

ECHOES

Vol. LV No. 5

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

May 2021

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

From the President:

If it's May, July can't be far behind.

It doesn't seem possible that almost two years have passed since I became President of PGPSRA. In a few short weeks my term will expire and Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms will take the helm as President. We are fortunate to have Oretha in that role, as she is a creative and dynamic leader who gets things done.

Despite the pandemic, PGPSRA's members and officers have continued to use their talents, training and experiences to carry out the purpose of our organization. You have contributed financial aid for scholarships, performed outstanding acts of community service, interacted in a meaningful way with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), and maintained excellent communication with each other.

We hope you will join us at the last General Meeting of the organization year to be held on Wednesday, May 26, 11 a.m. via ZOOM. There we will install officers, present awards, and vote on the proposed budget for 2021-2022. It will be an excellent time for you to meet our new President and "see" retirees you may not have seen in a long time. You will find the registration information elsewhere in this newsletter.

We continue to seek a new crop of leaders, ideas and activities to take us to the next level of success. Perhaps you would be willing to serve on one of our committees this year. We have Community Service, Scholarship, Legislation, and Membership committees, and other opportunities to volunteer at whatever level of participation you feel comfortable doing.

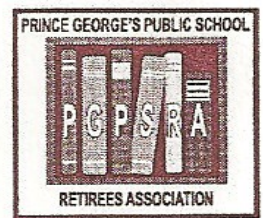
There is unity in numbers. We need you to invite a friend to become active in PGPSRA, and for you to take a more active role as well. Our numbers keep dwindling due to circumstances beyond our control. However, with your help we can grow membership and spearhead more opportunities for our students and communities to be successful.

Our members are very important to our organization. The more members we have, the more services we can provide to our schools and community. If you can't serve on a committee, you could encourage retirees you know to become part of the PGPSRA/MRSPA family.

I thank PGPSRA and its members for allowing me to serve as your President. I can't think of another more dedicated and determined group of individuals who continually put the needs of the community ahead of their own personal needs. I am proud to have been a part of their successes.

Meanwhile, as you face the challenges of the coming year please consider the following words of Helen Keller--*"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow."*

George D. Denny, Jr., President



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REMEMBER WHEN?



Inspiration for March

“Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember.
Involve me, I understand.”

Carl H. Orff

German music educator and composer
suggested by Joe Richter

“ A budget is an attempt to live
below your yearnings.”

Gordon Preiser

Dan Williams, Chair

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 (homevest552@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: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our membership continues to decline. Many of our losses are due to death. Right now our membership is 1211 with a 53% decline. Let's get on board the MRSPA'S Membership Drive and try to bring in as many new members as you can.

Look around you for persons who have not joined. They could be family, friends, former coworkers, or even Church members. Tell them about the membership benefits like pension protection, dental and vision insurance, hearing screening and so much more.

Between now and June 5, new members can join MRSPA for only \$10.00! Our local dues are \$20.00. This is only \$30.00 for both! If you bring in this new member, you will receive a \$10.00 Walmart gift card. Bring in two, and get two gift cards!

Remember: MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS!!!!!!!

**MARYANN ROYALL, CHAIR
JAYNE JOHNS
LINDA BUTLER
MARYLOUISE ISBELL**



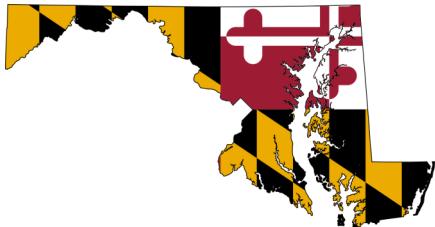
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Report May 2021

On Friday, April 7th, the Maryland General Assembly passed a record \$52.4 billion budget according to The Washington Post. The budget includes bonuses to every state worker, money for a sweeping education restructuring effort while saving over \$2 billion in savings for the future. Money will be spent to build parks and playgrounds and outfit schools with new ventilation systems. There will be cash payments to the poor, tax breaks to small businesses and unemployment recipients and attempts to give broadband access to a half-million residents without it.

For up-to-date progress on the reopening of Prince George's Public Schools, I encourage you to visit their website at pgcps.org

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

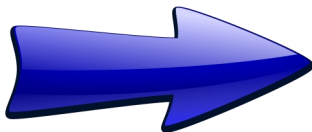


TREASURER'S REPORT – MARCH 2021

OPENING BALANCES:	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$27852.80
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86
ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:	
RECEIPTS	155.22
EXPENDITURES	4092.69
NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31:	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	23915.33
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS	\$24042.19

Respectfully submitted,

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer



PROPOSED BUDGET – 2021 – 2022

CATEGORY	CURRENT BUDGET	PROPOSED
BUDGET	2020 – 2021	2021 – 2022
ARCHIVES	175.00	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	75.00	75.00
NEWSLETTER/PUBLICATIONS	8000.00	8000.00
HOSPITALITY	200.00	200.00
LEGISLATIVE	1400.00	1400.00
MEMBERSHIP	500.00	500.00
PROGRAM	150.00	150.00
REMEMBRANCE	100.00	100.00
COMMUNITY SERVICE	6000.00	6000.00
SCHOLARSHIP	4000.00	4000.00
CONTINGENCY FUND	150.00	150.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	950.00	450.00
GRAND TOTALS	24000.00	22500.00

ESTIMATED INCOME

DUES FROM MEMBERS \$20.00 PER MEMBER - 22500.00
ESTIMATED MEMBERSHIP OF 1,125

COMMENTS:

It is impossible to determine what the status of the virus will be in 2022. Therefore, all I did was reduce the membership by 75 and take \$1500.00 from the savings account.

E. Vest, Treasurer

Bits and Pieces

Happy **MAY** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Virginia Hobble of Princess Anne will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 6th; Mr William Beaver of Silver Spring will be having his 94th birthday on the 8th; Ms. Mary Martinez of Mount Rainier will be marking her 96th birthday on the 13th; Ms. Marie McCaskill of Laurel will be turning 91 years-old on the 14th; **Mrs. Helen Endo of Silver Spring will be 100 years-old on the 20th**; and Ms. Yvonne Koolhof of Naples, FL. will be reaching her 97th birthday on the 21st.

Happy **JUNE** birthday greetings to Emeritus member Ms. Mattie Schafer of Easton, who will be observing her 92nd birthday on the 9th;

Happy **JULY** birthday wishes to Emeritus members: Mr. Robert Forrest of Broomfield, CO. will be celebrating his 95th birthday on the 5th; Mr. Calvin McMillion of Waldorf will be turning 98 years-old on the 12th; two ladies will be observing birthdays on the 21st - Ms. Mary Grafton of Clinton will be 94 years-old and Ms. Gloria Curry of Washington, D.C. will be 92 years-old on that date; Dr. Joseph Hall of Washington, D.C. will be having his 99th birthday on the 22nd; and Ms. Eva Williams of Harve de Grace will be reaching her 94th birthday on the 29th.

Happy **AUGUST** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Carolyn Dade of Suitland will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 1st; Mr. Oliver Myers of Brandywine will be observing his 98th birthday on the 28th; and Ms. Claudine Eastburn of Gainesville, GA. will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 31st.

Maryland Delegate Elizabeth (Susie) Proctor of Accokeek, retired from the Prince George's County Public School System in 1997, having served as a classroom teacher, pupil personnel worker, and Court Liaison. Sadly, Susie's husband, Delegate James Proctor, also a retiree of the school system – and a strong supporter of retired teachers, passed away in 2015. At that time, the Governor of Maryland appointed Susie to serve in his place as the Delegate of District 27A, and also to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Since retirement, she has also served as Chair of the Prince George's County Assessment Taxation Board and as a Trustee on the Prince George's Community College Board. Susie has enjoyed vacations to Sante Fe, N.M., Ocean City, MD., Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Seattle, WA. She has one son, Edward, a daughter, Stephanie, and three grandchildren.

Doris J (Judy) Carr of Laurel, retired in 1992, after 33 years of teaching English and serving as Teacher Coordinator at High Point High School. The next 14 years, she was the Policy Specialist at WSSC (the water company). Following her husband's retirement, Judy and he traveled to and through 20 states, sightseeing and visiting family, including their two children (one, a retired Green Beret and published poet; the other a doctor), five grandchildren (one in college in Texas, one in concurrent enrollment at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Prince George's Community College), and one great-grandchild. Then due to the health of her husband, the Carr's traveling became limited. Reading, jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, taking tap dancing lessons again, and helping to organize reunions for her Laurel High School Class of 1954, became Judy's new regular activities. Sadly, immediately before coronavirus hit, Judy lost her husband. To keep busy during the pandemic, she has written a book "209 Tenth Street" published by and available through Amazon. It is the story of how, she, as a little girl, saw her family, her town, and the nation, as they lived during World War II.

Dr. Leroy Barton, Jr. of Laurel, retired from Suitland High School in 1997. He then became a professor at the University of the District of Columbia. His interests include music, travel and reading. He enjoyed travels to various places prior to the pandemic. Dr. Barton is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and is an active member of Morning Star Baptist Church in Woodland, Maryland. Dr. Barton and his wife, Deborah, were married in October 2012. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Cont'd on page 6

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hip, hip, hurray, Community Service teams are moving forward during this pandemic period to help the schools selected in the southern area prepare for the return of their precious cargo (students). Stanley Tweedy and partner Mary Isabel have worked closely with the Principal of Brandywine Elementary who queried her teachers about their needs and desires and managed to supply the classrooms with 50 PPP Kits. Principal Unique Blake was excited about the project.

Jayne Johns and Mary Pannell purchased \$400.00 worth of gift cards for food for their Forest Heights School, while Betty Nicholson queried Dr. Goldsmith, Principal of Fort Foot Elementary School, who in turn talked with her teachers who asked for hand sanitizer dispensers, sanitizer refills, face mask for children, face shield adult masks, and water bottles for all grades. It is quite evident the schools selected in the southern area of Prince Georges County were preparing for the opening of their schools in April.

There was a low point in our quest to help six students from Surrattville High School with Matriculation fees for graduation. The principal has not had an opportunity to get to know her students well enough to have extracted six deserving students to receive such a stipend. These students would have been showcased at our May luncheon in Crofton which will be cancelled due to the continued pandemic state in Maryland. Funds for this project will be carried over to the next school year 2021-2022.

Community Service can't thank the members of PGPSRA enough for your contributions which helped fuel our generous support of children in the four elementary schools and one high school located in Southern Prince George's County. Please keep up the generosity.

Courtney Pringle
Chairman

Bits and Pieces cont'd:

Shelva Angle retired from Northwestern High School in 1994, after teaching at Nicholas Orem Middle School and Largo High School. During her time at the Middle School, she wrote curriculum and taught in-service workshops for the county. After returning to Hanover, PA. in 1996 to assist her mother, Shelva taught at New Oxford High School for eight years. She was asked the next year to teach Home Economics for one year. As an English teacher with students sitting quietly in their seats, she nearly lost her mind with 24 students wandering about within easy reach of eggs, flour, knives, and things that could catch fire! She resigned that January. Collecting antiques has been a life-time interest of Shelva's, but during the last ten years, she has focused on collecting vintage and antique doll house furniture and accessories. The most prized pieces were made in Germany in the early 1900's. On school and PBS trips Shelva has visited Mexico, Jamaica, Grand Bahama, Turkey, The British Isles, most European countries, and went on a Murder Mystery tour to England, where the group toured the setting for "All Creatures Great and Small". Her most eventful trip was to Greece, when their cruise ship plowed into a piling at a Turkish port, and they were stranded until another ship picked them up. She has also traveled from Maine to Florida, as well as, Illinois and Tennessee. Shelva has one daughter and son-in-law, and two granddaughters. Sadly, her mother died just short of turning 101 years of age. An avid lover and rescuer of many cats, she recently lost Ginger, who was found at a McDonald's in Glen Dale eighteen years ago. In the future, Shelva will likely move to North Carolina to be near her daughter, Paula, where she hopes to start an animal rescue shelter.

Both William (Bill) and Melrese Barnes of Upper Marlboro, retired from the Prince George's County School System. Bill retired in 2011 as Executive Director – High Schools Consortium, and Melrese was a fourth generation educator. Bill is active in community activities, participating in the District 5 Coffee Club, District 5 Citizen Advisory Council, National Night Out, and in August 2020 he was named to serve on the PGCPSS - School Renaming Commission. He is also involved in the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church as a Deacon, New Members Instructor, and member of the Bereavement Team. Bill and Melrese met in college and were married in June 1967. They have enjoyed travels to Hawaii, Spain, Turkey, Italy, the New England states, California, Nevada, and celebrated a special anniversary with a cruise. The Barnes have two sons, Toby and Jamaine, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

***To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324

REMEMBRANCE

SAVE A TREE

Help our Budget!!

Send in your name and email address.

We will email your Echoes to you!

You get it faster

And

In Color!!

Let me know: Bonnie Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net



Cecelia Savoy	12/08/20
Daniel Hogan	10/26/20
Clarence McLvaine	03/26/20
Robln Bower	10/29/20
Joseph Parker	12/26/20
Constance Powell	01/04/20
Patricia Young	12/29/20
Delores O'Brian	01/09/20
Helen Louise Annecillo	08/19/20
Thomas Jackson	01/17/21
Dorothy Hall	01/12/21
Joan Silver	01/06/21
Anita Bynum	02/02/21
John G. Kylus	01/30/21
Donald Redmiles	03/01/21
Robin Wiltison	02/28/21
Gordon Wilson	08/19/17
Geraldine Williams Bethune	01/26/21
Herbert Gray	03/17/21
Carlene E. Rule	03/22/21
Dr. Donald Briscoe	03/26/21

Submitted by Jayne. Johns and. Linda. Butler Co-Chairs

RESERVATIONS FOR MAY

Our May 26 General Membership meeting will be held virtually, again. We have done quite well with these and hope to have many of you able to join us for this one.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than May 19 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 26th. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting

Ed Vesthomevest552@comcast.net

Hopefully this will all settle down in a few months and we can hope to be able to be face-to-face again. It's been difficult to not be able to relax in a room full of friends for such a long time. We want to have everyone safe, though. So, bear with us for a while longer.

See you in Zoom land!



PGPSRA

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Bonnie Curry Brose
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We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

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.

