



# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXX No. 2

November 2006

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Retirement is wonderful ! Who needs to work when they can retire? Involvement in organizations of one's interest is a joy, but can become overwhelming. At last count I belong and am active in 40 organizations - all important in my life. One of our plans for this year's newsletter is to let you know more about our Executive Board members and all their many activities. We'll start with me:

I'm one of five children - three are teachers, one is a lawyer and one is a doctor. All of my siblings live close by so I have constant support and of course, sibling rivalry at the bridge table and at any opportunity available! I graduated from a division of William and Mary (R.P.I.) with a BS in Social Work, and ended up at Western Maryland for my first bout of graduate work where I earned a Masters in Education.

Prince George's County had my services for 33 years; I worked as a Physical Education teacher for 16 years and a Media Specialist for the remaining years. This adventure started at Greenbelt Junior High where many things that are not offered now were taught. These activities included sports, dancing, swimming and life skills. I was 21 and some of my students were 16. Imagine 5 years later, a former student walking down the hall on the first day of school pointing at me and telling her little girls "that was my PE teacher". At 35, I earned a M.Ed. from Trinity College in Library Science and changed fields. I think my jaunt in PE allowed me experience in 14 different schools.

I am a life member of NEA and attended more than 25 conventions, and I am also a life member of MRTA where I have attended about the same number of conventions. During these conventions I met people from all over the world, our county, and most importantly from our state. I have also served on committees in both organizations.

I hope with your help we will have an educational, growing experience with an emphasis on having fun during this process. I am open to all suggestions, so please do not hesitate to discuss issues that you might have.

Enough ! Kitty Walker

### TRIPS WITH CHARLIE

Contact Charlie (301-572-9778) about the following trips that interest you. Do this as soon as possible so that dates, reservations, and fees can be completed. (Prices listed below are subject to change.)

Christmas Season 2006 - Strasburg, PA

Two shows - Sight & Sound Theater

American Music Theater

Cost - \$ ?

Christmas Season - 2006 - Boiling Springs, PA

Allenberry Playhouse - 2 days, 1 night

dinner, breakfast, wine & cheese

\$110. Per person double occupancy

Plus bus fare

Spring - March 2007

Savannah, GA, Hilton Head, St. Simons

6 days, 5 nights

\$499. Per person double occupancy

includes bus fare



## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association awarded four \$2000.00 scholarships to two female and two male graduating seniors who entered college this fall, and one continuing student attending the University of Maryland, College Park. All five students are majoring in Education. The Committee plans to stay in touch with them throughout the year.

The PGPSRA Scholarship Committee believes that visiting our high schools last school year had a great impact on the number of students who applied for our scholarships. Thus, we will again visit all high schools before applications are delivered to the public schools in January.

Alveta S. Jones - Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of September 1, 2006

Checking Account	\$5,563.89
Savings Account	\$6,945.06

Receipts	\$11,920.85
Expenditures	\$ 1,697.61

Balance as of September 30, 2006

Checking Account	\$15,787.13
Saving Account	\$ 6,945.06
Total Assets	\$22,732.19

E. Vest - Treasurer

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

This committee's goal is the same as last year, to volunteer our service for the welfare of the students. Your past support is appreciated, and we are counting on your continued support for this school year.

We will target two schools to extend our efforts and resources. The following activities are planned, but not limited to just these:

- Food Drive - January 2007
- Collection of shoes - April 2007
- Collection of winter coats - November 2006

None of the above can happen without you. Please call Jennie Jones (301-262-3828), or Delores Brown (301-773-7245) to join our committee.

Jennie Jones - Co-Chair

## E & P COMMITTEE REPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ! \*

The purpose of this committee is as follows:

1. Promote the well being of retired school personnel by helping them obtain the services and information they need to solve or avoid financial and personal problems as they age.
2. Serve the members of the RTA as a source of information on available services in the immediate community and on the state level.
3. Provide the membership with information on consumer issues.
4. Plan for educational and service programs that emphasize health care costs, preventive health care measures, legal and financial concerns, and other issues that affect retirees.

\* Fred Novak - 301-937-6606 or write  
10912 Boredale Dr., Adelphi, MD 20783



## BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to Dr. Alan and Mrs. Ann Chotiner of College Park, on the celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 3, 2006! The Chotiner's, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Congratulations also to Fred and Alveta Jones of Landover, on the celebration of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August! The Jones' have two daughters, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The whole family, along with four retired friends of Alveta's from Seabrook Elementary, gathered in Williamsburg, VA. to commemorate the anniversary.

Charles Clayton, relocated to Lexington, KY, after retiring from Bowie High School in 1986. He continues to enjoy history, social studies, and golf, being an active American Legionnaire, and serving as a volunteer at a nursing home and the V.A. Hospital. Charles frequently travels to Jacksonville, FL, Severna Park and Baltimore, MD, visiting with his three children and eight grandchildren. He sends his regards to all of his former colleagues in our area.

Pam Gardiner Enger retired from Concord Elementary in 1996. Six years ago she moved to Ellsworth, WI, to live on a large cattle farm with her husband, where they raise Black Angus and Limousin cattle. Pam says they have no children or grandchildren, but birthed 65 calves this past spring! Besides cattle raising, her other interests include making quilts for shelters for Abuieo women and their children, making prayer shawls to be given to men and women during illness, grief, or injury, and organizing community bloodmobile drives. Pam's travels are back to Maryland a few times a year to visit with family and friends.

Dale Kirkland taught at Suitland High School for 14 years and then at Friendly High School until his retirement in 1986. His wife, Linda, retired from Friendly High School two years later, in 1988. The Kirkland's now live in North Port, FL. Dale fills his time with golf, compiling a family history, reading, and letter writing. Immediately after retirement he represented Prince George's Public Schools on a state committee to establish new MD. Certification requirements for teachers in computer science, while also working on Department of Defense contracts for Comarco, Inc. His next job was working with NASD in stock market surveillance, following which he started a Florida company where he did the same kind of part-time contract work. The Kirkland's have traveled extensively to many North and South American points between Fairbanks, AL, and Cape Horn, Chile, as well as, to many other countries of the world. In 2004, while taking food to victims of Hurricane Charley in Port Charlotte, FL, Dale suffered severe injuries in a car accident; a long hospital stay and physical therapy enabled him to make a good recovery.

Mary Osuji, of Mitchellville, received the Maryland Council for Exceptional Children's Duckworth Award for volunteerism in education in Prince George's County in March. (\*Our Congratulations!) Mary retired from Lyndon Hill Elementary as a special education teacher. She has become a valued volunteer Spanish interpreter at H.W. Wheatley Special Center with children and parents. The staff relies on Mary to communicate with Spanish speaking families in IEP conferences, by phone, and by written notes.



Rennie Quible retired in 1986, as principal of Chillum Elementary. Three years ago she relocated to Dover, DE. For the past 18 years, she has been a volunteer at the National Archives in Washington, DC. In September 2000 Rennie and her husband, Norm (of 61 years!) traveled to East Africa, where they enjoyed seven safaris. Seeing 100 elephants come out of the bush and feeling their Landrover quiver as the herd lumbered past was unforgettable; as a result, she has written three little books that are almost ready for publication. Rennie had a dream that became a reality this year. For over ten years, she has studied and researched information regarding the U.S. Marine Navajo Code Talkers. The Code Talkers devised and used a code during WWII in the Pacific that even another Navajo could not understand. After three trips to Gallup, NM, and meeting with three of the honored veterans, Rennie has written and published a paperback book that is both factual and fictional entitled "Walking-Talking". (\*Our congratulations!)

Helen Golembieski, of Annapolis, retired from Oxon Hill High School in 1981. She continues to be active in some type of volunteer work every day, either at a nursing home, Hospice setting, or the Maryland Department of Aging.

Catherine Brooks retired in 1992, after serving 36 years as secretary at Orme Middle, Surrattsville Junior High, and Waldon Woods Elementary Schools. She has since worked tirelessly as a volunteer with the Community Support Systems (CSS) of Prince George's and Charles Counties—an organization of which she is a founding member. Catherine received the 2006 Governor's Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to her community. (\*Our congratulations!) She serves in all aspects of CSS: as a board member, volunteer schedule coordinator, Advocacy Committee member, and as the coordinator of the Baden Food Pantry Program. Catherine and her

husband, Robert, live in Aquasco, MD. They have six children.

Sharon Hilty retired in 2004 from H.W. Wheatley Special Center's Therapy Tank, where she was known as "Wheatley Mermaid #1". She has moved to Ocean City, where she lives with her 80 year old mother. Sharon keeps busy and entertained with two part time jobs at Edition Book Store and Chesapeake Hearing. She is a very patriotic mom—always dressed in red, white, and blue. Her son, John David, has been in the U.S. Army for seven years, and in August, he returned to Iraq for his second tour of duty. Sharon enjoys visiting with family and friends every chance she gets in Bowie, Cape Hatteras, Naples, FL, and California. She reports that she has renewed her passport to include more extensive travel

Charles Johnson retired from William Wirt Middle School, and has since relocated to Georgetown, DE, where he raises and races standard bred horses. Charles worked until 2001 for the Maryland Jockey Club. He spends his free time on the golf course. A year ago he drove to Oregon, met a friend there, and they drove on to Alaska. Some months ago he did a motor trip to northeast Canada. Sadly, Charles lost his wife of 36 years in 1999. They had two daughters and one son.

Pat Thompkins retired from Parkdale High School in 2004, but returned as a retire/rehire for two and a half more years. Pat's educational career has included teaching English in Japan at a dental university, a women's political educational center, and in several high schools. Recently she and her grandson, Sean, toured Japan renewing old friendships and visiting many areas. Pat and her husband, Charles, live in Hyattsville.

Correction from last newsletter : Donald S. Horner of Longwood, FL; not Homer.

Jan Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane, Bowie, MD 20716



## CONVENTION - WONDERFUL !

After several days visiting old friends on the Eastern Shore, I arrived in Ocean City to hear Superintendent of Schools in Worcester County, Dr. Jon Andes, who informed us that it was our duty to spend money and eat chicken to support the economy and education of Worcester County children. Of course, we all tried our best.

Next on the docket was the mayor of Ocean City, Rick Meehan, who informed us that his crew was out cleaning up after the effects of the hurricane. Sand was everywhere !

One of the highlights of the break-out sessions was a cooking demonstration by chef David Micozzi on breakfast treats. I learned the proper way to whip up eggs, which I fully intend to do when I get home.

The exhibits this year were very sparse. We would like to thank Bob Miller, one of our PG members who worked very hard recruiting exhibitors.

The main speaker, whose topic was "Building Community Service Projects That Attract and Retain Members", emphasized three little things that were important: Research, Reflect, and Reach Out. The presenter was Rebecca Villarreal, who was delightfully pregnant.

Locals night out was spent at Phillips Crab House, uptown, where we enjoyed an abundance and variety of seafood, and camaraderie.

During the convention I was not housed at the hotel, but stayed in Ocean Pines at a friend's home. I'm sure you know her, Phyllis Truitt, past president of MRTA and a long time friend. Needless to say, she kept me busy. We attended a meeting of the Democratic

Women of Ocean Pines, and a juried art exhibit in Salisbury.

I really hate going home to my normal life, but I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our membership meetings.

Kitty Walker

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The MRSPA (formerly MRTA) Legislative Committee composed and sent a Gubernatorial Survey of nine questions to Governor Ehrlich and Mayor O'Malley. You can read this on line at [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org). Also, there was a condensed version of their responses in the October issue of the MRSPA newsletter. Our organization does NOT endorse candidates, but our goal is to inform our members of the candidates' positions on specific issues that are of interest to us.

As you are aware, our MRSPA health care bills have failed in the General Assembly the last few years. We have decided to take a different approach this year, by lining up support before we present the bills in Annapolis. Our state Legislative Committee called an Education Coalition meeting of ten other education organizations in the state for October 18<sup>th</sup>, in Odenton. At this time, each organization was encouraged to present their legislative priorities for the coming session and to say which proposals from other groups they could and could not support. Our committee is especially concerned about the retirees who retired 25, or more years ago, when salaries were very low, and who are now receiving inadequate pensions.

VOTE on November 7<sup>th</sup>

Jan Wundrow - Legislative Chairperson



## NECROLOGY REPORT

This committee mails cards to our ill and sympathy cards to the families of our departed members. We will continue to remember our friends in a timely manner.

Jannie Goldston - Chair

### IN MEMORIAM

#### MEMBERS:

- Irene Balaban
- Merry S. Canavan
- Virginia L. Daugherty
- Florence V. Dickson
- Mark E. Doudna
- Miriam E. Farwell
- Mary R. Goodson
- Joan Gruman 08-27-06
- Laura A. Guinn 03-??-06
- Charles Harrison 09-12-06
- Edith P. Jackson
- Alfred Kubota 08-13-06
- Eleanor N. Liebert
- Jean Linehan
- Anne I McSorley
- Charles H. Slick
- Genevieve Travis 07-20-06

#### NON-MEMBERS:

- Charles Bell 09-06-06
- Ann Bowman 05-16-06
- Vincent DiPalermo 09-09-06
- Margaret Edwards 09-04-06
- Blanche Henry 09-10-06
- Philip Howe 06-19-06
- Dianne Lamont 07-26-06
- Hilda Rosentock Linz 06-15-06
- Frances Sands 08-05-06
- Linda Stone 08-01-06
- Sanderi Zadori

We receive the notices of deaths from several sources. Due to the privacy laws, not all are able to release the dates.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to new members, Pollyanna Doyle and Linda McCaffrey, who attended our September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We have approximately 1624 members. If your dues are not into MRSPA by November 1<sup>st</sup> your membership in both organizations will be cancelled. This will be the last ECHOES you will receive.

PLEASE, if you are moving, send us your new address. My address is 5912-36thAve, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2924

Our door prize winner at the first 2006-07 meeting was Gladys Barnes. Congratulations

Call me if you have a membership problem or question. My number is : 301-559-8533.

Jane Jones - Membership Co-Chair

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In the coming year this committee will continue:

- receiving & recording new applications
- forwarding checks to the treasurer
- forward payments to the state organization
- mailing reminders at renewal time
- providing info for pre-retirement packages
- assisting at pre-retirement conference
- communicating with membership at meetings and through the newsletter

Direct contact with and personal invitations to our friends and colleagues is our best way to encourage involvement in the organization. Check with your retired friends to be sure they are members.

Pat Thompkins - Co-Chair







Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association

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

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SOUTHERN, MD  
PERMIT #2151

DATED MATERIAL

James Gardner - Chair

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Lunch will be

MEMBERSHIP

If you plan to attend the Luncheon please complete the registration form below and return

to the Association

Mary K. Gorman

Virginia L. DeLoach

Russell V. Dickson

Mark P. Thomas

Michael E. Howell

Mary K. Gorman

John G. Gorman

Thurs A. Gorman

Charles R. Gorman

Edith M. Gorman

Alfred E. Gorman

Robert M. Gorman

Ann M. Gorman

Clare M. Gorman

Clare M. Gorman

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**November 15, 2006**

Make checks out to **PGPSRA**

La Fontaine Bleu  
7963 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD

Mail checks to:  
Dr. Edward Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Cost is \$20.00 per person

11:00 am Business meeting  
12:00 noon Luncheon  
Speaker - Carl Lancaster

Include a list of the people for whom the  
check is paying.