



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXIII No. 2

November 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the volunteers who keep our organization and communities vital and progressing !

As retirees we have left the daily routine of working within a school setting. Now we are free to embark on new interests and endeavors - some paid, many volunteer, and others just for our pleasure. Each of us chooses how we will use our free time, depending upon our responsibilities, interests, and talents.

Volunteers serve to enrich our lives, as well as, the lives of those around us. The selection of a volunteer activity is infinite, and the rewards for the involvement of our time are numerous. The overwhelming majority of our PGCRTA members are active, devoted volunteers, and the jobs they perform range greatly in spectrum. Some of these include: mentoring in schools, tutoring in after-school programs, mentoring teenagers, tutoring non-English speaking or non-reading adults, nursing home visitors, Hospice care-givers, soup kitchen workers, Meals-on Wheels drivers, church and community organization participants and leaders, serving as "Hostesses" or "Hosts" in hospital emergency rooms, USO Centers, and on military bases, acting as docents for museums, teachers of crafts and skills, sitting on college alumni boards and chairing activities, Red Cross workers in various fields, Habitat for Humanity builders, library assistants, legislative and environmental lobbyists, symphony program participants and promoters, editors and writers for organization newsletters, PETA, zoo, and naturalist activists, local theater and musical performers, visitors and phone callers to shut-ins. The list could go on and on !

The rewards for getting involved in volunteering are many. Among them is the pleasure of seeing the light sparkle in a new learner's eyes, the satisfaction of helping to get things done, seeing the pain and fear lessen for someone,

learning more about one's community, exploring your own talents, and sharing your knowledge with others. Educators have always been in the forefront when it comes to volunteering. Perhaps it's our sense of sociability, along with organizing and completing tasks. The various activities accomplished by our PGCRTA members are quite impressive and commendable.

A quote by Dwight Morrow says, "The world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Try if you can, to belong to the first group. There's far less competition."

Keep on volunteering !

Jannette Wundrow
President PGCRTA



THE VOTES ARE IN !

Our new name will be:

**PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES
ASSOCIATION**

This was the third name listed on the voting ballot. Complete information about the voting results and the effective date will be reported at the November meeting , and in the next ECHOES.

BITS AND PIECES

Happy 90th Birthday wishes to Dorothy Reeves and Julia Derry ! Julia lives in Riverdale, and Dorothy now resides in Sedalia, MO.

Happy Anniversary to Dr. Allan and Mrs. Ann Chotiner, who celebrated 62 wonderful years together on October 3, 2003. Congratulations !

Carol Gildner, who retired from Benjamin Tasker Middle School, relocated to Scottsdale, AZ, last June. Since retiring, she has enjoyed golfing and volunteering in county schools, as well as, at the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents in Rockville. (Carol's husband, Col. Gildner, founded this school 20 years before his death in 1999.) Carol has written a book, ENJOY TEACHING: HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE CLASSROOM, which is available on Amazon.com. She has also done some traveling to FL, AZ, HA, SC and MN. Carol has two married sons and four grandchildren.!

Fay Sorrill, retired from the Board of Education's Department of Public Affairs and Communication in 1995. She and her husband live in Columbus, MD, where they are very active grandparents to their three grandchildren. Not only does Fay volunteer in numerous ways at their schools (having worn out a few pair of shoes as chaperones on in and out-of-state field trips!), she transports the children to their after-school lessons and sport teams, and has even worked as assistant leader in Boy and Girl Scout Summer camps. Fay is also involved in church activities, and initiated the "Hanging of the Greens" program for two Baptist congregations. Before her husband's retirement, the Sorrill's lived for a while in Japan, where they had the opportunity to travel to the Orient, Hawaii, Alaska, and the US mainland. In recent years, they have toured the East Coast.

Susan Rhue retired in 2000 from Thomas Stone Elementary, and since then has been enjoying life at Bethany Beach, DE. Much of her time is spent babysitting her two young grandchildren, reading, and decorating the new house, though she has also participated in Elderhostel of Delaware, and in October, attended an Italian wedding in Scilly. She invites friends, who are in the area, to stop in for a visit.

Kathy Gillis Seiler, retired as an itinerant special education specialist in 2001, and continues to live with her husband,

Dave, in Mitchellville. This past summer, they traveled by car to Louisville for a Law Enforcement Meeting and on through KY, including the area where the movie "Seabiscuit" was filmed. Driving next to Henderson, TN, the Seiler's were pleased to attend the christening of their eighth grandchild. Following this celebration, they spent two weeks in St. Petersburg, FL, and upon returning home, Kathy hosted the Gillis family reunion with a genuine MD crab feast.

Donald K. Smith retired in 1986, after 32 years as a teacher and supervisor of instrumental music in the county. However, Donald has remained very active in music. He has served as Interim Faculty at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, conducted bands and orchestras throughout MD, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. He plays organ at a large church in York, PA, eight months of the year, and conducts a chorus in Phoenix, AZ, the other four months, when he and his wife, Loret, winter in Phoenix. Don is very well-known in the Bowie area, for his superb director talent at the Whitemarsh Theater, where he recently completed the show, "Annie", his 15th outstanding production there.

Godelieve Bartley retired from Wheatley Special Center in 2002, and has remained in the Upper Marlboro area. She and husband, Jim, will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary this month with a Panama Canal Passage Cruise! Since retiring, Godelieve has enjoyed gardening, lace making, and learning about MD and Belgium-related history by volunteering at the Riversdale Mansion. (Mrs. Calvert, mistress of the Mansion, was from Belgium.) In October Godelieve's mother came from Belgium for a visit. During the summer the Bartley's traveled to San Antonio, TX, for an IRS Convention and then to Greenwich, CT, to visit their son.

Fran Doyle spent two marvelous weeks during the spring touring Northern and Southern Ireland. In September, she visited with her cousins from New Mexico, at her sister's house on Long Island. Fran is currently serving as President of the Huntley Square Condominium in Temple Hills.

Anne Prince and Anastasia (Stacy) Panos attended the International Convention of Alpha Delta Kappa in Dallas, TX, this past summer. Anne then traveled on to Southern Pines, NC, for a memorable family reunion. Stacy, who officially retired in June 2003, attended her first PGCRTA meeting in September.



IN MEMORIAM

Members:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| •Margaret M. Aulisio | 09-07-03 |
| •Nan C. Clarkson | ? |
| •Kate Goldstein | 07-19-03 |
| •Herbert F. Grote | 08-31-03 |
| •James Hamilton | 08-31-03 |
| •Mary G. Krakow | 06-22-03 |
| •Dorothy B. Marvil | 09-02-03 |
| •Muriel Neagle | 02- ?-02 |
| •Priscilla B. Stephens | 08-31-03 |
| •Marion N. Sterling | 07-30-03 |
| •Martha C. Thomas | 04-21-03 |
| •Margaret H. Weagly | 07-26-03 |
| •Marie S. Wiley | 07-26-03 |
| •Sarah W. Wooten | 09-19-03 |

Non-Members:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Alvadee E. Adams | 08-11-03 |
| Helen Buckholtz | 08-31-03 |
| Olive W. Cady | 07-17-03 |
| Mary C. Decker | 10-04-03 |
| Andrew Douglas | 09-13-03 |
| Reta E. Garner | 08-09-03 |
| Vriginia L. Harich | 07-16-03 |
| Alvera L. Hudelson | 06-30-03 |
| Thelma Jackson | 08-12-03 |
| Edward J. Keafer | 09-25-03 |
| Kathleen M. Keenan | 09-29-03 |
| Noreen Lambert | 06-27-03 |
| Viola E. Lovelace | 08-24-03 |
| Betty Lunsford | 09-30-03 |
| Margaret A. O'Grady | 07-04-03 |
| Clara Oakley | 08-07-03 |

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Nina E. Pierce | 09-10-03 |
| Betty T. Purdy | 08-04-03 |
| Alexander M. Randall | 09-08-03 |
| John G. Retzer | 07-24-03 |
| William H. Robinson | 08-02-03 |
| Cathleen Ruddy | 01-31-03 |
| Theresa M. Sellers | 08-09-03 |
| Norman L. Sharps | 08-18-03 |
| Naomi B. Short | 09-06-03 |
| Elizabeth W. Smith | 10-03-03 |
| Frederick W. Stutz | 10-02-03 |
| Helen E. Sullivan | 08-16-03 |
| Robert E. Tippet | 09-01-03 |
| LeRoy N. West, Sr | 07-20-03 |
| Franklin E. White, Sr | 08-01-03 |
| Katharine S.. White | 08-01-02 |

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

You, our PGCRTA members, are doing a good job recruiting new retirees. I do not receive a list of retired employees from the Board of Education as it is considered an invasion of privacy. Please let me know the name and address of your friends who retire. I will be glad to send them a brochure which has a membership application inside.

Doris Wiley won our door prize at the September meeting. The table plant was received by June Readon.

Be sure I have your current address. Sometimes members move and forget to tell me. I will pass it on to MRTA.

Also, let me have your birthdate. When you are 90 you receive your membership free - and don't think you will never make 90 - it will slip up on you faster than you think !!

Jane Jones
Membership Chair
301-559-8533

Elizabeth Driver retired from District heights Elementary in 1990. She continues to reside in District Heights, but travels to Smithville, TN, several times a year, where she maintains a second home. Elizabeth is a member of the Prince George's Herb Society, spends time gardening and antiques. She has two adult children. Sadly, her husband, Roy, passed away this past July, or they would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in December.

Carol Kempske retired in 1992, from Carrollton Elementary, but that was only a temporary retirement; for the past 12 years, she has been the music teacher at Concord Hill School in Chevy Chase. Recently, Carol moved to Collington, a life care community, in Mitchellville, where she is looking forward to becoming involved in the many activities offered there.

Alice Hutchinson and her daughter spent 10 wonderful days touring Seattle, WA, and Vancouver, BC. Highlights of the trip included whale watching and visiting the magnificent Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island. Alice closed out her summer travels with a delightful week on the Carribean Island of St. Maarten. Luckily, Hurricane Isabel passed by the island, but its wrath awaited Alice upon her return to MD!

J. Davis spent a pleasurable week with Pan Enger (also a retired Prince George's teacher) at her farm in Ellsworth, WI. They had fun together while touring the countryside, viewing Pam's husband's cattle herd, frequenting yard sales, and attending the local El Paso Days Parade. J. says that Pam is a wonderful hostess, but quite a taskmaster, insisting that she exercise every day during her visit!

Rose Miller retired as principal of Lord Baltimore Academy in 1998, and since that time, she has enjoyed traveling. Her most recent trip was the 12 day, escorted Alaska Cruise sponsored by MRTA. The ship made stops in several ports including Anchorage and Denali National Park. While there, the area was blanketed in its first July snowfall in 20 years, and the group had the distinction of being one of the few to see Mt. McKinley clearly without any cloud covering. Rose noted many highlights of the Inside Passage and some "awesome totem poles". Now that she is back home, she has assumed her new role as Recording Secretary for PGCRTA.

Annie Barbour retired in 1982 from Clinton Grove Elementary as a reading specialist. However, she

continues to spend much of her time assisting both children and adults in reading, in school and at her home in Indian Head, MD. Annie also enjoys crafts, cooking, music, poetry, participating in numerous church, community, and alumni organizations, and traveling; she's been to every state in the USA, every continent, major cities of the world, and taken Carribean cruises. (This love of travel, she attributes to her grade school geography teacher.) Annie and her husband, Henry, also a retired teacher, are both enjoying retirement! They have one son, who lives in Charles County.

Congratulations to Yvonne Koolhof and her husband, Russ, on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary! To commemorate this milestone, they took a most interesting though grueling trip, organized by the Audubon Society, to the Galapagos Islands. They sailed on the Polaris Ship, and enjoyed a truly educational adventure led by knowledgeable Ecuadorian naturalists, who pointed out the prolific and unique gathering of birds and animals native to the islands. Yvonne retired from Apple Grove Elementary in 1985.

Jannette Wundrow
1007 Packton Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
dwundrow@comcast.net

FLORIDA

The 17th Annual Prince George's County Retired School Employees Florida Lunch Reunion will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at the Holiday Inn located at 230 West Highway 436 (Semoran Road) and Interstate 4 in Altamonte Springs, FL.

The luncheon will be preceded by a social hour beginning at 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, when lunch will be served. A cash bar will be available for refreshments during the social hour and the luncheon.

For more information, on the luncheon, the optional cruise the following day, and motel accommodations, contact Ferd Cardano

Ferd Cardano, Reunion Host
25 Seminole Drive
DeBary, FL 32713
phone # -407-668-6017
e-mail - fandcc@aol.com

MRTA LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP
EASTERN REGIONS
NOVEMBER 25, 2003
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CENTREVILLE, MD

- 9:30 - 9:45 Welcome
Ken Muir, Legislative Chair
- 9:45 - 10:30 Report on MSRPS
Thomas Lee, Executive Director and Carl Lancaster, Board of Trustees
- 10:30 - 10:45 Presentation of MRTA 2003-2004 Legislative Priorities
Nancy Voss, President Caroline County
- 10:45 - 11:00 Break
- 11:00 - 11:30 Presentation and discussion of proposed health benefits legislation K
Ken Muir
- 11:30 - 12:00 Getting to Know Your State Senators and Delegates
Jannette Wundrow/Phyllis Truitt
- 12:00 - 12:15 Presentation of MRTA Recruitment Video
Sue Betsill, Public Relations Chair
MRTA President-Elect
- 12:15 - 12:30 Wrap-up

ARE YOU AWARE ??

CUTS IN OUR PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS PLAN ???

An article on the front page of the September 16th issue of The NEW YORK TIMES, "Retirees Alarmed of Threats of Cuts in Drug Benefits", related that the Medicare Prescription Bill passed by both the House and the Senate and now in the conference committee for resolution could jeopardize the prescription plan now held by retirees with their former employers. The provision was inserted at the last minute in the Senate Bill without being open to discussion or vote. If the bill is passed by Congress and approved by the President, we could lose our Board of Education prescription that we now have, which is, by far, superior to the prescription provisions in the Medicare plan under consideration.

The September issue of the AARP BULLETIN has several articles on the Medicare Prescription Plan. One titled, "AARP Plans Major Drive on Drug Bill", states that AARP will place full page ads in leading newspapers, hold town meetings, make phone calls, and send letters and e-mails to lawmakers asking them, "Fix the bill the House and Senate have already passed by passing an approved bill". Another article, "A Nasty Surprise For Retirees", gives some enlightening insight as to how the provision excluding employers' prescription benefits for retirees occurred and mentioned possible actions denying us health benefits.

It is IMPORTANT that all of us become actively involved. Six hundred lobbyists, representing special interest groups have been contacting Congress and have made additions and changes in the bill passed by the House and Senate

Those of us who may be affected, can save what we now have. In 1989, when Congress passed a bill charging retirees extra for catastrophic medical expenses, an overwhelming cry of opposition forced Congress to rescind its actions. We MUST act !

We must make known to our Senators and Representatives our concerns and disapproval of the provision that could deny us our Board of Education Prescription Plan, in which at present 4,914 retirees are enrolled.

Allan I. Chotiner
Retiree Representative - Health Coalition

Something Each of us Can Do :

Contact/write our various County, State and Federal leaders to let them you know your concerns. Following is a letter Jack Hart (former teacher/principal) has sent to those representing his area

Dear _____

I hope two recent articles have come to your attention.. The first is on pages 8 and 9 of the September 2003 AARP BULLETIN, and is titled, " A Nasty Surprise for Retirees". The second is on pages 1 and 17 of Tuesday, September 16, 2003, NEW YORK TIMES. It is titled, " Retirees Alarmed at Threat of Cuts in Drug Benefits". Both articles contain information, new and old, that is frightening (to say the very least) to older retirees.

Cited is a provision, in a Senate Bill, not identified by name or number, that was apparently inserted in Senate legislation - with NO discussion or debate - just before the Senate approved it by a vote of 76-21 (hopefully we will be able to get a copy of who voted for and against this. I now quote from the AARP article, also discussed in the NEW YORK TIMES piece, "This provision would be a Trojan Horse for age discrimination"....."Simply giving employers more incentive to drop retiree health benefits/plans will cause a greater hardship and lead to less coverage". This sounds like age discrimination to me. The article further states,"If it becomes law the provision would, by amending the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), give employers a green light to cut or cancel the health benefits of retirees eligible for Medicare or state sponsored plans." How frightening this is to senior retirees, and I'm sure to those coming close to retirement. It is hard to imagine our Senate approved this by a 76-21 vote ! !

All seniors I meet with (of which I am one) in our many discussions , are extremely concerned and upset. I hope you can/will respond to this letter so I can speak to all those groups I meet with in MD, and advise them of your feelings and comments.

Signed: Jack Hart
Sent to County and State leaders of PG County , MD

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

EDITOR: V.W. Stuff
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

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LUNCHEON

November 19, 2003

La Fontaine Bleu
7963 Annapolis Road
Lanham, MD 20726

11:00 am Business Meeting
12:00 Buffet Luncheon
Luncheon reservations required
\$16.00 per person

PROGRAM

Story Teller

Gayle Danley-Dooley

Menu

A selection of Meats and Fish
plus
Seasoned Vegetables
Rolls - Dessert
Coffee-Tea

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday
November 12, 2003

No refunds after November 12, 2003

Send reservations with check payable to
PGCRTA to:

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

INCLUDE names of all attending.