

# ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2024

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The PGPSRA January Meeting was one of our most engaging meetings. We all agree that it's great to be in person rather than virtual.

We had an information session with the Prince George's County Education Association President, Dr. Donna Christy. She shared information regarding the status of our school system as well as education bills that will be presented during this 2024 Legislative Session.

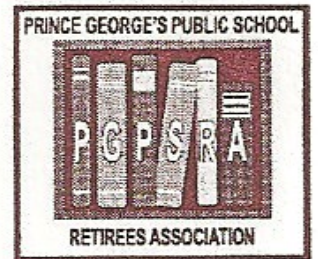
We also watched a video about Jesse Tubb, a former member of the United States Army Field Band, "Pershing's Own." He was selected as the model for the taps player statue which is located at the Arlington National Cemetery Visitor's Center.

Our PGPSRA Board Members have worked tirelessly behind the scene to provide members with informative and entertaining programming, volunteer activities, trips, scholarship awards, updated website (PGPSRA.org), and newsletters to keep members updated with information to support a secure retirement. We have accomplished a lot and hope to stay busy and productive in 2024.

May each of you be blessed with lives filled with joy, purpose, good health, and deep gratitude for the opportunity to be part of our wonderful community of retired personnel.

If you have a question or want further information about the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association, visit us at [PGPSRA.org](http://PGPSRA.org) or contact me at the email address below.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, PGPSRA President  
[obridge@verizon.net](mailto:obridge@verizon.net)



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## Echoes

Things are moving along. We have added many of you to the email list and I think I am finally caught up with the notes received.

Our costs are slowly coming down and will allow us to continue with our community service and scholarship programs. We do thank you all and hope you are enjoying Echoes in color.

If you still haven't sent me your email address or have other issues, please let me know ([bcbrose@comcast.net](mailto:bcbrose@comcast.net)).

As a reminder, you can look at all past issues on our website ([PGPSRA.org](http://PGPSRA.org)).

Bonnie Curry Brose, Newsletter Chair

### TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2024

Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$35,167.09
Receipts	752.00
Total	\$35,919.09
Expenses	1,419.87
Ending Checking Account Balance	\$34,499.22
Ending Savings Account Balance	\$126.86

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater  
Treasurer



We all enjoyed the movie!

Jesse was unable to join us for the meeting. We hope to be able to have him visit next year.



## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President and Past President/Nominating: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

Recording Sec.: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Barbara J. Atwater  
(barbaraatwater703@yahoo.com)

Corr. Secretary: Sharon Collins (Sjcollins1908@yahoo.com)

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

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

Bylaws: George Denny George.dilden@yahoo.com)

Community Service: Betty J. Nicholson  
(sonyaquattlebaun@comcast.net) and Lillie B. James  
(Ljam210@aol.com)

Consumer Ed. and Scholarships: Brenda L. Barnes:  
(blbarnes128@aol.com)

Historian: Vacant

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

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

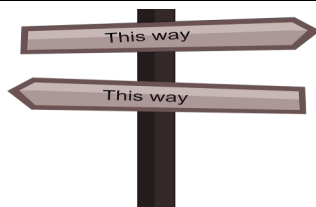
Recognition: vacant

Membership: Jannette Wundrow  
(jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

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

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

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)



## Inspiration for March

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."  
**Albert Einstein**

## Community Service

Food Baskets were delivered to Doswell E. Brooks Elementary and Francis Scott Key Elementary in December 2023.





## March Speaker

**S. Orlene Grant, President and CEO**

At this meeting we will address Elder Abuse and Fraud Prevention. Ms Grant will share information on “concrete steps to avoid scams” and how to recognize the “red flags” of elder abuse. In addition, we will present what are the most current scams in the region. Our goal is to create a safer community that is more aware and prepared to avoid elder abuse and fraud.

**SCAM  
ALERT!**

### REMEMBRANCE

Bernard Burns

Annette Stone Blake

Raymond Ewing Michael

Michael O’Connell

Wilma Asquith

Jayne Zinobe

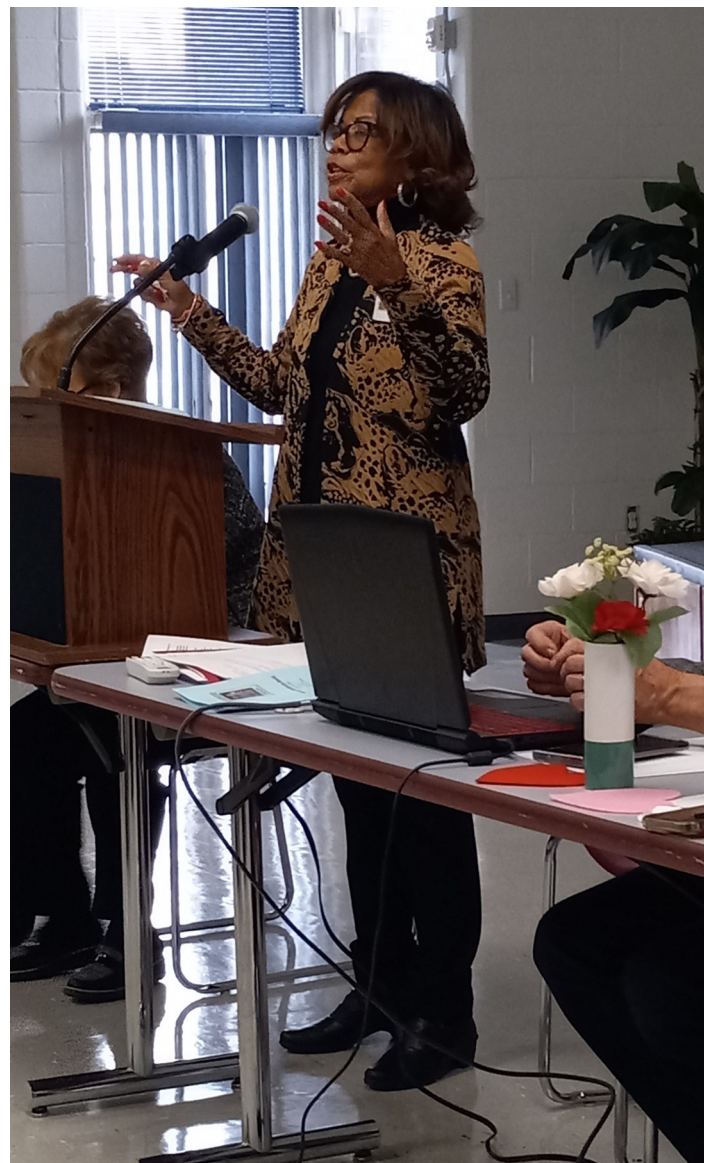
Jayne Hand

Pat Barr Harrison

John Kalie

A word to the wise is sufficient! If you have family members who have retired from the Prince George’s County Public Schools, please ask if they are aware of the life insurance the system has for them. You can even go a step further and see if your friends who lost a family member are aware of this insurance. This is insurance that was part of our retirement package.

Linda Butler, Chair





## BITS AND PIECES

Happy MARCH birthday greetings to some of our Emeritus members: **Edna Drago of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>**, while Phyllis LaBorwit of Bowie will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Mary Nicholas of Lanham will be observing her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Margaret Fleet of Brandywine will be marking her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be reaching her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Daniel Chase of College Park will be turning 97 years-old on the 10<sup>th</sup>; Jannie Goldston of Washington, D.C. will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; **Mrs. Carrie Reid of Suitland will be celebrating her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>**; and Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be observing his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Happy APRIL birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Eva Smith of Ft. Washington will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; **Lena Struglia of Portland, OR. will be celebrating her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup>**; Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup>; Guyneth Eigenbrode of Cheverly will be turning 94 years-old on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Jean Young of Absecon, NJ will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Catherine Brooks of Aquasco will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be reaching her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; Alveta Jones of Landover will be celebrating her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mary Younger of Cheltenham will be marking her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Gloria Curry's husband, Tuskegee Airman, Lt. John Curry, celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday August 2023, and is doing well.

Elsie Fletcher of Forestville retired from Capitol Heights Elementary in 2009. She was a substitute teacher for the next three years. After she lost her husband, she applied for and was accepted, as a mentor with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. She is currently in her sixth year working in the Largo Office of Consumer Protection. Elsie finds this very interesting and rewarding work. For several years she has found it enjoyable to assist her cousin preparing breakfast for Senator Joanne Benson's "202 Coalition Monday Monthly Meetings". She is also active in her church. Her travels have been limited to the DC/MD./VA area, along with trips to N.C., S.C., PA., N.Y., and GA. Elsie has one son and three granddaughters (all in their 20's).

Shirley Shugart Duvall of Upper Marlboro retired in 1992 from Brandywine Elementary as a reading specialist. Afterward, she worked with a Chinese ESOL lady to help her learn English. Shirley enjoys needlepoint, sewing, smocking, and reading. Her travels have taken her to the Mediterranean, Russia, Italy, and Central Europe. Shirley has three adult sons, three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

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



## **PGPSRA March Meeting**

**March 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**

**PGCEA Center**

**Forestville, Maryland**

We will be having our box lunches. Please let the treasurer know if you need a vegetarian meal.

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

**(We need the count by the March 20th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)**

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, 2101 Willow Switch Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-4216

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

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

Amount enclosed - \$18 for each lunch reservation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

(Remember! We need the count by the March 20th mail delivery date!)

**All members are welcome for the meetings. However, if you do not want a lunch, you are free to bring your own. We only order the requests received. Late orders make it difficult for the caterer....be kind, order as soon as you are able.**

## Membership Report

As of January 24, 2024, we have 1096 members. Though we lost several members in the fall, we have gained 15 new ones. We currently have 82 Emeritus members, ages 90 and above, with seven over the age of 100!

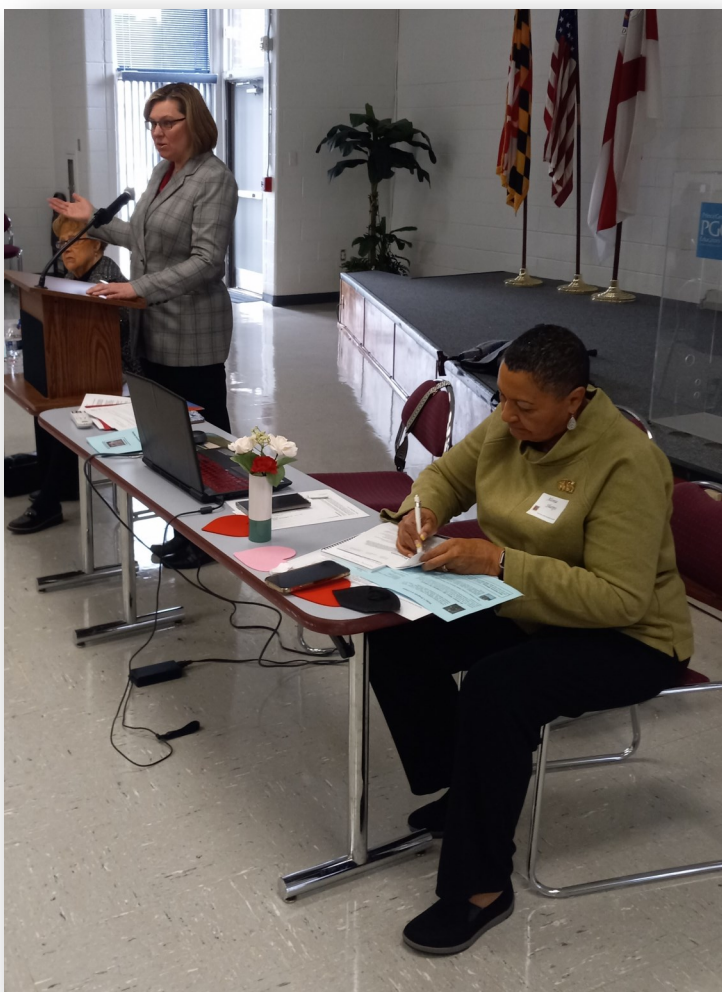
We continue to encourage all members to sign up for yearly “dues deduction” payments.

The winners of our two January door prizes were Alonia Sharps and Betty Nicholson.

Thank you for your membership in PGPSRA and MRSPA. You make us strong as the organization that works to protect your retirement. We will be reminding our state legislators of the necessity of continuing their support for our financial security during this Legislative Session in Annapolis that began on January 10<sup>th</sup> and ends on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jannette Wundrow, Membership Chair

PGCEA President, Dr. Donna Christy, updates the members as Alonia Sharps, PGPSRA Secretary, carefully takes notes.



## PGPSRA

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer  
2101 Willow Switch Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



**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 Bonnie  
Brose

To get the latest, quickest news.

