

ECHOES

Vol. LVI No. 5

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

May 2022

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

Normalcy. It's a word that has been around since 1857 according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Now it's a word that has gained new prominence in our current "Age of Pandemic" normalcy. Getting back to normalcy has been discussed over and over again in almost anything we have done so far during the last two years and most certainly for the next few months. This new norm will hopefully provide redefined activities for our continued work in PGPSRA which will include recruitment of new members, legislative advocacy, community service, scholarships, and other projects in which we participate.

Meetings are so vital for us as we continue to move forward. Thanks to our past president, George Denny who has been responsible for the success of all of the Zoom meetings of which we carried out virtually for the organization. Again, we thank George! Despite the many challenges we've had to navigate, we never lost focus on our service to the community and the organization.

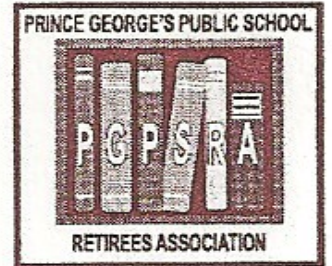
Thanks to all of our members who attended the March virtual meeting. I also extend special gratitude to Dr. Monica Goldson, CEO, Prince George's County Public Schools for attending our meeting to give us the status of the school system. Her presentation was informative and engaging for all. We thank her for responding to our questions and comments. We appreciate her outstanding leadership.

During our general meeting in May, we will welcome one of our members, Delegate Elizabeth (Susie) Proctor. She will give us an overview of some of the bills that may be of interest to members of our organization. Delegate Proctor has been a member of PGPSRA for many years.

We thank you for your membership and support. We look forward to brighter days ahead. It is my sincere hope that each of you will be open to adapting to the new norm in the weeks and months ahead. Your membership matters greatly to the success of our organization. Please do all you can to help us grow our membership. Each one, bring one or two!

Best wishes,

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, President



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Susie Proctor

State Delegate District 17

Maryland

Susie is a long-standing member of PGPSRA and a friend of education for even longer! She will be with us at our May 25th meeting to bring us information from Annapolis and. Especially, to tell us about the proposed tax breaks for retirees.

It is always enlightening to hear from our Maryland Representatives and especially one who understands our interests.

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

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

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denny

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: Vacant

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: Vacant

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and Linda Butler (lidab127@verizon.net)

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

Trips:



BITS AND PIECES

Happy **MAY** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Jeannette Yates of Odenton will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 4th; Mrs. Virginia Hobble of Princess Anne will be observing her 97th birthday on the 6th; Mr. William Beaver of Silver Spring will be reaching his 95th birthday on the 8th; marking their birthdays on the 13th, will be both - Ms. Mary Martinez of Mount Rainier who will be having her 97th birthday, and Ms. Harriet Sunderhauf of Annapolis will be having her 91st birthday; Ms. Marie McCaskill of Laurel will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 14th; **Mrs. Helen Endo of Silver Spring will be 101 years-old on the 20th!**; and Ms Yvonne Koolhof of Naples, FL. will be observing her 98th birthday on the 21st.

Happy **JUNE** birthday greetings to Emeritus members: Ms. Mattie Shafer of Easton will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 9th, and Ms. Carolyn Davis of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. will be marking her 96th birthday on the 11th.

Happy **JULY** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Mr. Robert Forest of Broomfield, CO. will be observing his 96th birthday on the 5th; two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 21st - Ms. Helen Grafton of Clinton will be having her 95th birthday, and Ms. Gloria Curry of Washington, D.C. will be having her 93rd birthday, and Ms. Eva Williams of Harve de Grace will be reaching her 95th birthday on the 29th.

Happy **AUGUST** birthday greetings to Emeritus members: Mrs. Carolyn Dade of Suitland will be observing her 94th birthday on the 1st; Ms. Sarah Lent of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 23rd; and Ms. Claudine Eastburn of Gainesville, GA. will be having her 93rd birthday on the 31st.

Daniel F. Chase, Jr. of College Park, retired in 1984 from the Board of Education Office as Director of Computers of Secondary Student Database. Daniel had a most interesting and unique beginning of his teaching career in 1954, when he became the science and math teacher at the Capitol Page School in the U.S. Library of Congress Building – 4th floor, for Pages who worked in the offices of U.S. Delegates, Senators, and Supreme Court Judges. In 1955, he was recruited by Prince George's County to be the Vice-Principal of Hyattsville Jr. High School. Over the next several years he served as Principal of Gwynn Park Jr. High, New Carrollton Jr. High, and Duval High Schools, before accepting the position at the Board of Education. While there, he developed one of the first computer systems in the county for students and administrators, and was instrumental in placing 700 of the 3000 Hewlett Packard computers in seventh through twelfth grade schools. During Daniel's retirement, he and his wife, Henrietta, have traveled to 80 countries all over the world, including the Arctic Circle and Antarctica.

Bob Kovalchik of College Park, retired from Hyattsville Jr. High and Parkdale High Schools, after teaching from 1959 through 1991. He became a volunteer Docent at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Washington in 1993, where he conducted over 2000 tours for school children before it closed for a lengthy renovation. Bob has written and published a book "STRANGE FACTS OF FLIGHT", that is available from Amazon, depicting 200 stories from his enjoyable years as a Docent at the Smithsonian.

Edith Einhorn, who has been living in Las Vegas, NV. since 1997, retired as Vice-Principal of Kettering Middle School in 1993. Her volunteer work has included serving as a Docent at the Otto Orkin Insect Zoo at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, teaching and writing instructional materials for computer skills for senior adults. Over the years she has also held leadership roles in organizations both in Maryland and Las Vegas. Up until a few years ago, Edith and her husband travelled throughout the world, including to countries on six continents. The Einhorns have children and grandchildren living around the country, including some in Las Vegas. Edith is thankful for technology that makes continual communication with them possible.

Cont'd on page 4



TREASURER'S REPORT – MAY – 2022

OPENING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	\$32658.03
Savings Account	126.86
ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:	
Receipts	120.00
Expenditures	2729.56
NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT:	
CLOSING BALANCES:	
Checking Account	30048.47
Savings Account	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS	\$30175.33
Edward N. Vest Treasurer	

BITS AND PIECES CONT'D

Charlotte Faison of District Heights retired in 2002, after 30 years of teaching at Hollywood, College Park, Robert Gray, and Capitol Heights Elementaries. Since retiring, she volunteers in her church, Sunday School, Bible Study Fellowship, and a Book Club. She also spends time quilting, power walking daily, line dancing, helping her grandchildren make and bake loaves of bread, and is learning to play Chess (using a self-taught instruction guide). She has enjoyed travels to the Grand Canyon, Los Cabos, Mexico, and Cape May, New Jersey. Sadly, Charlotte lost her husband some years ago. Together they had two sons, two wonderful daughters in law, two granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

***Correction in the MARCH ECHOES: Mrs. Ruby Gross celebrated her 93rd birthday March 1st. It was her sister who celebrated her 100th birthday.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact JannetteWundrow@comcast.net

REMEMBRANCE

Joan Moiorany Fisk	06/06/2019
Oliver Myers	2021
2022	
Gloria B. Lucy	01/18
Ellen N. McCorkle	01/07
Carrie V. Schools	01/28
Ronald J. Brady	02/08
Florence B. McDaniels	02/10
Jesse S. Fax	02/21
Clara J. Henry	02/15
Richard A. Dunn	02/21
Beatrice F. McDay	02/24
Roman Gabriel Trigg	03/07
Charles E. Suhr	03/25

Submitted by Jayne Johns and
Linda Butler, Co-Chairs



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Committee is still reviewing the applications for the coming year. Our selection of winners for our \$300.00 mini-grants from various school personnel have been finalized.

We have selected:

Jessadel Cervantes from Lake Arbor Elementary. She will create a Nearpod lesson to teach recycling in the classrooms. Her group will paint buckets to be used to collect the materials. After the lessons the student will illustrate digitally one collage, print it, and place it around the buckets to collect the recyclable materials in the classroom. Then the buckets will be dumped in the cafeteria. The grant will be used to purchase paint buckets and pay for digital printing of illustrations from the students.

Maria Lao from Woodmore Elementary, pre-K teacher. The targeted students are special needs and at-risk students, pre-K thru Early Childhood identified as developmentally delayed. Students will make and take books for math concepts using tactile letters and number cards for letter recognition and handwriting guides. The funding will be used to purchase procure a portable Circuit machine for making various tactile pictures and letters.

Jessica Watson teaches at James Harrison Elementary a self-contained 3-5th grade. She plans to create a life skills classroom to teach and practice vocational and independent living task. There will be a laundry, cooking, cleaning center and a personal hygiene station where students can practice. The grant funding will be used to buy additional equipment for the students.

Lisa Coyne a reading, 8th grade English teacher from Benjamin Tasker Middle School. Her project is Public Dramatic Performance. The student will come from 6-8th grade. Some will participate virtually and others will be in the classroom. Possibly a Spring Performance will be conducted following social distancing guidelines. The grant will provide resources for the subsidized funding not available through the school system such as audiovisual lighting enhancements, set and costume materials.

There were eight applicants but we felt these were the best at this time.

Hope to see you soon.

Brenda Barnes, Chairperson

Helen Butler, Vera Davis, Lorraine Johnson -Committee Members





Dr. Monica Goldson is the Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools. We were pleased to be able to have her with us at the March meeting and she brought us information and inspiration for the future of our students.

Thank you, Dr. Goldson for taking the time to share your thoughts with us and for taking care of the students (and personnel) of Prince George's County Schools!

Happy Mother's Day

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Here we are welcoming "Sweet Spring time" in the month of April. Members are busy conferring with their respective schools to honor their requests for supplies and food baskets in time for Easter Vacation and beyond.

Many supplies such as uniforms, N95 masks, headphones with microphones and gift cards for food baskets are among the things delivered to the schools to assist the children. We are spending our money wisely and making great strides. Please continue to work with us as partners on this journey.

We look forward to coming out of this pandemic victorious in our endeavor to help the children of Glass Manor, Forest Heights, Brandywine, Tyac Elementary and Surrattsville High School .

***Chairperson
Courtney Pringle***



MRSPA New Member Application

Special Rate March 1 - May 31, 2022 Only

Personal Information

Name: First, MI Last

Address (Street or PO Box)

Address

City, State, ZIP

Home Phone Cell Phone

Email

Date of Birth Date of Retirement

Retired from (school system)

Recruited by

Membership Information

Position at retirement:

- Teacher/Other Certified Support Staff
 Administrator/Supervisor
 Other

Mailing Preferences:

- Newsletter: Email US Mail
Billing: Email US Mail
Benefit Providers: OK Do Not Share

Local Associations & Dues

MRSPA Annual State Dues: ~~\$45.00~~ \$10.00

Join between March 1 and May 31 and pay just \$10.00 for state dues. By authorizing dues deduction, I will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. By authorizing dues deduction between March 1 and May 31, pay only local dues for 2021-2022!

- \$5.00 - Somerset
\$8.00 - Caroline
\$10.00 - Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester
\$12.00 - Harford
\$15.00 - Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Kent, Montgomery, Talbot
\$20.00 - Allegany, Prince George's

Selected Local: _____

The MRSPA Membership year is July 1 - June 30.

Select Your Payment Method

- Automatic Dues Deduction from MD Pension

I hereby authorize the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to deduct annual membership dues for the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) and my local retired school personnel association from one of my retirement checks each membership year. I will receive a one-time \$10 reduction in my state dues. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by written notice to MRSPA.

SSN: (Dues Deduction requires your social security number)

Signature _____ Date _____

- I prefer to call 410-551-1517 to give my SSN over the phone AND will mail this form with my signature.

- Check - Make payable to MRSPA

\$10 State + \$ _____ Local = \$ _____ Total Dues

- Credit Card - www.mrspa.org/join-mrspa

Please complete form and mail to: MRSPA, 8379 Piney Orchard Pkwy, Ste A, Odenton, MD 21113

3/22

Find a Friend!

If you have a friend who you can bring to MRSPA and PGPSRA, there is a deal going on. Read the application here and respond. The full-sized app is on the MRSPA website.



RESERVATIONS FOR MAY

Our **May 25, 2022** General Membership Meeting will be in person!! We are going back to the Comfort Inn in Bowie (4500 Crain Highway, Bowie). **Same time—11:00 am.** The hotel does not require masks at this time, however, we are asking you to wear one when not eating or drinking.

We will have the Sandwich Buffet and you will have your choice of:

Italian Sub or Grilled Vegetable Focaccia sandwiches

Turkey and Cheese or Ham and Cheese wraps

Tuna, Egg, Chicken, Pasta or Pasta Salad.....Coleslaw and Pickles

Of course, the usual rolls, butter coffee or iced tea.....and Cookies for dessert!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW! SEND A CHECK FOR \$40 TO DR. VEST BY MAY 18! The address is on the back of this newsletter. Send questions to his email, below.

Ed Vesthomevest552@comcast.net

PGPSRA

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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.

