

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXII No. 5

May 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few days ago, I had to write an article for the Maryland Retired Teachers Association (MRTA) to be included in its annual business report. Because of the work of the Executive Committee members, I could list our accomplishments, and be pleased. Thanks to all of you for supporting us and to the Chairpersons for all their work.

The Program committee and the Education and Protective Services Committee worked together in planning the March Luncheon Meeting at Forestville Memorial United Methodist Church. Dr. Iris T. Metts, Chief Executive Officer of Prince Georges' County Public Schools, was our speaker. We were pleased she could accept our invitation to bring us up to date on the happenings of our school system. Her presentation to us as retired teachers was that we had laid "the foundation for education in Prince Georges' County". She briefly told of the following new and/or updated programs put into operation during her tenure: an emergency preparedness plan in case of terrorist activity, all day kindergarten, mandatory summer school for those students not reading on grade level, tripled the number of mentor teachers, 15% salary increase for teachers, larger blocks of time for teaching reading and an increase in the number of volunteer workers to 13,000.

We hope to see many of you at the May luncheon meeting. This will be our last time together with this Executive Committee. Our program will be a little different, but it will be good times, good food, good fellowship. JOIN US !

The Business Meeting of MRTA will be held in Ocean City, MD, this month, in conjunction with the Convention. Many thanks to those of you who will be attending and those of you who will be delegates to the Business Meeting. We hope to get a group photo sometime while we are there.

Alveta S. Jones -President PGCRTA

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

May 28, 2003

La Fontaine Bleu
7963 Annapolis Road
Lanham, MD 20706

11:00 am Business Meeting

12:00 Buffet Luncheon

Luncheon reservations required

\$16.00 per person

Dining to the music of William "Bill" Clark
Jazz Pianist

Menu

Fruit Flambe
Breast of Chicken Marsala
Hand Carved Baked Ham
Flounder Chesapeake
Seasonal Vegetables - Rolls
Coconut Custard Pie
Coffee - Tea

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday
May 21, 2003

No refunds after May 21, 2003



MEMBERSHIP

If you are a member of MRTA/PGCRTA and still pay your yearly dues by check, your bill for 2003-2004 will be sent to you by MRTA on May 1st. To change from yearly check payment to dues deduction, follow the directions on the dues bill. If you are already on the dues deduction plan, the dues will be deducted from your July 2003 check.

IN MEMORIAM

Members:

Merna Bachelor	02-03-03
Maybelle S, Hall	09-30-03
William C. Hall	11-26-02
Nathaniel R. Kahn	03-12-03
Barbara M. Traynor	03-10-03
Faye M. Williford	02-28-03

Non-Members:

Eleanor E. Cambardella	01-29-03
Daisy P. Collier	02-09-03
Joseph A. Deville	02-01-03
Harriet R. Fisher	03-05-02
Jeanette C. Gibbons	02-13-03
Robert E. Gough	02-25-03
Betty Grantham	03-08-03
Mabel Harmeyer	04-23-02
Dorothy A. Johnson	02-18-03
Lelia M. Kerr	11-20-02
Linda Lewis	10-26-02
Lizzie M. McCarter	02-14-03
James B. Naylor	02-09-03

For those belonging only to PGCRTA, I will send you a reminder in May. If you want to add MRTA to your membership plan, sign the back of the form I send you.

PLEASE send no checks until after bills have been received.

If you know of a teacher, nurse, custodian, bus driver, office or cafeteria personnel who is retired from the PG County school system and is not a member of our organization, please call me. Give me their name and address so I can send them a membership brochure. Our membership needs to grow so that we can be effective in the lives of the children of Prince Georges' County.

The March luncheon was delicious (see recipes) and the room was attractively decorated with spring flowers on green tablecloths. Doris Hall won the door prize.

Jane Jones - Membership Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Co-Chairs have received 11 volunteer forms as of April 2003. If you have not filled out your form, the deadline is May 1, 2003. We would like to recognize all volunteers at the May luncheon meeting.

Doris R. Edwards - 301-627-3977
Shirley Johnson - 301-249-6549

LEGISLATIVE REPORT - 3/31/03

Thanks to everyone who attended the Legislative Day in Annapolis on March 6th. Though it was a rainy morning, 32 people joined the group for an interesting informative trip. We are again grateful to Delegate James Proctor for arranging our day in Annapolis. At the May meeting, copies of the group photo taken on the steps inside the State House, will be given to all March 6th attendees. If anyone who went has suggestions for changes to the Legislative Day agenda for next year, do let me know.

One very happy aspect of our trip, was that we had the news that MD's Insurance Commissioner Larsen, had announced the day before that he was denying the sale of CareFirst to WellPoint of CA. Since then, CareFirst has said that they will not appeal the decision. Also, Commissioner Larsen has asked that the MD General Assembly appoint a Study Commission to look into the practices for CareFirst's operation and to replace all 12 MD Board of Directors over the next year. Delegate Hudson, of Montgomery County, has agreed to head this Taskforce.

Our MRTA Legislative Committee has been speaking at Hearings, writing letters to Legislators, and monitoring several Bills during this Legislative session that ended April 7th. Among them were a number of medical and pharmacy assistance programs, long-term care, consumer protection, transportation for the elderly, education programs for all ages, and kinship-guardian care. The Bill we've worked hardest on, of course, has been the Pension/Retirement one, to make the Board of Directors more equitable among the system's members. Though it received a favorable vote in the House, it was revised by Senator Kasemeyer in the Senate; however, his revision would still give us the one elected retired

teacher representative that we wanted. Comptroller Donald Schafer has recommended the bill for a summer study - so, we'll see what happens.

As we go to print, the Slots Bill was killed in the House Ways and Means committee (4/3/03), and the Governor continues to state that he will veto tax measures that have been proposed to balance the 2004 budget. Again, something we will be watching.

Jan Wundrow - Legislative Chair

BITS AND PIECES

Jannie and Clay Goldston had a marvelous Christmas 2002 surprise, when they won a Mercedes Benz 230c coupe in a raffle drawing sponsored by the National Organization of Black Law Executives (NOBLE). They spent the week before Christmas enjoying the holiday festivities of Colonial Williamsburg, VA, and then traveled to Orlando, FL, for a 10 day vacation, stopping on the way back in Jacksonville to visit a niece and her family.

Barbara (Bobbie) Himes retired in 1995 from Tulip Grove Elementary after 30 years of teaching first grade. She lives in Columbia, MD, and enjoys spending time with her extended family - especially babysitting nieces and nephews. Barbara volunteers as a driver of visually impaired persons with her community Senior Citizens' Association. She also sings in her church choir and with a group called "Alleluias", who perform sacred music. She is currently planning a trip to Spartansburg, NC, to attend a music festival in July. Barbara relishes the freedom that retirement brings.

David Edwards retired in 1979, as a drivers' education instructor at High Point High School. He has since relocated to Dallas, PA.

In his free time, David enjoys the sport of harness racing.

Barbara Atkinson retired in 1997, from the Board of Education, where she worked for 19 years in the Accounts Payable Department and 10 years in the Purchasing Department. Now she has a new job with the Prince Georges' Soil Conservation District (associated with USDA and MDA). Barbara and her husband, John, of almost 33 years, live in Lothian. They have one daughter, a son-in-law, and a one year old grandson, John Charles. The Atkinsons have enjoyed cruises to the Eastern and Western Carribean, and a trip to Maine. They are looking forward to traveling to Arizona this summer.

Jim Buffington retired from the Office of Student Appeals in 1996. He then moved to Frankford, DE, where he taught history for two years. Jim, enjoys pursuing his hobbies of woodworking and Eastern European history. He has traveled to Hungary, as well as, several local historical locations. Jim has four children and three grandchildren.

Donald Conway took his hobby, collecting and displaying Blacks on United States Stamps, Black Baseball Memorabilia, Black Athletes on Cereal Boxes, and Blacks on United States Money on the road during the month of February. His displays were on exhibit at West Hyattsville, Fort Washington, Clinton, and Waldorf Post Offices, as well as , at Mother Seton Catholic Church, Millhouse Barber Shop, Perry Point V.A.M.C., and the Prince Georges' Sports and Learning Complex. Following the exhibits, Don and Joyce went to Orlando to visit the new grandson and his parents in March.

Carl Hassel retired as Superintendent of Prince Georges' County Schools in 1976. He later moved to Farmington, MN. Sadly, his wife,

Avis, died five year ago. Carl has two children and four grandchildren. He has enjoyed travels to Europe, Asia, and South America.

Hazel Ford retired in 1983 from the Board of Education Office of Professional Personnel, but she's still going at a rapid pace ! She sold her house in Upper Marlboro at the end of 2002, and moved to Buckingham's Choice, a lovely retirement home near Frederick, MD, where she participates in many activities, including drawing and painting, quilting, and other crafts, gardening, Bible studies, and Senior Group programs. Hazel also maintains contact with PGCRTA, MRTA, and her college sorority. She has traveled to visit family and friends in CA, WI, AL, FL and New England. Group travels have taken her to Rocking Horse Ranch, NY, Jekyl Island, GA, Myrtle Beach, SC, Disney World, FL, the Canadian Rockies, and on a Panama Cruise. Hazel has two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren. In her free time, Hazel is writing her memoirs.

Barbara Peters retired from Langley Park-McCormick Elementary in 1992. She has since moved to Tempe, AZ, where she volunteers as a docent at an historical museum, and especially enjoys the fourth and fifth grade programs there. Barbara is quite a world traveler; she has been to all of the United States and to over 80 countries (some twice) ! Her last trip was to Cambodia and Northern Thailand. Barbara has one son and three adult grandchildren, all of the Frederick, MD, area.

Benjamin and Barbara Moore are both county retirees. Ben retired in 1994 from Thomas Johnson Middle School, and Barb in 1996 from Morningside Elementary. They have since relocated to Wilson, NC, where Ben fills his spare time with photography and gardening. Barb reads, writes, and last year

spent the \$1000.00 prize money she won in a Hecht Company Shopping Spree contest ! The Moores often take day trips to surrounding areas of interest, and have also traveled with group tours to New England and the South Western US. They are looking forward to seeing the Canadian Rockies this August. In December, Ben and Barb celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. They have two sons and one granddaughter.

Anne McKown and her husband, Barry, both retired in 1994: Anne from the Board of Education as Administrative Assistant in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, and Barry as a teacher at Anne Arundel Community College. They have maintained their home in Edgewater, MD, where they enjoy the wildlife, water activities and seasonal beauties of the South River. Both Anne and Barry volunteer with church work, and serve as officers in historical societies related to their genealogy studies. Since retiring, they have been to several European cities and towns, to different states in the US each year for organizational conferences, and are presently planning a marvelous trip to China, where they will tour Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Yangtze River locations, and other areas.

Joyce Fitzgerald retired from Prince Georges' Community College, Cooperative Education Office, in 2001, but has continued to be associated with the college through their theatre and arts program and other activities. This spring she did substitute teaching on the high school level in the subjects of History, Psychology, Sociology, and Problems of the 20th Century. Joyce is active with the Capitol Ski Club. Last year, at Killington, VT, she helped them retire a racing trophy, winning first place in her age class. She also plays tennis and golf, and exercises several times a week. She enjoys taking her grandchildren for educational and fun outings. Joyce has

traveled both foreign and domestically for many years; some of her trips have taken her to Mexico, China, The Panama Canal, Alaska and the Carribean.

Ed and Jean Clement joined the annual, week long Prince Georges' Florida Luncheon and Cruise that began in Tampa, FL, February 23, 2003. Don and Dolores Kiah were this year's hosts on the Western Carribean Cruise that included Key West, Cozumel, and the Grand Cayman Islands. Some other people from our county who attended were Wilbert Hawkins, Dorothy Havier, Joe and Patria Shockley and Fred Cardano. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful cruise, and encourage other PG retirees to join them for next year's luncheon and trip. Watch ECHOES in the fall for the latest information.

*Corrections from January's column:

Eileen Reeder retired from Surrattsville Senior High School in 1974. (No, she really hasn't been retired 129 years !)

Ann Canter retired in 1986 from Employees Services, where she was a secretary, and her husband, Richard, retired from the School Board's Maintenance Department, as a plumber, in 1994. Ann and Richard live in Aquasco, MD. They have been avid motorcyclists for many years - even riding as far away as Pigeon Forge, TN, Cherokee, NC, and Niagara Falls, NY. They've also taken plane trips to Florida and Massachusetts. The Canters will celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary in May.

Jan Wundrow - Chair
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(dwundrow@erols.com)

CATEGORY	Current Budget 2002-03	Proposed Budget 2003-04
Association Expenses		
Archives	50.00	50.00
Liaison AARP	50.00	50.00
Liaison Professional	50.00	50.00
Operational	800.00	800.00
President	200.00	200.00
Secretarial	300.00	300.00
MRTA Meetings	1500.00	2500.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00
Newsletter & Publications	8000.00	8000.00
Ed. & Prot. Services	200.00	4500.00
Hospitality	1000.00	1500.00
Legislative	1000.00	1000.00
Membership	400.00	150.00
Program	1500.00	1500.00
Remembrance	300.00	300.00
Community Service	1500.00	1500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		5000.00
Convention Gift	65.00	50.00
Scholarship	5000.00	5000.00
Contingency Fund	500.00	560.00
GRAND TOTALS	22,515.00	33,110.00
ESTIMATED INCOME 2003-2004		
Dues from members		
(@ \$10.00 per member - 1655 members)		16,550.00
From Checking Account		10,000.00
From Savings Account		6560.00
Total		33,110.00

Recipes

From our March luncheon at the Forest Memorial United Methodist Church
They graciously shared their recipes at our request.

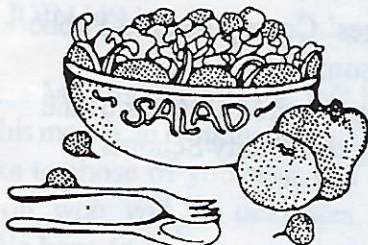
CHICKEN OLIVIA

- 3 cups chopped chicken
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 ½ cup cooked rice
- ¾ cup Mayo
- 1 tsp chopped onion
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 can water chestnuts -
drained
- 1 can Cream of Chicken
soup

Spray dish and add all of
the above.
Just before baking mix and
put on top:

- 1 stick oleo
- 1 cup crushed corn flakes
- ½ cup sliced almonds

Bake 350 degrees for 30
minutes. Takes longer if
refrigerated.



MAPPA CABBAGE SALAD

- 1 large Mappa Cabbage -
shredded
- 5 green onions
- 2 pkg dry Romen Noodles
-broken
(Keep seasoning pkg for
another use)
- ½ cup melted margarine
- ½ cup slivered almonds
(or walnuts)
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds

Fry noodles, margarine,
and almonds until brown
over medium heat, stirring
often. Add sesame seeds at
the end of cooking time, as
they brown quickly.

DRESSING

- ½ cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Soy Sauce

Put into a jar and shake
well. Keeps in refrigerator
as long as you have any.

ECLAIR DESSERT

- 1 box Graham Cracker
crumbs
- 2 boxes French Vanilla
Instant Pudding
(Plain Vanilla is good too)
- 3 cups milk
- 12 oz Cool Whip - thawed
- 1 cup Fudge Frosting

Spray a 9" x 13" dish. Mix
pudding and milk. Cool in
refrigerator for about 10
minutes to set. Fold in
Cool Whip. Place in dish
in layers:

- crackers, pudding,
- crackers, pudding,
- crackers

Let these layers stand for a
few minutes - it makes it
easier to spread the
frosting.

Now spread the frosting
over all (Microwave the
frosting for 5 seconds to
make it spread easier.)

Let set for 24 hours before
cutting in order to hold it's
shape.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL
LUNCHEON

May 28, 2003
Details inside

THE RIGHT MEDICINE

The number of prescriptions has almost doubled in the last ten years. There has also been an increase in drug errors, both at hospitals and at home. Some questions to ask your doctor:

- * What is this medication treating?
- * How do I take it, (how many times a day, at what time of day), and how long do I take it?
- * Will it interact with anything else I take (prescription or over the counter)?
- * What are the side effects? If they occur, should I stop taking the drug?
- * Are there limitations for me (avoiding alcohol or certain foods, not driving).

Being confident that you are taking your medicine appropriately is a positive step toward ensuring your good health.

ORGANIZATION NAME CHANGE ???

Following are some of the names suggested if/when PGCRTA votes to change:

1. Prince Georges' County Public School Retired Employees Association
2. Prince Georges' Public School Retirees Association
3. Prince Georges' Public School Retired Employees Association
4. Prince Georges' County Retired Public Schools Personnel
5. Association of Retired Citizens of the Prince Georges' County Schools