

# ECHOES

Vol. LIII No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2019

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

### THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS!

“Happy 2019!” We have been blessed with a new set of blank sheets in which to write. How will your message differ from last year’s? We are witnessing a new year complete with new opportunities and goals to be accomplished, both individually and collectively. Here’s hoping that your new year will include plans to assist our Association’s move to the next level of success and accomplishment.

We are still endeavoring to stay connected. I hope that you were able to attend at least one meeting since this year began. Is your paper clip included/connected with ours for the MRSPA President’s Meeting on March 13h?

Charline L. Jacob, Membership Chair, and I attended the Membership Workshop in Frederick, Maryland on Thursday, January 24th, on a rainy, foggy, and dismal day. Even so, the workshop was worth the two-plus hour drive it took to arrive at our destination. Charline will have additional information to share with you at our next membership meeting.



Ethel Brown has unselfishly served the Community Service Committee since 2004, with eight years as its chair since 2011. She has garnered an impressive list of accolades for this committee at both local and state levels as well as in the Public Schools of Prince George’s County Public School System, her committee members, and the Association. We will miss her but we wish her well as she travels to her new home in New Haven, Connecticut to begin a new journey of activities.

Courtney Pringle will assume leadership of this committee. We look forward to Courtney’s continuing the exemplary service this committee has always given.

Our association was pleased to welcome our newly elected County Executive Angela Alsobrooks at our January 23rd meeting. Mrs. Alsobrooks was enthusiastically received. She provided the membership with information about her plans for restructuring our school system and making it more relevant and responsive to the needs of Prince George’s County students and citizens.

We are grateful to Jannette, our former legislative Chair, for Mrs. Alsobrooks’ participation in our meeting and that of newly elected delegates at the November meeting.

PGCEA President Theresa Dudley brought greetings to the membership.

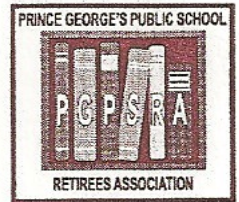
If you have not signed up for our visit to Annapolis on March 7th, please contact Sue Finan, Legislative Chair, and make your intentions known.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Maryland Association of School Personnel will be held on May 8, 2019 at the Comfort Inn in Bowie, Maryland.

BottomLine’s Know –It-All Calendar for 2019 has some suggestions for enjoying your new blank sheets. I thought some of them were worth sharing:

1. Draw on a regular basis. This may improve the connections among brain regions associated with resilience.
2. Do at least an hour of exercise weekly. It will lower the risk of developing depression.
3. Change “idle” time into productive time. Take vacations; get up early’ visualize your plans and challenges using a notebook, dry-erase board or calendar.

(cont’d on page 9)



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## MEMBERSHIP

Gela Brooks, Carl Lancaster and Melissa Zentz won our door prizes . Patricia Clover-retired from Laurel HS and Dolores Tilghman -retired from Charles Herbert Flowers were first timers at our January meeting.

I attended an MRSPA/ Area 2-Membership meeting in Frederick, Md along with our President Lorraine Johnson. Information from this meeting will be shared with you at the March meeting. Hoping you will attend the meeting. Retaining and gaining members is important for our organization to survive. Come out and learn how you can help.

Hopefully, you and your family survived the winter weather of January, enjoyed the Super Bowl and February holidays and we will see you at the Comfort Inn later this month.

**Charline Jacob, M. Isbell and F. King**  
Membership Committee

## F.Y.I.

*MRSPA is planning a Lobby Day in Annapolis on in March and will be asking local associations to participate. MRSPA will send out a notice through the local presidents about the date and time.*



## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

Past President/Nomimating:

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

President-Elect: George D. Denny

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: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

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

Historian: Don Conway (**donconway5@icloud.com**)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.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 (penguinCI@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

### March Speaker



Nicole Slaughter, Esq. will speak on an important subject....”Don’t Die in Maryland Without a Will”. Something important for all of us to consider.



### In Remembrance

Barth, Dr. Edward	07/19/2018
Ford, Elinor V.C..	12/16/2018
Hutchins, Barbara R.	12/10/2018
Messina, Ernest W.	01/26/2019
Powell, John(Jack) W.	01/15/2019
Robinson, Dr. Rita	01/18/2019
Tuccinardi, Joyce	12/12/2018

Jannie Goldston, Chair

### Meeting Date Change!!

**May’s meeting date has been changed.**

WE WILL MEET

**May 15, 2019**

**Comfort Inn, Bowie**



**PGPSRA Community Services  
Chair Moving Out of State**

Ethel L. Brown, long-time chair of the PGPSRA Community Services Committee, has notified the organization that she will be moving out of state.

The committee, under Ethel's leadership, has helped to provide food baskets, school supplies, small clothing articles, toiletries, coats and shoes and other special school needs to over 2,000 economically-challenged students and family members in selected elementary schools in Prince George's County. The committee also works with five high school students each year to offer matriculation fees and program assistance provided by PGPSRA.

Ethel has also volunteered as a pediatric aide at Greater Southeast Community Hospital, served as a new teacher mentor at Bowie State University, and was Minority-Affairs Co-Chair for Prince George's County.

In 2018 Ethel was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

PGPSRA will sorely miss her outstanding service to our organization and our community, and wish her well in her new endeavors.



Hello Everyone,

I am Courtney Pringle, a retired teacher since 2004, who immediately understood the importance of joining PGPSRA ASAP.

I chose to work with the Community Service group and have been with them since 2004.

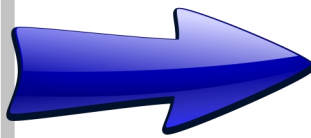
I am now standing in the gap as Chairman of the Community Service group since the resignation of our illustrious Chairman, Ethel Brown, who is leaving the area.

I have worked as Ethel's side-kick since 2011 when she assumed Chairmanship.

I shall strive to continue the great work Ethel began August 2018 and concluded in January 2019.

The hardworking team of Community Service persons and I will work to bring our mission to a positive closing in June.

I ask that the Association continues to support the work we do with contributions and help as we go forth this year.



### TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY

#### OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$11459.57
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83

#### ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	772.56
EXPENDITURES	-	1665.70

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

#### CLOSING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	10566.43
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$10595.26

Thank you.

Edward N. Vest

### 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.



County Executive Alsobrooks with our 90+ members.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

County Executive Alsobrooks was the guest at the Prince George's Delegation meeting in Annapolis on January 11, 2019. She told of her priorities: education, both classroom and building construction, and universal pre-k, and then, referred to the Kirwin Report, saying there is casino money, and many aspects of the report should be implemented without hesitation. Ms. Alsobrooks wants to see more physical activity in schools, along with, nutrition classes. Ms. Alsobrooks plans to be in Annapolis every Monday at 6 p.m. to speak with any legislators, who have questions about how her office and the county can work together on specific projects.

On January 25, 2019 the Delegation guest was Dr. Monica Goldson, CEO, Prince George's County Public Schools. Dr. Goldson emphasized the need to retain quality staff in the schools by providing a pay scale that is competitive with surrounding areas. She stressed the need for increased safety in schools, reduced class size, pre K in all schools, funding for school renovations and new construction and addressing the needs of the whole child to facilitate greater success.

**Remember to sign up for our Legislative Trip to Annapolis on Thursday March 7, 2019. We leave PGCEA at 8:15 and return at 2:30. If you haven't already signed up you may do so by emailing [sfinan77@gmail.com](mailto:sfinan77@gmail.com)**

Sue Finan, Chair

[sfinan77@gmail.com](mailto:sfinan77@gmail.com)



### New Member Recruitment Incentive!

Earn a \$10 gift card for each **NEW MEMBER** you sign up as a **DUES DEDUCTION** member.



This allows automatic renewal, so no membership interruption while

saving trees , time , and postage  !

Write your name on the membership application, as recruiter.

Return the completed application to:

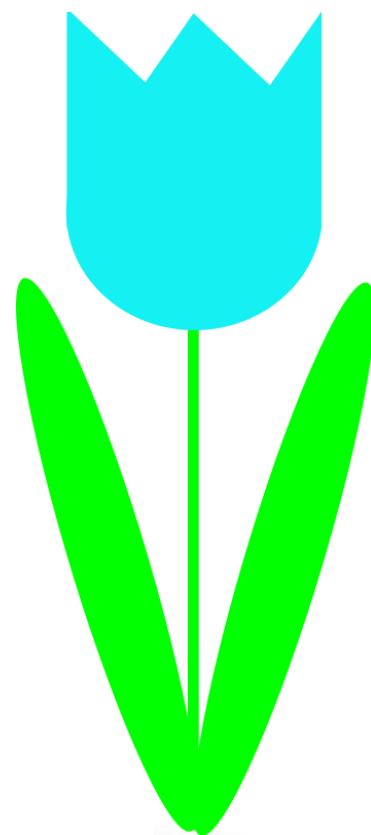
**MRSPA**

**8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A  
Odenton, MD 21113**

**Questions:** Email MRSPA at [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org) or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517



**Connecting. Protecting.  
Making a Difference**





## Bits and Pieces

Happy **March** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: **Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring will be having her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>**; Mr. Fred Novak of Baltimore, will be celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro, will be marking her 91st birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Daniel Chase of College Park will be turning 92 on the 10<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Thelma Boyd of Cheverly, will be 95 years old on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Carrie Reid of Suitland, will be celebrating her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring, will be marking his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **April** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Ms. Lena Struglia of Salem, OR. will be having her 96th birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA. will be celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring, will be marking her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; **Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Wilmington, N.C. will be turning 100 years old on the 12<sup>th</sup>**; Mr. Seymour Zucker of Greenbelt, will be having his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Catherine Brooks of Aquasco, will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be marking her 95th birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; **Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY. will be turning 102 years-old on the 24<sup>th</sup>**; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover, will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Mary Younger of Cheltenham, will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lynda Mullins of Alexandria, VA. retired from Crossland High School as a business education teacher in 2003. Sadly, she lost her husband, George, last January, just after they had celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. George also retired from Crossland High School as a social studies teacher. After retirement Lynda spent three years working part-time as an office administrator at a local church and doing some other volunteer church work. The Mullins enjoyed many trips together that included England, Scotland, Alaska, and various places in the states. Lynda continues to enjoy spending time with their son in Chattanooga and daughter and son-in-law in Calvert County. She and George enjoyed pleasant times on the family farm in Ohio with family and friends, where they caught fish in the farm pond and relaxed in the country air. The Mullins family includes 27 nieces and nephews, along with multiple great-nieces and great-nephews.

John Riedesel retired from Gwynn Park High School in 1992. He lives in the quaint Chesapeake Bay town of North Beach, MD., where he is active in North Beach Union Church. John is a volunteer at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, and volunteered for 18 years at the Calvert County Nursing Center. He also belongs to the "Scribblers-on-the-Bay" writing group that meets at the North Beach Senior Center. John loves to travel by car, motorhome, train, and air. He has traveled all over the U.S. and Canada by Amtrak and ViaRail, and has taken three trips to Europe. John has two sons and three grandchildren: Daniel and Hannah, who attend the University of Maryland, and Rebecca, who is a high school student. He hopes the Lord keeps him around long enough to be a great-granddaddy!

Judi Spintman retired as a Counselor from DuVal High School in 1994, and moved to Naples, Fl. a few years later. There, she volunteered as Manager of her Temple gift shop for 15 years. She enjoys playing bridge, reading, and cooking. Judi has an amazing cruise record! She has taken over 20 cruises, sailing to the Caribbean, Hawaii and 27 countries all over the world! Judi has one son, Michael, who owns Showman Furniture Stores in Crofton and Waldorf, one daughter, Amy, who lives in San Diego, and two college-graduate grandsons, who live in Florida and work in solar technology.

Almena Robbins of Upper Marlboro retired in 2005 from Apple Grove Elementary. She then worked for Home Depot for the next 11 years as a phone answerer and greeter. She has served on her church Usher Board for 40 years, including in the capacity of Director and the President of the Sunbeam Usher Board. Almena has been a Sunday School teacher and Vacation Bible School teacher, worked with the Mission Department of her church, and was active on the church's 6:00 a.m. "Prayer Line". She also was a volunteer teacher of the Junior Achievement Program to students at Apple Grove and Patuxent Elementary Schools. Almena volunteered with the Prince George's County 4-H Program for 28 years (in the Clinton office). Her joyful volunteer work now, is caring for her 13-month-old grandson. In her free time, she enjoys hand and line dancing and going on trips with other senior citizens in the county. Almena is looking forward to celebrating the 50th reunion of her Fairmont Heights High School graduation in June. The class is planning to celebrate in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Her daughters, Joi and Anika, and grandson, will be accompanying her on this special trip.

Bonnie (Curry) and Bill (Dr. William) Brose both retired from Prince George's County Public Schools: Bonnie from Kenmore Middle School in 1997, and Bill from Pointer Ridge Elementary in 2007. Neither has spent their retirement years relaxing! Both spend several hours a week as volunteers at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Bonnie has served as President of the Volunteer Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra (VCNSO), has participated with several activities, committees, events, and is currently Chair of the Welcome Center, while Bill is also an active member of the VCNSO - repairing instruments for the Instrument Petting Zoo and assisting children in playing them, and has served as a "Head Usher" at the Kennedy Center for some years. Bonnie has been very involved with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) at the national, state, and local levels, US Daughters of 1812 at all levels, and Daughters of American Colonists on all levels. She is a past member of the Alumni Board of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and presently is a member of the Dean's Advancement Council for the College of Education and Educational Technology. Both Bonnie and Bill are active members of PGPSRA and MRSPA. Bonnie is a Past President of our local organization and current ECHOES Editor and Program Chair. She is also a Past Chair and current member of committees of MRSPA. Bill has been very involved in PGPSRA and MRSPA as a talented/valued webmaster for several years. He also has many other interests including travel, reading, cooking/baking, making auto harps, golfing, serving as a Board member of the Eclipse Orchestra in Alexandria, and as a bow-tie designer and maker extraordinaire! Bonnie and Bill travelled to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands in October, when they celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They travel to and from Florida often to visit with their daughter in Kissimmee. Other children and grandchildren live in North Point, FL. and North Carolina. Bill is planning to travel to Australia for a golf tournament in April.

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

**MAMA MIA!! – 8/28/19**  
**BODYGUARD- 10/30/19**

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Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Trip  
Toby's Dinner Theatre  
59 Symphony Road  
Columbia, Maryland

**PAYMENT DUE (MAMA MIA 8/8 & BODYGUARD 10/10)**

Buffet served from 10:30 am – 11:45 am  
Show starts at 12:30 p.m.

**Cost - \$95.00 per person**

**Make checks out to PGPSRA**

Mail to: Addie L. Martin, 9706 Frank Tippet Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Please call the phone number below if you need wheelchair accessibility.

Questions? Call: Addie Martin (301)868-6081

Bus will leave from the PGCEA Building on 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD at  
9:00 am



# The Bylaw Passed!



President Speaks, (cont'd)

4. Learn to manage email rather than responding to it immediately. Examine it at least three times per day.

5. Have a transition ceremony to mark the end of one plan of your life and start of another.

Special thanks to President-Elect George Denny for preparing our Bylaws to reflect the changes voted on at our last meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the comfort Inn. Enjoy your Valentine's Day celebration and stay safe.

Lorraine Williams Johnson, President



## PGPSRA Reservation Form

March 27, 2019

**Comfort Inn, Bowie MD**

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

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

Amount Enclosed **\$30** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **(We need the count by the Mar. 20 mail delivery!).**

In Honor of all the Irish in New York

The New York Deli Buffet

Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey, Corned Beef, Salami, Pastrami and Assorted Chjeeses

Potato Salad or Pasta Salad

Cole Slaw, Rolls, Lettice. Tomato, Onion, Pickles, Italian Sub Relish, Pepperoncini

Tea, Coffee, Dessert Cakes

## PGPSRA

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

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 27, 2019**  
**Comfort Inn, Bowie**  
**11:00 am**

