

# ECHOES

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

VOL. XXXIII No. 4

March 2004

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the arrival of March, comes spring - a season of warmer sunshine, blooming flowers and trees, and a feeling of renewed energy.

Many of us enjoy gardening and look forward to these favorable planting days, when the plans for our flower and vegetable gardens can begin to take shape. We choose the best spot in our yards for the maximum sunlight to nourish the seeds we plant, fertilize, water, and weed. The final result is one of pleasing beauty, fragrance, and the production of flowers or vegetables.

Like the planting of seeds, each of us selects where we will direct our attention to achieve the most success each day. We decide where our interests lie, and how much time we can devote to them. Meanwhile, we work toward cultivating those interests in a productive manner, while weeding out distractions. The saying goes "do what you can with what you have, where you are", but to make life more interesting, we can work to heighten the outcome, by investigating new ideas and ways of doing things.

As with the beauty of growing plants, it is important to keep pleasure in our daily routines. And, like cultivating plants, we can add humor to enhance our activities, while alternating our needs and interests, and weeding out negativity.

Life is a continuing learning/growing experience. Perhaps we can each plant some new "seeds of interest" this spring and become a more active member of our retirees' association. Like individual seeds that comprise a garden, each individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a vibrant, successful organization. We welcome your input!

Jannette Wundrow  
President

### LUNCHEON

**March 24, 2004**

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

11:00 am  
Business Meeting  
Musical Performance by a  
Thomas Pullen Middle School Group

Special Guests attending

12:15 pm  
Family Style Luncheon - Reservations require  
\$13.00

Menu  
Hot Chicken Salad  
Glazed Carrots  
Jello Salad  
Rolls-Coffee-Tea  
Dessert

Deadline for reservations - Wednesday  
March 17, 2004

No refunds after March 17, 2004

Send reservations with your check payable to  
PGCRTA to:

Dr. E. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

**INCLUDE names of all attending.**

## BITS AND PIECES

Several of our local members enjoyed travels during December and January: Addie Martin and Louise Henson spent a wonderful week sightseeing in San Francisco and Los Angeles during the Christmas holidays. Kitty Walker flew to London and returned on the QE II, where she celebrated new Year's Eve. She then spent a week at a resort in the Pocono Mountains. Jannie Goldston and her husband, Clay, admired the traditional Christmas holiday decorations in Williamsburg, VA, then spent time in January in Orlando, stopping in Jacksonville, FL, on their way back to visit with a niece and her family. Charlie and Ann Hudson flew to Miami, where they boarded a cruise ship and sailed to Costa Rica, Grand Cayman, Roatan Island, Cozumel, Mexico, and Panama (where they rode a luxury train from the East Coast to the West Coast of that country). June Readon spent some fun days in January babysitting her grandchildren in King of Prussia, PA. Rose Miller went to Virginia Beach to help her daughter pack for a move to Raleigh, NC, where she will be working as a speech pathologist at the University of NC in Chapel Hill. Kathy Seiler and her husband, Dave, relaxed in the sunshine in St. Petersburg, FL for a few weeks (during our snow and ice storms).

Edna Gore retired from Mary Bethune School in 1980. She lives in Cheverly, and has served as a volunteer at the Prince George's Hospital Center there, for the past 17 years. She also plays duplicate bridge and travels a lot! Edna and her husband, Rogers, have taken 26 cruises! They also have traveled to all of the United States, except Maine and Rhode Island, mostly in their modern car, or their 1918 Model T Ford! The Gore's have four children, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Edna and Rogers celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary last July! (Congratulations!)

Fannie Timmons retired in 1975, from Andrew Jackson Middle School as Head of the English Department. She lives in Upper Marlboro. Fannie enjoys deep-sea fishing, bowling, and being an active member of her Lutheran Church, where she sings in the Liturgical Choir and helps with the Sunday bulletins. Fannie is also involved in her Alumni Association.. She loves to travel, and her most recent rip was a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico, last October. Fannie has one daughter, two grandchildren, and four great grandchildren!

Elizabeth (Billie) Johnson retired from Surrattsville High

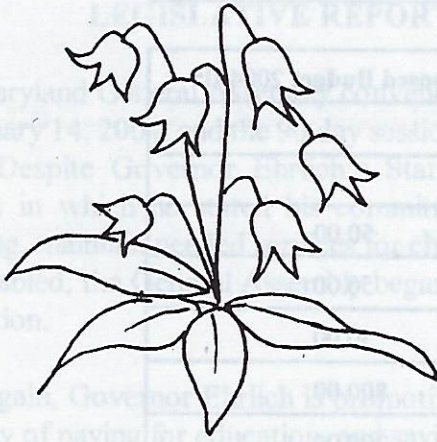
School several years ago. For health reason, she resides in a nursing home in Tinton Falls,, NJ. Sadly, her husband passed away five years ago, but fortunately, she has a brother, Bob Billings, who is most attentive to her well being. Billie also has one stepson and one step-grandchild.

Burk and Dee Martin are both retirees of Prince George's County Schools. Burk retired in 1992, as principal of C. Elizabeth Rieg Special Center, and Dee retired in 1993, after having worked in Special Education for 35 years. (They relate that they not only worked with special kids, but with some very special people.) The Martins continue to reside in Bowie, where they enjoy watching their grandchildren grow up. Both Dee and Burk still keep their hand in teaching. Dee teaches with the county's Home and Hospital Services and maintains the Home and Hospital Library at the Bonnie Johns Building, while Burk substitutes at Bowie High School in the CRI classes and is involved with Vocational Services Incorporated, which provides programs for developmentally delayed adults. They have traveled to England, Ireland, France, Vancouver Island, spent six weeks in Alaska and the Yukon, and enjoyed exploring South Dakota, Montana, Washington, and Oregon.

Faith Loveless is still traveling a lot. Last summer she took a fantastic trip to Vancouver, BC, and a train trip across Canada. In September she took her fourth trip to Alaska. The return trip took 24 hours to complete and the stress was too much for her left leg; she suffered a stress fracture. After three months of therapy she is much better, and plans to do more traveling in 2004.

Dr. Dora Kennedy received an award January 24h from the Lido Civic Club, an Italian-American business group, for leadership in education and promoting the study of languages, including the Italian language, in public schools. She is also this year's recipient of the education award from the Italian Embassy, for her work as supervisor of foreign languages in Prince George's schools in launching new programs in language study, including the establishment of an Italian program beginning in the 1960's which has continued and grown to encompass elementary and middle school levels. Dr Kennedy has continued to serve the Prince George's County Board of Education as a member of the Community Advisory Council after retirement.

Jannette Wundrow  
1007 Packton lane  
Bowie, MD 20716



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A new membership year is approaching.. Our year runs from July 1 to June 30. Do NOT mail your dues until you have received the Dues Renewal Form from MRTA. This form will arrive in your mail box in late April. If you signed for Dues Deduction, your dues will be deducted from your July 31, 2004 check.

Several of your teacher friends may be retiring this June. Be sure to tell them about our organization, and encourage them to join us by giving them the application found in this edition of ECHOES.

Jane Jones, Chairperson

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Members:

Robert C. Evans	01-26-04
Manon P. Fandel	11-15-03
John V. Hrezo	12-09-03
Charles A. Issing	01-07-04
Juette L. Jackson	12-09-03
Marcella F. Mesarick	?
Aldara Stiehler	10-28-03

#### Non-Members:

Mary Brumbaugh	12-19-03
Merriel Hall	12-23-03
Leola D. Hannah	12-23-02
John H. Kitchings	01-06-04
Clee Lane	10-29-03
John C. Montie	12-13-03
Janice G. Morman	12-15-03
Shirley Rosch	11-12-03
Mattie L. Sims	11-30-03
Jean B. Sloan	11-25-03
John W. Smith	11-19-03
Mildred R. Stephenson	12-19-03
Thomas S. Taylor, Jr.	10-16-03
John Walsh	03-03-03

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.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PGCRTA/MRTA (Unit #17)

July 1, \_\_\_ to June 20, \_\_\_

(Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues per year:-Prince George's Retired Teachers Association - \$10.00  
 Maryland Retired Teachers Association - \$25.00  
 Membership and benefits of both organizations - \$35.00

Checks enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - (Make check payable to PGCRTA)

OR Sign the DUES DEDUCTION FORM below.

Return to: PGCRTA Membership

J. G. Jones

5912 -36<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Hyattsville, MD 20782

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## PGCRTA Proposed Budget

CATEGORY	Current Budget 2003-04	Proposed Budget 2004-05
Archives	50.00	50.00
Liaison AARP	50.00	50.00
Liaison Professional	50.00	50.00
Operational	800.00	800.00
President	200.00	200.00
Secretarial	300.00	300.00
MRTA Meetings	2500.00	2500.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00
Newsletter/Publications	8000.00	10000.00
Educational / Professional Srv	4500.00	500.00
Hospitality	1500.00	2000.00
Legislative	1000.00	1000.00
Membership	150.00	150.00
Program	1500.00	1500.00
Remembrance	300.00	300.00
Community Service	1500.00	1500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	5000.00	0.00
Convention Gift	50.00	50.00
Scholarship	5000.00	5000.00
Contingency Fund	560.00	5350.00
Incorporation Expenses	0.00	2000.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>33110.00</b>	<b>33400.00</b>
<b>ESTIMATED INCOME 2004-05</b>		
Dues from members @ \$10.00 per member		
Estimated membership - 1655		16550.00
From checking account		10000.00
From savings account		6850.00
Total		33400.00

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Maryland General Assembly convened in Annapolis on January 14, 2004, and the 90 day session ends on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Despite Governor Ehrlich's State of the State address in which he stated his commitment to reduce spending, maintain needed services for children, the poor and disabled, the General Assembly began with a note of contention.

Once again, Governor Ehrlich is promoting slots in MD, as a way of paying for education, and saying that without funds from this source, he does not see the Thornton Plan being fully funded. (The Thornton Plan, created by an Educational Commission, headed by Alvin Thornton of Prince George's County in 2002, seeks to equalize education spending among the state's 24 school districts through 2008.) ) A majority of the state legislators agree that the goals of the Thornton Plan must be met, and that the \$50 million the Governor wants to cut from it, must be restored.

Governor Ehrlich has also stated firmly that he will not raise taxes, though he may create some "user fees" and borrow from county budgets, in order to close the \$700 million deficit the state faces.

The Maryland Retired Teachers Association achieved success last year in having a Bill passed (with Delegate James Proctor, Prince George's District 27 A, taking the House leadership role) to require a retiree on the MD Retirement and Pension System Board. This session, MRTA is promoting a bill to insure that "a county board of education that provides a program of health benefits to its active employees shall provide a similar range of health benefits for its retirees", and that a "county board that uses years of service to determine a retiree's contribution for health benefits must include total years of service the retiree has earned in the MD Retirement and Pension System". (We are fortunate in Prince George's County to have these policies already in place, thanks to our school board and Dr. Alan Chotiner's advocacy, but the majority of counties give their retirees limited health benefits after retirement.) Delegate Mary Conroy, Prince George's District 23, has agreed to sponsor this Bill for us in the House, and a majority of our county delegates are backing the proposal.

We are always pleased to see how many of the MD General Assembly members are Prince George's teacher

retirees. Among the members of the Senate are Ulysses Currie, Gloria Lawlah, and Paul Pinsky; in the House are Delegates Joanne Benson, Carolyn Howard, James Proctor, and Rosetta Parker. (Just a side note, Lt. Governor Michael Steele's mother-in-law is a retired teacher from DC.)

It s important that we stay abreast of issues in Annapolis, as well as, in Washington. To contact any Legislator in the MD General Assembly, you may reach them by calling the Legislative Office in Annapolis at 301-970-5400. Our representatives welcome your questions, or comments.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers for July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

President -	Addie Martin
President Elect-	Rose Miller
Recording Secretary-	_____
Corresponding Secretary -	Bonnie Brose
Treasurer-	Dr. Edward Vest

Nomination Committee Members:

Wanda Antonacci  
Dotson Burns  
Isabella McPherson  
Alveta S. Jones, Chairperson

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

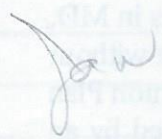
12741 Holiday Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

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

DATED MATERIAL

**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.



**ANNAPOLIS TRIP - MARCH 11, 2004**

Interested in attending the Thursday, March 11, 2004, trip to the PGCRTA Legislative Day in Annapolis? You may still join the group until March 9, 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 are most pleased that Delegate James Proctor has very graciously sponsored our PGCRTA members on this legislative day trip for the past three years and will do so again this March.

We will be leaving the PGCEA Office by motorcoach at 8:45 am and returning about 2:45 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 William Paca 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 capital (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.

Jan Wundrow