRS:

Doris Edwards  
3701 Holloway Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3222  
301-627-3977

Shirley Johnson  
11701 Decesaris Boulevard  
Mitchellville, MD 20721  
301-249-6549

## SPRING LUNCHEON

March 26, 2003

Forest Memorial United Methodist  
Church Hall  
3111 Forestville Road  
(Across the street from shopping center)  
Forestville, MD

11:00 am

Business Meeting

Program to be Announced

12:00 noon

Family Style Luncheon

Reservations required

\$12..00

Menu

Fruit Cup

Chicken Bolivia (Casserole)

Cabbage Salad

Peas/Carrots

Rolls-Coffee-Tea

Eclair Dessert

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday

March 19, 2003

No refunds after March 19, 2003

Send reservations with check payable to  
PGCTRA to:

Mrs. Helen Butler

4511 Woodgate Way

Mitchellville, MD 20720

Clip and return with your check:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

EDITOR: V.W. Stufft  
12741 Holiday Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

**DATED MATERIAL**

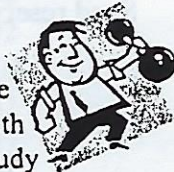
(Non-Profit Org.)  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 2906

**REMINDER:**

Our meetings follow the school system policy for cancellation due to inclement weather. Listen to your radio and/or TV for announcements. Delayed opening will mean our meeting will go on as scheduled.

**WHEN IS IT BEST TO  
EXERCISE?**

Although some people enjoy waking themselves up with an early morning jog, a recent study suggest that morning exercise can suppress the immune system. Levels of Immunoglobulin A, a class of antibodies that protect the body against infection, are markedly lower early in the day. Exercising when the immune system is most vulnerable can increase the risk of infection. However, recreational athletes should exercise whenever they can, whatever the time of day. The benefits of exercise will most likely outweigh the risks.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- March 3 - Read Across America  
(See inside for details)
- March 6 - Trip to Annapolis  
(See Legislative Report)
- March 26 - Luncheon  
(See inside for details)
- May 4 through 9 - Tulip Festival  
(See inside for details and  
when deposit is due)