



# ECHOES

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

Volume XXXXI No. 2

November 2007

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a treat to see so many of you at our first meeting of the year, our Legislative Luncheon. We had more than 100 members sharing the morning with us. We were honored to have our Maryland delegates take the time from their busy schedules to share lunch with us and to give us some idea of what to expect from Annapolis this year. We also thank Don Briscoe, President of PGCEA, and Don O'Neal, District Representative from MRSPA, for stopping in to spend time with us.

Several issues were discussed at the meeting. Addie Martin explained changes in our health plan. Alveta Jones initiated a new 50/50 raffle program to help increase the amount of scholarship support we can extend to students in our county schools.

Your Executive Board voted in June to increase your local dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 for the 2008 – 2009 year. There are several reasons for the increase, but the bottom line is that we are losing money and cannot continue to offer the activities and services you have been receiving for just \$10.00 per year.

We are tightening our belts as we do this. We have pared our budget as much as we can – and still continue to meet the expectations of the Association. We are asking all of you to be more responsible in your responses to luncheon and meeting reservations. Much of the money we've lost was in the area of late reservations. We do not pay for entertainment at the

luncheons but have been ordering extra lunches to accommodate members who missed the reservation deadline. We now are looking for programs that can be offered at little or no cost and for alternate locations that can provide good food and service at an economical price. However, we do expect the price of lunches will be increased this year to be sure we cover taxes, tips, and any other expenses. In the past these costs have been taken from other parts of the budget.

Your cooperation is vital! For the September luncheon alone there were twenty people who responded as coming and requested the box lunch, but they did not show up. Each lunch cost the association \$8.00. Since we ordered the lunches, we had to pay for them. At the same time, there were about fifteen people who showed up without calling or called after the deadline expecting us to have lunch for them. I'm sure you can see that this is a problem that is not only costly but is also a huge headache for those in the association who are trying to plan the best for the meetings and who want you to have an enjoyable time. We CAN do better.

Be sure to get your reservations for the November meeting in on time. The meeting is November 14, 2007, at the Fontaine Bleu at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$25.00, and the reservation deadline is November 7, 2007. There will not be any additions or reimbursements after that date.

Bonnie Curry Brose



## PGPSRA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

We were very pleased to have six of our Maryland legislators: Delegates James Proctor, Michael Vaughn, Joanne Benson, Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Twanna Gaines, and Jay Walker's Legislative Assistant, Rex Little, represented at our September 26<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. The delegates spoke of expected budget deficit problems and proposals for solutions to be reached during the coming 2008 General Assembly session. They each stressed their accessibility (by phone or e-mail) to our members and extended an invitation to come down to observe the legislative process.

MRSPA will be hosting three Legislative Workshops around the state during November. Our local is invited to participate in the workshop scheduled for November 6, 2007, in Odenton. The president and legislative chair of each county are strongly urged to attend, but other interested members are invited to participate as well. Senator Ulysses Currie will be the legislative speaker, and representatives from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System and the Department of Aging will also present pertinent information. The meeting will begin with a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12 noon. No lunch will be served.

Special thanks to everyone who contacted his/her local legislators over the past few months to let them know that we want the state to continue to fund our pension and retirement system --- not to put half of the responsibility onto the individual counties.

Ray Smith and I attended a meeting conducted by Governor O'Malley at Victory Senior House in Landover on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The topic was "Expanding Health Care

and Services for Seniors." The following evening I attended a forum in Annapolis, where Governor O'Malley spoke about budgetary issues concerning the funding of services for businesses and communities. He frequently stressed that our investments in education, public safety, and public health must be protected. Governor O'Malley discussed his proposals to institute a progressive income tax (resulting in a higher tax rate for those with incomes over \$200,000), reducing property taxes by three cents on each \$100, increasing the tobacco tax by \$1 and investing that revenue in more affordable and accessible healthcare coverage, doubling the senior citizen tax exemption from \$1000 to \$2000, raising the sales tax by one cent, closing corporate loopholes and increasing corporate income tax by one percent and investing that money in the State's Transportation Trust Fund (to upgrade our roads and bridges), instituting some slots in the state with the proceeds to be used to preserve and protect 600,000 acres of horse-related open space in Maryland and 18,000 horse-related jobs, along with funding school construction and public education (including colleges and universities). Governor O'Malley made a point of saying that he plans to continue providing state aid to education under the Thornton plan and to phase in the Geographic Cost of Education Index --- and, **add** an additional \$120 million to the state teachers' retirement fund!

Several elections are coming up in November. Don't forget to vote!

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Join our list serve. Send e-mail addresses to  
Dr. Vest at [drvest@prodigy.net](mailto:drvest@prodigy.net).



We extend a hearty welcome to all of our new members. Three new members joined at our September meeting, and seven other new members joined us during the summer. We are glad they chose to join us.

The winner of our September door prize was Mary Younger. Congratulations!

Jane Jones, Membership Co-Chair

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on September 1, 2007

Checking Account	\$14,365.58
Savings Account	\$ 2,986.93
Receipts	\$ 505.85
Expenditures	\$ 1,456.40

Balance on September 30, 2007

Checking account	\$13,415.03
Savings Account	\$ 2,986.93
Total Assets	\$16,401.96

E. Vest, Treasurer

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Kudos to the PGCEA staff for their continuing support and to the Prince George's Public School Catering Staff for the delicious food and professional service provided at our September meeting.

Following is a letter addressed to PGPSRA members from The Good Shepherd School in New Orleans, LA., dated July 3, 2007.

Thank you for your generous contribution to The Good Shepherd School. We are pleased to provide the following information, which may be of use to you for tax purposes. Please be certain to retain this acknowledgement for your records. We have provided no goods or services in exchange for your gift. {Contribution Date: 7/3/2007 --- Amount: \$718.00}

The Good Shepherd School is in its sixth year of operation. The total enrollment of the school for the 2006-2007 school year is 75 students with first through sixth grade. This progress would not be possible without your support.

Please know that you and your family are in our prayers for continued prosperity. Again many thanks for your generosity.

Ronald P. Briggs  
President, Board Chair

Jennie Jones, Co-Chair

### TRAVELING WITH CHARLIE

Charles Hudson has scheduled a trip for forty people to Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia, MD, on December 12, 2007, to see *The Sound of Music*. The cost is \$55.00, and it includes transportation, a buffet lunch, and the show. Tickets will be sold on a first-come first-served basis. Make your checks payable to PGPSRA Tours. Mail them to Charles Hudson, 3154 Greenfield Road, Hunter Glen # 319, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

The bus pick-up point for the trip will be the parking lot of Forestville Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m.

Charlie will try to schedule a trip to New York to the Radio City Music Hall and to see *The Color Purple* in 2008.

Call Charlie at 301-572-9778 for further information.

### **ECHOES DEADLINE**

January Issue    December 1, 2007

[ahutchinson00@hotmail.com](mailto:ahutchinson00@hotmail.com)



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

### Danielle Miller, a 2007 PGPSRA Scholarship Awardee, Shares Her Senior Year Experiences

*Aug. 4, 2007:* I want to thank you all again for the scholarship you have awarded to me this year. I really appreciate the support you have given me since my freshman year of college. It is finally my senior year at the University of Maryland. I cannot wait to begin my year long internship this year. I am very excited that I was placed at Beltsville Elementary School. I will be in a fourth grade classroom with Ms. Colleen Roken. I am going to meet her during teacher preparation week August 13-17<sup>th</sup>. I cannot wait to start! I will officially begin on August 20<sup>th</sup>, which is the first day for students. Throughout the fall semester I will be in the classroom three full weeks – the first week of school, a week in October, and a week in November. The rest of the semester I will be at Beltsville on Monday and Tuesday and taking classes on Tuesday and Thursday on campus. I have Fridays “off” but my advisor told me not to make three day weekend plans because this is the day to make up classes and catch up on extra work.

This past year I have been busy taking my education classes. I also was very fortunate to be chosen as a Peer Advisor in the College of Education. This was a very beneficial internship. I was able to see the College of education through a different perspective, as I learned about the administrative duties of the college and the many things they do for students. I worked at the desk in Student Services office five hours a week, as well as, helped with many orientation programs and was on the student panel.

I spent my spring break in Sea Island, South Carolina, working with Habitat for Humanity. I went with a group of twenty-eight students from the Catholic Student Center at the University of Maryland. It was a rewarding experience to build the actual foundation of a house that a family in the future would call their home. We met one of the families who had just received a house through habitat and they were so appreciative that we were taking the time to help.

In addition, I was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. I am honored to be a part of this prestigious society. I already have helped at our bake sale and our bubbles table we set up for Maryland Day. This fall there are many activities that we will help out with for local

school children, including book week. This year I am looking forward to the year long, intense internship in my fourth grade classroom. I know that there will be many challenges I will have to face; however, I feel I am prepared for anything that I may have to do because of my experience in my part-time job last year as an aftercare teacher.

I also plan to apply for a two year part-time Master’s program in the College of Education. As for now, I want to be a Reading Specialist and this program will allow me to receive that certification.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Sincerely,  
Danielle Miller

Alveta Jones, Scholarship Chair

## HISTORICAL NOVELIST TO SPEAK

Historical novelist, Lucia St. Clair Robson, will be the guest speaker at the PGPSRA luncheon on November 14, at La Fontaine Bleu. She will discuss *Mary’s Land*, a book about the settlement of historic St. Mary’s City. Two strong-willed young British women arrive in that rowdy frontier town in 1638. One is an upper-class British lady; the other a street urchin snatched from the slums of Bristol. What awaits them in Lord Baltimore’s colony? It will be interesting to hear what the results of Robson’s research tell us about life in that particular time and place, especially for women.

Lucia St. Clair Robson was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised in South Florida. She has been a Peace Corp volunteer in Venezuela and a teacher in Brooklyn, New York. She has also lived in Japan, South Carolina, and Arizona. She is the author of many historical novels. She now lives near Annapolis in a community near the Severn River.

It has been said that few novelists have a better grasp of early American history than Robson. Her presentation should be informative. Make your reservations early.



## BITS AND PIECES

Maude Pinkney retired as librarian from Clinton Grove Elementary in 1988. She and her husband, Joseph, live in Brandywine, MD. After graduating from Bowie State Teachers College in 1949, Maude taught in Baltimore and Charles Counties. Maud and Joe have been married for 57 years (Our congratulations!). They met when Joe's sister, Ruby Gross, and Maude were college roommates. Both Maude and Joe are active members of PGPSRA and their church. They have been dedicated "mall walkers" for the past ten years. They have enjoyed traveling by all means of transportation over the years, and especially remember their trip to Hawaii and cruise to Alaska. The Pinkneys have four children, four grandchildren, and one great grandson. They enjoyed a visit with their son and his family in Illinois in October.

Dorna (Deedee) Remenick, of Baltimore, retired from Tulip Grove Elementary in 1995. Since then she has worked part time as an SLP for Care Resources and volunteered as an usher for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Lyric Theater. Deedee has enjoyed travel to many places in the U.S.A., and to Italy, France, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, England, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, China, Gibraltar, and Mexico. Deedee has one married daughter and one granddaughter.

Cherita Moran, of College Park, retired in 1997 from James H. Harrison - Diagnostic Wing; however, she did not retire from teaching. Cherita traveled to Togo, West Africa, to teach missionary children for the 1998-99 school year, and the following year she taught in Germany. The next two years Cherita taught pre-school and high school in the county. In 2005, she went to Peru to teach a special needs child and be a resource

person for others who needed special help. In between, Cherita took a 7500 mile road trip to San Diego with her brother and a dachshund, and the following year they drove 11,000 miles to Alaska! Recently she has been volunteering at Cross Roads Baptist Church of Columbia and driving friends to doctors' appointments and on errands. Cherita was widowed in 1993. She has two daughters and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Maryland.

Dorothea Coss retired in 1996 from Suitland High School. She has since moved to Frederick, MD, where she volunteers at the Frederick Memorial Hospital and for desk duty at the clubhouse in her complex. Dorothea participates in swimming, water exercise, aerobics, and daily walking. She has enjoyed traveling to Philadelphia, New York state, and Niagara Falls. Dorothea has four children and five grandchildren.

Liz VandenHeuvel, a former principal at Frances Fuchs Special Center, lives in Annapolis, and claims to be mostly retired. However, she still does some work at the University of Maryland and privately provides supervision services. She is much involved with the local Sierra Club and enjoys kayaking with the group. Liz has two children, three grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. Her son and his family traveled with Liz and her husband, Dick, to Alaska for two weeks this summer. They sailed on the Alaska ferry and spent time in many interesting places along the way. The whole family gathered in Chincoteague for a week at the end of August, where they enjoyed great beach weather.

Lillie James of Fort Washington, former media specialist from Overlook Elementary, sailed on a ten day Mediterranean cruise,



with stops in Italy, Greece, and Turkey, during the month of July.

Shirley Shugart Duvall retired in 1992 as a reading specialist. She and her husband, Peter Duvall, Jr. of Upper Marlboro, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last June. (Our congratulations!) Since retirement, Shirley has volunteered in many ways and places, including the Literacy Council of Prince George's County. She also enjoys sewing, needlework, and traveling. Of the capital cities in the sixteen countries in which Shirley has traveled, she agrees that each has its own historic sites and beauty, but that Washington, DC rivals any of them! The Duvalls have three sons and three grandsons.

Doris Watson retired from the Brandywine Elementary School office in 1995. She has since relocated to Webster, New York (near Rochester). Doris enjoys reading and volunteering at her church. She has had the pleasure of visiting Montana several times – the place of her birth and childhood. Doris has three children, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Elizabeth (Liz) Clarke-Rich of Upper Marlboro retired from Friendly High School as a media instructor and AFS sponsor. Following that, she became full-time director of the Union United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and part-time music director for the primary grades at Worldview Center Christian Academy in Brandywine. Liz also became involved in creative writing, authoring two books, *The Big Mistake* and *We Ain't Arrived Yet*, and a play, *RC*, which was successfully performed at the Brandywine Firehouse in 2003. In addition, Liz has also written articles for her church, club, school, and local newspapers. Her name was chosen to be included in the 1977-78 *Who's Who in the East*. Liz and

her husband Amos have enjoyed travels within and outside the U.S.A., including a Caribbean cruise, and trips to Mexico, Canada and Venezuela. One of her most memorable trips was to Alabama, at the invitation of Morris Dees, lawyer and champion of human rights, to have her name added to the Wall of Tolerance alongside famous civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Julian Bonds. What an honor that was! (Our congratulations!)

Mary Louise Isbell, of Forestville, former Media Specialist at Gwynn Park Middle School, spent two weeks vacationing in Brazil during June.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jan Wundrow  
[jannettewundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannettewundrow@comcast.net) or 1007  
Packton La., Bowie, MD 20716

## NECROLOGY

### MEMBERS

Ralph L Angel	9-3-07
Cherrie L Barham	8-27-07
Lillie V. Daye	7-24-07
Charles R. Harpole	7-24-07

## JUST A REMINDER

**Your Calendar:** Executive Committee/ Board Meeting will be held on October 31, at the PGCEA Building; the general meeting/luncheon is on November 14, at La Fontaine Bleu. (RSVP deadline – Nov. 7.)

**Inclement Weather:** Our meetings follow the school system's policy for cancellation due to inclement weather. Listen to your radio and/or TV for announcements. Delayed opening will mean that our meeting will go on as scheduled.



## E & PS COMMITTEE

### **Beware of Paper in the Back Window of Your Vehicle!**

#### **New Way to Do Car Jackings**

Heads up everyone! Please keep this circulating. You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into reverse.

When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into park, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They practically mow you down as they speed off in your car. And guess what, ladies. I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised!

**BEWARE OF THIS NEW SCHEME THAT IS NOW BEING USED...**

Fred Novak, Chair

### **THIS & THAT**

**Volunteering:** In a study, adults age 55 and older who volunteered for two or more groups were 44% less likely to die during a five year study. Other studies link volunteering with reduced illness and chronic pain, and increased functional ability.

**Beware of Trans Fat Replacement:** so-called interesterified fat ((fat formed by chemically incorporating a saturated fatty acid into a vegetable oil to harden it) is now

being used to replace trans fat. When 30 healthy volunteers ate a diet containing 30% of calories from interesterified fat for four to six weeks, their HDL "good" cholesterol declined while their blood sugar rose by 20%. You may want to check foods that list "interesterified" fat as an ingredient.

**Mushrooms:** Don't expect conventional nutrients from mushrooms, but they have hidden anti-cancer activity and may stimulate immune function, research finds.

**Travel in Good Health:** You can get the booklet *Going Abroad: Tips for Mature Travelers* from Grand Circle Travel. Call 800.248.3737 for a free copy.

From MSRPA E & PS Communicator  
(Fall 2007)

#### **PGPSRA**

#### **Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form**

Date: November 14, 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$25.00 Per Person

Place: La Fontaine Bleu

7963 Annapolis Rd.

Lanham, MD 20706

Please mail form to address below by  
November 7.

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

Enclosed is my check (payable to  
PGPSRA) in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) for  
the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association**

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

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JANNETTE WUNDROW  
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BOWIE MD 20716-1761

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &  
LUNCHEON**

November 14, 2007  
La Fontaine Bleu

11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting  
12:00 - Luncheon

Reservations Due – November 7<sup>th</sup>

**2007 – 2008**

Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.