

ECHOES

Vol. L No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2016

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks



As we continue to move forward into 2016, I am grateful that we have survived the blizzard. Many people, businesses, and families were affected by such a major storm. It impacted us so much that we as seniors must be aware of the tools that Prince George's County provides. The Prince George's County Emergency Management website has an abundance of information to prepare for the storms and resources to assist you with who to contact after the storm has passed. We also need to understand our limitations

and health concerns during major weather events. Being prepared before a weather event happens will give us peace of mind and also helps us to feel empowered. Take time before an event to know how to keep yourselves and your families safe.

Due to the January blizzard, our General meeting was canceled. We did not get a chance to share the hobbies of our fellow seniors. I would like to provide a brief summary and some key points from the Executive Meeting held in January.

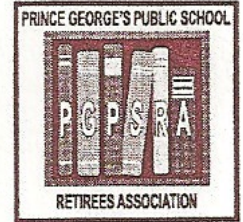
Maryclaire Dunlap resigned as Program Chair. Bonnie Brose volunteered to complete the year in that position.

Harold Siskind, Area II South attended the executive meeting in January and discussed the status of Emeritus Membership. We will discuss the Emeritus Membership at the March meeting. It will be voted on at the general meeting in May. He also made us aware that Judy Zahren, MRSPA Executive Director, will be retiring in June. A Search Committee has been formed. Bonnie Brose will serve on this committee.

As we continue to focus on the goals of our association, we continue to encourage our membership to stay involved socially, physically, and culturally in community activities so that we can continue to grow as a strong united retiree organization.

Our next membership meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, Maryland.

Cordially,
Marylouise J. Isbell, President



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SCHOLARSHIPS

My Education Journey From a PGPSRA Scholarship Winner

As a sophomore at Stevenson University, school has taken a turn. I am an Elementary Education major and I am gaining experience in the classroom! This year I am placed at Piney Ridge Elementary School in Carroll County and I absolutely love it. I am working with the most amazing group of 4th graders next to the most amazing teacher in a S.T.E.M. classroom. I am only in the classroom once a week for a half day but it's the best part of my week.

I had the opportunity to independently teach two lessons. My first lesson was a math lesson [on the area of odd shaped figures](#). During this lesson, I faced some challenges. Some of the students weren't getting it and some were speeding through it. I decided to teach this lesson in small groups so I can be more one on one with the students. It was more challenging than I thought because I had to give everyone attention and also maintain my classroom management skills. The lesson also took longer than the allotted time but that was fine with my teacher. What I learned from this experience is that I have to have time for error. Even though I had a set plan, I should always have back up plans. At the end of my lesson, the children met the objective of the lesson.

My second lesson was a science lesson on [insulators and conductors](#). I had the chance to conduct an experiment in the classroom with the students. This is the lesson that made me realize that it has been a long time since I was in grade school. Once you learn the basics and enhance your learning, it is very hard to remember how you learned things. I had to use my resources that I was given in my current Education courses to help refresh my memory of insulators and conductors! My teacher and mentor acknowledged the fact that I needed to work on my classroom management skills. That was my personal objective with the class. I had to learn how to be the teacher to my students. For this experiment, we have to connect wires, batteries, and different objects of insulators and conductors to make a light bulb turn on. That included a lot of following directions, volume control, and material control. It was really hard for me to get in the mind-set of being the teacher because I am a soft [spoken](#) person. This is definitely a skill I will be working on to improve. My lesson didn't go through as well as I planned but [I](#) earned from it. I learned more about my class and more about me.

The most important thing I learned this semester in the classroom was it's okay to make mistakes, because every mistake you make is a learning opportunity. My students and I both learn from my mistakes. Also, I learned not to be embarrassed about it because no teacher is perfect. I strive to become a close to perfect teacher but I can't wait for more mistakes because I want to learn in every which way possible.

[In addition to my field placement experience](#), I am a Student Ambassador [on](#) campus. I conduct tours and work open houses. I love expressing my love of Stevenson to potential students and sharing my experiences. I also had the chance to be on the student panel in my last Open House. I was so nervous but I made it through. The best part of the day was when my tour groups remembered me from the student panel. They could tell I was nervous on stage but it made me human. The families told me when they visited other schools, they could tell the student panel was scripted. They knew my stories were true and we were randomly selected. I was so happy that [I made a difference to families](#).

[My experience as a student is getting better and better each day and I wouldn't change it for the world!](#)

-Iyana Hunter

2016 scholarship applications are on our website. Please share the news with family and friends who have graduating seniors who plan to major in Education. The deadline for submitting the applications is February 26, 2016. We hope to award five \$2000.00 scholarships. Scholarship Applications on www.PCPSRA.Org.

Submitted by: Alveta Jones, Chairman

Community Service Committee

“Together, Everyone Achieves More”

Hope everyone was safe and well and adjusted throughout the “snow” episodes. We, the Community Services, are thankful for all of your continued support!!! All projected projects are on target.

This year (2015-2016), we are servicing the Northern Area. The needs are diverse for all of the schools. The majority of the elementary schools are well invested with ESOL students.

Our schools are:

Adelphi Elementary

Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle

High Point High

Rogers Heights Elementary

Thomas S. Stone Elementary

Again, thanks for your continued support!!!

Ethel L. Brown, Chairperson

YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS

TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY – 2016

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$16026.66
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3027.26

ACTIVITY – CHACKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	380.72
EXPENDITURES	-	1138.14

ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT

INTEREST	-	0.38
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TOTAL ASSETS – JANUARY 31, 2016:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	15269.24
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3027.64
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$18296.88

Ed Vest, Treasurer



DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your
MRSPA website

for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

if you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr.Vest

B.O.E. Liaison Committee

All of us who have health insurance with Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Care First should have recently received a new ID card with the same type of information you received on your previous card. If you have any information missing (i.e. the name of your Primary Physician) please call the 800 number on the back of your card so that a new card with all your information can be sent. Please remember to discard all old cards.

Aetna Dental no longer mails ID cards, so if needed our Group Number for Aetna Dental is 373-416. If you want your individual number you must call 1-877-238-6200. When you call that number Aetna Dental will inform you on how to go on-line and print out an ID card.

Addie Martin
301-868-6081
Professional Liaison for Benefits



Necrology/Remembrance

Batson, Thomas	10/12/2015
Blandford, William "Doc"	11/19/2015
Burke, Laura Holmes	01/03/2016
Cleisuras, Arthur	10/10/2015
Custis, Nancy (Nan)	01/03/2016
Rae, Thomas	10/09/2015
Speier, Patricia J.	12/24/2015
Than Tin, Betty 01/09/2016	
Pickney, Joseph 01/23/2016	

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 Past President: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 President-Elect: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler
 (maryakaroyall@aol.com)(lindabl1217@verizon.net)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Webmaster: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguincl@msn.com)
 Parliamentarian: Bill Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clayl231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)
 Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)
 Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)
 Programs: Bonnie Curry Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **March** birthday wishes to: Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring, will be marking her 97th birthday on the 1st; Mrs. Ethel Perazzoli of El Cajon, CA, will be having her 92nd birthday on the 2nd; Ms. Thelma Boyd of Cheverly, will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 15th; Mrs. Carrie Reid of Suitland, will be having her 95th birthday on the 24th; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring, who will be marking his 91st birthday on the 25th.

Happy **April** birthday greetings to several other of our Emeritus members: Ms. Lena Struglia of Salem, OR, will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 2nd; Ms. Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA, will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Leland, NC, will be having her 97th birthday on the 12th; Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY, will be turning 99 years-old on the 24th; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover, will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 25th; and Mrs. Mary Younger of Cheltenham, will be marking her 91st birthday on the 27th.

Gloria Martin retired from Crossland High School as an English teacher in 1990. Afterward, she missed her students, so substituted for a while. Gloria relocated to Seattle, WA. for a number of years, but has returned to live in Upper Marlboro. One of her favorite hobbies is knitting. She puts this skill to use making prayer shawls, as a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at her Episcopal Church. Gloria also enjoys reading and playing cards with friends, as well as, spending time with her family. She has renewed her membership at her local Senior Center, where she exercises and participates in other interesting activities.

Barbara Mason retired in 1996, as the English Chair at Bladensburg High School. She moved to Raleigh, N.C. in 2004 to be closer to her family. She has two young grandchildren: Jonah age ten and Gwen age eight. Barbara is a master gardener, but also finds time to volunteer at a cat shelter.

Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington retired as a reading specialist from Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in 1992. She says she is a "crossword puzzle addict", but also finds time for reading, tutoring, and participating in various church activities, including holding several church positions, serving as her church Lay Delegate to the Baltimore Washington Conference each May, and volunteering as a church visitor to the sick and shut-in. Cora also finds time to attend concerts and dinner theater performances. She has one son, Merritt, and one granddaughter, Sabrina, who live in Wisconsin, which is where she spends the month of June each year, visiting with them. She spends each August in Martha's Vineyard (but, hasn't spotted the president there yet). Cora has also traveled to North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Georgia, Louisiana, and Connecticut. (As of this printing) Cora is looking forward to participating in the February 2016 Civil Rights Tour.

Mary (Gail) Mathews retired in 1989 from Buckingham Elementary as a school librarian. After retirement, Gail worked for six years for Computer Sciences Corporation under contract with the U.S. Department of Education. At the urging of a daughter, Gail and her husband, who, sadly, died recently, moved to Allensville, PA, in what is known as "Big Valley", 30 miles south-east of State College. Gail's husband was a physicist with the government, then a teacher. They had three daughters and 13 grandchildren. Gail volunteered with her local county library in PA. for several years. Together the Mathews traveled to Norway, Scotland, Chile, the Baltic area, as well as, to Canada, England, Jamaica, and Ireland for International Librarianship Conferences. Gail thoroughly enjoys living in the "Big Valley", also known as "Kishacoquillas Valley", named after an Indian chief. It is home to many Amish, Mennonite, and English people. It is a very picturesque and peaceful place.



BITS AND PIECES CONT'D

Dr. Norma Martof of Bowie retired from Charles Flowers High School in 2009. Unfortunately, her retirement days began with a disastrous fall and fracture that required a year of rehabilitation. During that time, Norma lived with her daughter and her family. She got to know her grandsons, ages three and seven, and loved being their "Nana". During 2012 Norma and her daughter enjoyed a Carnival Cruise. Prior to the cruise, she renovated her house – a gigantic task that turned out nicely. In the fall of 2012, Norma attended her 50th high school reunion in Elberton, Georgia. Over the years, Norma has maintained her affiliations with various organizations, including the city of Bowie Education Committee, MSEA, Delta Kappa Gamma, and church. Following retirement, she joined the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA), where she served as president from 2014-15. Her other activities have included participation in Book Clubs in Bowie and Columbia, MD. (She has read all of Jodi Picot's books, beginning with "House Rules".) Norma belongs to three theater groups that perform at the Bowie Playhouse. She holds season subscriptions to all three, as well, as to the Clarice Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Maryland. (She loves live theater!) Norma has bought a time-share in Massanutten, VA, and only wishes she had done so sooner, as she enjoys the time she spends there. As a new activity, she has been learning and playing Bridge. She enjoys attending plays and shows with a senior group. She also participates in art classes, memoir writing, and water aerobics. After retiring, Norma found she needed to fill her time with activities - and it certainly seems that she has succeeded in doing just that!

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact jannettewundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324 (Bowie)



MSCHF RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc., (MSCHF) is seeking nominations of senior citizens for induction into the Hall of Fame. Nominees who are selected for induction into the Hall of Fame will be presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon that is held in October. The process begins in February of each year and ending on April 30, Nominees must be residents of Maryland, age 65 or over, who are active volunteers, and who have made an outstanding contribution to improve the lives of others in their community. It is the goal to have 100% participation by all Maryland counties and Baltimore City, but your assistance is needed. Please consider nominating a qualified senior citizen from PGPSRA. Nominee qualifications and nomination procedures are included in the nomination form. If you have questions, please send an email to mschf1@verizon.net or call 410-332-5193. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30. We had two honorees last year, Bonnie Brose and Charline Jacobs.

Marylouise J. Isbell, President



Legislative Report

The 2016 Maryland Legislature session is underway and PGPSRA is following issues relating to education, retirees and seniors. We are encouraging our legislators to support and protect defined benefit pensions, fully funded health care options and issues related to consumer protection and safety.

Due to weather issues, we were not able to hold our January meeting, thus missing an opportunity to sign up for our Legislative Trip to Annapolis on Thursday March 10, 2016. The details are as follows:

Our trip is sponsored by Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard District 24

Date: Thursday March 10, 2016

Location: PGCEA Center

Time: Depart at 8:30 AM Return at 2:30 PM

This important trip is provided to members of PGPSRA as a way to connect with Your Legislators in Annapolis. The cost of transportation, luncheon and room fee is covered by our budget.

After our introduction and chamber visits, we will have a tour of the Governor's home followed by lunch and words to our group by county legislators and guests. We hope you will make time to participate in your Association event.

To sign up, please send an email to Sue Finan, Legislative Chair at sfinan77@gmail.com

Sue Finan Legislative Chair



MARCH MEETING

Be sure to attend!

Speaker: Scott Crosby

of

United Legal Benefits

Find out how they can help you.



PGPSRA

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

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

March Meeting

PGPSRA Reservation Form

March 23 at 11:00 A.M.

Comfort Inn, Bowie

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$29.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by March 16 mail delivery!)