

ECHOES

Vol. LV No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2021

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

From the President:

"March is the Month of Expectations, the things we do not know." *(Emily Dickinson)*

Well, we've come this far together, and spring is soon to arrive. Our expectations for March are that everyone will be vaccinated against Covid, no one will get sick, we all will be able to hug our loved ones, peace will find its way to our country, and equity for all will become the norm. Why not think big??

The January General Meeting had a lively turnout and attendees were treated to a very informative presentation by Attorney Nicole Slaughter on the consequences of not having an estate plan in place. She also highlighted some of the misconceptions of probate administration.

The Community Service and Scholarship Committees still find ways to carry out their duties, while the Membership Committee continues to work on growing membership. The Legislation Committee has kept up to date with the goings-on in Annapolis, participating in January's Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Workshop and contacting our legislators.

Looking ahead to our March 24 General Meeting, the Program Committee has been planning yet another informative session that you won't want to miss. The meeting will be held virtually, but please do not let that stop you from "attending." We are getting better at conducting our virtual meetings, and members are getting better at learning how to navigate the Zoom process.

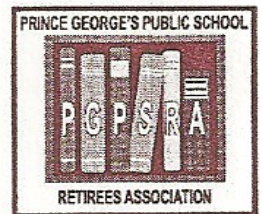
PGPSRA collaborates with MRSPA to insure that due diligence is given to protecting our retirement pensions. We hope that you will encourage retirees you know who are not members to join PGPSRA and MRSPA as soon as possible. We need your support.

You can read past editions of ECHOES and find a lot of other valuable information about our local by visiting pgpsra.org. You will also learn a lot about MRSPA by visiting their website at mrspa.org.

March is a new opportunity to create a new ending. I hope the ending you create for yourself will bring you peace and happiness.

Meanwhile, I ran across the following five tips on what to avoid when engaging in an exercise program. 1. Don't jump to conclusions. 2. Don't fly off the handle. 3. Don't carry things too far. 4. Don't dodge responsibilities. 5. Don't push your luck.

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



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COMING IN MARCH

4th.THERESA DUDLEY



We are pleased to let you know that Teresa Dudley, President of PGCEA will be joining us at our Zoom meeting on March 24th. She will be able to share with us the status of our schools. We are all concerned about how the students and staff are doing during this time of COVID.

With all that is happening, we hope she will not be called away, but, as you all know.....this is a time when the best of plans need to be adjusted.

See you there!

Inspiration for March

#1 - Do not pray for a lighter load, but a stronger back. Norma Howland

#2 - Yesterday is a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, but today is all the cash you have. Martin Domokos

Dan Williams, Chair

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 (homevest552@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: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin

WANDA TWIGG

The Executive Director of MRSPA will be joining us on March 24. Wanda will be able to give us insight on how things are on the state level.

All of the counties in Marland have been effected with closings and each has a different story.

Be sue to be there! Don't forget to let Dr. Vest know you plan to Zoom in.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gents:

Our Prince George's Local has been trying very hard to attract new members. Without new people here, we cannot continue to bring you the services that we are committed to have to keep our retired school employees informed and in touch with the school system and friends that we have had the privilege of being a part of for so many years.

In the last year, we have lost 60 members for a drop of 4.75% in membership. Our total is now 1,204. It was not that long ago that our membership was over 2,000.

On the positive side.....we have 38 new members! We are looking to them to bring in "new blood" for our meetings, officers and committees. Please contact anyone that you know who should belong and have yet to do so. The cost is well worth it. Now that we are one with MRSPA, our services are combined for all members also. If you want more information, check out our website www.pgpsra.org or the state's website, mrspa.org.

Invite any prospective members to our March virtual meeting.....contact information is in this newsletter.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

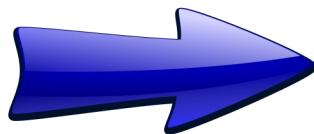
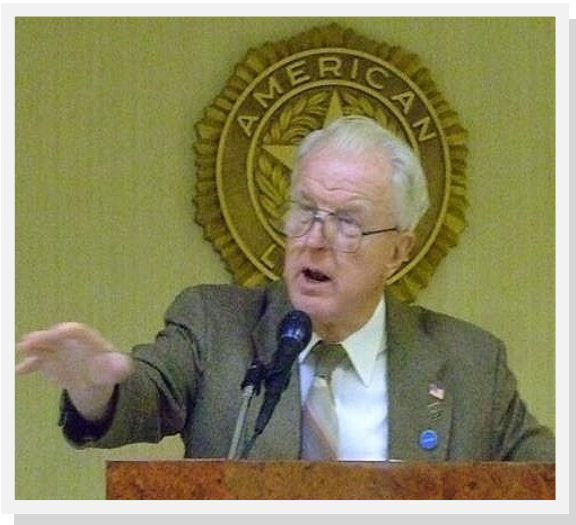
We are Striving!

Community Service members have been hard at work trying to connect with their selective schools in the southern area for the 2020-2021 school year. It continues to be a daunting task but we persevere. Thanksgiving baskets and gift cards have been given thus far to needy families. We anticipate giving out 6, \$500.00 stipends to Surattsville High School students in need of matriculation fees assistance.

We appreciate the monetary assistance our PGPSRA members continue to give to the Community Service group. We look forward to our general body meeting these fine young men and women who aspire to continue their education beyond high school.

Happy, happy New Year, to everyone.

***Courtney Pringle
Chairman***



TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2021:

OPENING BALANCES :

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$29940.40
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	280.26
EXPENDITURE	862.02

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF JANUARY 27:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	29358.64
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 29485.50

Dr. Edward N. Vest, Treasurer

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Report March 2021

On January 26, 2021 George Denny, Norma Martof and I attended the MRSPA Legislative Day via Zoom. MRSPA President George Denny, opened the meeting at 10:00. Our first speaker was R. Dean Kenderdine director of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. Mr. Kenderdine spoke about the strength of the pension fund. At this time, the system is 72.9% funded with monies coming from employer and employee contributions as well as long term investments totaling close to 61 million dollars. The pandemic has had no financial impact on the fund. At this time, the Governor's budget has been submitted and is set to pay in full the contribution rate certified in November 2020.

Mr. Kenderdine encouraged members to register with the SRPS to review your personal retirement information. The web site is mysrpsusers.sra.maryland.gov

Tammy Bresnahan, AARP representative, reported on the AARP 2021 Legislative priorities with strengthening regulations and certification of staff in assisted living facilities as one important goal. Other goals include paid family and medical leave, the regulation of prescription drug cost and overall improvement of internet access for all. Discussion included testimony from two members about their heart wrenching experiences with loved ones in assisted care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebecca Ruff from the Maryland budget office noted that MD received 30 billion dollars in COVID-19 relief funds and that the fiscal budget seems to be reasonable.

MRSPA's Virginia Crespo encourages members to visit the MRSPA website to view the Legislative priorities and to stay fully informed.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

Bits and Pieces

Happy **March** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: **Mrs. Edna Dragoo of Silver Spring will be 102 years-old on the 1st**; Ms. Ruby Gross of Brandywine will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 1st; Mr. Fred Novak of Baltimore, will be marking his 93rd birthday on the 2nd; Mrs. Margaret Fleet of Brandywine will be turning 91 years - old on the 8th; Ms. Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be having her 93rd birthday on the 9th; Mr. Daniel Chase of College Park will be turning 94 years-old on the 10th; **Ms. Carrie Reid of Suitland will be reaching her 100th birthday on the 24th**; and Mr. Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be observing his 96th birthday on the 25th.l

Happy **April** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Ms. Lena Struglia of Salem, OR. will be celebrating her 98th birthday on the 2nd; Ms. Frances Herbst of Ashburn will be marking her 97th birthday on the 7th; Ms. Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring will be turning 93 years-old on the 10th; **Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Wilmington, N.C. will be observing her 102nd birthday on the 12th**; Mr. Seymour Zucker of Greenbelt will be having his 95th birthday in the 15th; Ms. Guyneth Eigenbrode of Cheverly will be reaching her 91st birthday on the 17th; Ms. Catherine Brooks of Aquasco will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 19th; and Ms. Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL will be marking her 95th birthday on the 21st; **Mr. Gordon Wilson of Paris, KY will be 104 years-old on the 24th**; Mrs. Alveta Jones of Landover will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 25th; Mrs. Alice Myers of Brandywine observing her 92nd birthday on the 26th; and Mrs. Mary Younger of Cheltenham will be turning 96 years-old on the 27th.

Frances Fairall taught for 31 years in Prince George's County, first at Laurel Elementary, then retiring in 1997 from Bond Mill Elementary. She sold her home in 2007 and moved to a senior condominium in Ellicott City, where she likes living. Frances has kept in contact with some fellow staff members with whom she worked; one even lives in her building. Ed Johnson, a former county teacher and principal, who retired in 1995, lives nearby, and is well-known as a local Ellicott City artist of paintings. Frances enjoyed travelling for several years, before losing her travel-buddy, Bernard.

Les Banghart served 20 years in the Navy, retired, and then began teaching math at Crossland High School - and 19 years later, retired for a second time from Laurel High School. Les lives in Columbia, MD. Sadly, his wife, Helen, has passed away. However, they enjoyed many travels together to Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia (Helen's home country). Eighteen years ago they adopted their grandson, Bryce. After Helen's passing, Les became a single grandfather, who has traveled with Bryce to the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Iceland, and Bermuda. For several years, Les and Bryce have enjoyed cruising around the Chesapeake Bay on his 30-foot Sea Ray, and summers found them camping at Assateague Island. Les has one son, two daughters (one of whom lives in Bermuda), and three grandchildren.

Georgianna Carr Cameron retired from Margaret Brent Elementary, then was rehired as Cafeteria Assistant at Cooper Lane Elementary before completely retiring in 2012. She has enjoyed trips to Williamsburg and Victoria, Virginia. She serves as a Deaconess at Isle of Patmos Baptist Church in Washington. Georgianna's hobbies include crafting, listening to gospel music, shopping, and spending time with family. She and her husband, Eric, live in Hyattsville. Georgianna has two daughters and a son-in-law. Sadly, she has lost her other daughter, Iko Kim Carr, who was employed by the county school system.

Lena Dowden Cuffy retired in 2004 as a Pupil Services/ Pupil Personnel Worker. She has been enjoying life since, participating in water aerobics, learning how to swim, learning to play the piano, working with her sorority, and attending church. Lena was a caregiver for her mother until her passing one year ago. She hopes to do some traveling in the future. Lena and her husband, Fred, live in Upper Marlboro. They have one son and one grandson.

Nancy Joy Allchin of Greenbelt retired from Parkdale High School in 2013. She continues her work as an educator, teaching ESOL classes over the internet through Zoom, to university students abroad, who have no other access to higher education. Nancy Joy volunteers for Baha'i Faith in Prince George's County, as coordinator of the children's class program, which strives to create community among families of all faiths and ethnicities. These classes are currently conducted over Zoom.

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SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

It's new year and we can't wait to hear from our high school seniors planning to go into the education field. Hopefully this year we will have more success reaching applicants after reaching out to Principals and High School Counselors. We have four members on our committee and all contacts are done electronically due to the pandemic. All applications are due electronically by March 12th. The website is pgscholar.org. The applications can be found on our website, pgpsra.org or on pgscholar.org.

Our newest endeavor has been greatly successful. We had 12 applications for our \$300.00 mini-grants for school staff. These staff members applied for the grants to support school based- projects which they sponsored with their own out of pocket funds. The committee selected a teacher from Potomac High, Woodmore Elem, Ridgecrest Elem and Green Valley Academy. We plan to recognize the winners at our May Business Meeting which will be on Zoom. Please join us.

Our Committee wishes to thank all of our members who have sent donations to our Committee this year. We have received almost \$1,000.00 which helps us to extend our scholarships to more students.

Stay Safe and join us at our next general business meeting in March.

Brenda Barnes, Scholarship Chairperson

Bits and Pieces cont'd:

Lucy Duff retired in 2010 from the Prince George's Memorial Library System. Since retirement Lucy volunteers with the Master Naturalists organization, and advocates for peace, justice, and environmental activism. She enjoys travels to her native West Virginia. Lucy and her husband, Robert Woodruff, live in Lanham. They have one son, Jessie, who resides in Arizona.

(*** Editor's Note: Many of you may not know, but the school system and library system employees are in the same Md. State Retirement & Pension System.)

To contribute to "BITS & PIECES" contact Jannette Wundrow: jannetteWundrow@comcast.net or by phone: 301-390-7324



SAVE A TREE

Help our Budget!!

Send in your name and email address.

We will email your Echoes to you!

You get it faster

And

In Color!!

Let me know: Bonnie Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net



REMEMBRANCE

Cecilia Savoy 12/25/2020

Daniel Hogan 10/26/2020

Clarence McIlvaine 03/26/2020

Robin Boyer 10/29/2020

Joseph Parker 12/26/2020

Constance Powell 01/04/2020

Patricia Young 12/24/2020

Delores O'Brian 01/09/2020

Helen Levies Anecillo 08/19/2020

Thomas Jackson 01/17/2021

Dorothy Hall 01/12/2021

Joan Silver 01/05/2-21

Jayne Johns and Linda Butler, Co-Chairs

RESERVATIONS FOR MARCH

Our March 24 General Membership meeting will be held virtually, again. We have done quite well with these and hope to have many of you able to join us for this one.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than March 17 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 24th. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting

Ed Vesthomevest552@comcast.net

Hopefully this will all settle down in a few months and we can hope to be able to be face-to-face again. It's been difficult to not be able to relax in a room full of friends for such a long time. We want to have everyone safe, though. So, bear with us for a while longer.

See you in Zoom land!



PGPSRA

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

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.

