

# ECHOES

Vol. LIV No. 5

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

May 2020

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

### From the President:

One almost needs a crystal ball when preparing to write this message. In the March issue we talked about March Madness, referring to the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Little did we know at the time that the real March Madness was not about basketball at all. It was, instead, about the effects of the dreaded coronavirus that has sparked fear and uncertainty across the nation and the world. Health concerns resulted in cancellation of our March and May General Meetings. As we write this message two months later, we are still uncertain how this chapter in our lives will play out.

Despite all of these concerns and uncertainties PGPSRA's Executive Committee and committee members have continued to work diligently behind the scenes to meet the needs of our community and fulfill their responsibilities despite ever-changing realities. You will find reports from many of these committees elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Executive Committee also has approved the following:

\*The May 20 General Meeting has been cancelled.

\*Association dues will increase \$5 per year--from \$15 to \$20--effective July 1, 2020.

\*The 2020-2021 Budget, which is included elsewhere in this newsletter, has been approved. If you have questions or concerns, please address them to Dr. Vest at 301-248-2807 ([homevest552@comcast.net](mailto:homevest552@comcast.net)) or me at 301-641-3147 ([george.dilden@yahoo.com](mailto:george.dilden@yahoo.com)) . Given the highly unprecedented climate in which we all live, please consider the budget as adopted.

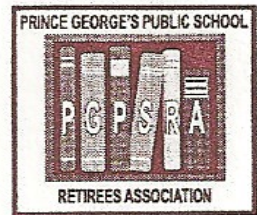
\*Nominated to continue in office Dr. Ed Vest, Treasurer; Gretel James, Recording Secretary; and Courtney Pringle, Corresponding Secretary. All three have agreed to continue serving in their respective positions until an election can be held.

We don't know what affect the pandemic ultimately will have on us all. But this much we do know. There truly is strength in numbers. And we are all in this together. We look forward to the time when we will be talking about what was instead of wondering what will be. We look forward to resuming regular operations in September. Meanwhile, stay safe, help others when you can, and pray for deliverance.

As always, you can find back issues of the ECHOES newsletter and lots of other valuable information about PGPSRA by visiting our website at [pgpsra.org](http://pgpsra.org).

No, we do not have a crystal ball. We don't know what affect the pandemic will have on us all. But this much we do know. There truly is strength in numbers, and we need to grow in order to provide greater service to our members. To do that, we need **YOU**.

Thanks and best wishes,  
George D. Denny, Jr., President



President's Report	1
Officers/Committees	2
Trips	3
Membership	3
Community Service	3
Budget	4
Legislative Report	5
Bits and Pieces	6
Bits and Pieces (cont'd)	7
Remembrance	7



## Notice to Members

Welcome to an abbreviated May 2020 edition of the PGPSRA Echoes newsletter. It was our original intent to delay publication until perhaps June, and only send it out electronically. However, it was pointed out that many of our members do not use emails, and many others who do use emails have chosen not receive newsletters electronically.

We are sending this out both by email and snail mail now to be sure every member knows what is going on with our organization. ***We strongly suggest that everyone who does use emails sign up to get electronic newsletters in the future.***

## Donations Help Support PGPSRA Scholarships, Community Service Activities

The PGPSRA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools and to graduates who plan to pursue a career in education. Last May PGPSRA awarded two \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors and provided over \$6,000 in clothing, school supplies and other necessities to students and families in several elementary schools. We are seeking donations for these two committees so that they may continue their great work. All donations come with our thanks and appreciation. Please forward your donation as follows:

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

Enclosed is my donation (check payable to PGPSRA) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Service Committee  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Committee

**(If you choose to split your donation between the two committees, please feel free to do so by placing the amount for each after the names of each.)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please include this form with your donation.***

## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny  
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
(obridge@verizon.net)

Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson  
(johnson6608@comcast.net)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)

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: Maryann M. Royall  
(maryakaroyall@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: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net),  
Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda

The *mediocre* teacher  
TELLS.

The *good* teacher  
EXPLAINS.

The *superior* teacher  
DEMONSTRATES.

The *great* teacher  
INSPIRES.



-William Arthur Ward

InSpirational Quotes for Teachers

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Stymied But Not Out

Community Service members have been stymied by the Covid-19 virus Pandemic, just as Prince George's County's students, and teachers have been. As a result, we have been put on hold in our attempt to service J. Frank-Dent, Forest Heights, Glassmanor and J.R. Randall Elementary schools with school needs.

The four senior students selected to receive matriculation fee assistance from Community Service at Surrattsville High School have been stymied too. Their graduation plans have been put on hold indefinitely. The Superintendent of Prince George's County Schools has promised to correct this problem, if at all possible, when the Covid-19 virus has been contained and public schools are back in session. When that happens, Community Service looks forward to awarding the four high school students with \$500.00 each, to help clear up their school debts.

Please note: our Community Service members have unfinished business that will be addressed when we are able to assemble, later in the year. We want to thank all the persons who have contributed to our committee to make our 2019-2020 plans successful. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

Courtney Pringle, Chairman

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues to recruit new members for our chapter. We encourage you to bring someone new to our next meeting in September. "Each one, bring one"! The Committee welcomes your ideas for increasing our membership. For the first time in recent memory Prince George's Public Schools Retirees' Association recorded a PLUS in Membership totals on the most recent MRSPA Membership Report. Our membership increased by 0.08% over the previous total.

AS of 2/28/20 Prince George's County membership's current total :1265. Emeritus members: 71.

**BILLING NOTICE:** Members who pay by check will receive the first billing notice in JUNE.

**JULY DUES DEDUCTION:** The deadline for members to be included in the July 2020 dues deduction is:

Monday, July 6, 2020.

If you have questions or would like to join this committee, please contact the Chairperson, Maryann Royall.



## PGPSRA BUDGET – 2020 – 2021

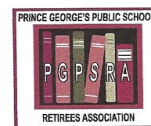
CATEGORY	CURRENT BUDGET 2019 – 2020	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020 – 2021
Ad Hoc Committee for Senior Member Outreach	250.00	0.00
Archives	150.00	175.00
Awards and Recognition	450.00	450.00
Operational	600.00	600.00
President	100.00	100.00
Secretarial	50.00	50.00
MRSPA Meetings	100.00	100.00
Treasurer	50.00	75.00
Newsletter/Publications	8000.00	8000.00
Hospitality	200.00	200.00
Legislative	1400.00	1400.00
Membership	950.00	500.00
Program	150.00	150.00
Remembrance	100.00	100.00
Community Service	5000.00	6000.00
Scholarship	2300.00	4000.00
Contingency Fund	150.00	150.00
Savings Account	0.00	1950.00
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>20000.00</b>	<b>24000.00</b>
 <b>ESTIMATED INCOME</b>		
DUES FROM MEMBERS @\$20.00 PER MEMBER -		24000.00
ESTIMATED MEMBERSHIP OF 1200		
		<b>TOTAL 24000.00</b>

Dr. Edward N. Vest, Treasurer

### PGPSRA Members Can Save a Tree, Help Our Budget



You can save a tree and help our budget by allowing PGPSRA to email the ECHOES newsletter to you as opposed to sending it to you in the mail. Not only will you get it faster, but you will also get it in **COLOR!!** Please help us by sending the following information to Bonnie Brose at [bcbrose@comcast.net](mailto:bcbrose@comcast.net)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### Legislative Report May 2020

As luck would have it, PGPSRA managed to visit Annapolis for our March 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative trip. From our group photo with our sponsor Delegate Susie Proctor and Senator Mike Miller on the State House steps to our luncheon gathering with several delegates and aides, the trip was a success. Once again, our guide was Mary Mulvihill who led us through the Senate, House, the Historic Rooms and Government House. At lunch, we had 26 members in attendance and were visited by 6 Delegates, 3 Legislative Aides and of course, Senator Joanne Benson, who is a regular guest.

The 2020 Legislative Session ended quite abruptly. According to The Washington Post (3-19-2020) “As lawmakers hurtled toward adjournment, they passed a \$47.5 billion budget with little debate and steered about \$100 million toward combating the public health crisis and economic fallout from the pandemic.” “Lawmakers approved an education overhaul that would pump as much as \$4 billion annually into public schools by 2030 and prescribe policies designed to make Maryland schools among the best in the nation.” The bill, though passed, has safeguards in place if adjustments are needed in this time of economic uncertainty.

Please visit the MRSPA website for more legislative information.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair  
Sfinan77@gmail.com



We made it to our annual trip to meet our legislators in Annapolis this year. With the close-downs, including an early end to the legislature this year, our official photo has not yet arrived. We thought you might like to see a more informal shot. See if you can find someone you know!

## Bits and Pieces

Happy **May** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Virginia Hobble of Princess Anne will be having her 95th birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mr. William Beaver of Silver Spring will be celebrating his 93rd birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Martinez of Mount Rainier will be marking her 95th birthday on the 13<sup>th</sup>; **Mrs. Helen Endo of Silver Spring will be observing her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup>**; and Ms. Yvonne Koolhof of Naples, FL. will be turning 96 years-old on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy **June** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Ms. Mattie Schafer of Easton will be celebrating her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Carolyn Davis of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Dora Halton of Mitchellville will be marking her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy **July** birthday wishes to more Emeritus members: Mr. Robert Forest of Broomfield, CO. will be observing his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Calvin McMillion of Waldorf will be turning 97 years-old on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Mary Grafton of Clinton will be having her 93rd birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; two fellows will be celebrating their birthdays on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mr. William Downey of Poland, OH. will be turning 94 years-old, and Dr. Joseph Hall of Washington, D.C. will be reaching 98 years of age; and Ms. Eva Williams of Harve-de-Grace will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **August** birthday greetings to two of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Carolyn Dade of Suitland will be observing her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; and Mr. Oliver Myers of Brandywine will be marking his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **September** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Ms. Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D. C. will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; two ladies will be having their birthdays on the 6<sup>th</sup>: Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S.C. will be turning 98 years-old, and Mrs. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D. C. will be reaching her 95<sup>th</sup> year; Ms. Jane Hand of Catonsville will be observing her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; two members will be celebrating on the 20<sup>th</sup>: Mr. Camillio DiMunzio of LaPlata will be turning 93 years -old, and **Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis will be reaching 100 years of age**; Mr. John Connor of Annapolis will be marking his 93rd birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; and two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mrs. Barbara Davenport of Glenwood will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday and Ms. Martha Gibson of Tracy's Landing will be turning 92 years of age.

Robert Brown, Jr. of Lanham retired from Magnolia Elementary in 2005. He is an avid sports fan, so since retirement, he has enjoyed attending University of Maryland sports events, holding season tickets to both the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, as well as, the Nationals Baseball Team. Robert volunteers for "Help by Phone" by picking up food and transporting it to one of their pantries at the Moravian Church on Good Luck Road. He serves as an Elder on the Berwyn Presbyterian Church Session and is Chair of the Church Property Management Committee. He is very involved with the Kingswoods Civic Association and enjoys their sponsored activities. Robert's favorite type of travel is to visit the nooks and crannies of the United States in small towns and historical places. He always enjoys trips to Western Maryland, especially his hometown of Lonaconing. In April he was looking forward to taking his grandchildren to Disney World. Robert and his wife, Dorothy, will be celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 26<sup>th</sup>. They have one daughter, a son and daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Penelope Phelps retired in 1991 from the Martin Luther King Academic Center. She enjoyed the next several years as a docent at historical museums in Laurel, and later in Venice, FL. She spent many wonderful vacations attending traditional Jazz Festivals throughout the United States. About eight months ago, Penelope and her husband relocated to Tampa, FL. to be near their son.

Continued on Page 7

## Bits and Pieces, Cont'd.

Melissa Zentz of Friendship, MD. retired from Suitland High School in 2011. She has continued her dedication to education at Suitland by subbing there for the years since. (\*She has some helpful tips for high school subs!) She frequently attends our PGPSRA meetings. Melissa volunteers at the Calvert Humane Society by walking dogs (a pleasant exercise for her and the dogs). She enjoys camping with her sister and her sister's grandchildren. Melissa has been looking forward to a Panama Canal Cruise.

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



## Remembrance

Barbara Traction 1/16

Joan Rothgeb 3/16

Karen M. Fisher 3/20

William Seibert 11/7

Lyman Rudert 12/7

Cecil Holbert Frazenbaker 7/23

Ella Ruth Hooper 12/1

Farry Earnst 1/22

John Latzo 1/21

Coit Taylor Headly III 1/29

William McKenzie 2/19

John Moran 1/11

Margaret Schill 2/12

David Drown 10/2013

Mildred Ridgley Gray 2/24

Linda Williamson

Barbara Trafton 1/31

Maud Pinkney 2/26

Carole Pippert 1/9

Jayne Johns and Linda Butler, Chairs.



## PGPSRA

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

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



---

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

---

**VISIT THESE WEBSITES [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)**

If you have not already done so,  
send your email address to Dr. Vest

To get the latest, quickest news.