



# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXX No. 4

March 2007

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I found this article while reading and I thought it would be something good to share. If you are like me, I am sure you have had moments when you just want to give up. Here are some suggestions to keep you focused:

#### **How to Stay Strong**

*Throw out nonessential numbers;* this includes age, weight, and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That's why you pay them. *Keep only cheerful friends.* The grouches pull you down. *Keep learning.* Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the Devil's workshop." Moreover, the devil's name is Alzheimer's. *Enjoy the simple things.* Laugh often...long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath! The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive. *Surround yourself with what you love* whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge. *Cherish your health.* If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help. *Don't take guilt trips.* Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT where the guilt is. *Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity.*

As promised, here is our second set of spotlighted Board members, Edward A. Clement and Fred Novak.

Ed Clement, our Parliamentarian, is a native Washingtonian. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Howard University and a Master's Degree in Public School Administration from the University of Maryland. Ed's career as an educator includes seventeen years as a teacher and a vice principal in Anne Arundel County and seventeen years as a principal in Prince George's County. He presently serves as a Supervisor of Student Teachers at Bowie State University. He served in the Air Force for two years and spent twenty-two years in the reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Ed's professional and civic activities include memberships on the Board of PGCEA, the Maryland State Department of Education Committee where he worked on the assessment of beginning teachers, and PGPSRA. He is active in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and has served as President of the Columbia Park Civic Association since 1979. Last but not least, Ed was appointed to the Board of Directors of Maple Spring Bible College and Seminary, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the LEARN foundation and the H. Carl Moultrie Scholarship Fund.

Fred Novak was born in Yonkers, NY. He is married and has two daughters – Wendy, a funeral director, and Peggy, an elementary school teacher – and four grandchildren. Fred's education includes graduation from Cobleskill Agricultural Institute in New York with a major in Dairy Industry, a BA Degree from Shepherd College, with major in Business Administration and a teaching degree. He continued his studies

(See Administration next page)

in Administration and Supervision at George Washington University. Fred's teaching experience includes several years working under the supervision of Dr. Chotiner. Fred served on the staff at High Point High School for sixteen years – eight of them as guidance counselor and three of them as vice-principal. Later, Fred became principal of Thomas Johnson Junior High School, a position he held for ten years. Fred has also worked as an administrative assistant at Laurel High School and at High Point High School. He retired from that position in 1984. Fred keeps himself busy with his main hobbies – traveling, golf, and keeping up with his grand children. For four years he served as past chairman of the Community Service Committee for MRTA and is the present chairman of our EP&S Committee. Fred has been a member of the Laurel Rotary Club since 1972, and he currently serves as chairman of its Scholarship Committee.

Both of these men have served you for a long time and are a joy to work with. Thanks, Ed and Fred!

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

A special thank you goes to the student government and the student body of Waldon Woods Elementary School of Clinton, MD, for the collection of canned goods to help seniors and / other families in need. They added six boxes of food to the PGPSRA January food drive. The sponsors of the school food drive were Dr. Jesse Smith, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Mr. Arcelius Brickhouse, Principal; and Ms. Emma Forte, Assistant Principal. The food was brought in by Maderia Y. Parker, who volunteers at the school.

**FINANCIAL REPORT December 2006**

Balance on Hand		
Checking Account	\$12764.32	
Savings Account	\$ 6956.44	
Total Assets	\$19720.76	

E. Vest, Treasurer

**PROPOSED BUDGET: 2007 - 2008**

Category	Current Budget	Proposed Budget
Archives	500.00	250.00
Awards / Recognition	100.00	100.00
Liaison Professional	50.00	50.00
Operational	1000.00	500.00
President	200.00	200.00
Secretarial	300.00	300.00
MSRPA Meetings	2500.00	2500.00
Treasurer	100.00	50.00
Newsletter / Publications	13000.00	9000.00
Edu/Protective Services	500.00	300.00
Hospitality	1500.00	1500.00
Legislative	1100.00	1100.00
Membership	500.00	500.00
Program	1500.00	1500.00
Remembrance	300.00	300.00
Community Service	2500.00	2500.00
Convention Gift	50.00	50.00
Scholarship	10000.00	10000.00
Contingency Fund	1700.00	500.00
Incorporation Expenses	500.00	200.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>37900.00</b>	<b>31400.00</b>

**ESTIMATED INCOME**

Dues from members @ \$10.00 each	\$16000.00
Estimated membership of 1600	
From Checking Account	\$8400.00
From Savings Account	\$7000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31400.00</b>

E. Vest, Treasurer

## PGPSRA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Maryland General Assembly convened on January 10 and will end on April 9, 2007. It is important to keep abreast of the legislative proceedings in Annapolis either with phone calls, e-mails, or visits to your representatives. The federal legislators no longer accept e-mails; you must call or FAX them.

The United Seniors of Maryland Annual Rally was held on January 23, at St. John's College in Annapolis. This was a very informative luncheon meeting where Governor O'Malley and several legislators spoke. All indicated that education and health care will be among their priorities for this session. Yet, fully funding Thornton does not appear possible at present, with the state facing a \$400 million deficit this year and a \$1.5 billion the following year. Prince George's County schools will lose about \$31 million next fiscal year due to the lack of Thornton funding.

An issue of great concern to all retired school personnel throughout the state is the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 45 that will take effect for Prince George's County in July of this year. This federal legislation may affect our retiree health care benefits. The ruling requires that government units, including boards of education, must show the full cost of these benefits on their balance sheets as a long term liability. This accounting will affect county bond ratings. Consequently, boards of education will be looking at ways which will, in the long term, reduce their liability. We have asked Addie Martin, our Liaison to the Board of Education, to discuss the GASB 45 issue with board members.

The MRSPA Legislative Committee is working to get two bills passed this session

that deal with maintaining county boards of education health care benefits and providing a "pop-up" in retirement benefits if a spouse predeceases a retiree. The committee is also looking into tax relief pensions and pension enhancements for persons who retired twenty-five or more years ago.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

## ANNAPOLIS LEGISLATIVE DAY TRIP

We are planning our annual PGPSRA Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. The trip is free to our members. We will leave by coach bus from the PGCEA parking lot at 8:45 a.m. and return about 2:45 p.m. During this trip you will be able to observe our Maryland Legislature in action, tour the Governor's Mansion and State House, and interact with some of our county legislators during a sandwich/cookie luncheon. Our thanks to Delegate James Proctor of District 27, who has once again agreed to sponsor this event. Come and join us for an interesting day! Call Jannette Wundrow for reservations: 301-390-7324.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for office for 2007 – 2008:

President-elect	Jennie Jones
Recording Secretary	Joan Sloan
Corresponding Secretary	Sherry Blakeney
Treasurer	Dr. Edward Vest

The election of officers is to be held at the March meeting; the installation occurs in May.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:  
**Rose Miller, Chairperson**, and members,  
Courtney Pringle and Stanley Tweedy.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Hi, my name is Danielle Miller, and I have been the recipient of the Retired Teachers' Scholarship for the past three years. First of all, I wanted to thank you so much for the scholarship! It has greatly helped my family and me pay for my tuition at the University of Maryland. I am a junior Elementary Education major with an emphasis in mathematics. I also am a peer advisor in the College of Education, and I really enjoy learning about all the policies and advising that go on in the college. All of my education courses are very engaging. I took an art class for elementary majors last semester and it was so fun! I got to make many awesome projects and planned lessons incorporating art into all of the subjects. I also created a portfolio that contained all my art work and it will serve as a great resource for me in the future.

I am working at St. Hugh's School as a group leader and supervise kindergarten and first graders three times a week; it is a lot of fun but very tiring! I am taking a course this semester about methods of teaching reading, which is particularly interesting for me since I want to be a Reading Specialist in the future.

During my spring break I am going to South Carolina to participate in Habitat for Humanity. I am going with a group of students from the Catholic Student Center. I am a very active Catholic Terp and plan to attend many events at the center.

Next year I will begin my student teaching in a public elementary school in Prince George's or Montgomery County. I will be in the classroom two days a week the first semester and then the last semester every day! I am looking forward to that experience; however, I am glad I have this

semester to learn more about classroom management and many other important aspects of teaching. Thank you again for the scholarship! It is helping me learn how to be a great teacher in the future!

Alveta Jones, Scholarship Chair

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members are remembering to let us know they have moved. I am so glad! You do miss out if you do not get the *Echoes*. Remember: the post office does not forward non-profit mail.

The door prize winner at the January meeting was Elinor Ford. She is co-chair of the Remembrance / Necrology Committee. We also have a new member, Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, who joined at our meeting.

As co-chairman, Pat Tompkins, said at the meeting, "You are our best recruiter." Tell your retired or soon-to-be retired friends about us. Encourage them to visit our meetings and then join. If they can't visit, that's all right; but encourage them to join. Call me, or have them call me, for a membership brochure which tells them about PGPSRA and MRSPA and contains a membership application. My number is 301-559-8533.

Jane Jones, Membership Co-Chair

## NECROLOGY REPORT

### MEMBERS

Florence Fingerhut	
G. James Gholson	12-03-06
Elaine A. Kuhar-Lewis	1-13-06
Arthur Lakin	11-06-06
Martha Parker	

## NON-MEMBERS

Emelia Anna Burt 11-26-06  
Michael Grozinsky 11-27-06  
John Franklin Hughes

## IN MEMORIAM

G. James Gholson, 94, former Principal of Fairmont Heights High School in Capital Heights and Administrative Assistant for Administration for Prince George's County Public Schools, died on December 3, 2006, at the Collington Continuing Life Care Community in Mitchellville, MD. Mr. Gholson played a key role in desegregating the public schools of Prince George's County during the 1970's. Known for his problem-solving and leadership skills, he was instrumental in promoting dialogue among students, school officials, and community groups. He headed a committee of educators charged with developing a plan for improving race relations in the county school system. Mr. Gholson retired in 1979, after four years as Assistant Superintendent of Administration with oversight of seventy-five county schools. However, he continued to serve the community in a variety of ways. Among them was his work for the Justice Department's community schools program, his volunteer service as a docent at the National Archives - where he organized the "Long Road Uphill," an exhibit highlighting African American members of Congress, and his tenure as President of PGCRTA in 1992 - 1993. His many honors and awards included the 1990 Prince Georgian of the Year Award. He was a charter member of the Collington Episcopal Life Care Community, where he greeted the PGPSRA at its March 2006 meeting.

Jannie Goldston, Remembrance/Necrology

## 2007 PRE-RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

Eleanor Roosevelt High School  
Saturday, March 10, 2007

This is an annual event where you can help teachers who are retiring from the Prince George's County school system understand the need to join PGPSRA. We will be meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> to stuff information folders. If you want to help, call Bonnie Brose (301-627-1097) to find out where you can fit in. We'd love to see you there!

## PGPSRA LUNCHEON MEETING

<b>Where:</b> Collington Retirement Community Landover, MD
<b>When:</b> March 28, 2007
<b>Cost:</b> \$20.00 <b>Make checks payable to:</b> PGPSPA *Luncheon registration will be closed March 21.
<b>Your name:</b>
<b>How many:</b>
<b>Please submit form to:</b> <b>Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive</b> <b>Fort Washington, MD 20744</b>

Music by Becky Dukes - piano & vocals

Becky is recognized in "Women of Achievement in Prince George's County History." She has received awards as a lyricist and composer. Her first album, *Alive*, was produced in 1992. She has composed and owns copyrights to more than 100 songs. She resides here in Prince George's County.

The May meeting will be held at Prince Georges Community College. More details will be forthcoming in the next *Echoes*.

Bonnie Brose, Program Chairperson

## **BITS AND PIECES**

Alhen Green and her husband, retired state Senator Leo, of Bowie, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December in a most unique way. All eight of their children and their spouses renewed their vows at the Mass celebrating Alhen and Leo's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (\*Our congratulations to the whole Green family!) The parents and all of the siblings except one traveled to Coronado, CA, recently to witness a military change of command ceremony when son, Commander Collin Green of the U. S. Navy, accepted the position as head of SEAL operations in Central Command. Alhen and Leo have twenty-four grandchildren!

Charles (Chuck) Poole and his wife Orpha are both Prince George's County retirees. Chuck retired as principal of Thomas Stone Elementary in 1992, and Orpha retired as media specialist from Montpelier and Rockledge Elementary Schools in 1993. Interestingly, both spent seven years of their teaching careers in Montgomery County before coming to Prince George's. Since retiring, Chuck has served as adjunct professor in the Education Department at Bowie State University, teaching and lecturing. For five years he also served as head of Holy Trinity Episcopal Day Lower School in Bowie. Now he volunteers there, while working to complete ministerial studies at Chesapeake Theological Seminary in Linthicum. After their retirements, Chuck and Orpha drove across country to visit their only son, Deryck, in Twenty-Nine Palms, CA. They have since driven there twice more and traveled once by train. They have enjoyed other travels to Jamaica, Finland, Canada, and several states within the U.S. The Pooles moved to Bethany Beach, DE, for a year after retirement, but have lived the past twelve years in Crofton, MD.

Adrienne Cannon of Alexandria, VA, is to be congratulated for her winter essay "Nature's Festive Tracery" published in the *Washington Post*, December 18, 2006. Adrienne retired as an Italian teacher from Roosevelt high School in 1998.

Dr. Dora Kennedy of college Park retired in 1991 from her position as co-supervisor, along with Dr. Pat Barr-Harrison, of the Latin Program in Prince George's County Schools. Previously, Dr. Kennedy taught Latin in Ohio. She received three awards for her achievements during 2006; namely: the University of Maryland Dean's Award for having been a volunteer adjunct professor for fifteen years and for teaching classes and observing student teachers in the College of education; the Ovatio Award from the Middle States Classical Association for having championed the teaching of Latin in Maryland schools over the past fifty years; and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maryland Foreign Language Association, of which she has been a member for fifty years. She has served as their newsletter editor for the past fifteen years. (\*Our Congratulations!) Dr. Kennedy currently conducts a Latin study group of senior citizens at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Maryland.

Three of our members enjoyed Panama Canal cruises within the past several months. Among them are Kathy Labukus of Greenbelt, Godelieve Bartley of Upper Marlboro, and Paula Kaufman of Bowie.

Gladys Minter Kraus retired as media Specialist from High Point High School in 1991, and now lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She keeps busy singing with a senior citizens' group "Silver Notes" and participating in various activities in her Methodist Church. Sadly, Gladys lost her

husband, the Reverend James Kraus, some years ago. Together they had enjoyed travels to Israel, Italy, and France. Gladys has three children, a daughter who is a special education teacher in Louisville, a son who is a church music director in MI, and a daughter who is a nurse practitioner in Maryland, along with two grandchildren.

Charles and Mary Kilbourne of Upper Marlboro are both retirees of Prince George's County Public Schools. Charles began his career as a charter faculty member (biology teacher) at Suitland high School in 1951. Among his students were Congressman Steny Hoyer and his late wife, Early Childhood Supervisor, Judy Hoyer. From 1967 until 1981, Charles was a biology professor at Prince George's Community College. Mary retired from Crossland High School in 1988. The Kilbournes travel to Sarasota, FL, several times a year, where Charles serves as Commodore of the Siesta Key Sailing Club. He is also President of the Old Line Railroad Club at Prince George's Community College; however, the club actually began at Suitland High School.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jan Wundrow at [jannetwundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetwundrow@comcast.net) or 1007 Packton Lane, Bowie, MD 20716.

### **ACCESSIBLE HOMES FOR SENIORS (AHS)**

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Aging, are undertaking a pilot program to promote accessibility related to improvements to homes of seniors. These improvements may include, among others, the installation of grab bars and railings, widening doorways and installation of ramps. The program provides zero percent interest, deferred loans

for a term of 30 years to finance accessibility improvements. You may access additional information and applications at [www.mdhousing.org](http://www.mdhousing.org), or you may call your local Department of Aging. In Prince George's County, contact Dr. Floyd Johnson at 301-265-8450.

### **EP&S COMMITTEE**

Did you know improperly wired Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Internet service can sometimes prevent an alarm system from transmitting alarm signals to the monitoring station? A monitored system that uses the telephone line to communicate with the central monitoring station may have compatibility problem with DSL high-speed Internet service. This compatibility problem can prevent the security system from operating properly.

Even though there may not be any indication of a problem, the security alarm panel may fail to notify the monitoring service during a burglary because of interference from the DSL service. If the monitoring company does not receive notification, no call will be made to the police.

This compatibility problem can be remedied in some applications by using a special filter on the telephone line to the security panel or by using a DSL splitter system. All consumers who have both DSL and a central monitoring service should contact their alarm service for options on how to remedy the concern.

Fred Novak, ES&P Committee Chairman

### **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

Each day is a gift. Receive it with thankfulness, unwrap it with anticipation, and relish it with joy.

Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

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JANNETTE WUNDROW  
1007 PACKTON LN  
BOWIE MD 20716-1761

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

March 28 2007  
Collington Retirement Community  
Landover, MD

11:00 a. m. Business Meeting  
12:00 noon Luncheon  
Reservations Due - Mar. 21, 2007

**REMINDER**

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