

# ECHOES

Vol. LIV No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2020

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

### From the President:

As we approach what is commonly referred to as March Madness, we can draw inspiration from one of college basketball's most successful coaches.

*"I get a group of people who are talented to commit to excellence and to work together as one. That's where it starts. Different talents, same commitment."* Mike (Coach K) Krzyzewski, Head Coach, Duke University

That is what makes PGPSRA so successful. We have many retirees with diverse talents who are committed to excellence, and who use their talents, training and experiences in furthering the educational, social and civic growth of our community.

That is where you come in. Every successful team must have excellent bench strength. We continue to seek members willing to step up to leadership positions, both as officers and as committee chairs. All of our committees need volunteers to help them with their work. Please offer your help at the next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at the Comfort Inn, 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie. You will find the registration form elsewhere in this issue.

We hope that each of you will commit to attend meetings and to bring at least one person with you to our luncheons. There truly is strength in numbers, and we need to grow in order to provide greater service to our members.

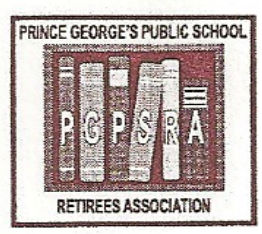
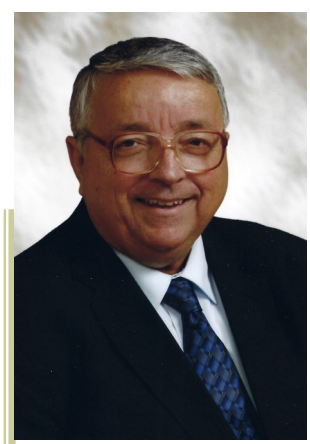
Attendees at the January General Meeting voted to increase our annual dues by \$5--from \$15 to \$20--beginning with the 2020-2021 organization year. It has been about 10 years since we last raised our dues. This increase will help to bring our ailing budget back to health.

Please see Sue Finan's Legislation Report regarding our unit's trip to the State Legislature in Annapolis in March. The trip is free, including transportation and lunch, and we hope you will sign up to attend. The Scholarship Committee is receiving applications in preparation for awarding scholarships to students in May. The Community Service Committee has been working to meet the needs of students at Surrattsville High School and four elementary schools. Our volunteers spend a lot of time visiting the schools and providing supplies and clothing.

As always, you can find back issues of the ECHOES newsletter and lots of other valuable information about PGPSRA by visiting our website at [pgpsra.org](http://pgpsra.org).

For MRSPA members, March is NOT about madness. Rather, it is about GLADNESS that we have opportunities to serve our members and our community. We hope you will be infected with that gladness.

Thanks and best wishes,  
George D. Denny, Jr., President



President's Report	1
Officers/Committees	2
Trips	3
Membership	3
Community Service	4
Remembrance	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Legislative Report	6
Bits and Pieces	7
Scholarships	8&9
Meal Reservation	9



### Donations Help Support PGPSRA Scholarships, Community Service Activities

The PGPSRA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools and to graduates who plan to pursue a career in education. Last May PGPSRA awarded two \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors and provided over \$6,000 in clothing, school supplies and other necessities to students and families in several elementary schools. We are seeking donations for these two committees so that they may continue their great work. All donations come with our thanks and appreciation. Please forward your donation as follows:

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

Enclosed is my donation (check payable to PGPSRA) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Service Committee  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Committee

**(If you choose to split your donation between the two committees, please feel free to do so by placing the amount for each after the names of each.)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

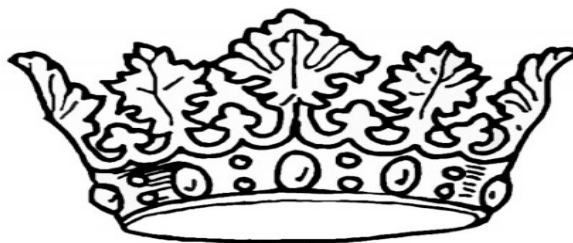
*Please include this form with your donation.*

### Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

- President: George D. Denny  
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)
- President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
(obridge@verizon.net)
- Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson  
(johnson6608@comcast.net)
- Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)
- 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: Maryann M. Royall  
(maryakaroyall@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: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)
- Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net),  
Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda



**Sight and Sound Theatre**  
 Road Ronks, PA  
 June 12, 2020  
**Queen Esther**



Tickets: \$130 per person

Mail payment to:

Addie Martin  
 9706 Frank Tippet Road  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
 Questions: Call (301)-868-6081

Departure: 8:00 a.m. - Equestrian Center-Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Arrive: 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Shady Maple Smorgasbord  
 Arrive: 2:00 p.m. - Sight and Sound Theatre  
 Depart: 6:00 p.m. - Sight and Sound Theatre  
 Arrive: 9:00 p.m. - Equestrian Center -Upper Marlboro, MD

### Membership Committee

We continue to strive to increase our membership. At our January meeting we had 2 first time attendees to pay their financial dues to join MRSPA. They are: Laura Crosby-Berry, and Frances Johnson. We extend a hearty welcome to both of them. As of 1/6/2020 our current total membership is 1265. We have 75 Emeritus Members. Below is a list of New Members: Efiog Okon Akpm, Mildred Harley, Beatrice V Leonard, and Michann D. Williams. Just a reminder that January dues deductions will take place on January 31, 2020..

Maryann M. Royall, Chairperson

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service members continue to be busy serving their respective schools such as Glassmanor, Forest Heights, James R. Randall, J. Frank Dent Elementary Schools and Surrattsville High School.

I would like to speak about my visit to Surrattsville High School on January 17, 2020. It was a lovely experience. Finding a parking space designed for visitors available in front of the building, ringing the doorbell to enter along with a high school pupil who directed me to the office to see Ms. Bell, the office manager, was indeed a smooth transition. The building was void of noises and students at 9:00 am. My wait time in the office was short and sweet. The Principal, Ms Lamont, came out to greet and direct me to her meeting room. I met with the principal, the twelfth grade student councilor and the book keeper. It was wonderful to see these three positions held by women.

We had a harmonious meeting and agreed on acceptance of the program that PGPSR/Community Service would provide and a willingness to participate in a timely fashion to the requirements.

I walked away feeling good about my visit and the young women who work tirelessly along with the staff of Surrattsville High School to keep their students working toward achievement and success.

PGSRA members: I can not thank you enough for your monetary support given to the Community Service Program. Please continue to help and remember to write Community Service on the purpose line of your checks. Thank you.

Courtney Pringle, Chairman

### Remembrance

Cecil Holbert Frazenbaker	July 23, 2019
Dr. Carol Holland	Nov. 13, 2019
Jessica I Clark	Dec. 9, 2019
Agnes Waters	Dec. 10, 2019
Pat Griggs	Dec. 10, 2019
Sonya Hamilton	
Ella Ruth Hooper	Dec. 17, 2019
Dr. Joseph Harrison	Dec. 27, 2019
Ulysses Curry	Dec. 27, 2019
John Latzo	Jan. 21, 2020
Farry Ernest	Jan. 22, 2020
Jayne Johns and Linda Butler, Chairs	

**Many Thanks** to PGCEA President Dudley for attending our January meeting and sharing her thoughts





TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2020

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$15313.80  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.83

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 876.69  
 EXPENDITURES - 1710.67

ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST - 0.01

BALANCES AS OF JANUARY 31, 2020:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$14479.82  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.84  
 TOTAL ASSETS - \$14606.66

Thank you.

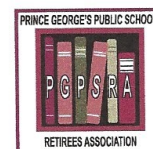
Edward N. Vest, Treasurer



### PGPSRA Members Can Save a Tree, Help Our Budget



You can save a tree and help our budget by allowing PGPSRA to email the ECHOES newsletter to you as opposed to sending it to you in the mail. Not only will you get it faster, but you will also get it in **COLOR!!** Please help us by sending the following information to Bonnie Brose at [bcbrose@comcast.net](mailto:bcbrose@comcast.net)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

At the January 31, 2020 Prince George's Delegation meeting, we heard from Dr. Charlene Dukes, Prince George's Community College President, Dr. Monica Goldson, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO and Dr. Alvin Thornton, Board of Education Chair. Each guest emphasized the need to fully fund Education in Maryland at all levels. President Dukes wants to see a continuation of the great gains made in curriculum and professor salaries as well as in social services to assist low income students. Sadly, Dr. Dukes will be stepping down as President in June and our own PGPSRA; Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms is chair of the search committee for the next President.

Dr. Goldson and Dr. Thornton both spoke about community schools and wrap around services for students. These services include academic, social and emotional support as well as physical and mental health care.

Two very talented students also spoke about their experiences and the opportunities afforded them. Jeremy, a senior at DuVal HS, will have 30 college credits along with a high school diploma when he graduates. He will continue his education in the field of aerospace. Vanessa, a senior at High Point HS, will attend The University of Rochester with a full scholarship in Political Science.

I urge you to check out both PGCC [pgcc.edu](http://pgcc.edu) and PGCPs [pgcps.org](http://pgcps.org) for the latest information in Prince George's County education.

Attending a delegation meeting during legislative session keeps you informed first-hand about our county. For those of you who signed up for our March 5, 2020 Annapolis trip, you will be hearing from me shortly.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair



**Come to the March Meeting  
And Meet  
Kriste Kidd**

Certified Senior Advisor to discuss with us our options as we need to identify personal preferences for our future needs.

**She has the answers!**



## Bits and Pieces

Happy **March** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: **Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring will be 101 years-old on the 1<sup>st</sup>!**; Mr. Fred Novak of Baltimore will be marking his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Daniel Chase of College Park will be having his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Thelma Boyd of Cheverly will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup>; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be marking his 95<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 celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA. will be having her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring will be marking her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; **Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Wilmington, N.C. will be turning 101 years-old on the 12<sup>th</sup>!**; Mr. Seymour Zucker of Greenbelt will be observing his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Catherine Brooks of Aquasco will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; **Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY will be turning 103 years-old on the 24<sup>th</sup>!**; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover will be observing her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Alice Myers of Brandywine will be celebrating her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Shelley Sarrin of Silver Spring retired as a special education teacher from James H. Harrison Elementary in 2008. She then re-created herself as a ceramic artist/pottery teacher, working with children, adults, and seniors (ages 80 to 101). She loves this work and has created a Facebook page “Shel’s Studio” to show some of her ceramic pieces. Shelley recently featured pottery pieces at the Botanical Gardens Chia Exhibit and the International Miniature Show at Strathmore Mansion in Rockville.

Eartha Sanders retired from Potomac High School in 2015. She is an active volunteer at First Baptist Church of Temple Hills, where she serves on the Hospitality Committee and teaches Vacation Bible School. Eartha has enjoyed travels to China, South Africa, Iceland, and several of the states in the U.S.A. She and her husband, Alvin, live in Temple Hills. They celebrated their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past December. The Sanders have a son and two daughters, with the youngest being Eartha’s “trip planner” and inspiration. They find their four grandchildren a joy.

Maryann Royal lives in Clinton, having moved to Maryland after graduating from Bennett College for Women and teaching for three years in North Carolina. She spent some time at Houston Elementary Magnet School for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. until taking a “buy-out” in 1995, after which she became a reading teacher at James Ryder Randall until her retirement in 2008. Maryann loves to cook – experimenting with new recipes and trying them out on family and friends. Baking is her specialty, with her lemon pound cake being supreme. She is an avid reader and belongs to a Book Club of 20 years duration. Maryann is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (is a Golden Soror – and visits sick Sorors). She is very active in Allen Chapel AME Church, where she serves as a stewardess emeritus, a former usher, a member of the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group, a Scholarship Committee member and Past-President, and participates in the Prison Ministry. She substitutes at Randall Elementary, as well as, sponsors a student-family – providing school supplies, clothing, food, and tutoring. Maryann is also an involved member of PGPSRA and is currently serving as our Membership Chair. Sadly, Maryann lost her husband in 2013. She is the proud mother of two adult sons and three adult granddaughters, one of whom is a Junior at Bowie State University, majoring in Business Ed. and Marketing, and she has developed her own line of specialty soaps and plans to sell them in the BSU Book Store. In her free time, Maryann loves to travel to different states and go to the beach in North Carolina. She considers the most fun to be when her brother, sisters, and their families (four generations) all rent a big house on the Carolina Beach, near Wilmington.

To contribute to “BITS & PIECES” contact Jannette Wundrow: [JannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:JannetteWundrow@comcast.net) or by phone: 301-390-7324



A  
Word  
From  
A  
Scholar-  
Ship  
Winner

Jordan Badger  
16425 Pleasant Hill Court  
Bowie MD 20716  
December 3, 2019

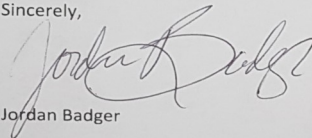
Mrs. Barnes  
12814 Staton Court  
Upper Marlboro MD 20774

Dear Mrs. Barnes:

Just as I finally settled in here at Towson it's time for final exams, time is really flying. I wanted to take a few moments to thank you and the Retired Teacher's Association once again for granting me the \$500 scholarship. I used the money towards my tuition bill. I am truly grateful for the scholarship because here in college every penny is a help.

I wish you and the entire board a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Jordan Badger





## Scholarship Committee News

Happy New Year Members! The Retired Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. The Committee members have reached out to the Counselors at the County High Schools to make sure they are aware of the scholarships. Students must be currently enrolled in Prince Georges County Schools. The applications can be found on **the PGCPS.ORG** website or our website **pgpsra.org**.

At all general membership meetings we have a 50/50 raffle to raise money. We continue to accept donations to assist us in helping our students reach their educational goals. This school year we were able to give two \$1,000.00 and two \$500.00 scholarships. Please read the letter of appreciation we received from Jordan Badger formerly of Bowie High School now attending Towson University.

Again thank you for the generous donations given so far this year. Please join us in May for our scholarship luncheon at Comfort Inn, Bowie.

Brenda Barnes Co-Chair



### PGPSRA Reservation Form

March 25, 2020

**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 **\$35** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by the March 18, mail delivery!).**

The buffet will include: Broiled Salmon, Grilled Chicken Breast, Vegetable Saute, Island Rice and a fruit bowl for dessert. Coffee, tea and iced tea.

## 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](http://www.pgpsra.org)

---

The word "Spring" is written in a blue, hand-drawn, chalk-like font. A red tulip flower with a green stem and leaves is positioned above the letter 'i'.

### **Next Meeting**

**March 25, 2020**

**Comfort Inn, Bowie**

**11:00 am**

**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.