

# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXI No. 5

May 2002

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Association has been active and involved in many different things throughout the past year, and I would like to share a summary of the PGCRTA Annual Report that was prepared for the MRTA Business Meeting that will be held this month

**Meetings** - PGCRTA traditionally schedules five general membership meetings each year on the fourth Wednesday every other month. A decision was made to eliminate the January meeting this year because of weather related problems that we have experienced throughout the years. This was a one-year trial, and will be evaluated at the transitional Executive Committee meeting in June. Students from Arrowhead Elementary in Forestville presented a "Colors Routine" at the March meeting. It was obvious that the young people enjoyed performing in front of retired teachers and having lunch with us as much as we enjoyed their excitement about being there.

**Membership Recruitment** - An emphasis was given throughout the year to increasing our membership. Approximately 500 mailing labels that had been provided by the Retirement System were used to invite current retirees to become active members of PGCRTA and MRTA. On this effort alone we gained roughly 50 additional members.

**Cooperation with the School System** - We continued to be represented on the negotiating team for benefits for both active employees and retirees. The Association jointly planned and were active participants in the annual Pre-Retirement Conference for employees of the school system. The conference was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with approximately 450 attending.

**Cooperation with Active Teachers Association (PGCEA)** - The Prince George's County Educator's Association has consistently been very cooperative by

providing meeting space for our meetings, and allowing us to utilize their copying facilities. We partnered with them this year during the "Right To Read" emphasis throughout the county schools.

**Legislative Activities** - The PGCRTA Annual Legislative Day was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis. Approximately 40 members gathered in Forestville and rode together by bus in order to meet with the Prince George's Delegation, attend committee meetings, observe both the House and Senate sessions, and tour such areas as the Legislative Reference building. We also provided a luncheon for the members and the county delegation as well as their staff. On several different occasions, the Legislative Chair provided vital testimony at committee hearings that were considering bills that were of concern to our members. The Association also took a strong stand concerning the proposed merger of CareFirst BC/BS with Wellpoint Health Networks, Inc.

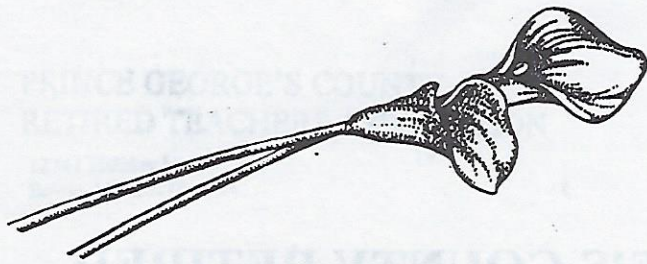
**Scholarships for County Graduates** - PGCRTA was able to continue our tradition of providing scholarships to county graduates who intend to pursue a career in the field of education. The monies for this are budgeted each year, and come entirely from the annual dues of the Association.

Robert B. Miller  
President

### ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON

La Fontaine Bleu

See details inside



## IN MEMORIAM

### MEMBERS:

Adelaide T. Binger	2-04-02
John Boyle	3-12-02
Cheryl Illigasch	2-25-02
Ann Marshall	2-23-02
Flora Schroyer	2-27-02
Doris Tucker	12-20-01
Herbert M. Wolf	3-26-02

### NON-MEMBERS:

Mary E. Bennett	1-04-02
Gerald W. Bowen	3-08-02
Edith L. Boyer	12-17-01
Cortess C. Bullock	3-21-02
Mary L. Cherowitzo	3-08-02
Leroy Collins	3-18-02
Ruby J. Dickerson	3-13-02
Randall Gardner	4-02-02
Marjorie L. Gresock	2-18-02
John S. Harvey	3-03-02
Charles J. Helms	1-28-02
Darlene M. Jennings	3-26-02
Garcia G. Johnson	3-07-02
Eugene H. Kent	3-19-02
Beatrice Mountjoy Langenegger	3-12-02
Jane B. Mann	3-06-02
Joseph Mason	11-19-01
Claudia M. Murphy	2-19-02
Gertrude M. Pasta	3-19-02
Mary R. Peterson	3-02-02
Edward Phillips	3-08-02
Ruth Vay Polston	3-06-02
Jennie F. Purdy	2-11-02
Clare P. Ruzzell	12-16-01
Judith Sheehan	3-05-02
George H. Watts	1-25-02
Grace L. Wims	12-27-01
Mable Wingfield	2-09-02

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcomed 79 new members in the membership year 2001-2002. Let's keep this up.

Sign up for dues deduction by signing the back of the membership bill you will be receiving this month. Save yourself having to write a check every year. Dues will be deducted from your July retirement check

Hope I will see you at our May meeting.

Jane Jones  
Membership Co-Chair

*The most important thing about  
a goal, is having one.*

2001 Calendar  
National Pen Corp.  
San Diego, CA

### FLORIDA 2003

Don Kiah will be hosting the February 2003 February Florida reunion. Some people have expressed interest in another cruise in addition to the luncheon as part of the annual reunion activities. The cruise would probably be not less than 4 nor more than 7 nights. Those that joined the cruise group two years ago had a wonderful time.

If you would be interested in this idea, please contact Don Kiah immediately. The amount of positive responses will determine if such a cruise will be scheduled.

Contact Don Kiah at (e-mail) [bungra@nut-n-but.net](mailto:bungra@nut-n-but.net)

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maryland General Assembly ended its annual session at midnight on April 8<sup>th</sup>, having passed a balanced budget for the coming year. Cuts were made in some programs, but money was added to others.

One of the most dramatic changes in our county was created when the legislature voted to abolish our present school board and the school superintendent's job. As of June 1, 2002, a new school board will be appointed by Governor Glendening and County Executive Wayne Curry; these appointees will hold office until 2006, when a replacement board of education will once again be elected by voters. The appointed board may choose to retain Dr Iris Metts as C.E.O., or hire someone else.

School aid was increased substantially due to expected revenue from a new 5% telephone tax on toll calls and a 34 cent tax increase on each pack of cigarettes.

As you are aware, Governor Glendening proposed holding \$65 million of the state's portion of money from our retirement/pension fund. In the end, the state contributed \$48.5 million, and set a future contribution rate of 9.4%. We're still 95% funded, but hope as Maryland's economy improves, the state's yearly contributions will increase to once again, put us at the 100% level.

MRTA was promoting legislation to add another retired teacher to the State Pension and Retirement Board, this did not even reach committee hearing stage, but it will be brought up again next year.

Health care benefits, including prescription drug costs, fared poorly this session, but our county and state organizations will continue to speak out on these issues.

Legislators approved strict conditions concerning the possible sale of non-profit CareFirst BlueCross/BlueShield to for profit WellPoint of California. These include CareFirst showing proof that the sale would be in the state's best interest and that company executives would not profit from the deal. Hearings will be publicized and held throughout Maryland over the next 16 months concerning this proposed sale. Our PGCRTA Legislative Committee voted last month to send letters to each of our 28 county legislators, voicing our objections to the sale

The good news this legislative session was passage of the proposed 2% cut in the individual state income tax.

PGCRTA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

May 22, 2002

La Fontaine Bleu  
7963 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD 20706

11:00 am Social Hour

12:00 pm Buffet Luncheon  
Luncheon reservations required  
\$16.50 per person

1:30 pm Business Meeting  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Menu

Fresh Fruit Cup  
Maryland Southern Fried Chicken  
Swedish Meatballs  
Flounder Chesapeake  
Chefs Seasonal Fresh Vegetable and Starch  
New York Cheesecake

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday  
May 15, 2002

No refunds after May 15, 2002

Send reservations with check payable to  
PGCRTA to:

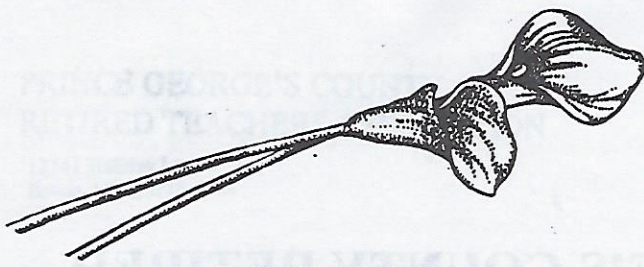
Mrs. V.W. Stuff  
12741 Holiday Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

Clip and return with your check:

Name(s)-----

Address-----

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



### IN MEMORIAM

#### MEMBERS:

Adelaide T. Binger	2-04-02
John Boyle	3-12-02
Cheryl Illigasch	2-25-02
Ann Marshall	2-23-02
Flora Schroyer	2-27-02
Doris Tucker	12-20-01
Herbert M. Wolf	3-26-02

#### NON-MEMBERS:

Mary E. Bennett	1-04-02
Gerald W. Bowen	3-08-02
Edith L. Boyer	12-17-01
Cortess C. Bullock	3-21-02
Mary L. Cherowitzo	3-08-02
Leroy Collins	3-18-02
Ruby J. Dickerson	3-13-02
Randall Gardner	4-02-02
Marjorie L. Gresock	2-18-02
John S. Harvey	3-03-02
Charles J. Helms	1-28-02
Darlene M. Jennings	3-26-02
Garcia G. Johnson	3-07-02
Eugene H. Kent	3-19-02
Beatrice Mountjoy Langenegger	3-12-02
Jane B. Mann	3-06-02
Joseph Mason	11-19-01
Claudia M. Murphy	2-19-02
Gertrude M. Pasta	3-19-02
Mary R. Peterson	3-02-02
Edward Phillips	3-08-02
Ruth Vay Polston	3-06-02
Jennie F. Purdy	2-11-02
Clare P. Ruzzell	12-16-01
Judith Sheehan	3-05-02
George H. Watts	1-25-02
Grace L. Wims	12-27-01
Mable Wingfield	2-09-02

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcomed 79 new members in the membership year 2001-2002. Let's keep this up.

Sign up for dues deduction by signing the back of the membership bill you will be receiving this month. Save yourself having to write a check every year. Dues will be deducted from your July retirement check

Hope I will see you at our May meeting.

Jane Jones  
Membership Co-Chair

*The most important thing about a goal, is having one.*

2001 Calendar  
National Pen Corp.  
San Diego, CA

#### FLORIDA 2003

Don Kiah will be hosting the February 2003 February Florida reunion. Some people have expressed interest in another cruise in addition to the luncheon as part of the annual reunion activities. The cruise would probably be not less than 4 nor more than 7 nights. Those that joined the cruise group two years ago had a wonderful time.

If you would be interested in this idea, please contact Don Kiah immediately. The amount of positive responses will determine if such a cruise will be scheduled.

Contact Don Kiah at (e-mail) [bungra@nut-n-but.net](mailto:bungra@nut-n-but.net)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maryland General Assembly ended its annual session at midnight on April 8<sup>th</sup>, having passed a balanced budget for the coming year. Cuts were made in some programs, but money was added to others.

One of the most dramatic changes in our county was created when the legislature voted to abolish our present school board and the school superintendent's job. As of June 1, 2002, a new school board will be appointed by Governor Glendening and County Executive Wayne Curry; these appointees will hold office until 2006, when a replacement board of education will once again be elected by voters. The appointed board may choose to retain Dr Iris Metts as C.E.O., or hire someone else.

School aid was increased substantially due to expected revenue from a new 5% telephone tax on toll calls and a 34 cent tax increase on each pack of cigarettes.

As you are aware, Governor Glendening proposed holding \$65 million of the state's portion of money from our retirement/pension fund. In the end, the state contributed \$48.5 million, and set a future contribution rate of 9.4%. We're still 95% funded, but hope as Maryland's economy improves, the state's yearly contributions will increase to once again, put us at the 100% level.

MRTA was promoting legislation to add another retired teacher to the State Pension and Retirement Board, this did not even reach committee hearing stage, but it will be brought up again next year.

Health care benefits, including prescription drug costs, fared poorly this session, but our county and state organizations will continue to speak out on these issues.

Legislators approved strict conditions concerning the possible sale of non-profit CareFirst BlueCross/BlueShield to for profit WellPoint of California. These include CareFirst showing proof that the sale would be in the state's best interest and that company executives would not profit from the deal. Hearings will be publicized and held throughout Maryland over the next 16 months concerning this proposed sale. Our PGCRTA Legislative Committee voted last month to send letters to each of our 28 county legislators, voicing our objections to the sale

The good news this legislative session was passage of the proposed 2% cut in the individual state income tax.

PGCRTA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

May 22, 2002

La Fontaine Bleu  
7963 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD 20706

11:00 am Social Hour

12:00 pm Buffet Luncheon  
Luncheon reservations required  
\$16.50 per person

1:30 pm Business Meeting  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Menu

Fresh Fruit Cup  
Maryland Southern Fried Chicken  
Swedish Meatballs  
Flounder Chesapeake  
Chefs Seasonal Fresh Vegetable and Starch  
New York Cheesecake

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday  
May 15, 2002

No refunds after May 15, 2002

Send reservations with check payable to  
PGCRTA to:

Mrs. V.W. Stuff  
12741 Holiday Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

Clip and return with your check:

Name(s)-----

Address-----

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## BITS AND PIECES

J. Davis went to New York the first of March, determined to act on her promise made after 9/11 to visit Ground Zero and spend money in as many places in the Big Apple as possible. Viewing the huge void where the twin towers had been and seeing all the damaged buildings that surround that space was very sobering, but reading the numerous letters, notes, and signs nearby renewed her belief in the American spirit. J. also experienced her "15 seconds of fame" while there, when she was introduced on the "Today Show" March 2<sup>nd</sup>, as the Mayor of Greenbelt.

Joyce Cowan was honored on March 2, in connection with "Women's History Month". She was one of 12 selected women over age 70, representing all segments of Prince George's County, who were feted. The celebration was held at the Doubletree Hotel, Largo, and was hosted by County Councilwoman Dorothy Bailey. At the affair, Joyce acknowledged her faith, strong family connections, and community service as ingredients to a happy, healthy, lengthy life. (We congratulate you, Joyce !)

Julia Derry is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year as a volunteer with "Oasis", an intergenerational tutoring group that works with first, second, and third graders, under the guidance of the county's "Reading Recovery" program. She also enjoys day trips with other program participants. Julia is very proud of her 5 year-old granddaughter, who lives in VA.

Barbara Martin enjoys traveling since retiring. Most recently, she went to Boxwood, CT, and Atlantic City, NJ. She is looking forward to going to Canada with her church group in August, and to Hawaii with her daughter in September.

Don Conway's wonderful spring vacation trip was in three parts. The first part was with three friends who participated in Volks Walks during morning hours in four Florida cities, and attended afternoon baseball training parks to watch the Marlins, Braves, Astros, Royals, Indians, and Devil Rays. The second part was when Don and his wife, Joyce, visited their son and daughter-in-law at their new home in Orlando. And, the third part was titled "Walking the Heart O'Dixie", during which Don and Joyce participated in a motor coach and walking tour that combined the history, culture, and scenery of the Deep South. Beginning in Orlando, they traveled to St. Augustine and Tallahassee, FL, Vicksburg and Jackson, MS, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, LA, Selma and Montgomery, AL, and ended in Atlanta, GA. Don has now

walked in 40 states and 34 capital cities!

Dawn Reeves retired as principal of Samuel Chase, and is now enjoying her free time. She does volunteer work at her church and Largo/Kettering Library. Dawn has done some traveling in the southern US, and spent the month of January relaxing in Florida.

Over 300 Prince George's County volunteers, a large percentage of whom were PGCRTA members, served as readers in the schools on "Read Across America Day", March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to all those who participated in this project !

Dennis Wick retired in 1996 as physical education teacher at Gwynn Park Middle School. Recently he and his wife, Margo, moved to a home in Martinsburg, WV, with a beautiful view of the Appalachian Mountains. Dennis is an avid bridge player, having acquired "life masters" in the game. He also likes to square dance, fish, garden, listen to country music, travel, and spend time with his and Margo's family (totaling 7 children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild). Over the last several years, Dennis and Margo have traveled to Europe, Nova Scotia, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Spain, Canada, Guatemala, Cancun, and numerous U.S. cities. They are presently looking forward to going to Switzerland in May.

Oliver Myers was the recipient of the door prize at the March meeting. Congratulations !

Helen DeRoo retired as English teacher from Duval High School, and immediately embarked upon her second career. Sewing has been a lifelong hobby of Helen's, and she has now turned that into her new occupation, sewing not only on a creative, individualized basis, but also as an instructor at the G Street Fabrics store in Rockville. Helen likes to travel (thus the second career to support this new hobby). She and her sister have enjoyed a 10 day trip to Egypt, a 2 week trip to Peru, and are looking forward to going southeast Asia on their next journey.

Lloyd Hoover and his wife, Charlotte, of Adamstown, MD, traveled to Florida in January, vacationing in Apalachicola and Panama City, visiting with family in Jacksonville.

Claudine Wilson retired as Dean of Academics at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (briefly), and then returned to the same school to teach 9<sup>th</sup> grade English - her first love. She has also moved to Beltsville

## BITS AND PIECES (continued)

David and Barbara Pennington retired in 1984 - David from Eugene Burroughs Middle School and Barb from Potomac High. They moved to Port Charlotte, FL, where they are involved as volunteer church workers. Barb teaches Sunday School and participates in Sorority activities, while David plays softball five days a week. They attended the world championship softball games in Las Vegas last fall. The Penningtons enjoy traveling, and went to Paris, London, and Ireland last year. They plan to return to France and Ireland this year, as well as, go on to Spain. David and Barb recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and are pleased to announce that their 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild is expected in May !

Agnes Kuhn, PH.D., retired from Bowie High School in 1960, and moved to Tarpon Springs, FL. There, she is quite involved as a "Rolling Reader", reading to six to eight elementary classrooms each week, along with tutoring children. She was named Tarpon Springs Volunteer of the Year! Agnes keeps busy physically, as well as mentally, lifting weights, practicing Tai Chi, doing yard work, and running her 4<sup>th</sup> marathon soon ! She is also a "cruiseaholic", having enjoyed cruises on the Mediterranean, Europe's Rhine River, the Carribean, and next, to Mexico and Hawaii. Last July, Agnes' son married a lovely woman and made her an instant grandparent to three very nice children.

The February 2002 Florida reunion was held at The Sea Watch Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale By the Sea. Thirty-two people had signed up to attend. A good time was had by all. (See note elsewhere about the 2003 Florida reunion.)

It sounds like next winter will find Joe and Patria Shockley at a different address in Florida. ...Melbourne, Fl, to be exact.

Agatha (Delorise) Dougans, of Washington, D.C., retired from Bucklodge Middle School in 1988, and has since been pursuing her interest in doll collecting and antiques in her free time. She also does substitute teaching, works as a guidance aide with the teen parenting program at Northwestern High School, and enjoys taking care of her three granddaughters. In August, Agatha and her husband, Alfred, will be celebrating 45 years of marriage !

Adrienne Cannon of Alexandria, retired from Eleanor Roosevelt High school in 1996, and has been keeping busy

with several music-related volunteer activities. She serves as a tour guide and editor of the Volunteer Newsletter at the Kennedy Center, plays clarinet with the Alexandria concert band, and is a docent for the National Symphony Orchestra and the Washington Opera. Adrienne also holds a Black belt in Shotokan (Japanese) Karate. She enjoys traveling, and has been to Kenya, China, New Zealand, Netherlands, Germany, and Cambridge, England - where her grandchild lives. Adrienne and her husband celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2001 !

Did you know that Leo Green of Bowie and his wife, Alhen, have twenty-some grandchildren? Alhen was a teacher in the county, and now is working with Hospice.

## TO SHRED OR NOT TO SHRED

Crooks can and are turning our trash into cash by getting personal information from our garbage bags and establishing bogus lines of credit.

More and more consumers are buying a shredder that can slice bills, receipts, bank statements into unreadable little strips.

So what should be shredded? Some recommendations include ATM receipts, pay stubs, pre-approved credit card applications and blank checks, magazine address labels, used airline tickets, bank statements, etc. Shred everything with your Social Security number on it when it is no longer of any use.

(Reprinted from the E&P Communicator, the official newsletter of the MRTA Educators and Protective Services Committee.)

### ECHOES STAFF

Editor	Ginger Stufft	301-262-7093
Mailing List	Jan Wundrow	301-290-7342

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

12741 Holiday Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

(Non-Profit Org.)  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Riverdale, MD  
Permit No. 2906

DATED MATERIAL

JANNETTE WUNDROW  
1007 PACKTON LN  
BOWIE MD 20716-1761



June Readen, Marion Klinksieck, Dottie Futzko, and Veronica Jones were the chefs receiving praise at our tasty March luncheon meeting. These ladies prepared a generous chef salad, along with delicious homemade bread and cookies. We extend special "THANKS" to them.