

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXXVIII No. 5

May 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the fiscal year for the PGPSRA draws to a close for 2004-2005, I would like to thank all of our Executive Committee Members for all the hard work, time and commitment they have so willingly given to our organization. Because of them we have:

- Published and distributed our **ECHOES** newsletter five times this year.
- A PGPSRA listserv for all who have an e-mail address and would like to be kept abreast of messages sent online for PGPSRA members.
- Completed our latest revision of the new personal record book, "**All About Me**".
- Completed the revision of our Bylaws and the Incorporation of our organization.
- Donated **\$1,000** to five schools for students in need of winter coats and uniforms.
- Participated in the March Pre-retirement Conference with the County Board of Education for over 500 teachers.
- Participated in several hearings in Annapolis and sponsored our annual March Legislative day for members to meet with our local officials.
- A representative on the County Board of Education Negotiating Team for retiree health benefits.
- Provided informative and/or entertaining programs at each general meeting.
- Attended the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Luncheon in October to specifically honor our past local president, **JOYCE COWAN**, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame and received the prestigious **GERI AWARD**.
- Donated **\$7,000** in scholarships to students pursuing a career in education.
- Provided many opportunities to travel.

- Collected and donated non-perishable food items to specific families in schools where members volunteer.
- Recognized a member who became a **centenarian** in March with a certificate at her birthday party for her contributions to children and to Prince George's County.

But, none of this could have been possible without the wonderful supportive members that you are. So, as my term comes to a close, I thank all of you for your membership, for your efforts and perseverance in encouraging others to join. Also, I thank you for all of the wonderful phone calls I've received and your words of encouragement. You have made my year not only memorable but extremely enjoyable! I look forward to seeing you at our May 25th meeting at Colony South. Thank you again.

Addie L. Martin, President

NOMINEES FOR 2005/2006 OFFICERS

President	Rose Miller
President-Elect	Vacant
Treasurer	Dr. Edward Vest
Recording Secretary	Ray Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Bonnie Brose

Nominating Committee Members:

Jannette Wundrow
Maud Pinkney
Donald Conway

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

On March 16th, 42 of our members traveled to Annapolis by bus, where we spent an interesting and informative time in the State House observing our Maryland Representatives at work and learning some of the history of Maryland. From there we toured the Governor's Mansion, and later had lunch in the Miller Building, where we were joined by some of our Legislators and their Aides. Sadly, Delegate James Proctor (District 27), who has sponsored our Legislative Days these past five years, was not there. He was home recuperating from quintuple bypass surgery! (Fortunately, he is making a good recovery.) Senator Mike Miller (also District 27) stepped in to arrange a meeting room for us, for which we were most grateful. (Delegate Vaughn, District 24, noted that both his mother and father are Prince George's County retired teachers! His father, Louis, was with us.)

The Maryland Legislature's 90 day session ended on April 11th. As of this newsletter printing (March 31st) the General Assembly has passed very few bills. It appears that the retire/rehire bill is going to succeed. However, both of our MRTA proposed bills failed for the second year in a row. (One bill was to ensure that teachers who move to other counties within the state during their teaching careers receive full 30 year health benefits upon retirement, and the second, required county boards of education to maintain health insurance for retirees.) County Boards of Education superintendents felt that these bills would be too costly, and they didn't like the idea of being mandated to continue health insurance for retirees.

At noon, on March 22nd, the United Seniors of Maryland, of which MRTA is a member, held a Press Rally in Annapolis to protest Governor Ehrlich's proposed \$42 million cut in the Department of Aging budget. This drastic drop in money would cut funding for Senior Centers, Meals on Wheels, and Congregate Housing for seniors across the state. I was pleased to be able to participate in this rally, along with a few hundred other seniors.

Do keep an eye on the Federal government's proposed changes for Medicaid, Medicare, and social security. Let your legislators know of your concerns in these programs.

JannetteWundrow, Legislative Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FLORIDA

The 2005 Annual Luncheon of the Prince George's County Retirees who live in Florida (or spend part of the winter there) was held in Tampa on March 4th. Dr. Jerry Keeney was the host and this was the 20th anniversary of the event which was initiated in 1986 in Coconut Creek, with Dorothy and John Carpenter as hosts. Over the years, the annual luncheon has been held in a variety of Florida cities, with sometimes as many as 100 attendees. Both the PG-Florida retirees and their friends are welcomed to these get-togethers.

For the past several years the luncheon has been followed by a cruise. This year's event, also hosted by Dr. Keeney, was a 10-day cruise to the Panama Canal and 38 "Pg-ers" and their friends enjoyed the ambience of the cruise line Celebrity's ship The Horizon. The group included, among others, Dr. and Mrs. Don Kiah, Ferd and Carol Cardnao, Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Keeney, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wendorf, Don and Irene Horner, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Shockley, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Bishop, Walter and Rachel Fox, Dolores and Dennis Wendorf and several other friends and relative of the group.

The 2006 luncheon and cruise will be hosted by Dr. Joe and Patria Shockley. It will be another 10-day cruise to some fabulous ports and they want to emphasize that not only former Prince George's County employees but friends, relatives and other interested individuals are welcome to attend both the luncheon and the cruise. The cruises have added a new dimension of fun and camaraderie which we all look forward to each year.

More details concerning the 2006 luncheon and cruise will be included in a future edition of Echoes.

SUTTLAND REUNION 2005

Class of 1964 – 1968 (Other Graduates Welcome)

September 24, 2005
6 p.m. – 12 Midnight

Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Hotel
80 Compromise Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Admission: Teachers—Free (Guest \$85.00)
Students - \$85.00

Contact Persons: Kathy M. Eaby – 301-609-7343
eaby15@comcast.net
Becky Harden – 301-609-3917
beckyh919@aol.com
Mary J. Wood – 301-423-5707
mjwood48@comcast.net

EDUCATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICE COMMITTEE

The committee's project this year was to update and revise our booklet "All About Me". This booklet was printed nine years ago to be a resource for each members' personal information.

It was distributed at meetings, therefore many members may not have received a copy. The committee mailed a copy to each member this year on March 4th. They were sent "bulk mail" so we hope that each member have gotten their copy by now. (This was a budget item and the project came in \$1500 under budget.)

We hope this revision will be an informative, helpful and relevant guide for each member and your family when you are gone or physically incapacitated. (In light of recent events, pages 24-25, are very relevant.) We hope you find this booklet a practical resource financially and health wise. Our committee will endeavor to bring to you matters that are relevant to your well being as they develop.

Fred Novak, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We will soon be starting a new membership year. I want to stress that our membership year starts July 1 and ends June 30—like the school year. We do not operate on a calendar year.

Beginning May 1, 2005, MRTA will be sending our dues bill. It is a white card with red printing. If you want to have your dues deducted automatically from your July 31 check each year, please sign the back of this card and send only it to me—no check.

If you prefer to continue paying yearly by check, send the card and a check to Jane Jones. Instructions are on the card along with my name and address. Make the check payable to: **PGPSRA.**

We had a good meeting in March. The food was delicious. June Reardon is a great cook. Oliver Meyers was our door prize winner. See you at **Colony South** in May.

Jane Jones and Pat Tompkins, Co-chairs

TRIP WITH CHARLIE

A one day trip has been scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2005 to the **SIGHT AND SOUND** theatre in **Strasburg, Pennsylvania**. The bus will leave Forestville in the morning and arrive in Strasburg at about 12 noon. We will have a buffet Penn. Dutch lunch at Hershey Farms at about 1:30. The show is the Biblical Musical on the Story of Ruth. Our show starts at 4:15. p.m. It will be over at about 6:30 p.m. We will then start our return trip to Forestville.

There is space on the bus for 45 persons. We need a minimum of 25 for the trip to take place. The cost is \$100 per person which includes the bus, driver's tip, lunch, and show. Make checks payable to **PGPSRA TOURS** and mail to Charles Hudson, 6710 Kipling Parkway, District Heights, MD 20747. I need your check on or before May 15, 2005. Call me at 301-736-6946 if you have any questions.

OTHER TRIPS: Cut off and mail to Mr. Hudson if you are interested in trips for the Fall 2005. All trip prices include: bus, most meals, motel (double occupancy), and sightseeing. If cost of gas continues to go up, final price might be a little higher. Write yes for any trip you would be interested in taking. Minimum of 30 persons for each trip except RR trip. Passport required to enter Canada and the Bahamas.

NEW ORLEANS- \$525 - 6 days - 5 nights (One night going, one night returning, 3 nights in New Orleans) _____

SMOKY MOUNTAINS - \$360 - 4 Days 3 nights (Includes Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and shows) _____

NIAGARA FALLS- \$425 - 5 Days - 4 nights - (Includes one day trip to Toronto) _____

MONTREAL-QUEBEC- \$435-5 days - 4 nights _____

BILOXI-NEW ORLEANS \$455 - 7 days - 6 nights _____

TUNICA - MEMPHIS \$405 -7 days- 6 nights _____

FLORIDA (bus) CRUISE TO BAHAMAS - \$655 - 8 days 7 nights _____

TRANS - CANADA RR TORONTO TO VANCOUVER \$1995 - 12 days and nights (Air fare to start and end extra)

Any other trip you would like _____

Your response helps me to make our trip plans.

BITS AND PIECES

Geneva Halsey, of Greenbelt, retired from Springhill Lake Elementary in 1991, but continued to substitute for the next 12 years. She has volunteered for Meals on Wheels during the summer. Geneva enjoys the Golden Age Club and Community Center activities in Greenbelt, as well as, ceramic making, learning to use a potter's wheel, and participating in aquacize three times a week. She has traveled to Mexico, taken a cruise to Alaska, and gone by train to Denali, accompanied her husband to Golf events around the country, and especially enjoyed short trips to Atlantic City. Geneva and her husband, Jesse, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with friends and family at Andrews Air Force Base, last October 9th. (Congratulations!) They have four children, four grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Catherine Hrezo retired as resource teacher from Francis T. Evans Elementary in 1981. She later moved to Radford, VA, where she continued to work as a substitute teacher. Catherine spends the winter months in the warm climate of Sarasota, FL. She has three children, all of whom are in education: William is a professor at Radford University, Patricia Juengel is a teaching assistant in Prince George's County, and Ann Mongold teaches high school in Cumberland, MD.

Pamela and Joseph Lupo, of Upper Marlboro, are both county retirees. Pam retired in 2000, from Woodmore Elementary, as a science teacher, and Joe retired in 1998, from the Superintendent's office. Pam keeps busy singing, taking Italian and art classes, and making some of the desserts for her two sons' Italian restaurants (Lupo's Italian Restaurant in College Park and Lupo's Italian Chophouse in Fairfax). Joe stays involved with education by teaching part time at Goucher College and working with the Italian Embassy to establish Italian Language courses in some area schools. The Lupos have traveled to Russia, Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, Hawaii, and to Italy several times.

Catherine Cooper, of Annapolis, retired in 1984, from North Forestville Elementary. She volunteered for the next 15 years at Crofton Woods Elementary. Presently, Catherine volunteers at the Annapolis Visitor Center and as an usher at the Maryland Hall for the Performing Arts. She also makes items for fall craft shows. Catherine likes traveling in and out of the U.S.A. She has been to England, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, and taken several cruises. She has one son in OH, one daughter in MD, and one granddaughter in art school in FL.

Kathy Seiler, Godelieve Bartley, Paula Kaufman, Peggy Boles, Pamela Lupo, and Jannette Wundrow enjoyed the

beauty and fragrance of the Philadelphia Flower Show in early March.

Hilda Norwood, of Upper Marlboro, retired from Longwoods Elementary in 1994, but she remains involved with the school system. Hilda volunteers two days a week at Indian Queen School, where she assists with testing and working with a group of six students to improve their reading skills. Hilda chose to volunteer at Indian Queen, as her granddaughter attends there.

Florence Christian retired from Francis T. Evans Elementary in 1989. After retirement, she volunteered at F. T. Evans and Frederick Douglas High School for some years. Florence recently relocated to a condo in Odenton, MD, where she pursues her hobbies of needlework and reading. Sadly, Florence's husband passed away in December 2003. She has two daughters, one in MD, and one in N C, and three grandchildren.

James (Jim) Schrodt, a retired county music teacher now living in Longwood, FL, attended the University of Illinois Band Alumni Reunion in February. This was quite exciting, as Jim remembered many fond times performing there, especially directing his band arrangements and leading thousands of basketball fans as they sang the school song at each game. One of his most memorable performances was playing at the 1943 Orange Bowl!

Jannie Goldston, of Washington, D.C., and her husband, Clay, spent a week sightseeing and relaxing in Las Vegas, NV, in February. They especially enjoyed seeing the pretty desert flowers, made more plentiful this year because of the above average rainfall in the west. The Clay's were pleased to see that Las Vegas has become much more family oriented.

Florence DeWitt Howard, retired from Overlook Elementary in 1983, having spent 12 fond years before that at Ritchie Elementary until it became Wheatley Special Center and staff were given involuntary transfers. Florence and her husband, Chester, continue to live in Wheaton, MD, in the house they designed 50 years ago. Florence is active in her local church, Citizens' Association, and Homemakers Club, but her real passion over the years has been Maryland history. As a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society, she has contributed articles to the "Montgomery County Story" and helped to research and have published "History of Springbrook Forest" and "Second Addition to Culvers' Chance". Florence and her husband have made several trips to CT, FL, and CA. They have two daughters, both in education: Carol, a high school art teacher in Prince George's County, and Ginny, a

school counselor in FL. The Howard's also have six granddaughters and three great grandchildren (one boy!).

Calvin McMillian, of Waldorf, had a fun experience in mid-March when he was chosen King of the Senior Prom at the Waldorf Jaycees. Five hundred senior citizens from Charles County attended the Senior Prom, sponsored by Charles County organizations, including the Jaycees, the Association of Student Councils, and the Department of Community Services. High school students served and entertained for the gala evening affair. Calvin retired many years ago after having taught at Suitland, Largo, and Oxon Hill High Schools. He remains an active member of the community, and served on our recent "All About Me" book revision committee.

Dr. Edward Vest and his wife, Lucia, of Ft. Washington, were honored at a luncheon at George Washington University last November, for their generous donation toward tuition for students at the University. The Vests are definitely education-minded teacher retirees!

Flora Hawvermale retired in 1980 from Robert Gooddard Junior High School. She has since moved to Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, where she is thoroughly enjoying her retirement.

* * * * *

Lemon Dream Bars (June Readan's Recipe)

Set Oven at 350 degrees

2 cups flour

¼ cup sugar

2/3 cups butter

Cut butter into flour mixture until mixture resembles course crumbs. Press mixture into ungreased jelly roll pan. Bake 15 to 20 minutes until mixture is set, but not brown.

In large bowl combine:

4 beaten eggs

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar

2 cups coconut

1 cup pecans

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon baking power

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix well. Spread over baked dough. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Frost when cooled.

Frosting: Mix 1 pound box 10X sugar and lemon juice (1/3 to ½ cup) until smooth. Pour over bars. Cool and cut.

Not-So-Free Fares (AARP BULLETIN) March, 2005

The almighty U.S. dollar is getting a run for its money from another currency—frequent flier miles. The value of the 14 trillion air miles accumulated by travelers worldwide—many from credit card purchases—is an estimated \$700 billion, according to the British magazine the *Economist*.

Of course, earning miles is easier than redeeming them, since airlines put more restrictions on these "free" fares. That could explain why, at current rates of redemption, it would take 25 years to use those already accumulated.

The real rewards go to the credit card companies because they typically charge 6 percent higher interest and an average of \$51 more in annual fees for "free" mile cards than similar non-reward cards. "If you pay off your balance each month, these reward cards are great," says Ed Mierzwinski of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Washington. But if you carry a balance, the higher costs could add up to more than you'd pay out of pocket for a ticket.

Hogwarts Hoax

Whether it's the evil wizardry of Voldemort or a garden-variety scam, don't get duped: Those electronic Harry Potter books being peddled on the Internet aren't for real.

The perpetrators of this "phishing" scam are trying to steal your identity from your billing information. "Please protect yourselves, your computers and your credit cards," says author J. K. Rowling, who has never authorized electronic versions of the books.

***HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE
SUMMER.***

PROPOSED BUDGET 2005 - 2006

CATEGORY	CURRENT BUDGET 2004 - 2005	PROPOSED BUDGET 2005 - 2006
Archives	50.00	1600.00
Awards and Recognition	0.00	300.00
Liaison Professional	50.00	50.00
Operational	800.00	1000.00
President	200.00	200.00
Secretarial	300.00	300.00
MRTA Meetings	2500.00	2500.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00
Newsletter/Publications	10000.00	12000.00
Edu/Protective Services	5000.00	500.00
Hospitality	1500.00	1500.00
Legislative	1000.00	1000.00
Membership	250.00	300.00
Program	1500.00	1500.00
Remembrance	300.00	300.00
Community Service	1500.00	2500.00
Convention Gift	50.00	50.00
Scholarship	7000.00	10000.00
Contingency Fund	2800.00	1700.00
Incorporation Expenses	3000.00	500.00

GRAND TOTALS 37900.00 37900.00

ESTIMATED INCOME 2005 - 2006

DUES FROM MEMBERS @10.00 PER MEMBER - ESTIMATED MEMBERSHIP OF 1700	17000.00
FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT	14000.00
FROM SAVINGS ACCOUNT	6900.00
TOTAL	37900.00

THE Consumer's Edge

Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Maryland Attorney General

May/June 2003

Issue #111

Home Repair Scams

A man knocked on the door of an elderly Severna Park homeowner and offered to re-seal his driveway, as he had three years earlier for \$350. He said that for a repeat customer he would only charge half-price. The homeowner asked how much that would be and the man said he couldn't tell until he saw how much material it took. When the job was done, the man demanded \$1,400. The homeowner was stunned but felt he had to pay. After talking with his daughter, he called his bank to stop payment on the check, but it had already been cashed. The homeowner did not have the man's address or company name.

Home repair and improvement scams are among the most common consumer complaints.

Consumers complain about shoddy workmanship, "fly-by-night" contractors who take payments and don't show up to do the work, and companies that pressure homeowners into expensive, unneeded repairs. You can avoid becoming a victim by taking important precautions before having home repairs done.

Beware of roving con artists. These scam artists knock on people's doors and offer to do work such as roofing, gutter cleaning, driveway paving or tree pruning. They sometimes appear in the aftermath of hailstorms or tornados, offering to repair storm damage.

Warning signs of a scam:

- ◆ an offer of a reduced price because they've "just done a job nearby and have materials leftover"
- ◆ an offer of a "special" percentage off the repair without being clear about what the final price will be
- ◆ no street address or telephone number, just a post office box or an answering service

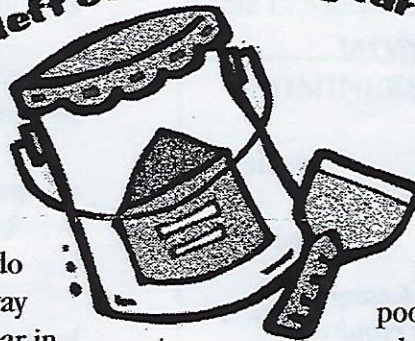
- ◆ a refusal to give a written estimate or contract.

Don't hire contractors who come to your door unsolicited, even if they seem honest and helpful. These con artists may take your money and disappear before finishing the job, or sometimes before even starting the work, and are probably not licensed. If something goes wrong, you would have no way to track them down. Also, admitting strangers to your home puts you at risk of being robbed.

Deal only with licensed contractors. When you need work done to your home, choose a contractor carefully.

- ◆ Get recommendations for contractors from satisfied friends and neighbors.

Bargain!
We'll fix your roof for less
with left over roofing tar



- ◆ Ask to see the worker's Home Improvement Commission license, and check the license number and expiration date. Call the Home Improvement Commission (410-333-6309) to verify a contractor's license and to ask about complaints filed against a company. Why? If a contractor you

hire fails to do the job, or does it poorly, you may be able to recover your losses through the Home Improvement

Commission's Guaranty Fund if your contractor is licensed.

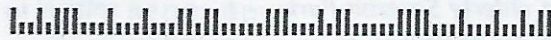
- ◆ Also call the Consumer Protection Division (410-528-8662) to ask about any complaints filed against the company.
- ◆ Insist on references from a contractor and check them to see if the work was done properly, on schedule, and within the contract price.
- ◆ Get estimates from at least two or three companies, especially for expensive repairs.

PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL
RETIRES ASSOCIATION

Editor: Jessie Frazier
6818 Painter Ter
Capitol Heights MD 20743

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

DATED MATERIAL



JANNETTE WUNDROW
1007 PACKTON LN
BOWIE MD 20716-1761

SPRING LUNCHEON

May 25, 2005

*Colony South
7401 Surratts Rd.
Clinton, MD*

*11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
12:15 Lunch - Reservations required*

Cost - \$21.00

*Deadline for reservations - May 19, 2005
(No refunds after May 19, 2005)*

Send reservations with your check payable to:

PGPSRA

*Mail to: Dr. E. Vest
7908 Klovstad Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744*

Include names of all attending.

TRIP WITH CHARLIE

June 2, 2005

*Strasburg, Pennsylvania
Sight and Sound Theatre*

Show - Biblical Musical - Story of Ruth

Cost - \$100.00

Send your reservations and check payable to:

PGPSRA TOURS

*Mail to: Charles Hudson
6710 Kipling Parkway
District Heights, MD 20747*

Deadline - May 15, 2005