



# ECHOES

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

Volume XXXXII No. 4

March 2008

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Well, may the luck of the Irish be with you! Happy St. Pat's Day! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Comfort Inn on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a great meeting in January and a most interesting program from Don Conway. He has a world of information about Black History that, if you missed it, you must talk to him about where he will display his collection next. Thank you, Don.

In this issue you will find a proposed change in our by-laws. It has come to our attention that we are the only local chapter that has a one-year term for officers. Having only one year to learn the job and to act on needed business simultaneously is a very difficult time frame to follow. This concern was turned over to the By-laws Committee, and they prepared the changes for you to consider. Please read them carefully. They will be discussed and voted on at the March meeting. (The first reading was at the meeting in January.)

Since I lectured you all about making sure you have your luncheon reservations in on time, let me congratulate you on the improvement. I have not disaggregated the data, and I don't have the percentage points, but I am assured by Ed and Pat, who manage this, that we are doing much better and are no longer running in the red for our lunches. Be assured that any time you find that you are past the deadline, you are still

welcome to attend the meetings ... just, pack a sandwich!

It has been grand working with you this year. Keep your suggestions and questions coming to us so that we can do the best we can to make your retirement years the very best.

Bonnie Curry Brose

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The regular General Assembly session began on January 9, 2008, and concludes on April 7. We will be asking again for your help on specific issues as they arise.

The United Seniors of Maryland held their annual Legislative Day at St. John's College in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 22. This was an interesting and informative meeting. Speakers this year were Governor O'Malley, Speaker of the House Michael Busch, Department of Aging Secretary Gloria Lawlah, and Senator Benjamin Cardin. Thirty organizations make up the United Seniors of Maryland organization. Martha Franklin, Joyce Fitzgerald, and I represented PGPSRA, under the MRSPA umbrella.

Two areas of concentration for the MRSPA Legislative Committee this General Assembly session will be (1) to guard against any shifting of funding of the retirement/pension system to the counties, and (2) to promote the idea of "actuarial funding" replacing "corridor funding"

of the retirement/pension system.

Under the "corridor funding" method, employer contribution rates were set at the June 30, 2000 valuation rate. From its enactment by the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees of the retirement/pension fund expressed concerns that "corridor funding" did not adequately address the full "actuarial" funding needs of the system. A particular concern is that the retirement/pension fund is falling further and further behind of being fully funded. (It falls below 80% at this point.) For the past two sessions, the Board of Trustees has recommended to the Joint Committee on Pensions the return to "actuarial funding". Our MRSPA Legislative Committee supports this recommendation and will continue to monitor and promote arguments in favor of doing away with the "corridor funding" method and the return to the "actuarial finding" of the retirement/pension system.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 27, 2008

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance in Checking | \$13,213.06 |
| Opening Balance in Savings  | \$ 2,992.58 |
| Receipts                    | \$ 671.72   |
| Expenditures                | \$ 1,194.89 |
| Interest on Savings         | \$ 5.66     |
| Balance on Hand             |             |
| Checking Account            | \$12,689.89 |
| Savings Account             | \$ 2,998.24 |
| Total Assets                | \$15,688.13 |

E. Vest, Treasurer

## PGPSRA MARCH 2008 GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

March 26, 2008  
Comfort Inn – Bowie, Maryland  
(Route 301 at Route 50)  
11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$26.00 per person

Entrée Choice: (Please select one.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Crab Cake Sandwich

\_\_\_\_\_ Triple Salad Platter

\_\_\_\_\_ Club Sandwich

This includes a garden salad, dessert, iced tea, coffee, or hot tea.

Please mail your reservation(s) to the address below by March 19.

Include a check payable to PGPSRA to cover the number of spaces you reserve.

To the Treasurer:

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

PGPSRA Slate of Officers for 2008 – 09

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President-Elect         | Bonnie Curry Brose |
| Recording Secretary     | Joann Sloan        |
| Treasurer               | Dr. Ed Vest        |
| Corresponding Secretary | Shirley Johnson    |

The current President-Elect, Jennie Jones, will automatically become the President.

This slate of officers has been approved by the Executive Board of PGPSRA.

## CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The Executive Board hereby submits to the membership for its consideration the suggested changes needed in the by-laws to extend the terms for the President and President-elect to two years. The first reading of the proposal occurred at the general meeting on January 23, 2008, and the membership will vote on it at the general meeting in March.

### ARTICLE III – Section 2.

#### *Current Wording:*

Section 2. Number and Term of Office. The number of directors shall be twenty-one (21) or such other number as shall equal to the sum of the number of officers of the company, and the number of standing committees, plus one (1). Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall never be less than seven (7) directors. The directors shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until the next annual meeting. At each annual meeting, the successor officers shall be installed to hold office for the term of one (1) year. Thereafter, the President shall appoint the chairs of each standing committee and each chair shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

#### *Proposed New Wording* (changes in bold type)

Section 2. Number and Term of Office. The number of the directors **shall be equal** to the sum of the number of officers of the company, and the number of standing committees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there shall never be less than seven (7) directors. The directors shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until the next annual meeting **with the exception of the President and the President-elect who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.** At each annual meeting, the successor

officers shall be installed to hold office for one (1) year **with the exception of the President and President-elect.** At the **appropriate annual meeting, the President and President-elect shall be installed to hold office for two (2) years.** After each annual meeting, the President shall appoint the chairs of each standing committee and each chair shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

### ARTICLE IV – Section 1.

*Current Wording:* Election, Tenure, Compensation. The officers of the Corporation shall be President, a President-elect, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be elected for a one-year term.

*Proposed New Wording:* Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a President-elect, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

### By-laws regarding changes:

ARTICLE VIII – Amendments – Section 1. Amendments of By-laws. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to propose, in writing, amendments or modification to these By-laws or any provision thereof, and may from time to time recommend making additional By-laws. Any amendments must be presented at a regular or special meeting of the membership and subsequently voted on at the next regular meeting. Any amendment to the By-laws must be approved by a two-third (2/3) vote of the members voting at the meeting.

### ARTICLE II – Section 7. Voting.

Voting. At all meetings of members every member entitled to vote shall have one (1)

vote. Such vote may be either in person or by requesting a proxy appointed by an instrument in writing subscribed by such members, bearing a date not more than three (3) months prior to said meeting, unless said instrument provides for a longer period. Such a proxy shall be dated and witnessed or acknowledged. All elections shall be had and all questions requiring a general membership vote shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast at a duly constituted meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, in the Articles of Incorporation or by these By-laws.

If the President of the meeting shall so determine, a vote by ballot may be taken upon any election or matter, and the vote shall be so taken upon the request of ten percent (10%) or more of all the members entitled to vote on such election or matter.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Co-Chairs Stepping Down**

Two of our treasured PGPSRA Executive Board members, Jane Jones and Pat Tompkins, have recently given up their positions as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee. Their services have been greatly valued as they kept our membership rolls up to date. They have recorded the weekly changes occurring with new members, deceased members, and members' changes of names and addresses. They have kept track of who has paid, and who owes, dues. Jane and Pat have coordinated this information with Dr. Vest, our Treasurer, the MRSPA office, the county Board of Education, and AccuMail, the company that prints and attaches the address labels and does the mailing of our 1800 ECHOES newsletter five times a year.

Jane, of Hyattsville, retired from Nicholas Orém Middle School in 1989. She has

served as our Membership Chair and recent Co-Chair for the past ten years. Before that she was Co-Editor of the ECHOES newsletter.

Pat retired from Parkdale High School as a special education teacher in 2004. She also taught English for three years in Japan. She has served as Co-Membership Chair for the past three years. Pat and her husband, Charles, who is a retired Howard County teacher, live in Greenbelt.

It is with gratitude that we offer our "THANKS" to Jane and Pat for serving as our Membership Co-Chairs.

We welcome Martha Franklin, of Bryans Road, as our new Membership Chair. Martha retired in 2006, having taught 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at Brandywine Elementary School. She has been serving as our Inspirational Reading Chair.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Community Service Committee gives a hearty thank-you to the members of PGPSRA for the generous donations collected at the last meeting. The proceeds were used to purchase school supplies and personal items for county school children who live in homeless shelters. We have already delivered a number of the items to Shepherd's Cove in Capital Heights. Another delivery will be made soon to the Family Emergency Center in Adelphi.

We have also adopted three families to receive a monthly food package through the Share Food Program. The first delivery will be made on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Delores Brown, Co-Chair

## MARYLAND SENIOR CITIZEN HALL OF FAME HONOREE

It is with pleasure that we announce the induction of Richard Blanchard into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. He was nominated for this honor by the Senior Singers Choir in Westminster, Maryland, where he and his wife, Deborah, now live. When Richard was asked to be the volunteer director of the Senior Singers four years ago, the choir consisted of six people. Due to his enthusiasm and dedication, the group has grown to include 75 people now. They rehearse weekly and perform for various occasions.

Richard began his teaching career as a music instructor in Bladensburg, and from there he moved into administration, serving as vice-principal at High Point High School. He retired from the county in 1990. His next teaching assignment was at McDaniel College, where he served as college choir director for fifteen years.

Richard's other interests include golf and spending time at his beach house in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

We are most pleased to recognize a fellow PGPSRA member who has achieved stature as an outstanding Maryland volunteer.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 12: Executive Meeting  
PGCEA Building  
10:00 a.m.  
March 26: General Meeting & Luncheon  
11:00 a.m.  
Comfort Inn, Bowie  
April 1: Deadline for *ECHOES*

## BASKET BINGO

On April 5, 2008, MRSPA will hold a "Basket Bingo," featuring Longaberger Baskets as prizes. It will be held in Sykesville, Maryland, and will help finance MRSPA scholarships to active school employees enrolled in the teacher certification program. Contact MRSPA offices at 410-551-1517 for tickets - \$15.00 in advance, \$18.00 at the door, or contact PGPSRA President Bonnie Brose.

## EDWARD A. CLEMENT

PGPSRA acknowledges and appreciates the many years of dedicated service rendered by the late Ed Clement. A former principal of Matthew Henson Elementary School, he retired in 1992 after thirty-four years of service to the public schools in Maryland. Mr. Clement was an active member and past president of PGPSRA. His most recent service (2007 - 2008) was as our parliamentarian and a member of the Executive Board. Ed's good humor, enthusiasm, and dedication will be greatly missed.

## NECROLOGY

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Frederick Adler      | 8-3-07   |
| Karen Alexander      | 8-11-07  |
| Thomas Barron        | 12-17-07 |
| Edna Brown           | ***      |
| Edward A. Clement    | 1-4-08   |
| Grace N. Hicks       | 7-14-07  |
| Wilhelmina P. Lasley | 1-19-08  |
| Lillian C. Mack      | 7-20-07  |
| Richard A. Myers     | 7-3-07   |
| Calvin Reed          | 7-26-07  |
| Alice E. Thompson    | 8-14-07  |
| Josephine C. Wilson  | ***      |
| Kathryn D. Woods     | 9-22-07  |

## BITS AND PIECES

Jeannette Yates retired from the Prince George's County School System in 1985 and has since relocated to Davie, Florida. For several years following retirement, she volunteered as a tour leader in the historic section of Annapolis. She also taught line dancing for thirteen years. Jeannette enjoys playing golf and shuffleboard, reading and traveling. She has been to Scotland, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, several South American countries, Russia, Germany, several Scandinavian countries, some of the Canadian provinces, many of the states, including Hawaii, and sailed the Caribbean. Jeannette has two grown children. Sadly her husband is deceased.

Maureen Eschbacher, who lives in Annapolis, retired from Oakcrest Elementary in 2004 as a pre-kindergarten teacher in the Extended Early Childhood Program (founded by the late Judy Hoyer). Maureen has always enjoyed traveling, so even before she retired, she completed the travel training program at Anne Arundel Community College, and opened her own travel agency, Galavanteers Travel Company, in July 2000. This has afforded her opportunities to travel to the Yukon, South America, Europe, Alaska, China and Mexico. She has sailed through the Panama Canal, throughout the Caribbean, and on several river and ocean cruises. On her latest cruise in February, she departed from San Diego and sailed the Pacific shores of the Mexican Riviera. Maureen has one adult daughter.

Karen Foley retired in 1988 as a special education teacher at Oxon Hill Elementary. She lives in Upper Marlboro with her three dogs and seven cats. Karen serves on the Board of Directors at Edgemoade. She

enjoys reading, helping others, and visiting with family in Maryland and Durham, NC.

LeRoy Battle of Harwood, Maryland, does not rest on his musical laurels, or the fame of having the music wing of Frederick Douglass High School named in his honor. He has also written two books: *Easier Said* and *The Beat Goes On* – just out in bookstores last month. On February 21, Mr. Battle was invited to the Pentagon, along with other Tuskegee Airmen authors, and commended for their writing. In 2003, he was inducted into the Music Educators Hall of Fame. This 86 year-old is not slowing down!

Helen Hall retired as principal of Beacon Heights Elementary in 1974. She has traveled extensively since then to nearly all of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, to Canada, and to many foreign countries. Helen participates in AARP, DKG, and activities at her church. She now lives in Columbia, MD, in an apartment that she had built onto her daughter's house. Helen has two daughters, four grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Betty Fanelli retired from James Ryder Randall Special Orthopedic Wing in 1992, and now lives in the lake house that she and her husband built in Cumberland, Virginia. Betty has two sons and a daughter and two grandchildren, with whom she enjoys spending time. She has traveled to Austria, Holland, Greece, Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal, and the home towns of her parents in Ireland and England. Betty volunteers at her local library, helps "pattern" a little boy with cerebral palsy, writes poetry, paints with watercolors, and swims every day in warm weather. However, her most intense volunteer work centers around the sadness that occurred in

2003, when her husband died of over medication following a devastating fire that totally destroyed their Maryland home. Since then, Betty has become an advocate for improving hospital care.

Joyce Fitzgerald of Laurel has been traveling! Since retiring from Prince George's Community College, she has worked as a travel agent. As such, she attends trade shows. At one show in Washington, which was presented in conjunction with the National Gallery of Art's Cezanne exhibit, two tickets to France were awarded to a lucky agent. Joyce was the winner! The trip included a first-class Rail Europe pass, but because she spoke limited French, and therefore trusted the ticket agent in Paris (where she arrived) to issue her the correct ticket (which he did not do), she traveled by general train seating, then by bus, and even by ferry to some locations. Among the places Joyce visited were Marseilles, St. Remy-De-Provence, St. Tropez, and Arles. She was able to go to the Avignon Bridge, which she remembers singing about in high school French class. One disappointing experience was learning that our currency is no longer the "Almighty Dollar". One day Joyce ran out of money, but found a bank where she used her credit card to enable her to charge Euros on it to the tune of 100 Euros for 140 American dollars! She ate lunch at McDonald's that day. The trip was exciting and fun!

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

## From E & PS COMMUNICATOR

### Are You Ready for Digital Broadcasting?

On February 17, 2009, if you receive your television programming with "rabbit ears" or a roof antenna, your picture will disappear. The government is requiring all broadcasters to convert their signals from analog to digital. What can you do?

- Purchase a device called a "digital-to-analog converter box"
- Subscribe to cable or satellite service or,
- Purchase a television with a digital tuner.

To offset the cost, the government is offering all households (regardless of income) two coupons, worth \$40.00 each to be used toward the purchase of two coupon eligible converter boxes. You may call 1-800-388-2009 between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009. Coupons will expire after 90 days. Converters are expected to cost between \$50.00 and \$70.00. They will be able to be purchased in stores where televisions and computer products are sold as well as on line.

If you have specific questions or want more information, go to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Our meetings follow the Prince George's County Public Schools policy for cancellation. However, a delayed opening means our meeting goes on as planned.

**Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association**

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

**DATED MATERIAL**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &  
LUNCHEON**

March 26, 2008  
Comfort Inn - Bowie  
11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting  
12:00 - Luncheon

Reservations Due - March 19

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**2008**

Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.