

# ECHOES

Vol. LVII No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2023

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

We all know the adage about Maryland weather. It says, "If you don't like the weather in Maryland, just wait a few hours and it changes." That was certainly true for the months of January and February. We could feel comfortable wearing boots one day and sandals on the next day.

The January General Meeting had a great turnout including three new members. We welcomed Mr. Howard Burnett, the Senior Advisor to Dr. Monica Goldson, CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools. Mr. Burnett gave a powerful update regarding teaching and learning in the school system. We thank him for spending time with us and for working hard for all the students and staff in the Prince George's County Public School System.

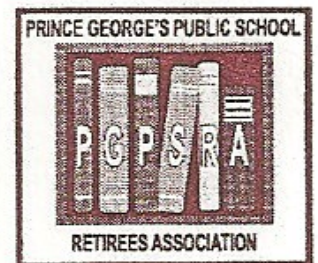
I want to thank Dr. Bill Brose for setting up and maintaining the PGPSRA website. He has done a great job of keeping quality and updated information so that we can keep up with our goals and function. Please visit our website at [www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org) to stay updated.

As we move forward in 2023, I encourage you to remember that what you get from our organization will depend a great deal on what you bring to the organization. I am looking for a volunteer to become our Sunshine Chair. If you are interested, please call at (301) 580-1062 or email me at [obridge@verizon.net](mailto:obridge@verizon.net). The Sunshine Chair will keep in touch with any member who is sick, hospitalized, in a nursing home, or in need.

There are still many opportunities for members to play an active part of PGPSRA. If you are interested in serving on the Membership, Scholarship, Community Service, Legislative, Benefits, or Trip Committee, please contact me. Finally, I thank all of the officers for doing all the things that keep this organization running.

I look forward to seeing all of our members at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting. Don't forget our slogan, "Each one, bring one or two."

Oretha Bridgewaters-Simms, 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 turning 104 years-old on the 1<sup>st</sup>**, while Phyllis LaBorwit of Bowie will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 1st; Mary Nicholas of Lanham will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Margaret Fleet of Brandywine will be marking her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be reaching her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Daniel Chase of College Park will be turning 96 years-old on the 10<sup>th</sup>; Jannie Goldston of Washington, D.C. will be having her 91st birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; **Ms. Carrie Reed of Suitland will be observing her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>**; and Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be celebrating his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **APRIL** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Eva Smith of Ft. Washington will be observing her 92nd birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; **Ms Lena Struglia of Salem, OR. will be having her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>**; Frances Herbst of Ashburn, VA. will be marking her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring will be reaching her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; **Mrs. Dorothy McGinniss of Wilmington, N.C. will be 104 years -old on the 12<sup>th</sup>**; Guyneth Eigenbrode of Cheverly will be turning 93 years-old on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Jean Young of Absecon, N.J. will be marking her 91st birthday on the 18th; Catherine Brooks of Aquasco will be observing her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; Alveta Jones of Landover will be having her 98th birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mary Younger of Cheltenham, will be reaching her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Stafford Conley, Sr. of Bowie has retired twice! He first retired from the U.S. Army as a Major in January 1992, then retired a second time in 2018 after serving as the Math Chair and Testing Coordinator from Tall Oaks High School. He now volunteers as a Deacon at Shiloh Baptist Church in Landover, and is a Trustee and member of the Board of Directors for The Holley Graded School Historical Site in Lottsburg, Virginia. Stafford has enjoyed travels to Ghana, West Africa, Bangkok, Thailand, Austria, and vacationed in Virginia Beach. Sadly, Stafford's wife is deceased. However, he has two sons, Stafford Conley, Jr., who is a dentist, and Shawn Conley, who is a lawyer, along with two grandsons, Shawn Wesley Conley, who is a freshman at GW University, and Stafford Conley, III, who is scheduled to graduate from the Chesapeake Math and Science Academy South with his high school diploma and Prince George's Community College degree in IT this June.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, some H. W. Wheatley Special Center retirees: Linda Wiskochil and Julie Orgettas of Alexandria, VA, Godelieve Bartley of Mitchelville, Micki Ellis of Bowie, Debbie Hawn of Davidsonville, Joan Ahrens of Berwyn, Carol Fagnani of Warrenton, VA, and Jannette Wundrow of Annapolis enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the historic Reynold's Tavern & Inn in Annapolis.

\*\*\*\* To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [JannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:JannetteWundrow@comcast.net)





## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
(obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denny  
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

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: Vacant

Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Vacant

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor (beatignor@aol.com)

Membership: Jannette Wundrow  
(jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

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

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

Recognition: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and  
Linda Butler

Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Scholarship: Brenda L. Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)

## Membership Report

I believe we have finally succeeded in getting our Membership Roster down to an accurate count. Thanks in large part to the assistance of Julia Williams at MRSPA, who is continuing to work with us and our printer and mailer with monthly updates of new members, deaths, and address changes. Last September, when we began to re-vise our member-list, we printed and mailed 1160 ECHOES. As of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we printed and mailed 861 ECHOES. This is a drop of 299! Bonnie Brose has been helpful in reducing our mailing by encouraging 103 of our members to accept their newsletters by email. We thank those people who are using this method of receiving their ECHOES, as the post office just recently raised mailing rates - again.

We are grateful to twelve new members who have joined PGPSRA in the past two months. Sadly, we have lost a few long-time members to death. Please encourage new retirees, whom you know, to join us. **THANK YOU for your membership!**

Jannette Wundrow – Membership Chair



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

*COMMUNITY Service MEMBERS enjoyed our January 25TH General meeting. We were delighted to share information concerning what we do for those schools selected in the Southern Region of Prince Georges County for 2022-23 school year while having Howard Burnett from the Superintendent\*s office in attendance . We learned we were in tandem with what is truly happening in the schools of Prince George\*s County and as a result, we shall continue our assistance in the schools selected with vim and vigor .*

**We want to thank the General Body for contributions made to the Community Service group.**

**Courtney Pringle  
Chairman**



**Committee members pictured with PGPSRA President Bridgewaters-Sims, Lillie James, Courtney Pringle, Stanley Tweedy, and Betty Nicholson.**



### **Our speaker for the March General Meeting:**

**Council Member Edward Burroughs III** represents Council District 8 on the Prince George’s County Council. He formerly served on the Prince George’s County School Board for over ten years. Council Member Burroughs III’s passion and record of delivery are evident as he has passed groundbreaking legislation on the County Council during his short time of being elected. It is not limited to but includes legislation to decrease property taxes for seniors, the creation of a plan to provide free tuition, job training, and wraparound services for youth and adults, requirements on project labor agreements on certain projects, and securing record funding for youth programs and other County services.



Prince George's County Public Schools



**PGCPS RETIREES**

We invite you to stay connected and discover how you can continue to support PGCPS students and school communities.



Scan the QR Code to learn more!

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhzdfy5>

- MARYLAND RETIRE-REHIRE PROGRAM
- \*New Rate\**  
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
- SUBSTITUTE ADMINISTRATOR
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Questions? Contact us at 301-952-6274 | [HR.Recruitment@pgcps.org](mailto:HR.Recruitment@pgcps.org)

TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2023

OPENING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	\$36489.03
Savings Account	126.86
ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:	
Receipts	961.59
Expenditures	2783.05
NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
CLOSING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	34667.57
Savings Account	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$34794.43

Respectively Submitted,  
Edward N. Vest

**Inspirational Message**

"I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is ..... to try to please everybody." Herbert Swope, Editor, Journalist

Dan Williams, Chairman



## Necrology/Remembrance

Kathy L. Drater 12/09/2023  
 Alhen Green 12/05  
 Gerald Greenbaum 12/08  
 Johnnie Mae W. Arrington 12/10  
 Hattie Nalewaja 08/10/2022  
 Ralph E. Long, Jr. 01/07

Submitted by Jayne Johns and Linda Butler

## TRIPS

Addie Martin, your Trips Committee Chair, is making plans that have not been finalized at this time. Check the PGPSRA.org website or your emails from Dr. Vest for information. More will be available also, at our March meeting.



## Legislative Committee

Maryland Elects New Governor

Congratulations to Wesley Moore, newly elected Maryland Governor and Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor; Brook Lierman, Comptroller; and Anthony Brown, Attorney General-all firsts for their offices.

Dr. Beatrice Tignor, Legislation Chairperson

Electronic Echoes

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- It will come quicker
- You will help us save money
- You will get it in color!

Just let the editor know

Bonnie Brose—[bcbrose@comcast.net](mailto:bcbrose@comcast.net)



**PGPSRA Reservation Form**

**March 22, 2023**

**PGCEA, Forestville MD**

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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



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

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

**Please mail in your reservations in time. The caterer is doing her best to accommodate us when we call in late requests. Her costs, and ours, go up when we have to add extras at the last minute. Remember, you can always bring your own if you don't want to purchase one of our boxes.**

## PGPSRA

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7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

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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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**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.