

# ECHOES

Vol. LI No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2017

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

## The President Speaks



Greeting Friends,

Happy Saint Patrick's Day to our Irish members. The United States of America just swore in our 45<sup>th</sup> President, Donald Trump. The PGPSRA is comprised of members from all ethnic and religious groups from around the world. We hope our new President will be able to base the decisions he makes thinking of the long range effects they will have on our country.

The President of PGCEA, Theresa Dudley spoke with us regarding the health benefits for the retirees for the coming year. We don't have the final details but we know we are not at the table

as decisions are made. There will probably be a change in fees and perhaps a change in carrier. Mrs. Dudley assured us that she is looking out for the retirees. This is just another reason to get involved in a state committee. Thank you, Elsie for joining the Legislative Committee.

We need more members. There is strength in numbers. If each member brings in two new members we will have more leverage with our political leaders. We definitely have to be more involved in making sure our pensions are safe. Remember if they join now the payroll deduction does not start until July. It's like getting three free months free.

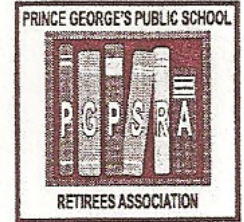
At our January meeting we enjoyed a slide presentation on the History of Prince Georges County. Our President Elect, George Denny did a fantastic job on his presentation. Many of us also bought the book he co-wrote. Please contact him if you are interested in joining the Historical Society of Prince Georges' County or purchasing a book. You will also get a discount for the book.

We still need a nomination for the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Also, Mary Isabell is trying to fill her slate for new officers for next year.

Please join us at Comfort Inn in Bowie for our next luncheon meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00. Bring a friend.

Thank you for your support .

Brenda L. Barnes, President



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## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **March** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring, will be marking her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Mrs. Thelma Boyd of Cheverly, will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 15th; Mrs. Carrie Reed of Suitland, will be having her 96th birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring, will be turning 92 years-old on the 25th.

Happy **April** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Ms. Lena Struglia of Salem, OR, will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA, will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Leland, NC, will be turning 98 years-old on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Seymour Zucker of Greenbelt, will be marking his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL, will be having her 91st birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; **Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY, will be turning 100 years-old on the 24<sup>th</sup>**; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover, will be marking her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Mary Younger of Cheltenham, will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Betty R. Bailey, one of our Emeritus members who celebrated her 91st birthday in January, retired from Laurel Senior High School in 1991, as Media Aide and Guidance Secretary. After retirement, she joined the Laurel Senior Friendship Club. She participated in many travels with them to places in the United States, including National Parks, as well as, to Australia, China, Europe, Hawaii, and Alaska. She enjoys reading and working crossword puzzles. Betty has three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Following her husband's death in 2015, she moved to Greensboro, N.C. to reside with her youngest daughter and her family.

Elise Tilyou retired in 1989 from the Office of Staff Development. She lives in Severna Park, where she volunteers within her church. Elise recently celebrated her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, so her traveling has become limited. She enjoys reading the retiree newsletters, where she notices the names of co-workers from over 20 years ago. Elise has two sons, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Twyla Minor of Suitland, retired as a reading teacher from Mattaponi Elementary. The Prince George's Public School System named her an Outstanding Educator Award recipient in 1994. Twyla is pretty much homebound due to mobility problems, but she keeps up with friends and events by phone and the internet. She enjoys reading, needlepoint, and following the Washington Nationals Baseball Team.

Lissa Lackman Messing retired in 2005 from Rose Valley Elementary. She has since relocated to Plantation, FL. There, Lissa volunteers in the Broward County Schools. She also enjoys acting in community theater productions and some commercials. She has traveled throughout Europe with her marine biologist husband for his work. Lissa has two sons and four grandchildren.

Carol Tice of Clinton retired from Brandywine Elementary in 2006. She has continued her dedication to the county school system by subbing these past 10 years at Marlton Elementary. She enjoys traveling and happily experienced her first cruise a little over a year ago. Carol and her husband celebrated their 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary last August. The Tices have three children and three grandchildren.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: [jannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetteWundrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324



## SPEAKERS FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

**George Denny**, President Elect of PGPSRA and co-author of the book, *Historic Prince George's County: A Confluence of Cultures*, regaled attendees with stories of Prince George's County prior to roads and rail roads. Prince George's County was established in 1669. Tobacco was 'King' and shipped over seas from the Marlboro Port. The Patuxent and Potomac Rivers provided transportation as did trolley lines prior to the development of roads.

Author Denny commented that it was difficult to do justice to over 350 years of history in 20 minutes. If you are interested in acquiring a copy of the book, contact Mr. Denny or the Prince George's County Historical Society (PGCHS) for a special offer to PGPSRA members.



**Theresa Dudley**, President of Prince Georges County Educator's Association (PGCEA) addressed the attendees of PGPSRA's January 25, 2017 meeting. President Dudley mentioned that there is a movement afoot to repeal HB 1107 that gave the County Executive power over the school system. Presently the Board of Education has no power to get some specific checks and balances, and to allow the Board to schools its own leadership, or have input about school construction.

Dudley also mentioned she is studying the various health care options for us. Finally, she noted that major attention needs to be paid to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) since we no longer have No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in our schools.



Remember the  
friends who were  
there for you  
when you needed  
them. They're  
your true friends

WWW.LIVE555HAPPY.COM

## REMEMBRANCE

.....

Melvin C chase	01/09/2017
Antoine Delity	01/13/2017
Virginia Eggleston	
Dottie Dunson Gholson Harrison	
Aaron Martin	
James George Panor	01/14/2017
Dr. Delores Lee Smith	01/13/2017
J. Christopher Sole	01/06/2017
Donald Wilson	
Dorothy Eaton	12/22/2016

**Jannie Goldston Chair**

## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)

Past President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

President-Elect: George Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler  
(maryakaroyall@aol.com)  
(lindabl1217@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)

Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net) and George Denny

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret22@msn.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (J3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter/Programs: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Public Relations: George Denny

Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguincl@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) and Alveta Jones  
(alvetajones@verizon.net)

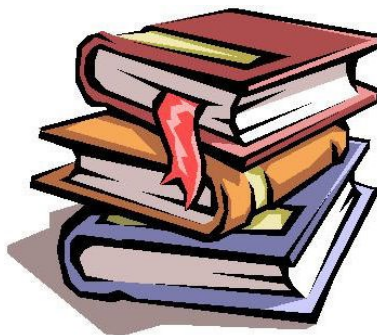
Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)

## FROM MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOLS PERSONNELL ASSOCIATION



**Harold Siskind**, MRSPA Area Director II opened his remarks by stating, "The State of Maryland is \$500 Million in the hole." He continued, telling us about the MRSPA e-market place where we will be able to log on and buy clothes and other "stuff" with the MRSPA logo. Check the web for other good info!

## MEMBERSHIP



### Membership

As you begin to declutter for 2017, PGPSRA is seeking your help. We are asking you to bring new or slightly used printed or audio books and magazines to our March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We will only accept donations of materials in reasonable condition, *i.e. neither moldy nor excessively damaged*. These items will be given to organizations that can help to make a difference in the lives of many citizens. Instead of throwing out your old items, bring them in so they can be read and enjoyed again by others. LARGE PRINT books are greatly needed.

Susan Fortgang and Mary Isabel were the winners of our two \$25.00 Door Prizes at the January meeting. Ten other members also won prizes and left with smiles on their faces. One never knows when they will miss out on something at our meetings. Several **First Timers** at our September meeting who were not present at our January meeting did not get the \$5.00 prize I had for each of them. It pays to attend! Attendance at meetings is important in order to gain information on local and statewide issues, hear interesting speakers and to join into fellowship with other members. Come out, and bring other retirees who are not members. Sharing with others makes you feel happy!

Hope to see you at the March meeting---- with donations in hand.

Charline Jacob- Membership Chair



## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

### PGCPSRA Community Services Committee

**February 2017**

Happy New Year!!! Our teams are hard at work enriching the lives of many children and families.

Thanks to all who have donated extra monetary assistance.

The selected schools have been enthused, receptive, responsive and appreciative.

Our projected project now is coats for K-8 graders.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY – 2017

##### OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$15347.14
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3028.78

##### ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	591.89
EXPENDITURES	-	1768.10

##### ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST	-	0.38
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##### TOTAL ASSETS:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	14170.93
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3029.16
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$17200.09

Edward N. Vest  
Treasurer



### VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)

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

To get the latest, quickest news.

### DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your MRSPA website  
for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

At our January General meeting, the Scholarship Committee conducted its first 50/50 raffle for the year. Reesie Thomas was the winner. Congratulations!!! Following the meeting, various members made donations to the Committee: Ruth Asbury, Brenda Barnes, Susan Fortang, Charline Jacob and Alveta S. Jones. Thanks to each person!! We will continue the 50/50 raffle at our March and May meetings and we are encouraging members to make donations to the Scholarship Committee.

It is hoped that we will have the names of our 2017 scholarship recipients to include in our May update.

Alveta S. Jones and Delores Brown, Scholarship Co-Chairs



## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) on Monday January 30th proposed legislation to allow state employees to pay into a 401(k)-style retirement plan instead of the state's public-pension system, sparking immediate criticism from unions that represent the workers. The plan would give future state employees the option of participating in a "defined contribution" program in which they and the state would each contribute an amount equal to 5 percent of pay toward individual retirement accounts.

Those who did this, would not be part of the state's public-pension Defined Benefit program, which provides guaranteed payouts at levels that depend on length of service and other factors. All state workers currently pay into that system, but only those who have worked with the government for at least 10 years are entitled to benefits from it.

Hogan excluded teachers from the proposal because the teachers union has strongly opposed such changes to the retirement system for its members.

Hogan said his proposal would free up funding that could shore up the public-pension system, which the state in recent years has struggled to fund at levels that will sustain it in the long run. "The legislation will safeguard pension contributions and create a long-term and stable structure that will meet the needs of retired, current and future state employees," the governor said.

Public-employee unions said the proposal would reduce funding for the pension system and leave participants in the proposed 401(k)-style Defined Contribution program vulnerable to stock market volatility.

Sue Finan, Legislative Chair

*Stock-Vector.com*







### *Did You Know?*

Our very own, Lorraine Johnson, writes books of poetry! She has published two and they are full of wonderful thoughts. Here is one:

### THE DOOR

A door stands between us.  
 Dare we turn the knob And lessen the space  
 That separates us?  
 A door stands between us.  
 It prevents the sharing  
 Necessary for human existence  
 And the lessons we teach each other.  
 A door stands between us.  
 Let's open it and discuss the journey  
 We each take through life.  
 Let's open that door together.  
 Let's enjoy the celebrations,  
 Climb the mountains,  
 And visit the valleys of life.  
 Let's open that door together.  
 Let's trust each other  
 With the secrets and the stories  
 That unite us in life's community.

### **PGPSRA Reservation Form**

March 22, 2017 at 11:00 A.M.

#### **Comfort Inn, Bowie**

(at Routes 301 and 50)

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$30.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **(We need the count by the March 15 mail delivery!)**

#### **Plated Hot Lunch**

Chicken Marsala and Fresh Garden Salad and Vegetable

Apple Pie a la mode

Coffee, Iced or Hot Tea

## PGPSRA

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Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



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**We're on the web!**  
[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)

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### Next Meeting

**March 22, 2017**

**Comfort Inn, Bowie**

**11:00 a.m.**



May your blessings  
outnumber  
The shamrocks that  
grow,  
And may trouble avoid  
you  
Wherever you go.

Irish Blessing