

# ECHOES

Vol. LI No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2016

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

## The President Speaks

Greetings PGPSRA Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you come out to our first PGPSRA General Meeting of the year on September 28th. Despite the rain we had a great turn out for the meeting. Approximately 75 members, including six new members were present. Prince George's County States Attorney Angela Alsobrooks was unable to attend the meeting as scheduled but she sent Yvonne Robinson, Chief of the Juvenile Unit for the States Attorney Office, to speak to us on her behalf. Ms. Robinson informed us of the many scams currently targeting senior citizens in our jurisdiction. One such scam involves the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Please remember, the IRS does not contact anyone by e-mail.

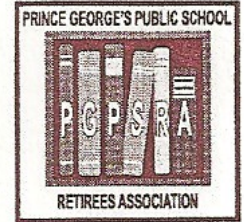


Theresa Dudley, PGCEA President, brought us greetings and asked our assistance with the upcoming Presidential Campaign. Many members accepted the challenge and signed up to work the polls or to assist with the call bank. Those members who signed up to assist received a Hillary Clinton t-shirt. We strongly encourage everyone to get out and vote in November.

The weather is beginning to change; the leaves are turning to the beautiful fall colors and beginning to fall. Although the daylight dwindles faster and the temperatures are getting cooler you are encouraged to continue to stay active by volunteering in the community. The Community Service Committee, under the leadership of Ethel Brown, did a fantastic job last year sponsoring various schools via our community service activities. The committee is gearing up once again to identify and support schools this year.

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame will honor its newest inductees on October 27, 2016 at Michael's Restaurant in Glen Burnie, Maryland. This year, two of our members, Loraine Johnson and Dr. Norma Martof will be inducted into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. To date, more than 50 members and guests of PGPSRA will be attending the celebration.

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## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Virginia Eggeston of Lanham, will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be marking her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. will be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormond Beach, FL, will be turning 98 years-old on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy **December** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville, will be celebrating her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE, will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Dale Woodburn of College Park, will be turning 97 years-old on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Daisy Chapman of Lanham, will be marking her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Ms. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL, will be having her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Erma Sarahan of College Park will be celebrating her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Ellen McNamara retired as principal of Princeton Elementary in 1996. She and her husband, now deceased, moved to Brielle, New Jersey 16 years ago, though she spends each February and March in Florida. In Brielle, Mary Ellen has volunteered at the Shore Hospital, and is involved in church activities. She has traveled to most of the beautiful National Parks in the U.S., to Europe, and taken river cruises. She plans to visit the Amalfi Coast of Italy next spring. Mary Ellen has a daughter who lives in New Jersey, and two sons who live in Maryland. She has eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mary Ellen has fond memories of her work with wonderful teachers, students, and families in Prince George's County. Now she enjoys living in a caring community, where she enjoys each day.

Margaret (Maggie) McLaughlin of Dunkirk, MD, retired in 1995 from Andrew Jackson Middle School and Crossland High School. She has since, been volunteering in Calvert County at the Center for Behavioral Health and serving as a telephone answerer at the Hospice Office. Maggie has been a very enthusiastic cruise ship traveler, having sailed on 44 cruises! She and her husband have had the pleasure of cruises to six continents. Unfortunately, he passed away on a China/Russia Cruise. She continues to sail with friends, and enjoys trips with family. Maggie has four children and six grandchildren.

Anne McKown and her husband, Barrett (Barry), of 51 years, live in Edgewater, MD. Anne retired in 1994 as Administrative Assistant in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. Since then, she and Barry have cruised most of the major rivers in Europe, as well as, the rivers in America on the Upper and lower Mississippi, the Ohio, the Columbia, Snake, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. The McKowns engage in activities with the Historical and Genealogical Societies and are members of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis. Anne enjoys staying in touch with family and friends through mail, phone calls, and luncheons.

Julia McPherson retired from Crossland High School in 1982; however, she spent 24 years teaching at Gwynn Park High School, from which she graduated as a high school senior! After retirement, Julia did some church work, then taught a sewing class at a local sewing shop for the next 25 years. She also did some buying and selling, and rehabbing of foreclosure property, which proved to be very interesting work. She still finds time to do some quilting. Julia and her husband of 58 years live in Brandywine. They have one daughter and son-in-law, and one grandson, who works in computers at Patuxent River Naval base.

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



## States Attorney sends Yvonne Robinson to Talk

By Dr. Norma Martof, Co- Chair for Programs

September 28, 2016 PGPSRA members turned out to hear our scheduled quest speaker, the esteemed States Attorney Angela Alsobrooks. Our meeting had begun when I received a call from Yvonne Robinson saying she was on her way to speak to us. Here are some highlights of her talk.

Ms. Robinson began by reminding us to be vigilant and alert to scams. Prevalent scams include emails saying you have won money or telephone calls from the IRS threatening legal action. In addition, she warned to beware of telephone calls saying a relative had been arrested and needed you to wire money for bail.

Working in the States Attorney's office, Ms. Robinson stated the main goal is to protect and support children. She noted that Juvenile Justice is about "keeping them out of jail and rehabilitating them." She continued by describing programs that have been successful in reducing recidivism. One program, "Back on Track," allows low level drug dealers to enroll in an 18-- month program to learn community and other skills. Upon completion, their criminal records are wiped clean so that employers will want to hire them. Another successful program is "Teen Court" in which alleged offenders are tried in a court of their peers. Serving as the judge in these cases, she observed that sometimes teens do not know why or how they got into trouble except that they were caught up in the moment and followed the crowd.



Ms. Robinson also noted that human trafficking remains a problem that is largely associated with children who have dropped out of school. Pupil Personnel workers need to identify truancy early. In schools, Individual Education Plan (IEP) committees work to decide why children do not come to school and then work to help them attend. Beginning next year, students will be required to attend school until they are 17 years of age.

During the question and answer session, Ms. Robinson revealed that parents have been sentenced to jail time for their children's truanancies and fined \$50.00 a day for absences; however, the sentences given parents depend upon the presiding judge as some are more lenient than others.

### C ALENDAR—For the rest of the year (2016-2017)

Board—November 2 PGPSRA

Board—January 4 PGCEA

Meeting/Box Lunch—November 19 PGCEA

Meeting/Box Lunch—January 25 PGCEA

Board—March 1 PGCEA Center

Board— May 2 PGCEA

Meeting/Luncheon—March 22 Comfort Inn

Meeting/Luncheon-May 24 Comfort Inn

## PGCEA President and MSEA Area Director Greet PGPSRA Members

Theresa Dudley, president of PGCEA addressed PGPSRA members at the September 28, 2016 meeting by saying, “Our teachers are under siege.” She noted some recent instances of innocent acts between teachers and students misconstrued as otherwise due to stepped up reporting and accountability practices. She continued, “We need more common sense.”

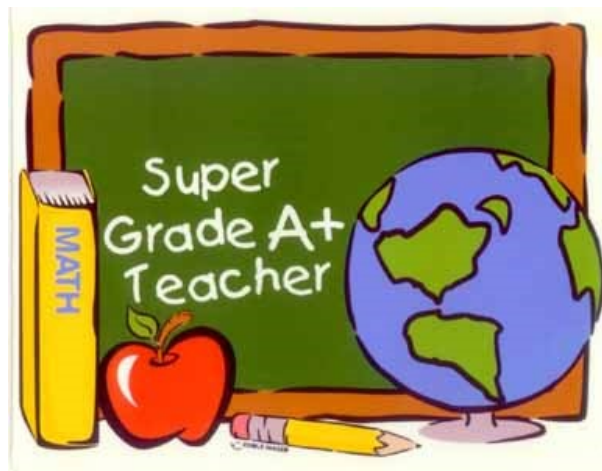
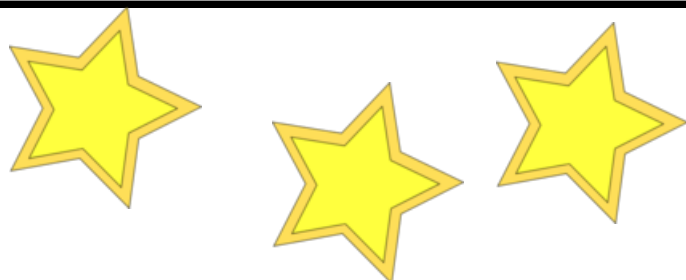
Mr. Lewis Robinson, former Executive Director of PGCEA, is now the Director of Employee Relations at Prince Georges County Public Schools. She provided some information about the county’s loss of \$6million from the Head Start program—now re=organized as the Early Start Program.

Ms. Dudley affirmed her confidence and trust in the PGCPD District’s teachers. She closed by introducing Mr. Sean Johnson, formerly with MSEA and now at working at PGCEA.



## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)  
 Past President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)  
 President-Elect: George Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)  
 Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler  
 (maryakaroyall@aol.com)(lindabl1217@verizon.net)  
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)  
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)  
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)  
 Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)  
 Consumer Ed.: nmartof@verizon.net  
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)  
 Inspirations: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)  
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)  
 Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)  
 Newsletter/Programs: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)  
 Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose  
 (wmbrose@comcast.net)  
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguincl@msn.com)  
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)  
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)  
 Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)  
 Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)



## MEMBERSHIP

**WELCOME!** Some members got busy during vacation time and contacted retirees they knew, as a result we had SIX (6) FIRST TIMERS at our meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to members who got these folk out: Sandra Ingram, Yvonne Alston, Elizabeth Smith-Buckmon, Sandra Gillis, Vanessa Smith and Virginia Johnson. All six got a token gift. WELCOME to MRSPA/PGPSRA!!

The \$25.00 door prizes were won by Linda Butler and Charles Hudson **\*\*HAPPY 94<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY Charlie\*\***. Members enjoyed singing the song for him even though his special day will not be until October. More than 20 smaller door prizes were awarded to members holding the right ticket numbers.

MRSPA held a LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP on Thursday, September 29, 2016. Four PGPSRA members attended along with our member LORRAINE JOHNSON-MRSPA Vice President. Those present from AREA II got updates from our new Ex. Director SHACHAR WEIZMAN, and President FAY MILLER. Subject covered include WEBSITE, MEMBERSHIP MATTERS, and updates on Manuals, Community Service and the MRSPA Scholarship. All stressed getting more current members involved =branching out our Community Service efforts, having members use EACH ONE REACH ONE methods to increase membership and to have members be sure information gets out to any and all who might qualify for Individual Community Service Awards and Scholarships given by MRSPA. The more INVOLVED MEMBERS a local has-- the more the work of the local gets out to the public about our organization--the more retirees will want to join us!

Currently we have less than 20 members working on one main Community Service project, 2 members servicing on our local scholarship committee, 2 on Legislative committee and the officers you see listed in Echoes working as 1, except for the position of Secretary. As of September 1, 2016 PGPSRA is listed as having 1442 members. Realizing many are out of the area, but with less than 50 members working we have many more that can be working. The new Ex. Director is using NEW Tech methods and ideas to thrust MRSPA into the future. President Barnes put out a sheet at the 9/28<sup>th</sup> meeting for members to submit ideas, sign on to committees and/or list new projects for PGPSRA. I saw 3 filled lines on the sheets she put out! (:( I have to admit I was pleased to see a member who signed on for MEMBERSHIP and M. Isbell joined the committee at the LEADERSHIP meeting today. Thanks to both of you!

Working hands make a garden grow...I am asking that many of you will join us in lending your hands to help PGPSRA grow. Consider inviting someone who worked for PGC BD of ED to our next meeting, *be sure you or they pay for their lunch (smile)*, - \$50.00 dues for MRSPA/PGPSRA or \$15.00 for PGPSRA only- is a small price to pay for the fellowship, friendships and service we give to others as we support an organization that is the ONLY one that works to keep our pensions strong!

Hope you had a safe a Happy Halloween. See you at the meeting.

Charline Jacob- Membership

### Necrology/Remembrance

Robert A. Batchelor      07/21/2016	William Steve Settle      09/09/2016
Dolores Ann Washington 09/21/2016	Edward Broadnax      09/17/2016
Harold L. Vance      08/01/2016	Douglas D. Waters      07/13/2016
Kathleen A. McPartland 08/04/2016	Beatrice Eleanor Myles 08/320/2016

Jannie Goldston, Chairman



## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Community Services Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested, please call the chairman, Ethel Brown. The dates of their meetings for the rest of the year are: Dec. 7, Feb. 1, April 5, June 7 and Aug. 2.

The schools to be served this year are in the Central Area. All letters were sent out on August 26, 2016 and all schools have accepted. The schools are:

Largo High  
 Capital Heights Elementary  
 North Forestville Elementary  
 William Paca Elementary  
 Andrew Jackson Academy

The committee is about serving children. Last year there were 1,847 children impacted....let's keep the good work going!!

Ethel Brown, Chairman

### TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2016

#### OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:       \$19295.37  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT:        3028.40

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY:

RECEIPTS:                       655.59  
 EXPENDITURES:                907.26

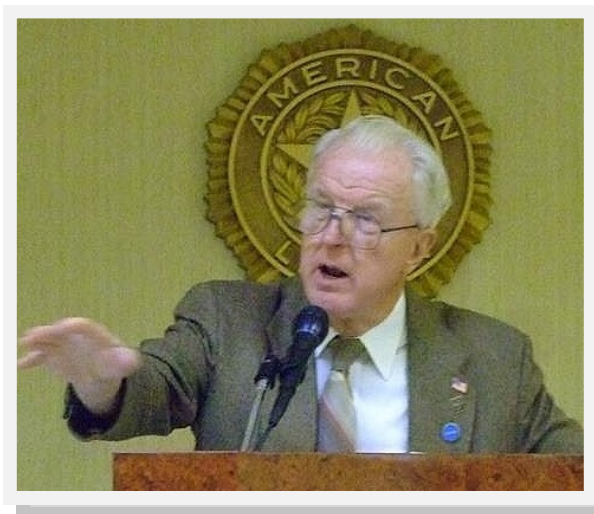
NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

#### BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:        19043.70  
 SAVINGS ACCOUNT:         3028.40

TOTAL ASSETS:               \$22072.10

Edward N. Vest



### VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and  
[www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)

If you have not already done so,  
send your email address to Dr. Vest

### DISCOUNTS!!

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

Visit the site often!



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

The MRSPA sponsored their annual leadership training in Odenton, Maryland in September. The following PGPSRA members attended: George Denny, President-Elect, Charline Jacobs, Membership Chair, Mary Isabell, Past President and Brenda Barnes, President. Lorraine Johnson, MRSPA Vice-President and member PGPSRA did an excellent job with her membership presentation. Fay Miller, MRSPA President and Shachar Weizman, MRSPA Executive Director presented. They spoke about the changes coming to MRSPA's website in October and are full of energy and excitement for bringing our organization up to the 21st century. President Miller and Executive Director Weizman are our scheduled guest speakers for our November meeting.

The November meeting will be held at the PGCEA on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 11:00 am. We have a wonderful agenda planned for you with a few extras. Please come out to the November meeting as you're certainly in for a treat.

**Remember, there is no "I" in TEAM.** In order for our organization to work effectively, it will take each of us working collectively as a team to move things forward. With this said, I am pleased to see that several members signed up to join committees to work this year. If you did not have the opportunity to sign up for a committee and you're interested in being more involved, please feel free to e-mail me at [blbarnes128@aol.com](mailto:blbarnes128@aol.com). All committees need additional members.

Brenda Barnes, President



## SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee will be awarding two scholarships to two senior high school students who intend to major in education after graduation. The amount of each award is \$2,500.00. The money will be sent to the college/university after they are enrolled.

The student must be currently enrolled in the Prince George's County Public School system

To apply:

- Applications can be obtained in the high school's guidance office.
- Applications are available on the website ([www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)).



The applications will be in the schools beginning the week of Dec. 12th, 2016 .

- The deadline is Jan. 27, 2017.
- No applications will be accepted after the deadline.
- Applications must be completed fully.
- All applications must be mailed through USPS

Alveta Jones and Delores Brown, Chairmen





## Legislative Report

The 2016 MRSPA State Legislative Workshop will be held on Thursday November 10, 2016 in Annapolis. The workshop will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. and concluding by 2:00 p.m. The agenda includes Maryland State Retirement/Pension System Update, Legislative forecast for 2017, and a report from Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp and AARP priorities. Governor Hogan and Senator Mikulski have been invited. If you wish to attend, the cost is \$19.00 in the form of a check made payable to MRSPA and given to Sue Finan before October 20<sup>th</sup>. Morning refreshments and lunch will be served. You are responsible for your transportation.

Our own PGPSRA Legislative trip to Annapolis will be held on Thursday March 9th 2017. For our recent members, we leave PGCEA in the morning arriving by bus to Annapolis to view an introductory film, sit in on The House and Senate, Tour Historic Rooms and The Governor's Mansion. We join together for luncheon and visits from our Legislators. We return to PGCEA by 2:30. There is no cost for this wonderful trip! Sign up will be available at our November and January meetings or by contacting Sue Finan.

This is the first year that counties are NOT getting help with pension funding. State money has also been cut for county education budgets. Our main goal is to protect our state's Defined Benefit pension plan. It is also very important that all members keep watch on Board activity regarding health care for retirees and give input when necessary.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

### Hobbies and Crafts Displays

If you have a hobby or craft that you want to tell us about, plan to bring it to the November meeting.

Let us know that you will be needing a table.

Contact: Bonnie Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net



**Whatever your creative genes can create, we want to know about!**

### PGPSRA Reservation Form

November 16 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

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

Amount Enclosed \$10.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by the Nov. 9 mail delivery!)**

**Box Lunch**

## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
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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### Next Meeting

**November 16, 2016**

**PGCEA Center, Forestville**

**11:00 a.m.**

