



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

XXXXVII No. 2

November 2013

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS:

As we look about us, we notice that nature is preparing for a respite from her decorative ventures: trees are shedding their garments, many birds have flown away until nature beckons their return, and our Association is gearing up for a banner year of activities that will contribute to the well-being of our schools and communities.

In June of 2014, we will celebrate fifty years of service to our schools and communities, personal and professional development, and awareness and attentiveness to legislative issues that impact us. Over the years, our association has kept a watchful eye over our public school system. We have stood firm in the face of change, problems, fluctuating memberships, budget constraints, etc. Ours is a healthy association! We are proud of it. We support it! Plan to join us at all general meetings, especially the one in March 2014, when we celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Our Association began its 2013 – 2014 calendar year by welcoming our County Executive Rushern Baker to our first meeting to update us on the state of affairs of our schools. Mr. Baker asserted that the changes in leadership in the office of the superintendent, as well as the Board of Education, make education everyone's business and that everyone should be accountable for the education of our children.

On October 17th, we will celebrate with Jannette Wundrow, our nominee for the Maryland Senior

Citizens Hall of Fame, at the annual luncheon at Michael's in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

The Pre-Retirement Conference, held in conjunction with the Benefits Office, is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013, at the Dr. Henry Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Members of our Association will assist with the preparation and distribution of materials, as well as the registration of the attendees.

We are pleased to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Susan Fortgang, Mrs. Leah Fowble, and Mr. Donald Conway for agreeing to serve on the Audit Committee for this year.

If you are available to assist Mr. Donald Conway with plans for the 50th Anniversary Celebration in March, please contact him at 301.572.5574.

It was great seeing all of you at our first meeting. I look forward to seeing you on November 20th.

Lorraine W. Johnson, President

TRIP CANCELLATION

The October trip to Maryland's Eastern Shore was cancelled. Too few people signed up for the trip to be taken. We look forward to a more robust response to our next venture.

Charles Hudson, Travel Coordinator

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The MRSPA Legislative Workshop will be held November 14th in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. Registration and refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. Speakers include Diane Oakley, Executive Director for the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS); Peter Franchot, Maryland State Comptroller; A. Melissa Moye, Chief Investment Officer; and R. Dean Kenderdine, Executive Director, from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. Other speakers are yet to be confirmed. The MRSPA Legislative Committee will be meeting regularly during the 2014 General Assembly. Information will be shared through Legislative Updates on the MRSPA website (www.mrspa.org) in the "Members Only" section.

As I am growing quite fond of the Maryland State House, I thought I'd include a little fun trivia every now and then.

The lightning rod constructed on the dome of the State House in Maryland was the largest "Franklin" lightning rod ever attached to a public or private building in Ben's lifetime. It was built in accord with his recommendations and has had only one recorded instance of lightning damage. The pointed lightning rod placed on the State House and other buildings became a symbol of the ingenuity and independence of a young, thriving nation, as well as the intellect and inventiveness of Benjamin Franklin.

From: 2013 the Franklin Institute

Sue Finan, Legislative Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$30870.91

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3023.86

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 1086.03

EXPENDITURES - 1560.00

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

ENDING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 30396.94

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3023.86

TOTAL ASSETS - \$33420.80

E. Vest, Treasurer

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Teamwork made the dream work for the 2012 – 2013 school year. We served 103 families in the Northern Area of Prince George's County, and we are looking forward to having that kind of success in the Central Area for 2013 – 2014.

Our projects for the new year are school supplies, Share Baskets, a coat/uniform drive, and senior high graduation/prom assistance. The committee is busy and buzzing with new ideas and eager workers ready to get the ball rolling.

We thank everyone for past support and look forward to your partnership in 2013 – 2014.

Courtney Pringle, Newsletter Writer

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is highlighting JESSICA NICOLE JOHNSON, the 2007 PGPSRA scholarship award recipient. On May 11, 2013, Jessica received her Master's Degree in Science and Music Education from Tennessee State University. In May 2011, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Fisk University.

While attending Fisk University, she served as the pianist for the Fisk University Choir and the Hallelujah Chorus for choir tours. She also served as conductor for the Concert Band both at Fisk University and Tennessee State University.

Jessica is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Her volunteer activities include Operation Book Bag, the Walk for Breast Cancer fundraiser, and the United Way clothing drive.

She has studied abroad in Vienna, Austria, and Florence, Italy, as a Graduate Assistant for Dr. Vickie King, Professor of Piano Studies.

In Jessica's thesis, she gave special thanks to the retired teachers of Prince George's County for their support, encouragement, and contributions to her education. Her thesis was entitled *Inclusion of Varied Genre of Music in Middle School and High School*.

Delores C. Brown, Co-Chair

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
TEACHING IS A PROFESSION THAT
CREATES ALL OTHERS.

MRSPA LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

On Thursday, September 26, 2013, PGPSRA President Lorraine Johnson, President-Elect Dr. Norma Martof, Membership Chair Charline L. Jacob, and neophyte Barrie Hanson attended a workshop sponsored by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. The workshop, planned for leaders of Area II, was held at the Odenton location.

Two goals were pursued: the identification of thoughts and observations to be incorporated in the deliberations of the MRSPA Planning Retreat in December, and the development of a venue for the interaction of workshop participants sharing the same leadership role. Attendees included presidents, presidents-elect, membership chairs, and one member new to state activities, as well as MRSPA Area Directors. Discussion centered around local and MRSPA issues that the group felt should be the focus of the retreat.

Lorraine Johnson

NECROLOGY /REMEMBRANCE



Toni Andolfatti	09 – 12 – 13
Fred Cardano	09 – 10 – 13
Anna May Queen Holmes	08 – 10 – 13
Charles Tompkins	08 – 09 – 13
Jannie Goldston, Chair	

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to: Mrs. Julia Derry of Charlottesville, VA, who will be celebrating her **101st** birthday on the 28th; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mt. Pleasant, SC, who will be turning 91 years old on the 19th; and Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormondo Beach, FL, who will be having her 95th birthday on the 21st.

Happy **December** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Nana Bush of Marysville, TN, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 16th; Mr. Dale Woodburn of College Park, who will be marking his 94th birthday on the 17th; Mrs. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL, who will be turning 93 years old on the 19th; Mrs. Josephine Marzetti of Catonsville, who will be having her 95th birthday on the 24th; and Mrs. Annie Barbour of Indian Head, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on the 28th.

Dr. Robert (Joe) Shockley, a former Assistant Superintendent of the Prince George's School System, now resides with his daughter, Professor Dorothy Avondstondt, in Coral Gables, FL., while continuing to spend pleasant summers at his cabin in Fayetteville, PA. Joe looks forward to playing golf, whether in PA or FL. He stays in touch with many friends and former PGCPs colleagues through email. He enjoys cruising and has reached the "Diamond Plus" status on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, not to mention sailing on other cruises such as the Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Regent, and Celebrity. Joe has enjoyed seeing old friends during the annual Florida luncheons and cruises for

Prince George's retirees and welcomes visits from them at any time.

Dorothy Hayes retired from the Prince George's school system in 2010. She has since relocated to Memphis, TN, where she is enjoying reconnecting with relatives and attending family gatherings, weddings, graduations, and birthday celebrations. In May, she served as a proctor at a high school for end-of-year testing. Dorothy belongs to the George Washington Carver Alumni Association and is a member of the Booster Club. She volunteers at the "Think Show" held at Riverview Elementary and Carver High School. Dorothy's primary reason for moving to TN was to serve as her 89 year-old mother's caregiver; however, she likes living in Memphis, attending the theater and concerts, visiting museums and the zoo, and touring area attractions, such as Graceland. Since retirement, Dorothy has enjoyed travels to Little Rock and Hot Springs, AR; Orlando, Panama City and, Pensacola, FL; and New Orleans, Biloxi, and Gatlinburg.

Bob Herd, a former PE and math teacher, at J. Frank Dent Elementary, retired in 1998. While there, he met and married the school's kindergarten teacher, Jane Baker. Before teaching, Bob served a stint in the Marine Corps, where he says he learned some life lessons that have applied in teaching and other situations: evaluate, improvise, and overcome. At J. Frank Dent, Bob taught all grade levels. He also coached football at Parkdale and Forestville High Schools. After retirement Bob and Jane moved to Wilmington, NC, where he worked his way into management at both Lowes and Home Depot stores. Now fully retired, Bob

volunteers at the Veteran's Administration Clinic and at the Wilmington Railroad Museum. The Herds enjoy visiting their grandchildren in VA and NC.

Kelly Hodge-Grier retired from the Sasser Building as Case Manager of Homeless Education in 2008 then moved to Felton, DE. She and her husband celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary in October. They are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren, including a set of twins. The Grier family travels to Orlando every year to watch their oldest son play AAU basketball. Kelly's youngest son just began his first year of college.

Virginia Hobble, a former French teacher, retired in 1986 from Robert Goddard and Duval High Schools. Following retirement, she volunteered for five years with the Waldorf Jaycees seniors' program sharing their lives in the "One World" group, and conversing in French. Virginia has relocated to Princess Anne, MD. Sadly, she lost her husband, but for a number of years they enjoyed life at their cottage in NC, where they fished in the Columbia River. The Hobbles also traveled to many places: Alaska, Austria, Germany, France, Spain, Scotland, and Africa. Virginia has four children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grand children.

Roland Hoke of Bowie retired in 1999 from Eisenhower Middle School. He returned to the school system afterward to work part-time with Staff Development, mentoring Teach for America and new resident teachers. He continues to use his teaching skills as a middle school Sunday school teacher. Roland also volunteers with the

Greenbelt Lions Club. His hobbies include playing golf with fellow Prince George's retirees, Ray Prather, Bill Butler, and Gabe DeGennaro, and following and attending Penn State sports. Roland and his wife Sylvia, who works in the International Student Counseling Office for PGCPs, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have two sons. The Hokes have experienced travels to France, Italy, Brazil, and Mexico. They've sailed on two Caribbean cruises and one Hawaiian cruise.

MaryLouise Isbell of District Heights retired in 2003 as a Library Media Specialist at Gwynn Park Middle School. She has continued to use her library skills as president of the Friends of Oxon Hill Library, where she volunteers and is involved in the grant writing for the library. (This past June, the Oxon Hill Library was one of four Friends groups that won the "Reading is Grand Grant" given by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.) MaryLouise volunteers in her granddaughter's classroom at Southeastern Friendship Academy Elementary, and has received an award as "Volunteer of the Month" at Turner Elementary in Charles County, where her sister's grandchildren attend. She is the historiographer for the Washington Conference Connection Lay Organization and is active in other organizations at Allen Chapel AME Church in Washington, DC. She is PGPSRA's Recognition Chair, and she serves on the Community Service Committee. MaryLouise had an exciting summer of 2013, beginning with a three-generation family cruise to Alaska. She then traveled from Cape Cod to Atlanta, and ended the

summer with a cross-country Amtrak train trip that included stops in Washington, Chicago, Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque. MaryLouise has three adult children (one of whom is a teacher) and two adorable granddaughters.

Our resident Volksmarcher, Donald Conway of Beltsville, is a Lewisdale Elementary retiree. This past summer he and his wife Joyce, a Montgomery County retired teacher, visited their son and his family in Ann Arbor, MI, where Don participated in a Volksmarch that took him through the North Campus of the University of Michigan. He began 2013 with New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Volksmarches in Stevensville, Cambridge, North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, Bowie, and Savage, Maryland. Don has a marvelous, extensive collection titled "Moveable Museum of African American Memorabilia" that he displayed this past summer at J. P. Ryon Elementary in Waldorf, the Prince George's Baysox Stadium, and the Frank Perdue Shorebirds' Stadium in Salisbury. Don's other major hobby is collecting stamps depicting African Americans. He is scheduled to show his extensive cachet collections in Charlotte, NC, in mid-October at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER). Don serves as PGPSRA's historian and photographer/videographer.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jannettewundrow@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

**CELEBRATE FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIREES**

PLAN TO ATTEND

PGPSRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 26, 2013

COMFORT INN - BOWIE, MD

More details later.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 6: Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

November 20: General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

*Metro Points Hotel, 8500 Annapolis Rd.,
New Carrollton, MD 20784

January 8: Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

January 22: General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

March 5: Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

March 26: General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

*Comfort Inn, 4500 Crain Highway
Bowie, MD 20716

STAY INFORMED

Visit our website at www.pgpsra.org.

Contact Dr. Vest to join our listserve.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At our September 26th meeting, we were pleased to welcome Joan Ellis who visited us for the first time. We hope she will become a regular attendee. Pictures were taken of the July, August, and September birthday celebrants. Each one received a small gift. Several other members won door prizes. The Grand Prize winner was Ann Robinson. Come and join us at our next meeting. We take care of business, but we have fun too.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Membership Committee or of PGPSRA, please contact me.

Charline Jacob, Chair

From: MRSPA **CONSUMER CONNECTION**

Fraud Often Follows Disasters!

If a natural disaster forces you to leave your home/business, take the necessary precautions to protect your identity. Gather identification and important documents before disaster strikes.

If you must leave home due to weather conditions, you will need certain documents to identify yourself/family. Police suggest you do the following:

* Make copies of birth certificates, driver’s licenses, social security cards, death certificates, bank account numbers, and insurance papers for each member of your family.

* Take those papers and store them in a watertight locked box, or large waterproof plastic bag.

*Do not put the papers in your vehicle until you are ready to go. Thieves may break into your car to gain access to your valuable papers. Business

owners are advised to protect vital information by scanning and encrypting paperwork as well as other sensitive files to protect customers, employees, and vendors. If that isn’t feasible, detach the Central Processing Unit (CPU) and take it with you. Don’t let thieves steal your hard-earned name and reputation.

PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: November 20, 2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Metro Points Hotel
8500 Annapolis Rd.
New Carrollton,
Maryland 20784

Cost: \$25.00

To make your luncheon reservation, please send your check, payable to PGPSRA for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729. The reservation deadline is November 13, 2013.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM
Name: _____
Lunches Ordered: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____
Names of Guests: _____ _____

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ECHOES

December 1, 2013

Prince George's Public School Retirees
Association

Dr. Edward N. Vest

7908 Klovstad Drive

Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &
LUNCHEON**

November 20, 2013

Metro Points Hotel – New Carrollton

11:00 a.m.

Reservations Due – Nov.13

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO
ONE AND ALL*