

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXIX No. 4

March 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I cannot write this article without mentioning the "power of love" that educators represent. The thought of selecting a career that will require you to consistently help others to learn has to be based on love for the students, and the subject or discipline chosen.

The members of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association are to be commended for an educational commitment that has culminated in retirement. For a large number of them, their current commitment is shown in their volunteerism, mentoring, and financial response to school related needs of students and teachers. A quick look at this group of retirees will reveal male and female participants.

In conjunction with expressions of love, we have distributed gifts of food for situations called to the attention of our Community Services Committee. Follow up projects for this year include purchase of coats (for situations of need) and the initiation of a "playground equipment" project.

Our Legislative Committee is monitoring current information for matters related to us as retirees. A group of us will be present in Annapolis on March 15 when the General Assembly is in session. This is known as Legislative Day and we will benefit from a few minutes to meet and greet delegates from Prince George's County.

The Program Committee continues to present programs that are entertaining and informative.

As an example, I cite the 94 year old, former P.G. County science teacher at Suitland High School, Dr. Robert Beale. Dr. Beale impressed us with his quick recall of dates, places, people, and times. Not to be overlooked are the food related services from a fellow retiree, June Readen and her reliable staff. The informal and relaxed setting was enjoyed by all.

We are still talking about the helpful information presented to us about keeping our balance, as seniors, and how to prevent falls. Ricca Baker, from the Calvert County Department of Aging, made it quite easy for us to develop the habit of exercising daily with minimum pieces of equipment.

Simply put, the PGPSRA members are not missing a beat on our "tour of life". To support this, I ask you to read the article in this copy of ECHOES about trips planned for the remainder of this year.

Consider attending our next meeting on March 22 at the Collington Retirement Community in Largo beginning at 11:00 am. (See luncheon coupon on inside page.)

Rose Miller - President

MEETING MARCH 22, 2006

Place - Collington Retirement Community
10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville
Take Beltway exit #17 (route #202) toward
Upper Marlboro,
Make left turn onto Lottsford Road,
Proceed to 10450 which will be on the left.
(See luncheon coupon on inside page)

NOMINATING SLATE

Election to be held March 22, 2006

President - Kitty Walker
President Elect - Bonnie Brose
Treasurer - Dr. Edward Vest
Secretary - Gretel James

Nominating Committee: Delores Brown
Shirley Johnson
Addie Martin

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A correction is in order for the January 2005 IN MEMORIAM column. Shirley Toye is alive and well; it was her husband, Thomas Toye who died August 26, 2005. (This was in the November 2005 list.)

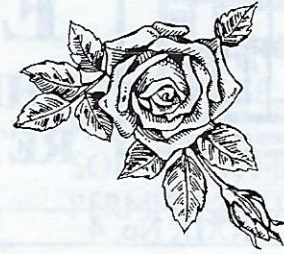
The Pre-retirement Conference will be held March 11, 2006 at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Urge anyone you know who is retiring to attend. Our membership brochure will be included in each folder given to attendees. Pat Thompkins and I have been getting the brochures ready for Dan Williams and his committee to complete the folders. The Board of Education requested 600 brochures. Surely we can get 200 or more to join PGPSRA. Put the word out, new members wanted !

The January meeting had 74 members present, and welcomed 2 new people.

Jane Jones/Pat Thompkins
Membership Co-chairs

FINANCIAL REPORT Dec. 2005

Checking Account	\$19150.29
Savings Account	6911.40
Total Assets	\$26061.69



IN MEMORIAM

Members:

Winifred Farmer	12-07-05
Mary Long	?
Judith Morse	12-14-05

TRIPS

A trip to Toby's Dinner Theatre has been arranged for Wednesday, March 29, 2006. The show is "Thoroughly Modern Millie". We need a minimum of 25 persons. The cost per person is \$50.00, a little less if we get more than 30 people. The bus will leave Forestville at 9:30 am. Doors open at 10:30 am. The meal is served at 10:45 am. The show begins about 12 to 12:15 pm. The bus returns after the show. The \$50.00 covers the cost of the meal, the show, the bus, and the \$3.25 gratuity per person.

Make checks to Prince George's Public School Retirees Association and mail to:

Charles Hudson
Hunter Glen Apt #319
3154 Gracefield Road
Silver Spring, MD 220904

Deadline for checks is March 16, 2006
Any questions, call 301-572-9778.

Early plans for late May or early June for a tour to Cape Cod, and the Islands is in the works. It would be five days and 4 nights for about \$430.00 per person, double occupancy for 40 persons or more. The price includes room, meals, admissions, sightseeing on the Cape, and visits to Martha's Vineyard and to Nantucket. Call me if you need more information. More details in the next issue of ECHOES.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Maryland General Assembly convened on January 11, and will run through April 12, 2006.

We are planning our annual PGPSRA Legislative Day in Annapolis on Wednesday, March 15th. This trip is free to our members. We will leave by coach bus from the PGCEA office parking lot at 8:45 am, and return about 2:45 pm. During this trip you will be able to observe our Maryland Legislature in action, tour the State House and Governor's Mansion, and interact with some county legislators during a sandwich/cookie luncheon. Come and join us for an interesting day! (Call : 301-390-7324).

The MRTA Legislative Committee plans to resubmit two bills this coming legislative session: (1) forbidding local boards of education to eliminate retiree health benefits, and requiring them to discuss those benefits with a local association of retirees. (2) requiring counties to count total Maryland service credit in determining retiree health benefits. Delegate James Proctor of Prince George's County (District 27) is sponsoring a new bill for us. It will build on a bill that Delegate Proctor got passed in 2002, which allows a retiree of the MD Retirement and Pension Systems who selects the Option 5 or 6 retirement allowance, to designate a new beneficiary if the retiree's original beneficiary has predeceased the retiree, or if the retiree does not choose a new beneficiary, to have his, or her, retirement benefits "pop up" to what they would have been had no beneficiary originally been named. This newly proposed bill would let retirees who choose Option 2 or 3 have the same possibility of a "pop up" if their beneficiary predeceases them and they opt to name no new beneficiary. **Please call your legislators to request support for these bills.

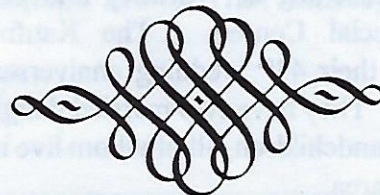
The annual United Seniors of Maryland Rally was held at St John's College in Annapolis, January 24th. Topics of discussion included the restoration of funding for senior programs, long term care (in your home, or another setting), Medicaid funding, and affordable prescription drugs. Speakers for the day included Governor Ehrlich, Senator Mike Miller, Delegate Michael Busch, Department of Aging personnel, and several of our Prince George' Delegates.

Members of your Legislative Committee have been attending the Department of Aging Budget Hearings that are setting spending limits and increases for Meals on Wheels, senior centers, congregate Housing, and the Medicaid Waiver Program across Maryland.

Designated Legislative Committee members have also been attending the Coalition for Pension Fairness Forum, headed by MSTA. We are offering support for a change in the pension system that will enhance the pensions of our current teachers, although it will not change the benefits for those already retired.

For daily up-dates on what is happening in Annapolis, go to the MRTA website www.mdrta.org. You can find the times and dates for specific Hearings that you may wish to attend.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair



BITS AND PIECES

Rose Miller and her husband, Jesse, of Ft. Washington, escaped some frigid winter days relaxing for a week in the warm temperatures of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They enjoyed an exciting day of whale watching on their way to the island of Las Caletas. Rose and Jesse spent an interesting day with the Huicholas Mexican Indians; this was truly a step back in time, as the Huicholas remain true to their culture resisting Western influences. Throughout the trip the Millers enjoyed lots of sightseeing and tasty dining. Their only disappointment was not having enough time to visit Guadalajara. On the way to their destination, and back, Rose noted the large numbers of people moving through security checks at the Baltimore and Dallas Airports—providing an open opportunity for plenty of walking exercise for travelers!

Frances Madison retired from High Point High School in 1990. She now lives in Laredo, Texas, where she enjoys family, travel, arts and crafts, and playing Canasta.

Paula Kaufman retired in 2004 from H. Winship Wheatley Special Center. She and her husband, David, live in Bowie, and also have a home in Sarasota, FL, where they enjoy spending time throughout the year, but especially during the winter months. After retiring, Paula enrolled in a Spanish class, which she is finding challenging and rewarding, since her one son-in-law and grandchildren are bi-lingual. She also enjoys substitute teaching at Wheatley and Chapel Forge Special Centers. The Kaufman's celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in December. They have two married daughters and two grandchildren, all of whom live in the Annapolis area.

Donald and Joyce Conway, of Beltsville, spent

time at their vacation site in Zepher Cove, NV (in South Tahoe) in November. While there, they toured around Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor, Squaw Valley, and Bay State Park. Don did not pass up this opportunity to engage in his 48th and 49th Capitol City Walks.

Charles Hudson retired from High Point High School in 1981. He and wife, Ann, recently sold their home of 43 years in District Heights and moved to Riderwood Retirement Community in Silver Spring. Charlie and Ann have been married 58 years! They met when Charlie was teaching PE and Ann was teaching Home Economics at Maryland Park High School. They have three married children: a son in Lynden, WA, another son in Beltsville, and a daughter in Columbia, MD,—and nine grandchildren. The Hudson's are world travelers, having been to all 50 states, all Canadian Provinces, and 36 foreign countries on six continents. It seems a natural progression that Charlie became our "Trip Director" for PGPSRA. Charlie's interest and participation in sports is well known. He has received numerous honors for his work in sports. During his educational career he served as vice principal and then principal at four high schools.

June Readon had the honor of making a very special presentation recently. On behalf of the 1952 graduating class of Surrattsville High School, she handed a check for \$7000.00 to the music department in memory of Ron Mortimer, who was a former teacher at the school. Ron's widow, Elizabeth, also a former Prince George's County teacher, lives in Millville, Delaware.

Jan Wundrow
1007 Packton Lane
Bowie, MD 20716

dwwundrow@comcast.com

PGPSRA

Luncheon Reservation Forms

March 22, 2006

11:00 AM

Collington Retirement Community

10450 Lottsford Road
Mitchellville, MD

Program

Mark Hanak
Songs of the 40's and 50's

Tour of the Retirement Community

Cost - \$17.00

Please mail check/form to address
below no later than March 15, 2006.

To: Dr. Edward Vest
7908 Klovstad Drive
Ft Washington, MD 20744-1729

Reservations are for (list names):

May 24, 2006

11:00 AM

Radisson Hotel

Largo, MD

Program

Installation of Officers
Report from Scholarship Student

Heritage Singers

Cost - \$18.00

Please mail check/form to address
below no later than May 17, 2006

To: Dr. Edward Vest
7908 Klovstad drive
Ft Washington, MD 20744-1729

Reservations are for (list names):

PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL
RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Editor: 12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

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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.

JANNETTE WUNDROW
1007 PACKTON LN
BOWIE MD 20716-1761

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
PGCRTA/MRTA (Unit #17)
July 1, ___ to June 20, ___

Return to: PGCRTA Membership
J. G. Jones
5912 -36th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20782

(Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) _____
Social Security # _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____
Date of Retirement _____
Birth date (optional) _____

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 _____

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