

# ECHOES

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

VOL. XXXIII No. 5

May 2004

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May brings us to the end of another year of organizational challenges and triumphs. Our PGCRTA officers, committees, and members have contributed to the successes we've measured, while overcoming obstacles.

Among our goals this year were the changing of our name to the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association and the incorporation of our organization - one or both of which will happen July 1<sup>st</sup>. Another major goal in progress that will have an ending later in 2004, has been the rewriting and printing of the personal information booklet, "All About Me".

We have contributed to the enhancement of our county communities this year by the awarding of five \$1000.00 scholarships to college-bound students pursuing a career in education, presented \$500.00 to the "Read Across America" elementary school program, donated food to needy families, provided \$1500.00 for an in-school field trip at a reconstituted school, volunteered in numerous classrooms, and participated with staff and money in the March Pre-Retirement Conference, held for 600 teachers at Roosevelt High School.

Our members have been kept informed of Board of Education provided health insurance benefits and changes by Dr. Chotiner, who always speaks up for us. Legislation proposals and actions at the state level have been relayed to our members, and their participation encouraged. The ECHOES writers have made our colleagues aware of the work and activities of PGCRTA. Our Tour Chairman, Charlie Hudson, has arranged several enjoyable, interesting theater and sightseeing trips.

Socialization, information, and entertainment have been shared by everyone who has attended our bi-monthly general meetings. The biggest meeting of the year occurs this month, when we join our fellow MRTA members from across the state for the annual convention and

business meeting in Ocean City, on May 10, 11, and 12. (Hope to see you there!)

Life is a continuing learning experience, and as your president, I can attest to that! Thanks to all of the involved persons of PGCRTA, who through their creativity, preparation, and perseverance this past year, have together, been able to meet challenges and excel in making our organization a more vibrant one!

Jannette Wundrow  
President

### COMPLETE NOMINATIONS REPORT

Officers for July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

President-	Addie Martin
President Elect -	Rose Miller
Recording Secretary -	Natalie Tweedy
Corresponding Secretary -	Bonnie Brose
Treasurer -	Dr. Edward Vest

Nomination Committee Members:

Wanda Antonacci  
Dotsun Burns  
Isabella McPherson  
Alveta S. Jones, Chairperson

**REVISED PROPOSED PGCRTA BUDGET 2004-2005**

CATEGORY	Current Budget 2003-2004	Proposed Budget 2004-2005
Archives	50.00	50.00
Liaison AARP	50.00	00.00
Liaison Professional	50.00	50.00
Operational	800.00	800.00
President	200.00	200.00
Secretarial	300.00	300.00
MRTA Meetings	2500.00	2500.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00
Newsletter & Publications	8000.00	10000.00
Edu/Protective Services	4500.00	5000.00
Hospitality	1500.00	1500.00
Legislative	1000.00	1000.00
Membership	150.00	250.00
Program	1500.00	1500.00
Remembrance	300.00	300.00
Community Service	1500.00	1500.00
Miscellaneous expenses	5000.00	00.00
Convention Gift	50.00	50.00
Scholarship	5000.00	7000.00
Contingency Fund	560.00	2800.00
Incorporation Expenses	00.00	3000.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>33110.00</b>	<b>37900.00</b>

**ESTIMATED INCOME 2004-2005**

Dues from members @ \$10.00 per member	
Estimated membership of 1655	16550.00
From Checking Account	14500.00
From Savings Account	6850.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37900.00</b>

## BITS AND PIECES

Alphonso and Mary Holley of Upper Marlboro, began celebrating their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last June with a trip to Ocean City, and continued the fun pace through the fall ! In July they spent time in Virginia Beach, along with Rick and Val Jones, and during September, they vacationed at Hilton Head Island, with Ann and William Robinson, Ethel and Joseph Newman, and the Jones'. October found the Holley's in Myrtle Beach, with the Newman's.

Barbara Taylor retired from Mattaponi Elementary in 1991, and continues to reside in Huntington, MD. Barbara has a wonderful new job as a travel agent for CWT/Action Travels, and consequently, often takes marvelous trips; her most recent was a ten day Hawaiian cruise, ending with three fun days in Honolulu. Barbara also teaches Sunday school class and serves as secretary on the board of CentrePoint Pastoral Counseling Services. She has one son, a daughter-in-law, who teaches first grade in Calvert county, and two granddaughters.

Edna Dragoo, of Hyattsville, retired from Lewisdale Elementary in 1979. Both she and her husband, have also celebrated another retirement - as flight instructors ! Keeping in touch with her flying interests, Edna serves as a volunteer at the college Park Aviation Museum and the National Air and Space Museum. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels and church work. In her free time, she enjoys arts and crafts and reading. The Dragoo's have three children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Audrey Moore retired in 1988 from Oxon hill Elementary, and continues to live in Forestville. After retiring, she did some substituting in local schools, and enjoyed square dancing and church work. Audrey and her husband, James, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January 2004, and then sadly, her husband died a few weeks later. While he was living, the Moore's had the pleasure of traveling to Taiwan, Thailand, Russia, FL, AZ, UT, and CA. Audrey has two daughters, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter.

Fran Doyle of Ft. Washington, drove to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, in February, meeting her sister there. Together they traveled on to Miami Beach and West Palm Beach. After relaxing in the sunshine for a week, Fran drove on to Ponce Inlet, where she visited with George and Ann

Yates and several other wonderful friends.

Charlie and Ann Hudson of District heights, traveled to Florida this spring to visit Charlie's brother, and while there, Charlie received an award for his 50 years of membership on the Foundry 134 Board of the International Basketball Association. Charlie started this organization of basketball officiators with 13 people meeting in his basement in 1954, and now they boast 300 members ! (Our congratulations!) From FL, the Hudson's flew to Linden, WA, for the wedding of a granddaughter.

Audrey Davis retired from Marlton Elementary in 1998, and continues to reside in Upper Marlboro. She keeps busy on a daily basis as a sales person at C.F. Brandt Jeweler's. However, Audrey and her husband have taken time to enjoy travels to Hawaii and Chicago, and to make frequent trips to New Jersey to visit family. The Davis' will celebrate their 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. They have two sons, one daughter-in-law, and two pets.

Marguerite Helminiak taught at H.W. Wheatley Special Center and Stephen Decatur before retiring and moving to Bozman, MD, on the Eastern Shore, in 1991. She is currently the area chairman for the LOVE program, a Girl Scouts' anti-violence initiative. This past January, Marguerite received the Community Service Award from the Talbot County Family Network at a ceremony at the Avalon Theater in Easton. Additionally, she was presented with the Governor's Citation from the Maryland Senate, recognizing her work with Girl Scouting. Since living in Talbot County, Marguerite has founded a new Girl Scout troop at the St. Michaels' Housing Authority, and continues to lead another troop in St. Michaels.

Donald Conway of Beltsville, went to AZ and cheered for the Cactus League Baseball Spring Training Teams in March. During the month of February, Don's African-American History Memorabilia Collections of Blacks on postage stamps, cereal boxes, U.S. coins, and in numerous photographs, were on display around the Metro area at three elementary schools, two community centers, Mother Seaton Parish, and Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Don's display is really a movable museum that he arranges to take to persons of interest.

Dan and Linda Williams of Clinton, traveled to Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, in March to hear their

(BITS AND PIECES continued)

daughter, Eliza, perform during the Senior Organ recital. They will be returning this month to act as proud parents when she graduates, and then begins her graduate work there, majoring in Christian Music.

Audrey (Betty) Pond retired in 1979, from Flintstone Elementary, and relocated to Daytona Beach, FL. There she lives in a very active mobile home park that has its own church, where she has been a choir member for 25 years! Betty also enjoys attending area dinner theater performances and playing Bingo, as well as hosting visits by friends (one of whom is Barbara Taylor, who is a yearly guest).

Kathy Labukas retired as principal of Tanglewood Special Center in 2002. She grew up in Greenbelt, went to St. Hugh's School in town, and continues to reside there. She was recently honored with the Catholic Elementary School, Distinguished Graduate Award for her work with children with learning disabilities, emotional and physical impairments. Kathy is president of the Prince George's Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children and an executive board member of the Prince George's County Resource Connections Agency. She is also the guardian of her sister, who has been the inspiration for her work with special children and adults. Last year Kathy traveled to Aruba for a fun vacation, and is planning an exciting trip to Alaska this August.

Nar Steel retired from Forestville High School's English Department in 1995 and has started a new career. She is co-owner of Cobblestone Art Gallery in Old Town Alexandria, VA. Nar has won awards in art shows and recently won an honorable mention in the 70<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of Fine Art Miniatures. She is currently vice president of the Washington, D.C. Miniature Society. In addition Nar has been a tutor in the PG Literacy Council since 1995.

Bette Deller retired from Bladensburg Elementary in 1999. Following a trip to Aruba, she acquired her real estate license, and began a new career as a realtor with Long & Foster in Laurel, where she lives. Bette also finds time for gardening, reading, church activities and socializing with other retirees. She has attended real estate conventions at Ocean City and made trips to see relatives in upstate New York. Bette has one son, a daughter-in-law, and a three year-old grandson, whom she enjoys visiting often in

Ashburn, VA. She finds the best part of retirement is having less stress and more free time.

Charline Jacob of Springdale, MD, has spent the last year of retirement on the go ! Twice last spring she relaxed at Mountainside Villas , VA, where friends, Rose Ann Sweetney and Gloria Prather joined her for a few of the days. Twice Charline traveled to Memphis, TN, to spend time with her 90 year-old father. In the fall, she flew to Chicago, where she visited friends from grade and high school and attended a relative's funeral, then went from there to visit Gloria Prather in Kenbridge, VA. Charline, along with her mother and two friends, toured FL by car in early January, stopping for a visit with Patricia McNutt in Palm Coast. Afterward, they embarked on a wonderful 10 day cruise, which took them to the Panama Canal. During the winter, Charline visited relatives in Gulfport, MS. This month, she will be attending her 45<sup>th</sup> class reunion from Dillard University in New Orleans, where she is also looking forward to spending Mother's Day with her mother.

Jannette Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
[dwundrow@comcast.net](mailto:dwundrow@comcast.net)

### THE JOY OF BEING EDITOR

Getting out this paper is no picnic.  
If we print jokes, people say we are silly.  
If we don't, they say we are too serious.  
If we clip items from other papers, we are too lazy  
to write.  
If we don't, we are stuck on our own stuff.  
If we omit news that we're never told about, we should  
have picked it up from local papers.  
If we print news about anyone who reports it to us more  
than once, we are showing favoritism.  
If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true  
genius.  
If we do print them, the paper is filled with junk.  
If we make a change in the other person's writeup, we  
are too critical.  
If we don't, we are asleep..  
Now, like it or not, someone will say we swiped this  
from another paper. WE DID !

Contributed by V. W. Stufft



### IN MEMORIAM

Members:

*Patricia Colletto*

Helen L. Bowman	01-17-04
Lee M. Carpenter	02-12-04
Dr. Margaret Conant	03-05-04
Robert C. Evans	01-26-04
Thelma J. Hall	02-03-04
Zuelena Halsey	01-29-04
Leila V. Hardesty	12-26-03
Annie T. Menefee	01-20-04
Elsie Mock	02-16-04
Ronald E. Mortimer	02-07-04
Elizabeth T. Payne	03-17-04
Joseph S. Payne	12-07-03
Helene N. Poland	01-28-04
Emma J. Richardson	01-26-04
Doris M. Yowell	03-15-04

Non-Members:

Ernestine W. Alexander	02-22-04
Carol Austin	03-03-04
Phyllis A. Brane	01-22-04
Juan A. Canales	03-24-04
Robert Colbert	02-24-04
Joyce M. Conley	01-16-04
Marguerite M. Delay	01-22-04
Florence M. Fenton	01-21-04
Irene A. Flynn	01-29-04
Donald F. Goldsmith	03-08-04
Robert T. Henson	03-13-04

Clara L. Hilliard	03-02-04
Doris W. Huffman	01-28-04
Bernadette C. Jenkins	11-13-03
Laverne Llewellyn	03-06-04
Marie M. McMullen	02-20-04
Pershing Mondorff	01-27-04
Albert Moritt	03-13-04
Richard E. Nethercote	01-22-04
Dale K. Nonnemacher	01-15-04
Elizabeth Olinger	08-31-04
Bruce H. Perritt	02-22-04
Celia Robb	06-04-98
Mary Ulrich	02-04-04
Francis L. Walker	03-26-04
Henry Washington	11-22-03
Margaret H. Weaver	05-27-03
Nora L. Williams	11-26-03
Grace L. Wist	03-04-03
Robert Woodland	03-14-04
Greta D. Zink	12-19-03

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 have three new members. They are: Lucille Vass, Jeanne Josephson and Tina Fortson-Rivers. I hope they and many of you will be at our May Membership Meeting at the La Fontaine Bleu in Lanham.

We enjoyed a very tasty meal (see recipes on separate page) served by the ladies at the Forest Memorial United Methodist Church in March. Wanda Antonacci won the door prize at this meeting.

Jane Jones,  
Chairperson  
301-559-8533

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2004 Maryland General Assembly Session ended at midnight on April 12<sup>th</sup>. A 2005 balanced budget was established, but funding sources for parts of it remain questionable. The Governor remained firm about not raising the sales tax, but he agreed to establish some "user fees".

The slot machine gambling bill failed for the second year in a row, causing Governor Ehrlich to say that without this anticipated revenue, Maryland is going to be short-changed in services. However, studies have shown that Delaware and West Virginia collect only about 1/3 the amount of money in yearly gambling revenue that the Governor has estimated Maryland could receive. Concerns of our lawmakers were the locations and ownerships of the video lottery terminals. Also, the resulting potential for creating gambling addicts and their necessary treatment for various related services (gambling, family counseling, bankruptcy, etc.) would put a strain on our county budget.

A very good thing to come out of this legislative session is the Governor's plan for cleaning up the Chesapeake bay. This is to be accomplished through a "user fee" (jokingly called a flush tax), as each homeowner in the state will be assessed \$2.50 monthly to finance the modernization of wastewater treatment plants.

Another "user fee" to be shared by all citizens is the motor vehicle registration cost increase by 87 percent. This revenue will be used by the state's transportation department.

The Thornton Plan, created to equalize education spending in the state's 24 school districts, received full funding for the coming year, but the Governor feels this cannot happen in the following years without an increase in state income.

Unfortunately, the House and Senate Bills that our Maryland Retired Teachers Association championed, with support from MSTA, AARP Maryland, USM, and NARFE were defeated. They had sought to prevent boards of education eliminating retiree health care benefits, require the boards to discuss health care benefits with local retiree associations, and give persons who move to other counties within the state credit for their full Maryland service when it comes to retiree health benefits. (\*With some rewording, our MRTA Legislative Committee plans to submit these bills again next year, as we feel they are very important to our members future retiree health benefits.)

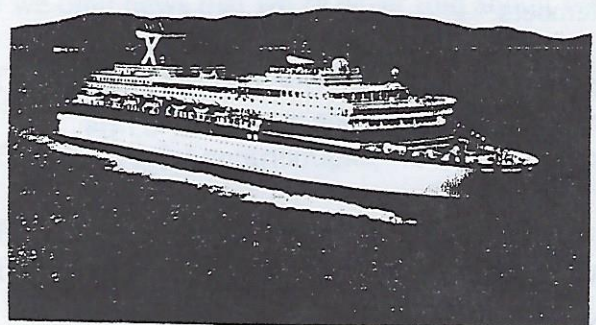
## 2005 FLORIDA LUNCHEON AND CRUISE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Luncheon for the retirees of the Prince George's County Public School System will be held next year in Tampa, Florida at the *Columbia Restaurant* (<http://www.columbiarestaurant.com/ybor.asp>). The date is March 4, 2005. The menu choices and cost of the luncheon will be published in the September ECHOES.

A 10 night cruise aboard the HORIZON (Celebrity Cruise Line) is sailing to a number of ports in the Gulf of Mexico (Colon, Panama; Cozumel, Mexico; Roatan, Honduras; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, and George Town, Grend Cayman). It will leave Tampa on Friday afternoon, March 4, 2005. Costs are \$776.00 per person for an inside cabin, and \$876.00 per person for an outside cabin. Friends, and relatives are invited to join our PG retirees on this cruise. Information about deposits, deadlines for payments, etc., can be gotten by contacting Jerry Keeney at [jerry.keeney@verizon.net](mailto:jerry.keeney@verizon.net). (Phone - 1-941-493-4914). Also, a one page brochure will be available at the May Luncheon in Lanham.

Information or reservations for the cruise can be made through Rose Schreckenghaust at [rschreckenghaust@aaasouth.com](mailto:rschreckenghaust@aaasouth.com) (Phone - 1-941-493-2100 ext 2229). Be sure to tell her that you want to reserve a cabin with Prince George's County Retired Employees, or refer to Jerry Keeney's name to receive the low rate. Reservations for the cruise should be made by November 4, 2004.

All cost and fees are subject to change and availability.



## PGCRTA INCORPORATION

For the past several years, the topic of incorporating has been discussed by the PGCRTA Executive Board. The topic was frequently brought up as we were going through the process of changing our organization's name. Now that our name has been voted on and officially changed (official as of July 1, 2004), it was decided to pursue the process of becoming incorporated. The primary benefit of incorporating is to protect personal assets from potential liabilities. By forming a corporation and following all corporate formalities, you become insulated from personal liability.

Another advantage is the potential tax advantages to operating through a corporation.

A committee was formed of PGCRTA Board members. A lawyer, John P. Davey, specializing in this area of law was found. The committee and Mr. Davey have met on two occasions. New BYLAWS have been written adhering to the Maryland state incorporation laws. These new BYLAWS include all the points of our current BYLAWS but also have the legal terms and conditions stated that are necessary for a corporation. The committee is reviewing these BYLAWS, and will present them to the Executive Board in May. When they are approved by that group, the new BYLAWS will be printed and mailed to every member of PGCRTA (now PGPSRA). A vote will be needed from the membership at that point. After that the lawyer submits to the government various documents including the new BYLAWS, our 501 (C) (3) tax code designation, and any other pertinent information necessary, to continue and complete the process of becoming incorporated.

V. W. Stufft  
Committee member

*Life is a great big canvas,  
and you should throw all the paint you can on it.*

Danny Kaye

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

### May 26, 2004

La Fontaine Bleu  
7963 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD 20726

11:00 am Business Meeting  
12:15 pm Buffet Luncheon  
Luncheon reservations required  
\$16.00 per person

### PROGRAM - 1:00 pm

#### Guest Speaker

**President of the Maryland Senate  
Mike Miller**

#### What is going on in Annapolis?

Deadline for reservations - Wednesday  
May 19, 2004

No refunds after May 19, 2004

Send reservations with check payable to  
PGCRTA to:

Dr. Edward Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

**INCLUDE names of all attending**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

DATED MATERIAL

## RECIPES

(From the March meeting)

### Lime Jello Salad

- 1 large lime Jello  
water plus pineapple juice
- 1 large cream cheese - soft
- 1 -20 oz crushed pineapple
- ½ cup celery -chopped small
- ½ cup maraschino cherries -halved
- 1 small can evaporated milk -chilled \*
- Whip until thick, add cream cheese,  
blend balance of ingredients
- Add ½ cup chopped pecans

\*Put milk in a bowl and place it in the freezer, let chill,  
whip when thick

Pour into mold. 8-10 servings

### Hot Chicken Salad

- 2 c cooked diced chicken
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ can (soup can) water
- ½ c diced celery
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 can water chestnuts, drained
- 1 4 oz bag sliced almonds
- 1 -2 oz jar pimentos
- 1 -16 oz can English peas  
or (16 oz bag frozen petite green peas)
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ¼ c grated cheddar cheese
- 1 can (small) chow mein noodles

Drain chestnuts and pimentos (also peas, if canned). Dice  
celery and onion. Combine all ingredients except cheese  
and noodles. Spread in 13 x 9 pan. Sprinkle with cheese.  
Bake 350 degrees, 30-40 minutes, till hot through.  
Sprinkle noodles on top right before serving. 6-8  
servings