

ECHOES

Vol. LII No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2017

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

Greetings PGPSRA Members,



The PGPSRA General Meeting on Sept. 27 was a huge success, with over 120 attendees, a great exchange of information, and a delicious buffet luncheon provided by A Taste of Heaven Catering Service. Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO of the Prince George's County Public Schools, spoke of the school system's growing enrollment and expanding opportunities, as well as outstanding accomplishments in a number of areas. We also had representatives from the School System's Benefits Office explain the transition to the Medicare Part D prescription Plan effective Jan. 1, 2018. There was too much information provided to review here, but retirees will be receiving information from the Benefits Office and the appropriate plan providers in a timely manner. Be sure to read all materials sent to you, and act accordingly.

Over the summer Dr. William Brose, our Webmaster, revamped our website to make it more timely and informative. Thanks to Jannette Wundrow he was able to locate and post issues of our ECHOES newsletter as far back as September 1999. Be sure to check it out.

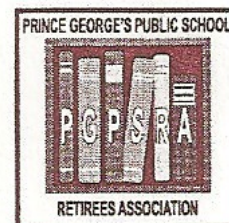
Elsewhere in this issue is the reservation form for the Nov. 15 General Meeting. Please bear in mind that this meeting comes at the middle of the month due to the Thanksgiving holidays, and you will have less time to get your reservation in to Dr. Vest. The guest speaker will be Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. Fay Miller, President of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), will also visit with us, along with Wanda Twigg, new Executive Director of MRSPA. We will again be having a buffet luncheon at a cost of \$15 per person. Please get your reservation in on time to facilitate our caterer's ability to prepare sufficient food for the event.

Addie Martin and Nicole Dias got us off to a fast start with the Travel Committee, organizing a successful outing to see Dream Girls at Toby's. The trip was a sellout. Next up is a trip to Pennsylvania to see *Miracle of Christmas* at the Sight and Sound on Dec. 15. Be sure to sign up quickly, as seats are selling fast.

Our Committees are already hard at work, but would really appreciate new volunteers to help them. If you have not volunteered for a committee and are interested in being more involved, please feel free to e-mail me at george.dilden@yahoo.com or call me at 301-641-3147. We can discuss the committee responsibilities and you will be given the contact information for the appropriate committee chairs.

We have been given a goal of 72 new members for the current year, and we need you to urge your retiree friends to join with us to move things forward. You can refer them to our Membership section on the Website for an application.

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BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to some of our Emeritus members: Ms. Pauline Staggers of Largo will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 13th; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be marking her 95th birthday on the 18th; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. will be having her 95th birthday on the 19th; and two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 21st: Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormond Beach, FL. will be 99 years-old, and Ms. Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be turning 91 years of age.

Happy **December** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville will be having her 93rd birthday on the 6th; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 14th; Ms. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL. will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 19th; Ms. Daisy Chapman of Lanham will be having her 96th birthday on the 22nd; and Ms. Erma Sarahan of College Park will be turning 92 years-old on the 27th.

Barbara Taylor of Huntingtown, MD., retired as principal of Mattaponi Elementary in 1991, after also serving as principal at Rosecroft Park and Chestnut Hills Schools. For the next 21 years, she worked at a travel agency – planning and escorting group trips overseas on motor coach and cruises. During her travels, Barbara has been to Nova Scotia, England, Ireland, on a Greek Island cruise, a river cruise from Vienna to Amsterdam, an Alaska cruise, and on all of the Caribbean cruises. She has also been involved in her church – working with children in Sunday School, singing in the choir, working with the Missions Team, and Awanas (children's youth ministry). On a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, she worked with teachers on individualizing instruction. Barbara has one adult son, who works in public safety, and a daughter-in-law, who is a teacher. She has two granddaughters, one, who is a teacher, and the other, who works in a lab doing cancer research.

Bob Cecil retired in 2005 from Eisenhower Middle School. After 20 years of being summer residents, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Maine to live full-time. Sadly, Mary passed away in 2013, and Bob down-sized to a condo community in Topsham. To keep busy, he volunteered at both the Joshua Chamberlain Museum in Brunswick and the Victoria Mansion in Portland, and continues to work with the many students who visit these places, because as Bob says, "Once a teacher, always a teacher"! He has enjoyed exploring New England, especially since this is now his home state. He loves Maine, and gets back to Maryland very infrequently. He has adjusted to the Maine winters, and finds it a perfect place to enjoy retirement. Bob is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren – three in Georgia and two in Colorado. They call him "Bubba".

Sharon Tannenbaum of Bowie retired from Suitland High School in 2011. Since then, Sharon has enjoyed catching up over lunch, with former teaching colleagues. She has joined her college room-mates on occasions; one lives in New Jersey, the other in Arizona. Sharon attended high school at Zama American High School in Japan, while her father was stationed in Japan with the U. S. Military. She has since attended a few of those high school reunions held state-side. Sharon and her husband, Carl, will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on December 25th. They have two adult children, Lisa and Michelle, and four grandchildren.

Brenda Thomas lives in Beltsville. She retired from Scotchtown Hill Elementary in 2004. Three days a week she participates in an exercise class at the Laurel/Beltsville Senior Center, where she also takes a piano class. Brenda attends many of the senior center functions and local trips. Last October she and her husband, William, along with a travel group, went to South Africa for two weeks. This was a wonderful experience, except for one frightening event. Brenda and William flew to Johannesburg, then took a bus to tour the countryside. While on the bus, they had stopped at an intersection, when they were hit forcefully from the back by a large truck carrying steel rods. During the collision, the steel rods pierced the interior of the bus! Also, gasoline from the crashed vehicles spilled all over the road! Everyone was told to jump out of the bus windows and run a distance away! Fortunately, the only person seriously injured was the truck driver. Meanwhile the bus passengers waited on the side of the road for three hours before being picked up by another bus. Then they continued the trip, stopping at many interesting places and enjoying local foods. In 2014, Brenda and William celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. The Thomases have three sons and a daughter, and two grandchildren. Their one son works for the military, and was in South Korea for several years, while Brenda and William made three trips to visit with him; he is now in Cyprus, where they have also visited with him. Needless to say, the Thomas family is very attuned to the North Korean situation that is currently in the news.

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324



Conclusion of the President's Message:

Mark your calendar for the November meeting and plan to attend. Bring a friend. Join us as we work together for another exciting year!

Meanwhile, Happy Thanksgiving, and best wishes for a peaceful, joyful holiday season.

George D. Denny, Jr.



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Served 2,063 Students Last Year

The PGPSRA Community Services Team worked with five schools in the Central Area of the county in 2016-2017, serving 2,063 students in the process.

For the 2017-2018 year the committee will be serving Clinton Grove, Panorama, Rose Valley and Tayac Elementary Schools, and Friendly High School, all in the Southern Area of the county.

The committee is seeking new volunteers to further our services to the neediest students in those schools. The team meets on the first Wednesday of December, February, April, and June, from 11 a.m. to noon at the PGCEA Center in Forestville. For details, please call Ethel Brown, chairperson, at 202-581-0740.

Ethel Brown, Chairman

“TOGETHER, EVERYONE MAKES THE DREAM WORK”

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Board	General Meeting
Sept 8	Sept 27
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Jan. 3	Jan. 24
Mar. 7	Mar. 28
May 2	May 23



REMEMBRANCE

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Alston, Marjorie Kingsberry	04/02/2017
Butler, Shirley	08/23/2017
Jones, Brenda Brown	07/12/2017
Righter, Elizabeth A.	05/24/2017
Stokes, Charlotte M.	08/08/2017
Taylor, Mary Lou Heise	04/29/2017
Wilson, Viola	09/16/2017

Jannie Goldston Chair

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)
 Past President/Nomimating: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 President-Elect: VACANT
 Recording Sec.: Nicole Dias (nicoledias134@gmail.com)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Bylaws: Marylouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 Comm. Service: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret22@msn.com)
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof
 Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) & Brenda Barnes
 Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net & Brenda Barnes
 Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias



Dr. Maxwell updated the members about our schools.

PGPSRA

Prince George's Public School Retirees Association

PENNSYLVANIA TRIP

Friday, December 15, 2017

Miracle of Christmas

Sight and Sound Theatre

300 Hartman Bridge Road, Strasburg, Pennsylvania



8:00 a.m. Bus will leave from Evangel Cathedral, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
(Boarding will begin at 7:30 a.m.)

10:30 a.m. Shopping Outlets

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch at Good and Plenty

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Play at Sight and Sound

5:30 p.m. – Leave Pennsylvania

8:00 p.m. – Approximately arrival time at Evangel Cathedral

Cost - \$110.00

All Payments Due by: November 15, 2017

Make checks out to PGPSRA.

Mail to Addie Martin, 9706 Frank Tippet Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Questions – Call Addie Martin (301)-868-6081

Travel Co-Chairs - Nicole Dias & Addie Martin

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Across the United States, local governments are reviewing budgets, looking for ways to balance them. As the number of retirees grows, so too is the need for fully funded retirement plans. In some states plan proposals include shifting retirees from the defined benefit model to the contribution model which puts the retirees at the mercy of the stock market. Raising the retirement age to 65, suspending COLA adjustments and raising employee contributions are frequent topics in the Legislatures.

Many retirement funds and pension systems are discovering that their investments have been poorly managed over several years leading to minimal or no growth. Excellent fund managers are crucial to the success of any retirement pension system.

Maryland is fortunate to have a well-managed state retirement system and we have avoided the stressful situations which some states are facing. However, it is imperative that we as members of MRSPA and PGPSRA continue to stay informed and be vigilant regarding our own retirement issues. You can help by knowing your Legislative Delegates and joining us in Annapolis during the January thru April session and on our annual trip.

Sue Finan, Legislative Chair



SENIOR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We are starting a new committee to include our home bound members. Maybe you are in an assisted living home, ambulatory, in need of transportation to a meeting or just want to talk to another educator. If you know of any member with these restrictions please send their names, e-mail address, or phone numbers to the committee members. We want to contact these members and find out how we can interact and assist them in getting involved in our activities. We need all of our members help in reaching out to these members.

Brenda Barnes blbarnes128@aol.com

Jayne Johns jaynejohns@verizon.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2017

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$14043.48
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2029.88

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	2390.51
EXPENDITURES	-	4171.45

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	12262.54
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2029.88
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$14292.42

Edward N. Vest





DISCOUNTS!!

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

Visit the site often!

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The scholarship applications will be online and in every Prince Georges Public High School by December 10th 2017. We will also include them in the Echoes Newsletter.

Last year the scholarship Committee awarded two \$2500.00 scholarships to students majoring in Education. Our budget this year is for \$5000.00. We plan several fundraisers this year to increase the number of our scholarship offer. We would like to give three scholarships this year for \$2000.00 each. We will need your help. We are soliciting donations from all members and their families. Every contribution counts. Our first fundraiser was a 50/50 drawing at our general meeting.

Congratulations to **Donald Conway** our historian and first winner helped us increase our budget by \$91.00

Please complete the form below if you would like to contribute to the 2017-18 Scholarship fund.

Submitted by: Brenda Barnes & Delores Brown
Committee Co-Chairs



VISIT THESE WEBSITES

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

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

To get the latest, quickest news.



Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage for PGCPS Medicare Eligible Retirees:

Thanks to all retirees who were able to come out to our General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at the PGCEA Center in Forestville, MD. If you were unable to attend, members of the Prince George's Public School Benefits Office came to share pertinent information regarding changes for **Medicare eligible retirees**.

Effective as of January 1, 2018, SilverScript Insurance Company (a subsidiary of CVS/caremark) will provide prescription coverage to **Medicare-eligible PGCPS retirees, dependents and surviving dependents** currently enrolled in the CVS/caremark prescription drug plan.

Again, this plan is your coverage for Prince George's County Public School sponsored prescription coverage.

Important: If you opt-out and sign up for Medicare Part D on your own you will waiver your right to PGCPS sponsored prescription coverage.

If you have a P.O. Box as your permanent mailing address with PGCPS you may be contacted by SilverScript for more information to complete your enrollment. **Do not delay** if you receive a request from SilverScript asking that you contact them.

Please call the Benefit Office at the Board of Education if you need more information – (301)-952-6200.

Addie Martin

Professional Liaison with the PGCPS Benefits Office



Former Student Thanks Teachers

PGPSRA will recognize a former student of the Prince George's County Public Schools at the November 15 Membership Meeting.

The former student was in the Class of 1968 at North Forestville Elementary School and the Class of 1974 at Suitland High School. The positive support he received from teachers and speech therapists at both schools left a lasting impression on him, such that years later he made monetary contributions for the library (media center) and for teacher recognition at both schools.

PGPSRA will be presenting this former student with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of education.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We did not have time to hear of your exciting summer adventures but I am sure all who attended the September meeting went home full...info from Benefits Office and Dr. Maxwell....and a wonderful meal . This year we have moved to three (3) \$20.00 door prizes at each meeting. Winners in September were Reeda L. Butler, Alveta S. Jones and Frances Koontz. **YOU MAY WIN IN NOVEMBER!!** Come out and get a free ticket just for attending the meeting.

MRSPA has a Leadership Workshop each Fall. We are given updates on many areas of the organization. This month I am going to focus on the new Website www.mrspa.org. If you have not opened this site you have missed a lot of information that your membership fee offers you....It is easy to log in – if you have a problem ask any young person you know to help you. Once you are in the site spend some time going to the different sections: **About Us-Committees-Locals-Member Benefits-Member Recognition-Pension Information-News & Events- Legislation-Travel**. You will be better able to speak to non-members and give them meaningful information on our organization after spending some time on this site. You will certainly learn if you have been missing some benefits by going into the **MEMBER BENEFITS** section. You will be directed to sign on to the **ABDENITY -Perks & Discounts** section of the site. There you will find that you could be saving up to 40% on movies, theme park tickets, concerts, hotels and thousands of family entertainment destinations. If you can use any of these benefits you may well get your membership fee back each year. Now that is a bargain I know all of you would like.

I know you will find useful information ...so to help and encourage other members to use the website please let us know how the site benefited you. So your homework for this month is to go to www.mrspa.org!

Also, EACH ONE REACH OUT AND BRING IN ONE NEW MEMBER is our aim for 2017-18.

Charline Jacob- Chair

M.Isbell- F.King- I.Woodley -Committee Members



PGPSRA Reservation Form

November 15, 2017 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center, Forestville

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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



Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$15.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the Nov. 8 mail delivery!)**

Buffet

Thanksgiving Dinner

Water, Iced Tea

Dessert

PGPSRA

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

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

Next Meeting

November 15, 2017

PGCEA Center

11:00 am

