

ECHOES

Vol. LII No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2018

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



Greetings PGPSRA Members,

The winter of 2017-2018 has been a challenging one weather-wise, with temperatures plunging and rising in a seemingly willy-nilly fashion. Many of our members have been dealing with illnesses, falls and other issues, but have remained steadfast in their determination to persevere, as evidenced by the effectiveness of PGPSRA activities in which they engage.

At the January General Meeting we were pleased to have Quinn Patterson, President-Elect, deliver a very informative presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen. For the March 28 General Meeting, to be held at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, we will receive tips on preventing falls in older adults from Chiso Oboite of the Maryland Department of Aging. We will also welcome a representative of the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, who will highlight the Millionaire's Club, a complete financial literacy program designed to teach leadership and entrepreneurial skills to students in selected public schools.

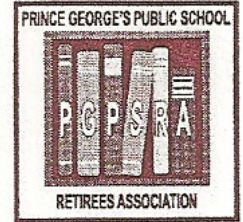
PGSPRA committees continue to work hard on your behalf. The **Community Service Committee** interacts with several schools to assist their neediest students with food, clothing, school supplies and more. The **Scholarship Committee** is working to identify qualified applicants for our scholarship program. The **Legislative Committee** has already scheduled our visit to meet State Legislators in Annapolis for Thursday, March 8, 2018. Our **Senior Outreach Committee** is seeking ways to help members who are unable to attend meetings, but who want to stay involved in what we do. Our **Travel Committee** is booking reservations to see the musical "Ain't Misbehavin" at Toby's on Oct. 10, 2018. The **Membership Committee** seeks your help in attracting new members to help us with all of our activities. This year's membership theme is "Each One Reach Out and Bring in One New Member." If you attend meetings and bring someone with you, you will be helping us to fulfill that goal.

Our volunteers also plan our programs, publish our ECHOES newsletter, maintain our website, and liaise with the Board of Education regarding our benefits. Early indications are that the transition to our SilverScript prescription plan to has been relatively smooth. We hope you will report issues you may have as they arise.

If you want to learn more about PGPSRA, we encourage you to visit our redesigned website at www.pgpsra.org . If you want to know more about the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, please visit that website, www.mrspa.org .

As you can see, there are many activities underway to improve your life as a retiree. We hope you will join us in the coming months to make PGPSRA an even stronger, more vibrant organization.

George D. Denny, Jr.
President



Inside this issue:

President's Report	1
Bits and Pieces	2
Senior Outreach Committee	2
Meeting Dates	4
Officers And Chairs	4
Treasurer	5
Legislative Committee Membership	5
Community Service Rembrance	6
Senior Retirees Birthdays	9
Reservation form for Lunch	9



BITS AND PIECES

Happy **March** birthday wishes to some of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 1st; Mr. Daniel Chase of College Park will be having his 91st birthday on the 10th; Mrs. Thelma Boyd of Cheverly will be marking her 94th birthday on the 15th; Mrs. Carrie Reed of Suitland will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 24th; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be having his 93rd birthday on the 25th.

Happy **April** birthday greetings to several other Emeritus members: Ms. Lena Struglia of Salem, OR. will be marking her 95th birthday on the 2nd; Mrs. Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA. will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 7th; Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Wilmington, N.C. will be having her 99th birthday on the 12th; Mr. Seymour Zucker of Greenbelt will be turning 92 years-old on the 15th; and Ms. Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 21st; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover will be having her 93rd birthday on the 25th; and Mrs. Mary Younger of Cheltenham will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 27th.

Hattie Nalewaja of College Park, retired in 1991 from J.Enos Ray and Ridgecrest Elementary Schools. Hattie spends time each year in Florida, where she celebrated her 90th birthday last October. She now has limited vision, but continues to enjoy yard work, church activities, and visiting with friends. After retiring, Hattie worked as a Global Travel volunteer, and was fortunate to travel to the Greek Isles, Austria, Bavaria, Poland, Alaska, Venezuela, and on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Fatima, Lourdes, and Garabandal). Hattie is the lone survivor of a family of eleven children. She has relatives, whom she enjoys visiting in Minnesota, her birthplace. In College Park, she lives with her life-long friend, Patricia Griggs.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324

Senior Outreach Committee

During the Xmas holidays the Committee mailed seventy five holiday greeting cards to our Emeritus members. These are members over 90 years of age. Cards were also sent to members who are ill or homebound. We receive these names by other members who send their names to the committee. We have in return received several cards and pictures of appreciation.

Unfortunately, several of our members have passed away. We still would like to hear from you if you need a ride to a meeting or just want to keep in touch.

Our future plan is to have a greet and meet with members who are not able to come to the general meetings. We hope to arrange this activity when it is warmer. The time and place will be sent to you later. We Hope to see you there.

Jayne Johns & Brenda Barnes, co-chairs



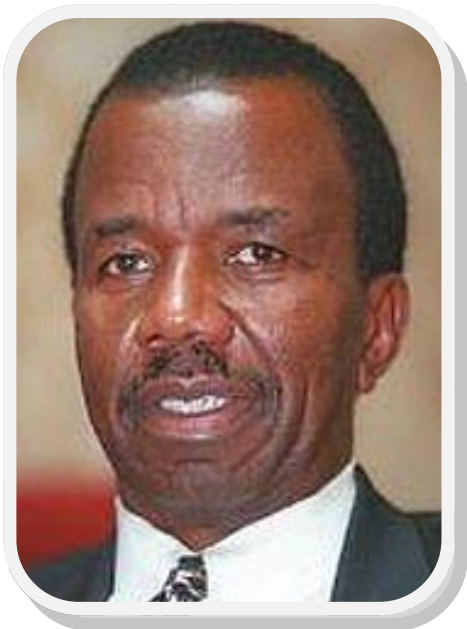
Two Maryland Legislators – former educators – Retiring

The Maryland General Assembly is losing two long-serving Democratic leaders at the end of this Legislative Session: Senator Ulysses Currie and Delegate Carolyn Howard. Both were Prince George's educators before retiring to take on their current work supporting the health and welfare of all Marylanders. Both have served on numerous Legislative Committees as members and Chairs.

Senator Currie was born in Whiteville, North Carolina. After serving in the Army, he received degrees from North Carolina A & T State College and American University. He came to Prince George's County, where he taught special education, became a principal, and served as Director of the Head Start Program. He entered politics as a Delegate in 1987 and moved to the Senate in 1995. He lives in District Heights, and is the Senator for District 25

Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard was born in DeLand, Florida. She attended Florida A & M University and Bowie State College. She came to the Prince George's County School System to serve as Director of Federal Programs, and she served on the State Board of Education in the late 1980's. She lives in Mitchellville, and is the Delegate for District 24.

Senator Currie



Delegate Howard



March Programs

ESFCU Millionaire's Club

and

Chiso Oboite from the Department of Aging

"Preventing Falls in Older Adults"

Stanley Tweedy



Stanley has been studying watercolor painting in her retirement. She has taken classes and has worked on her own to advance her skills. At the January meeting, she brought some lovely paintings....some portraits of our members! We all loved them!

If you want to share your hobby with the group, please contact Bonnie Brose or Norma Martof so that we can arrange to have a table at the meeting for you to "set up".



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

Past President/Nomimating: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)

President-Elect: Quint Patterson (ipatter2@gmail.com)

Recording Sec.: Nicole Dias (nicoledias134@gmail.com)

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

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

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)

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

Bylaws: Marylouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

Comm. Service: Ethel Brown (202 285 5524)

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

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret22@msn.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

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

Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

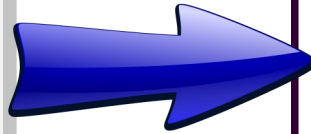
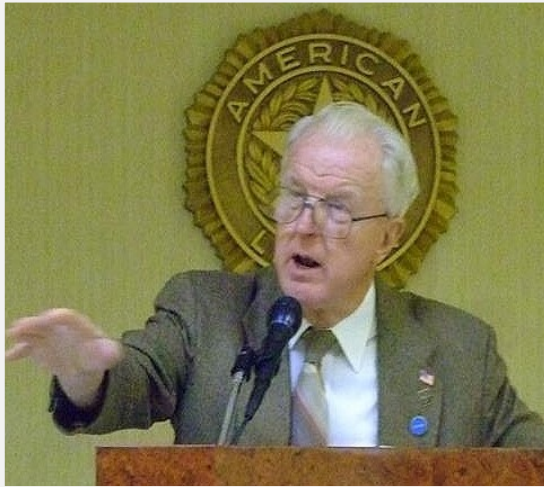
Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) & Brenda Barnes

Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Board	General Meeting
Sept 8	Sept 27
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Jan. 3	Jan. 24
Mar. 7	Mar. 28
May 2	May 23



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL ANNAPOLIS TRIP

There are 40 enthusiastic members signed up for the trip!
There is still time, if you wish to join us on the waiting list.
Contact Sue Finan at: sfinan77@gmail.com.

The Governor has indicated a wish to save a \$50 million budget savings by reducing the mandated budget payments to our pension system.

WE NEED TO BE HEARD

SEE YOUR LEGISLATORS AT WORK!

Treasurer's Report—January

OPENING BALANCES:		
CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$ 9853.15
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2030.14
ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:		
RECEIPTS	-	
		3195.52
EXPENDITURES	-	
		734.96
ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:		
INTEREST	-	0.26
CLOSING BALANCES:		
CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	12313.71
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2030.40
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$14344.11



PGPSRA To Host MRSPA Annual Meeting

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA) has the honor of hosting the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Annual Meeting and Awards Program on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at the Comfort Inn in Bowie.

The annual meeting will include awards to association members from all over Maryland.

As host of the annual meeting, members of PGPSRA are requested to serve as guides for attendees, work at the registration table, and generally help to facilitate the smooth operation of the event, which is well-attended. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

If you are willing to help that day in any capacity, please contact George Denny, PGPSRA President, at 301-641-3147, or by e-mail at george.dilden@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Do you have house insurance in case a problem occurs at your home? Car insurance if your car has a problem? Health insurance if you are ill or need to stay healthy? We know most of us have all of these that we pay quite a bit of funds for each year even though we HOPE not to have to use them. We have a low cost product to help keep your pension coming in at the same amount each month. If you are reading this you have paid your yearly dues to MRSPA/PGPSRA for this product but many of your former co-workers are not supporting this product. They may not know that MRSPA lobbies in Annapolis each session to keep out PENSION system strong...yes I said PENSION. If they don't pay the small amount (\$60.00) dues this year they could one day be faced with not getting the funds to pay the home,car,health insurance costs. One issue you can give them to encourage them to become paying..supporting members of MRSPA/PGPSRA.

Many of you live out of the Forrestville, MD area so you don't get to attend our meetings and thereby miss out on the delicious food, treats, fellowship, hobbies members share, guest speakers , 50/50 ticket sales---over \$50 dollars won at January meeting and last of all the three (3) \$20.00 door prizes given at each meeting. Happy to give the names of Maryclaire Dunlap, Courtney Pringle and Lillie Artis our November Door prize winners and our January winners Vera Davis, Catherine Booker and Ida Patterson. Thanks Ida for donating your funds to our Scholarship Fund. Some student in MD will benefit from your gift. In March there will be two \$20.00 door prizes...the third will be split into 4 \$5.00 prizes.... 4 members who bring a new member to the meeting can win these.

I know many of our members have ideas on improving our meetings....please share them with us..there is no way of saying they will be used but --WHO KNOWS? Wouldn't you feel great to see that a suggestion you gave was used? This is YOUR organization, not just the officers, we need all of us working together to make this an organization any retiree of the BOE would feel proud to be a member.

Hoping to hear from you or see you at a meeting soon.

Also remember, EACH ONE REACH OUT AND BRING IN ONE NEW MEMBER is our aim for 2018.

Charline Jacob- Chair
M.Isbell- F.King- I.Woodley -Committee Members

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Committee is thankful for all of your continued support! So far, all projected projects are moving along nicely. The needs at our schools are diverse and each year brings new challenges. This year, we are helping one family with 12 children!

Five seniors have been selected from Friendly High School and we will be helping them with the end-of-year costs. Other "teams" are helping with uniforms, food baskets, school supplies, coats, hats, gloves, and eraser boards.

Through your love and devotion, we are looking toward another productive year.

Again, thank you.

Ethel L. Brown, Chairperson

202 285 5524





DISCOUNTS!!

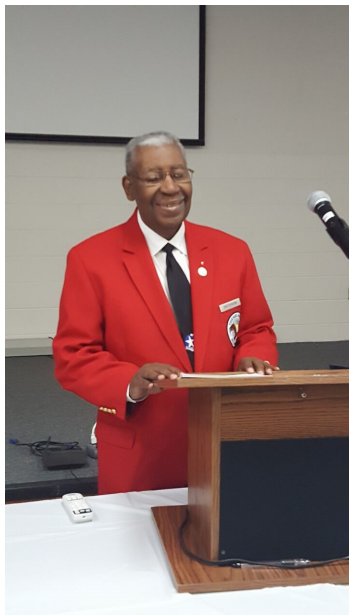
Check out **Abenity** on Your MRSPA website for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!



The Tuskegee Airmen

Our President-Elect, Quinn Patterson, spoke to us at the January meeting about the Tuskegee Airmen. He told us some of the history of these brave flyers and told us how their story is being kept alive by chapters today. To know more, contact Quinn or visit the College Park Airport. The museum there is a Prince George's County treasure.



VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www. MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

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

To get the latest, quickest news.





My trip to Ethiopia

by Jan Sullivan

(retired Wheatley Sp. Ctr. Autism Specialist)

For almost three weeks I lived in a sleepy African town where traffic hold-ups were caused by camels and donkeys and entertainment might be watching an escaped goat being chased down the main street or watching a colorful parade of people in local dress going to church on a Saint's Day festival. It was hard to believe that for centuries the town was the hub of the mighty Axumite empire, which was almost as powerful as Rome around 300 AD. However, we saw remains of monumental stellae, (some four stories high) and ancient tombs and mighty throne bases everywhere we went to remind us of Axum's past.

I first heard of the Ethiopian town of Axum when my husband, Dwight, retired and was put in touch with the group Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) by a friend he had known in the Peace Corps. This nonprofit group, funded primarily by Ethiopians in the USA, aims to support refugees in this country and development projects in Ethiopia. ECDC was in the process of building a library/ community center in Axum and Dwight was invaluable to them because of his engineering skills. He soon became the "go-to" person for any questions they had regarding building plans, building materials etc. For six years he had been visiting the project at least once a year. As it neared completion, I was finally able to be of use too.

My friend, Nancy, and I had taken on the project of the finishing touches for the Children's section of the Library. In the previous months, we had helped with collecting donated children's books and ordering child-appropriate materials. Finally came the exciting moment when we were able to see the space for ourselves and begin to put up the décor! Axum library/community center was far more than we had imagined. It was an attractive three-story building with an auditorium, a computer room, small reading rooms and a large space for the adult books. There were offices and meeting rooms on the third floor and best of all (for us) a spacious, light-filled room downstairs for the children. We couldn't wait to unpack all the boxes waiting for us!

In the next few days, we washed and disinfected many donated toys, sorting them into durable ones to keep and others to give to local families. Dwight helped us with placement of the bookshelves and we started sorting the approximately 2000 donated children's books. As we worked, we got invaluable help from a lovely young local volunteer from the University of Axum named Marta. With her translating for us, we bought locally made baskets from the basket market under a huge tree in the central square and we found woven rugs and colorful umbrellas in local shops. All these were used to give local flavor to the decorations. A local painter helped us to paint a giant tree around the wild animals we glued on the walls and, as he was finishing, a small troupe of monkeys came by and were peeking in the windows looking as if they wanted to climb the tree!

Shortly before we left, we invited two families and their children in to "test out" the Children's section. They loved the literacy section we had set up, where they could write on Etch- A-Sketch toys and a big white board we attached to the wall. The kitchen toys were a success too and the toy trucks were a big hit. One mom had a lovely moment reading to her daughter. We realized that many children in Axum have very few toys, so the toys will be the first attraction. We hope that, over time, these will bring families back to enjoy the books and all the other resources the library/ community center has to offer.

REMEMBRANCE

- Banks, Rebecca
- Barnes, Floyd 12/14/2017
- Byrd, Rose
- Ellis, Savannah Joan 12/23/2017
- Howie, Mary Jo 12/03/2017
- Kimbrough, Carolyn Elaine 10/12/2017
- Kurfman, Pat 06/08/2017
- Larkin, Jr., John Charles (Jim) 12/27/2017
- Maurer, Dawn 12/29/2017
- Stallings, John Graham 01/17/2018
- Stevens, Helen Y. 11/24/2017
- Underwood, Harriet P. 01/13/2018

Jannie Goldston, Chair



Come Join Us!



PGPSRA Reservation Form

March 28, 2018 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 **\$30.00** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the Mar. 21 mail delivery!)**

Heart Smart Buffet
Broiled Salmon, Grilled Chicken, Vegetable Saute, Island Rice and Dessert Fruit Bowl
Coffee, Tea (iced and hot) included

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

Next Meeting

March 28, 2018

Comfort Inn, Bowie

11:00 am

