



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

XXXXVII No. 5

May 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PGPSRA Members,

I thank all of you for your support during the 2012-13 year which is fast coming to a close. A very special thanks to chairpersons and committee members who executed their particular duties so effectively and efficiently.

Judith Zahren, Executive Director of MRSPA, Deborah McBroom and Angel Melendez of Aging Services Division Senior Medicare Patrol were the guest speakers at the March meeting. We learned of ways to protect ourselves against the numerous scams and fraud that exist in today's world. We can never be too careful.

Nominations and Elections of Officers for 2013 - 2014 - According to our bylaws, PGPSRA is to install new officers for the coming academic year at the general meeting in May. Some officers are quite willing to continue in their present positions, and two individuals have agreed to share the position of president. However, as of press time, the election process has been stymied because no one has made a firm commitment to serve as president-elect. If you or someone you know is willing to serve, please submit that name to me as soon as you can. The officers and members of this organization are helpful and supportive, making it easier for me to have served as president this year. For this reason, among others, I urge you to step forward and share the leadership.

The Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon of MRSPA will be held at the Doubletree - 210 Holiday Court in Annapolis, Maryland, on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Memorial Service at 9:30. The meeting convenes at 10:00.

The next **General Membership Meeting** is May 22, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. - Comfort Inn - Bowie. Please reserve your lunch with Dr. Vest today.

The Association has sent a contribution in the amount of **\$565.00** to help the choir of Northwestern High School to travel to and participate in the South African Choral Festival this summer. Northwestern's choir has the honor of being the only high school choir selected to represent the United States. I urge you to make a contribution to this worthy cause. Make out your check and mail to **Friends of NHS Choir- P.O. Box 185, Riverdale, MD 20738.**

Gretel James

*Congratulations and Best Wishes to
the Northwestern High School
Choir!*

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Maryland General Assembly adjourned April 9th. One Bill that was passed will permit the utility companies to add up to a \$2 per month surcharge onto each person's gas bill for projected infrastructure improvements. MRSPA, AARP Maryland, and USM strongly objected to this, saying that the utility companies are likely to add another charge onto everyone's bill after the improvements are made.

The House Appropriations Committee approved the MRSPA supported bill changing the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS) funding from the **Corridor** method back to the **Actuarial** method. The Senate Budget & Taxation Committee heard this Bill in February and passed it, BUT with an Amendment that allows the state to put in only \$200 million per year instead of the pre-determined Actuarial amount of \$300 million. MRSPA is strongly opposing this action. Now a Conference Committee has been named to resolve the matter, but it has not met as of this printing. (The state began using the Corridor method of funding during the Glendening administration, where-by they put in a reduced amount of money than had been determined to fund the system at an 80% level. Each year since, the state has continued this method of funding, reducing the System to about a 60% level.) Under the Actuarial funding method, a specific predetermined amount of \$300 million would be required to be added to MSRPS each year to bring the funded level up to 80%.

During the legislative session the MRSPA Legislative Committee met bi-weekly to decide on action for or against bills that would affect retirees. A Bill that we joined AARP and USM in opposing is one in which the telephone companies proposed a charge for calling 411 more than twice a month. (No outcome on this as of this printing.)

There has been much contention between the county Board of Education, the Legislature, and County Executive Rushern Baker, who wanted to take over the school system. After numerous meetings that included citizen input, no resolution was reached as of this printing.

Bills that the legislature passed included legalizing small amounts of medical marijuana, repealing the death penalty, approving same sex marriage, making cyber-bullying a crime, providing incentives for an off-shore wind farm, and adding a gas tax of four-cents per gallon in July that will increase to 20-cents per gallon over the next three years (a need for infrastructure repairs to highways and bridges). On track to pass (as of this printing) is a gun control law that bans assault weapons and sets provisions to finger print gun buyers, and a law allowing illegal immigrants to obtain a driver's license.

Special thanks to those members who attended our annual Legislative Day in Annapolis on March 13th. Delegate James Proctor (our trip sponsor), four Senators, and 15 Legislative Aides greeted us there. We were recognized from the House and Senate floors. AARP Maryland Director Hank Greenberg and State Advocacy Director Tammy Bresnahan also greeted us and cautioned us to direct our eyes and voices toward Washington as attempts are made to reduce Social Security benefits to seniors. Members attending received photos of the group standing on the steps of the State House, compliments of Senator Mike Miller.

Jannette Wundrow & Sue Finan, Legislative Co-chairs

JOIN OUR LISTSERVE
Give Dr. Vest your e-mail address and get the latest news quickly and efficiently.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2013

Opening Balances:

Checking Account: \$26263.32

Savings Account: 3023.11

Activity – Checking Account:

Receipts: 1481.08

Expenditures: 4949.66

No Activity – Savings Account

Balances as of March 31:

Checking Account: 22794.74

Savings Account: 3023.11

Total Assets: \$25817.85

E. Vest, Treasure

TRAVEL UPDATE

The March 20th trip to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see the play *Run for Your Wife* was highly successful and thoroughly enjoyed by the forty retirees who attended. At the September meeting proposals for other trips will be presented.

In the meanwhile, twelve people have already indicated an interest in going to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater to see *South Pacific* in July. Fifteen more people are needed for this trip to go. Call Charlie Hudson at 301.572.9778 before the end of April if you wish to see this show.

Charles Hudson, Travel Coordinator

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Home Stretch

Community Service members have served with integrity and character as they completed their respective projects of delivering school supplies, share baskets, and shoes to selected students in the central area of Prince George's County during the 2012 – 2013 school year.

The final project involves assisting four Bladensburg High School students with their end-of-the-year matriculation fees for the prom and graduation. PGPSRA members will have the pleasure of meeting the selected students at the general meeting in May.

Community Service members wish to thank all persons who contributed additional funds to make each project a success.

TEAMWORK HAS MADE THE DREAM WORK!

Courtney Pringle, Newsletter Writer

From: CONSUMER CONNECTION

Debit Card vs. Credit Card

Debit cards are becoming more widely used as an alternative to credit cards. There are advantages and disadvantages for each card type.

Debit cards are useful for routine and small purchases, but not so much for major purchases or buying items online.

Credit cards can be handy for buying things when your bank account balance is low or to take advantage of a no-interest grace period.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2013 – 2014

CATEGORY	CURRENT BUDGET 2012 – 2013	PROPOSED BUDGET 2013 – 2014
Archives	100.00	150.00
Awards & Recognition	150.00	150.00
Operational	500.00	600.00
President	100.00	100.00
Secretarial	50.00	50.00
MRSPA Meetings	500.00	500.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00
Newsletter/Publications	8000.00	9000.00
Consumer Education	500.00	500.00
Legislative	1500.00	1700.00
Membership	750.00	1000.00
Program	500.00	500.00
Remembrance	150.00	150.00
Community Service	5000.00	6000.00
Convention Gift	0.00	50.00
Scholarship	10000.00	5000.00
Contingency Fund	400.00	2750.00
GRAND TOTALS	28800.00	28800.00

ESTIMATED INCOME

Dues from members @ \$15.00 per member Estimated membership of 1600	24000.00
From checking account	4800.00
TOTAL	28800.00

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The PGPSRA Scholarship Awards will be announced at the general meeting in May, and a special article highlighting each recipient will be published in the September issue of *Echoes*.

Alveta Jones, Chair

REMEMBRANCE / NECROLOGY



Roy Burley	01 – 21 – 13
Frederick D. Phillips	12 – 31 – 12
Martha M. Rae	02 – 15 – 13
Dorothy Vozar	01 – 13 – 13

Jannie Goldston, Chair

BITS AND PIECES

We are pleased to note the May through August birthdays of our Emeritus members (age 90 years, plus), who gave many years to educating children in Prince George's County.

Happy **May** birthday wishes to: Ms. Eileen Henderson of Bowie, who will be having her 99th birthday on the 3rd; Ms. Maxine Cunningham of Annapolis will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 13th; and Mrs. Marjorie Miller of Rockville, who will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 28th.

Happy **June** birthday greetings to: Ms. Eileen Kendrick of Waldorf, who will be marking her 94th birthday on the 1st; Mrs. Edna Long of Dameron, MD, who will be having her 93rd birthday on the 7th; **Ms. Esther Vogel of Sebastopol, CA, who is celebrating her 102nd birthday on the 11th**; Mrs. Dessamore Hillwood of Leawood, KS, who is commemorating her 91st birthday on the 16th; Ms. Mary E. Mills of Mechanicsville, MD, who is celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 20th; and Mrs. Grace Grant of Denver, NC, who is marking her 93rd on the 29th.

Happy **July** birthday wishes to: Ms. Mary Cross of Waldorf, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 20th; Mr. Joseph Hall of Washington, D.C., who will be noting his special day on the 22nd; and Mrs. Alice Konze of Oxon Hill will be having her 93rd birthday on the 31st.

Happy **August** birthday wishes to: Ms. Leah Martin of Gaithersburg, who will be commemorating her 93rd birthday on the 1st; Ms. Corrine Warder of Lehigh Acres, FL, who will be having her 92nd birthday on the 16th; and Ms. Ada Warrington of Seaford, DE, who will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 27th.

Mrs. Thelma Righter celebrated her 99th birthday

last February 25th. She retired after 24 years as secretary at Bladensburg Elementary. Mrs. Righter lived in Cheverly for many years but is now in a retirement home near her daughter's home in Sterling, VA. She still enjoys playing Bridge with her friends.

Mrs. Elinor Whitehead of Bowie retired in 1995 from High Point High School. Her interests include history, reading, and traveling. She writes the newsletter for her widows/widowers' group and takes courses at the Senior Center. Her travels have taken her to Ireland, England, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, New England, and on a Caribbean cruise. Elinor has five grandchildren some of whom she babysits for -- and one, who recently made her a great-grandmother!

Dr. E. Dean Hensley retired from Crossland Senior High School in 1993 and is now enjoying life in Big Island, VA. For the past 19 years he has been working on his "Bucket List", which includes extensive reading, lecturing, and learning the basics of ballroom dancing. He often thinks of his friends in Prince George's County.

Carol Williams of Ft. Washington retired in 2012 from the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College. She is now fully involved with her previously part-time longarm quilting business, Quilts & Sew On. She also works as a notary signing agent. Her travels take her to quilt shows around the metropolitan area. Since retiring, Carol has enjoyed renewing friendships with colleagues on Facebook and lunching with friends. She has one son, Jonathan, who is getting married in May.

Johanna Guccione of Alexandria, VA, retired from Owens Road Elementary in 2005; however, as an ESOL (English as a Second Language) teacher, she taught in several schools. After retirement, she worked for another five years in Fairfax County. Johanna is

now involved as a member of the Springfield Acres Garden Club, the Wine Appreciation Group, The Basket Bunch, the Patuxent River Park Basket Weaving Guild, and the High Country Basket Weavers. She continues to learn new craft skills by taking classes with the Smithsonian Resident Associates, the Workhouse Art Center (hand making paper), and the Torpedo Factory (needle felting). Johanna has enjoyed travels to China, Italy, Canada, AZ, NM, MN, NC, VT, the Western Parks tour.

Roger White of Crownsville, MD, served as principal of Hyattsville Elementary until his retirement in 2004. Immediately afterward, he took the position of director of a private school in College Park. Now Roger mostly fills his time by doing all kinds of work around the house. He also serves as a very involved member of the MRSPA Legislative Committee. Roger and his wife will be celebrating their 42nd wedding anniversary on May 8th. They have two children and four wonderful granddaughters.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jannette Wundrow at jannettedrow@comcast.net or at 1007 Packton Lane, Bowie MD 20716

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee thanks each one of you for making this a successful membership year. You invited friends and colleagues to attend our meetings. You encouraged new members to join our organization. You donated gifts for door prizes. You enthusiastically supported our membership activities. We appreciate and applaud your efforts and ask for your continued support as we move forward.

The March general meeting was well attended, informative, and fun. The March and April birthday celebrants were photographed by our own Don Conway and serenaded by the melodious voices of their fellow retirees. Then they were directed to choose a birthday present from the gift table. The celebrants were Ruby

Gross, Alveta Jones, Gretel James, Jannie Goldston, and Carolyn Kinbrough.

Our Door Prize winners were Jennie Thomas, Debra McBroom, Claudia Farrell, Shirley Johnson, Ethel Brown, Dan Williams, Bill Brose, and Elinor Ford.

The Grand Prize winner was Lillie Artis.

Congratulations to all!

Special thanks go to Charline Jacob and Alice Hutchinson who took care of the Membership Committee's responsibilities in the absence of Lorraine Johnson and Pat Tompkins.

Remember: NUMBERS COUNT! Continue to invite your friends and colleagues to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Have a great and restful summer.

Lorraine Johnson, Chair

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1, 2013

PGPSRA Executive Board Meeting
PGCEA Center
10:00 a.m.

May 14, 2013

MRSPA Annual Business Meeting
Doubletree, Annapolis

May 22, 2013

PGPSRA General Membership Meeting
Comfort Inn, Bowie
11:00 a.m.

June 5, 2013

PGPSRA Transition Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.
PGCEA Center

August 1, 2013

Deadline for *Echoes*

PARAPROSDOKIANS

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or re-interpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists.

* I asked God for a bike, but I know that God doesn't work that way. So I stole the bike and asked for forgiveness.

* Where there is a will, I want to be in it.

* If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

* I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

* I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it is getting harder and harder to find one now.

* I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

* Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

* Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

* Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

Excerpted from the Washington County Retired Educational Personnel Association *Report Card*

YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED!

The May 22nd luncheon is the final meeting of the academic year, and it is jam-packed with important issues for PGPSRA. First of all, it is the time for the election and the installation of officers. There will also be a presentation on what seniors need to know to navigate the evolving Health Care Plan successfully. The prospective graduates from Bladensburg whom we have sponsored for the prom and graduation will be present. Finally, we will be able to see friends and acquaintances we might not see again until September. We hope to see you on May 22.

PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: May 22, 2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Comfort Inn – Bowie
4500 Crain Highway
Bowie, MD 20716
Cost: \$25.00

To make your luncheon reservation, please send your check, payable to PGPSRA, for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729. The reservation deadline is May 13, 2013.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Lunches Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Names of Guests: _____

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

**Prince George's Public School
Retirees Association**

Dr. Edward N. Vest
7908 Klovstad Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

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**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &
LUNCHEON**

May 22,, 2013
Comfort Inn - Bowie
11:00 a.m.
Reservations Due – May 13

**LIFE IS LIKE GOLF – FORGET THE SCORE
AND KEEP ON SWINGING.**