

# ECHOES

Vol. L No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2015

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

## The President Speaks



Our first meeting's attendance was small in number due to the Pope's visit to Washington DC. Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Prince George County Schools Chief Executive Officer, delivered an informative message on the growth of Prince George's County Schools. Ms. Theresa Dudley, President of PGCEA, summarized how PGPSRA could be partners with PGCEA by attending developmental meetings of the County Planning Committee during the day when her teachers are not available.

Harold Siskind, Area II South Director, warned us of some good and bad news that will be discussed at the Leadership meeting on October 1, 2015. Addie Martin, Board of Education Liaison, updated us on our health benefits. The public is not aware how cutting the budgets in our county are affecting the cost of our insurance in the long run, as taxes are our bread and butter.

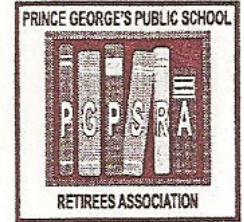
If you cannot attend our regular scheduled meetings, please come when we take our annual trip to Annapolis in March, 2016. When we have large numbers present in the gallery, it shows the Maryland state Senators and Representatives we are concerned about our pensions and health benefits and other matters related to education.

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Luncheon was held on Thursday, October 22, 2015. The honorees from our association were Bonnie Brose and Charline Jacob. Bonnie has served as president on the local PGPSRA and MRSPA and is currently our newsletter editor. Charline works as the Membership Chair for PGPSRA. Both of these women are involved in many other organizations as volunteers.

The committees of PGPSRA need volunteers and new blood. We need new ideas and new faces. Please consider joining a committee! You can see us at the November luncheon. It's fun.

Let's Work Together!

Cordially,  
MaryLouise J. Isbell, President



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## Calendar for 2015-2016

The program Committee has developed a tentative agenda for the 2015-2016 year. Highlights include:

Sept. 23 – Dr. Maxwell at PGCEA Center

Nov. 18 – AARP re: pending legislation at the Comfort Inn

Jan. 27 – Hobbies, Crafts and Interests at PGCEA Center

March 23 – Health issues at the Comfort Inn

May 25 – Scholarship Awards at the Comfort Inn

Hobbies, Crafts, and Interests is returning due to the positive response last year! It is not too early to start to thinking about what you would like to share. Please let Maryclaire Dunlap now ([beachbkmcd@gmail.com](mailto:beachbkmcd@gmail.com)) OR 301-717-1608 what you would like to share!

Also, there are openings for members on the Program Committee. Consider joining to help make PGPSRA an outstanding organization!

Maryclaire Dunlap, Program Chair.

### Necrology/Remembrance

Mary Cunningham	09/12/2015
Donald Carl McMillen	08/26/2015
Rhoda P. Moore	08/17/2015
Leslie Bernard Newsom	06/04/2015
Joan Freeland O'Neal	08/12/2015
Nicholas Poulos	08/16/2015
James E. Proctor	09/10/2015

**Jannie Goldston, Chair**



**The Honorable Delegate**

**James E. Proctor, Jr.**

The education community and the citizens of Prince George's County lost a dedicated public servant on September 10th.

Delegate Proctor began work, after graduation from Dunbar High School in Washington DC, as a research technician at NIH and then served in the U.S. Air Force, he graduated from Bowie State University and spent 30 years in the Prince George's County School System. He began serving as a Maryland Delegate in 1990 where he continued to support education as a representative and as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE:

THELMA BOYD  
BETTY NICHOLSON  
MATTIE SHAFER

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

THELMA BOYD



## Community Service Committee

### “Together, Everyone Achieves More”

Welcome to a new fiscal year (2015-2016)! We, the Community Services Team, hope you had a safe, super summer. Thanks to all of your support, the 2014-2015 year was a super success! Our final count of students served last year was 886. We hope to equal, or surpass, this for this year.

For the 2015-2016 year, our schools are in the Northern Area. The selected schools are Adelphi Elementary, Rogers Heights Elementary, Thomas Stone Elementary, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle, and High Point High.

All letters of invitation have been mailed and the committee is ready to roll! If you want to join the team, see me at the November luncheon.

**We are looking forward to a productive 2015-2016 school year!**

Ethel L. Brown, Chairman



## YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS

### TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER

#### OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$20779.04

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3026.88

#### ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS - 1325.69

EXPENDITURES - 1564.90

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT – NO ACTIVITY

#### ENDING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT - 20539.83

SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 3026.88

TOTAL ASSETS - \$23566.71

Thank you.

E. Vest

## DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your  
MRSPA website  
for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

## VISIT THESE WEBSITES

**www.MRSPA.org** and  
**www.PGPSRA.org**

We will soon have a facebook



Dr. Kevin Maxwell

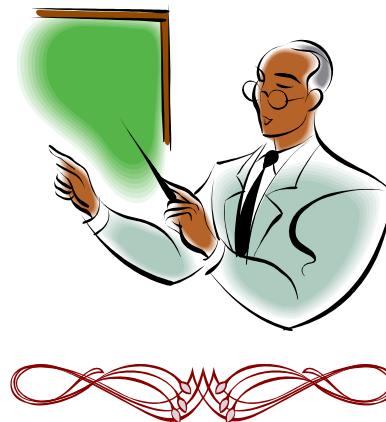
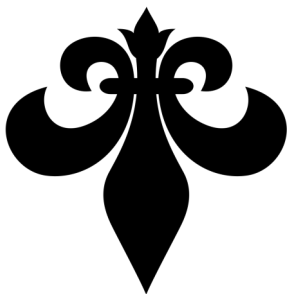
C.E.O. Prince George's School System



We began this year with a visit from our C.E.O. to bring the members of PGPSRA up to date with issues that face the school system. He told us of the many positive things that are happening (increased graduation rates and review of the many required tests given to our students). He stressed the need for our involvement in the politics of the county and the state, as our financial resources are controlled by the legislators and county council members.

Dr. Maxwell encourages us to be educated in the issues. To best be aware, please make sure that you are checking the MRSPA website often. Issues will be posted and explained there by your MRSPA Legislative Committee who will be monitoring all bills in Annapolis that effect our retirees.

The PGPSRA meeting in November will have a speaker from AARP who will discuss issues that they see as things to watch this legislative session. Please plan to be there!



### Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Mary Isbell (misbell3030@comcast.net)

Past President: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

President-Elect: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)

Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler  
(maryakaroyall@aol.com)(lindabl1217@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)

Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Loarraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77@gmail.com)

Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Webmaster: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)

Parliamentarian: Bill Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)

Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)

Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)

Programs: Maryclaire Dunlap (beachbkmcd@gmail.com)

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Virginia Eggleston of Lanham, who will be having her 91st birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring, who will be marking her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mount Pleasant, S.C., who will be celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormond Beach, FL, who will be having her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; and **Mrs. Julia Derry**, of Charlottesville, VA, who will be celebrating her **103rd birthday** on the 28<sup>th</sup>!

Happy **December** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville, who will be marking her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE, who will be having her 91st birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Dale Woodburn of College Park, who will be celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL, who will be turning 95 years-old on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Daisy Chapman of Lanham, who will be marking her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Frances Madison retired in 1990 from High Point High School. Shortly after retiring, she and her husband relocated to San Antonio, Texas, where they lived for 14 years. Unfortunately, her husband has passed away, and she has now moved to Laredo, TX, to be near family. Frances participated in volunteer work for a number of years, but now, just enjoys life by attending plays and concerts, and playing cards (mostly canasta) with friends. She has traveled to numerous states, as well as, Europe and several Latin American countries.

Laurice Lucas of Clinton, retired from Crossland High School in 2013. She is still keeping an early morning schedule by walking in her neighborhood or going to the gym, then “letting the day blossom”. She visits senior centers frequently, where she participates in her favorite activity: line dancing class. She also enjoys the tours, entertainment, and fellowship that the centers offer. Traveling with organized groups several times a year, allows Laurice to broaden her horizons and expand her cultural knowledge. Needless to say, Laurice stays busy, as a happy retiree!

Virginia Eggleston retired in 1980 from Doswell Brooks Elementary after 20 years, as a classroom teacher and 15 years as a Library Media Specialist. Since retiring, she has continued to stay active. She loves to read, travel, and play Duplicate Bridge. As a member of the Washington Bridge Unit, she has played in Bridge Tournaments in the Atlantic region from Florida to New York, and accumulated enough points to reach the Diamond Level. Virginia has been an active member of her Episcopal Church for 63 years. Her involvement with Delta Zeta Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the Columbine Chapter of the Eastern Star has kept her busy with many projects. She has traveled throughout the United States, including to Alaska and Hawaii, to England, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. While a member of the Prince George’s Community College Senior Program, she has had an opportunity to cruise to several Caribbean Islands. Sadly, Virginia has lost her husband and only child. Last year she experienced some serious health issues, but at this time she is able to continue with activities that she enjoys. We wish her a Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>!

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [jannettedrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannettedrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324 (Bowie)



### Theresa Mitchell Dudley, PGCEA President

Members were given an update of teacher concerns at the September meeting, by Theresa Dudley, who has just begun her term as president of the Prince George’s County Educators’ Association. She is advocating that we retirees can help by staying involved in issues within the county and that attending county planning sessions, board of education meetings and staying aware of issues will help the retirees and the working educators

## MEMBERSHIP

On the bright sunny day of Wednesday, September 23, 2015 several members left the PGPSRA meeting smiling. Lillian Artis and Sue Finan won the two \$25.00 Door Prizes and Brenda Barnes won the prizes for answering the 4 questions posted in Echoes . I will try the questions again in this issue to try and stir thoughtful answers that members might consider using when they visit with family or friends. Write out your answers and bring to the November meeting. Four answers will again be drawn and a prize given for each.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the most amazing thing you have even seen?
2. What makes you happiest?
3. What is your earliest memory?
4. What is the thing you'd most like to change in your life?

Small note pads were given out to everyone....good for keeping key notes during meetings. Come out so YOU will receive the November Give Away.

It would be good if a couple of members would join me on helping with MEMBERSHIP . This might be a way YOU could make our organization grow and become better. The officers can't do everything to make an organization ....they have been chosen as LEADERS but LEADERS need members willing to keep PGPSRA strong. Please contact me at [cyljacob37@gmail.com](mailto:cyljacob37@gmail.com) if you would like to get more information from me on making a decision if YOU can become part of this committee.

Looking forward to seeing all members who were out in September bring another member to the November meeting. If you missed the meeting in September your missed two important speakers with good information. Please join us at the November meeting.

Charline Jacob, Chairman



Here's a couple photos of before and during our September meeting. Be sure to join us for the November meeting at the Comfort Inn.

## Legislative Report September 2015

The new user friendly MRSPA web site is the go to place for all up to date information. To log in, use the 5 digit number on your news address label for member id and the first letter of your first name plus your last name for your password. The site is easy to navigate and most informative.

The lead article pertains to the MRSPA Legislative workshop on Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis. There will be speakers addressing state financial update, retirement/pension system update including the return to actuarial funding which has been our most recent cause. We will hear from the Attorney General, our MRSPA Legislative Aide, news from AARP and Governor Larry Hogan.

Health plans have and will continue to be high on our watch list. Outside of Prince George's County, changes are occurring. Baltimore City has announced that they will no longer pay for retiree prescriptions after 2020. Carroll County members are going to have to pay \$1000 monthly for their health insurance! South Carolina is no longer accepting Kaiser Health Care plans from Maryland. St. Mary's County has increased their yearly individual payment plans by \$40. Other counties are also proposing increases for retiree health benefits. We must continue to let our local representatives know how important it is that we maintain our quality health care. We must be strong advocates for our fellow teachers outside our county as well.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

In the May issue of ECHOES, our committee announced that the PGPSRA Scholarship Committee had awarded five \$ 2000.00 scholarships for 2015 – two to high school seniors planning to major in Elementary Education and three graduate students majoring in Education.

In checking with the Treasurer of the Prince George's Scholarship Fund, Inc. who writes the checks when students provide documentation that they are enrolled in their specific college, the three graduate students have submitted the required documentation and received our \$2000.00 award plus \$ 500.00 additional money from the Fund. As of September 22, 2015, the two high school graduates have not provided the necessary documentation to receive the award, however, they have until June 30, 2016 to request the award money for the school year, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016. It is the intent of the Scholarship Committee members to follow-up on the awardees.

There is a need for volunteers to join our Scholarship Committee as well as becoming members of Prince George's County Scholarship Fund, Inc. If interested, please check with Delores Brown or me.

Delores Brown and Alveta Jones, co-chairs

## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
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Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net




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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

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## November Meeting

PGPSRA Reservation Form

November 18 at 11:00 A.M.

Comfort Inn, Bowie (4500 Crain Highway)

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$25.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by Nov. 11 mail delivery!)**