

# ECHOES

Vol. LIII No. 5

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

May 2019

## PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

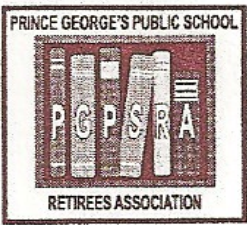
### THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS!



Can you believe another year has successfully ended for the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association? We are continually reminded that as we all work hard, together, we will accomplish just about anything we set our minds and hearts to.

The 2018-2019 session had many ups and downs. Sadly, our many hopes concerning increased membership were not achieved. Unfortunately, many friends and colleagues either moved from the area or are no longer present with us. Yet, we not only survived, we persevered in style!

Nevertheless, we held on to each other as we held fast to our goals for this organization. We weathered the storms of uncertainty and difficulty. And, we are grateful for those members who have hung in here with us and made new inroads to success in our many committees and activities.



Special thanks to the officers and committee chairs for their labor in initiating programming and services to our membership this session. A very special "Thank you" to the many members who donated their 50/50 windfall winnings to our Scholarship Committee. These members have selflessly contributed to increase the funds available to graduating seniors enabling them to continue their education. The Community Service Committee has also received several donations from our membership. We must continue with our sleeves rolled up and do all we can to ensure our MRSPA President's theme: **Connecting, Protecting and Making a Difference.**

Thanks, also, to the Bylaws Committee, chaired by MaryLouise Isbell, for preparing the proposed bylaw change. This change, when approved, will extend the president's term from one year to two years. This proposed bylaw change will be voted on at the May 15th meeting.

Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th, at the Comfort Inn on Route 301. May 15th is also **International Day of Families**. Why not treat a family member to our last membership meeting for this session? Additionally, May 15th has been set aside to recognize those high school graduating seniors who are recipients of this year's PGPSRA scholarships.

MRSPA President, Ann Marie Downey and Executive Director, Wanda Twigg will be our special guests for this meeting. President Downey will install our newly elected officers: president, president-elect, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer.

It was my pleasure to serve as your president this year. Your friendships, energy, and dedication to this organization will always be precious to me. I look forward to yet another year of praiseworthy accomplishments during this next session.

May God bless and keep you.

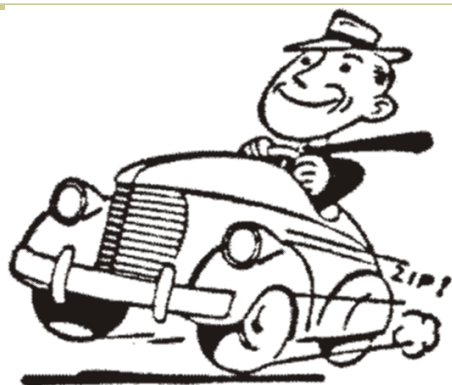
Lorraine Williams Johnson, President

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## The Day was saved by AARP



*Shown here is Rose Hobson who stepped in at the last minute when we needed a program, after our scheduled speaker had to cancel. She brought two AARP helpers and presented a super program about Driver Safety for Seniors. She brought enthusiasm and information.....and handouts galore! It was the BEST! Thank You Rose, and ladies!!*



## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

Past President/Nomimating:

George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: George D. Denny

Recording Sec.: Nicole Dias (nicoledias134@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)

Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)

BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Bylaws: Marylouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (**donconway5@icloud.com**)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinCI@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)

& Brenda Barnes

Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

& Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias



**Meeting Date has Changed!! May's meeting date is different this year!**

**WE WILL MEET**

**May 15, 2019**

**Comfort Inn, Bowie**



***Summer  
Is  
Coming!!***



## **SCHOLARSHIP NEWS**

We have good news from our applicants this year. Due to the Committee members making individual contacts with the high school Counselors we had an increase in applications for education. This year we had 11 qualified applicants. Interviews will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The selected recipients will be invited to attend the PGPSRA May 15<sup>th</sup> Luncheon at Comfort Inn , Bowie, Md.

The Scholarship Committee wants to send a special thank you to all of our members who continually contribute to our scholarship fund either by buying a 50/50 raffle ticket or sending a special donation. All contributions are greatly appreciated. This year, we will be giving two \$1,000.00 scholarships and several book scholarships as your donations allow. We hope you will join us at the May meeting to hear our recipients share their aspirations for their futures in education. Their names will be listed in the fall Echoes.

Brenda Barnes and Delores Brown Co-Chairs

Vera Davis Member

**MAMA MIA!! – 8/28/19 (Payment due 7/25)**  
**BODYGUARD- 10/30/19 (Payment due 9/25)**

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Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Trip  
 Toby's Dinner Theatre  
 59 Symphony Road  
 Columbia, Maryland

Buffet served from 10:30 am – 11:45 am  
 Show starts at 12:30 p.m.

**Cost for Each Show - \$95.00 per person**

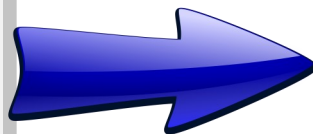
**Make checks out to PGPSRA**

Mail to: Addie L. Martin, 9706 Frank Tippet Road, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 20772

Please call the phone number below if you need wheelchair  
 accessibility.

Questions? Call: Addie Martin (301)868-6081

Bus will leave from the PGCEA Building on 8008 Marlboro Pike,  
 Forestville, MD at 9:00 am



TREASURER'S REPORT – MARCH – 2019

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$9305.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	2028.40
EXPENDITURES	-	3533.19

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	7780.21
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83
TOTAL ASSETS		\$7809.04

Edward N. Vest, Treasurer

**VISIT THESE WEBSITES**

**www. MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org**

If you have not already done so,  
send your email address to Dr. Vest  
To get the latest, quickest news.



**MRSPA Business Meeting**

This annual meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn,  
Bowie on May 8th.

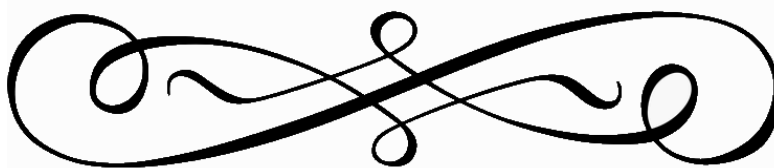
Our local has a full delegate representation!



**Maryland's House Speaker Dies!**

As we were about to go to print, we learned that our long time member of the Maryland legislature has died. Michael E. Busch died, after a short illness, at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore on Sunday, April 7, 2019 just as the legislative session was set to close the following day.

He has served Maryland for many years and will be missed by many, mostly his family.



## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Legislative Report April 2019

Once again, we had a very successful Legislative Trip to Annapolis on March 7, 2019. With 22 members in attendance, we had our group photo taken with Senator Mike Miller and our sponsor Delegate Susie Proctor. We sat in on informative sessions of The House and Senate followed by a tour of the Historic Rooms and The Governor's mansion. We gathered in The Prince George's Delegation Room for luncheon and were visited by numerous Delegates and Legislative Aides.

Our guide this year was Ms. Mary Mulvihill. The following comments were provided by our members.

I so appreciate the warmth and knowledge of Maryland history given us by our guide, Mary. Her clear enthusiasm for communicating her extensive command of events, people, art, architecture and politics was so engaging. It was like following a master storyteller about for the morning and the time flew by.

Mary was an excellent tour guide. She was pleasant, knowledgeable, patient and understanding. I learned a lot from Mary.

Our guide, Mary, was well versed and knowledgeable about the material she shared. It showed in her delivery. She made it a great day!

Our tour guide, Mary, was the best. I have been on several tours before and they were all good, but this was really great. We learned a lot of history.

We are never too old to learn more about Maryland history and the history of the Annapolis buildings.

Mary integrated historical contributions made by African Americans to the State of Maryland.

Mary was a breath of spring time! She was energetic in her delivery of Maryland history which included blacks and whites in the struggle to make Maryland Great!



Sue Finan, Chair

sfinan77@gmail.com

### REMEMBRANCE

Brooks, Walterence	02/16/2019	Carrick, Althea	03/13/2019
Custis, Jr. Irving	02/04/2019	Kidwell, John N	02/04/2019
Henninger, Margaret E. "Peggy"	03/09/2019	Macon, Ruby G.	02/19/2019
McGee, Emmerly	03/06/2019	Perry, Gertrude	03/08/2019
Zirkle, Peggy B.	02/13/2019	Wells, Elisabeth A.	09/23/2018
Griffith, William V.	04/20/2019		

Jannie Goldston, Chair



## Bits and Pieces

Happy **May** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Virginia Hobble of Princess Anne, will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mr. William Beaver of Silver Spring, will be having his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Martinez of Mount Rainier, will be turning 94 on the 13<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Helen Endo of Silver Spring, will be marking her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Yvonne Koolhof of Naples, FL. will be 95 years- old on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy **June** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Mrs. Edna Long of Fredericksburg, VA, will be celebrating her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Mary Mills of Mechanicsville will be turning 98 years-old on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Dora Halton of Mitchellville, will be marking her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday the 21<sup>st</sup>;

Happy **July** birthday wishes to several other Emeritus members: Ms. Margaret Ann Beardsley of Austin, TX, will be celebrating her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Robert Forest of Broomfield, CO, will be marking his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Mr. John Moran of Silver Spring, will be having his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Calvin McMillion of Waldorf, will be turning 96 years-old on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Grafton of Clinton, will be marking her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; two of our fellow members will be having birthdays on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Dr. Joseph Hall of Washington, D.C, will be reaching 97 years-old, and Mr. William Downey of Poland, OH, will be turning 93 years of age; Ms. Eva Williams of Harve de Grace, will be marking her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Alice Konze of Oxon Hill, will be celebrating her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Happy **August** birthday greetings to another Emeritus member: Mr. Oliver Myers of Brandywine, will be turning 96 years-old on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Rosa Lee (Rose) Rickers of Bowie, retired from Kenilworth Elementary in 1995. She has enjoyed many travels, including to Columbia - South Africa, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Germany (where she attended "The Passion Play"), Italy, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama Canal, and most of the Caribbean Islands. She has also visited Ruth Bailey in Kentucky (a fellow retired teacher from Kenilworth Elementary). Rose likes to read and do puzzles. She was a care-taker for her ill Mother before her passing, and also cared for an ill friend and her children for a period. At 85 years of age, Rose is still in good health, even cutting her own grass! She has two sons, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Jane Robinson-Levant of Silver Spring, had an interesting career in the Prince George's County School System. She spent most of her teaching career, beginning in 1955, at Frederick Douglass School in Upper Marlboro, which was segregated at the time, and housed grades K through 12. Jane remembers when integration began; a smooth transition was accomplished at the school. However, it was closed after a period, and used for offices, thus her involuntary transfer to Chillum Elementary, from which she retired in 1985. After retiring Jane substituted for a while in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Afterward, she volunteered with SOME (So Some May Eat), Everybody Wins at Marie Reed Elementary, Special Olympics, Saint Ann's Home, Martha's Table, and as an usher and greeter at Asbury U.M. Church in Washington. Jane belongs to a Fraternal Organization that holds their annual conferences in August, when she attends. She has traveled east and west, north and south, and to many of the states in between – and to Canada – but no cruises (too much water!).

Godelieve Bartley retired as a special education kindergarten teacher from Wheatley Early Childhood Center in 2002. Since the passing of her husband, she has relocated to Collington-Kendal Senior Community in Mitchellville, where she has quickly become involved serving on various committees for the benefit and beautification of the residents, including the Flower Committee, Weed Warriors, Trip Scheduling, and Meditation. She participates weekly in promoting Health &

Continued on page 8

Bits and Pieces cont'd:

Wellness activities: water sports, Pilates exercises, yoga, organizing walking groups, and also singing in the Collington Choir. Godelieve served for 15 years on the Board of CEC (Council for Exceptional Children), and she continues her participation as a Docent at Riversdale House Museum. She schedules an annual trip to Los Angeles to visit her son and daughter-in-law, and has made many trips to her home-land of Belgium to visit with her brothers and their families. She has taken trips to the Netherlands to visit friends and relatives, and recently traveled to Perth-Freemantle in West Australia to visit good friends for a four-week stay. Before her husband's passing, the Bartleys sailed on 14 cruises to various parts of the world: Central and South America, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Greenland, Scandinavia, Russia, Greece, and Turkey.

Kathy Rodeffer retired in 2012 as the ISSC/Instrumental Music Supervisor. She lives in Silver Spring on five acres of land with her two horses, six hens, and several dogs and cats. She is active with the Best Dawg Rescue and serves on the Animal Welfare Committee for the City of College Park. Kathy is involved as the Instrumental Music Coordinator at the Friends Community School, and also volunteers at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg with the Pep Band, Admissions Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee. She has two daughters, Sarah and Grace, both of whom attend Elizabeth Seton High School. The family has enjoyed a trip to Disney World for each of the past several years, and are looking forward to going to Hawaii this June.

Candace Stepp of Silver Spring, retired in 1993 as a special education teacher at Buck Lodge Middle School. For the past 10 years she has been a driver for "Meals on Wheels" in Montgomery County. However, for a number of years after retiring, she was the care-giver for her mother and then her husband, until their deaths. Candace was a military wife; one of her husband's most interesting stations was when they spent three years living in Munich, Germany. She admits that she is no longer a good traveler. Candace has one daughter, who lives nearby and manages her social life to get her out of the house occasionally.

William Rogers relocated to Clearwater, FL, after his retirement in 1987, as Guidance Counselor from North Western High School. He had previously taught at Glenridge Jr. High and eleventh grade English at DuVal High School, where he was the yearbook sponsor. The first two years he lived in Florida, he worked in the Pinellas County School System as a Guidance Counselor. William has traveled often to Las Vegas, and twice to England to attend several shows. He likes to go to movies and has enjoyed numerous Broadway shows in Tampa. He has taken advantage of the many amusement parks in his area, visiting Busch Gardens, Disney World, Sea World, and Universal Studios. William has fond memories of working with Principal Daniel Chase at DuVal High School in the 1960's.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [jannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetteWundrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324

## **OUR SPECIAL END OF YEAR MEETING!!**

**BE SURE TO ATTEND**

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S SCHOOLS**

**WILL BE THERE!**

**COME AND SEE SOME OF OUR FINEST**

**THANK THEM FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND WISH THEM WELL**

**AS THEY HEAD OUT TO THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR LIVES**



## MEMBERSHIP

Another year is coming to a close so I hope you can attend the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Thanks to Maryann Royall for joining the MEMBERSHIP Committee at the March meeting. The door prize winners were Gela Brooks(2<sup>nd</sup> timer), Jayne Jones and Jannette Wundrow. Two winners donated to the Community Service and Scholarship Committees.

You will most likely see this offer many times...if you pay your MRSPA/PGPSRA yearly dues by personal check this note is to YOU! \$10.00 will be taken off of your bill if you switch to AUTO DUES DEDUCTION for 2019-2020. Forms to make this change will be available at the May meeting.  
[http://www.pgpsra.org/\\_public/Pix/MembershipApplication17.pdf](http://www.pgpsra.org/_public/Pix/MembershipApplication17.pdf)

PGPSRA has 5 meetings each school year but we operate 365 Days a year. The working committees need YOU! Many members just come to meetings and learn what the committees have done. Consider joining a committee to add your ideas and concerns. For a long time MEMBERSHIP had only one member...ME. For our organization to be ongoing having several on a committee helps- especially when THE ONE MEMBER leaves the area, becomes ill or just is worn out. Many members have been working for YEARS. This is not an organization for a few LEADERS...it is your organization and we need input from you. Think about many of the things you do in your communities...would others like to do these things...in the name of PGPSRA? There will be slips on the tables at the May meeting for all to write suggestions of ideas to help our organization be an active, live, exciting one that future Retirees will look forward to joining. Reading at nursing homes- getting together to play games- checking in on members who have been ill or just not attending meetings- having a sewing group- sharing hobbies-suggesting speakers for meetings-dancing-being a pen pal to members in other states etc-etc-etc. No idea is a bad or poor one...just turn in the slips. MEMBERS OUT OF STATE....send us your ideas, though out of state you are an important member of PGPSRA! <http://www.pgpsra.org/>

Wishing an enjoyable summer ..more in 2019-2020.

Charline Jacob -Membership Chair  
 M. Isbell-F.King-M.Royall members

### PGPSRA Reservation Form

May 15, 2019

**Comfort Inn, Bowie MD**

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed **\$30** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by the May 8 mail delivery!).**

## PGPSRA

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

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

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**Next Meeting**  
**May 15, 2019**  
**Comfort Inn, Bowie**  
**11:00 am**

