

ECHOES

Vol. LIII No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2018

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks:

It seems that everything happens at once! One minute you're thinking about what you're going to do, and the next minute, it's there waiting to be done.

I am so excited to be back with you and working to make this year a memorable one in terms of the kinds of programs and activities we are able to plan for your participation.

The Program Committee, chaired by Bonnie C. Brose and Dr. Norma Martof, started our program off in such a fine fashion with the 911 Center features. We thank Addie Martin for arranging the PGCPBS Benefit Office's presentation. We learned a lot about Hands-only CPR and how the Center seeks to keep us safe and healthy and provide training that will allow us to be helpful to our neighbor. The Benefits Office reminded us that the open period is upon us and, if we have not done so already, we need to make certain that we have chosen our server and made any changes we wish to our health care benefits.

MRSPA offered an overnight Leadership Conference at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum, Maryland on September 26-27. The conference focused on strategies for improving membership recruitment, retention and activism. Because of a variety of reasons, many organizations, including ours, are dealing with reduced membership and inactivity in programming. The conference was led by Widmeyer Finn Partners, a public relations and communication company.

As you know, during this season, we vote for candidates and items that will determine how we will deal with community problems and issues. November 6th is the date! Early voting can be done from October 25 through November 1. Please pay close attention to Question 1 (FIX THE FUND) which is intended to help school funding by making sure that casino revenues increase public school funding.

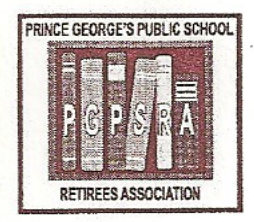
Congratulations again to Fran Doyle, PGPSRA's nominee to the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. We will provide more information on the October 25th ceremony in the next issue. Fran is a dedicated and diligent member of our association. Ms Doyle, a past-president and treasurer, continues to serve as chair of our Recognitions Committee for PGPSRA.

Many thanks to Charline L. Jacob, Membership Chair, and the members of our Executive Committee for their outreach in contacting our inactive members. We welcomed two first-time attendees to our September 26th meeting: Ruth Cox and Irene Tremper. It is our hope that each of us will make a concerted effort to contact friends and colleagues, encouraging them to join our group and enjoy the benefits of knowledge and fellowship it offers.

Please invite a friend to our November 28th meeting at the Prince George's County Educators' Association Building, 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, Maryland. You will have the opportunity to meet some of our newly elected county legislators.

We hope that you will have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. And, that your holiday season will be most enjoyable. Happy 2019.

Lorraine Williams Johnson
President, 2018-2019



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MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased that you are reading this month's newsletter and hope you will get the next one to read also. We have lost many members so if someone you know who was a member in the past wants to know something about what is in the next newsletter...**Please ask them to send in their dues as you do and all information will be sent to them.** This is not meant to be harsh but non-paying members get all of the benefits paying members get from the county and state! Paying members support MRSPA in all of their efforts - without funds MRSPA is limited in services to all.

During the September meeting door prizes were given to Retirees attending for the first time. All were not dues paying members. In the future all prizes will only be given to members. Thanks to the winners who donated their funds to our Scholarship Fund!

Others have gone over the events of the September meeting so I will not state them again. The officers meet the first Wednesday in the months we meet, if you have ideas to share that you feel will improve or make our meeting more informative, meaningful or enjoyable we encourage you to give them to an officer so they can be considered. WE means PGPSRA officers and members. We want to hear from members to make PGPSRA great.

We will continue the EACH ONE BRING ONE effort during the 2018-19 year. Have you reached out to a Retiree of Prince George's Board of Education to inquire if they are a dues paying member who does not attend meetings...or someone who is not a MRSPA/PGPSRA member? If not we ask that you start making these questions part of your conversation soon.

Hope to see you at the November meeting.

C. Jacob, M. Isbell and F. King

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

Past President/Nomimating:

George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: George D. Denny

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 (202 285 5524)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.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 (penguinCI@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)

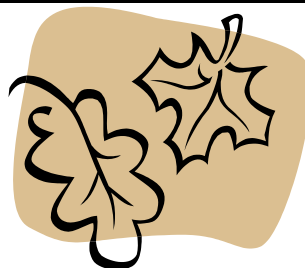
Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)

& Brenda Barnes

Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

& Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias



BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to some of our Emeritus members: Ms. Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be celebrating her 91st birthday on the 11th; Mrs. Paul Stagers of Largo, will be having her 92nd birthday on the 13th; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring, will be marking her 96th birthday on the 18th; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. will be reaching her 96th birthday on the 19th; two ladies will be celebrating on the 21st: Mrs. Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be 92 years-old and **Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormond Beach, FL. be reaching 100 years-old!**

Happy **December** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 6th; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be 94 years-old on the 14th; Ms. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL. will be having her 98th birthday on the 19th; Mrs. Daisy Chapman of Lanham will be reaching her 97th birthday on the 22nd; and Ms. Erma Sarahan of College Park will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 27th.

Amy Lynn Stout retired as Principal of Langley Park- McCormick Elementary in 2015. This past May, she moved back to her home area of Greensboro, PA, about 70 miles south of Pittsburgh. Amy Lynn enjoys creating holiday crafts, such as wreaths, vases, holiday arrangements, etc. She has experienced travels to Las Vegas, New York City, and New Orleans. Amy Lynn has a special niece and nephew, whom she now lives near.

Elizabeth Porter, of Lanham, retired June 2011 after 46-years of service to the county (30 years as a classroom teacher and 16 years as vice-principal, with eight years at Suitland High School and eight years at Charles Flowers High School). The next year, 2012, the Board of Education called her back to be an Administrative Substitute Principal and/or Vice-Principal in eight different schools (Elementary, Middle, and High School), and she remained working all the way up to June 17, 2017! Since leaving the school system, Elizabeth has been volunteering at First Baptist Church of Glenarden, helping with some repasses and being a "greeter" the first Sunday of each month. Each summer since 2011, she has joined friends on cruises to different places: Mexico - sailing out of Las Angeles, the Bahamas, Porto Rico, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antiqua, St. Thomas, and the Dominican Republic. She is already planning next summer's cruise to sail to Jamaica, Mexico, and the Grand Cayman Islands. Elizabeth has one married son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, who live in Bowie.

Gretel James retired in 2002 from Doswell Brooks Elementary, after a 32-year career as a vocal-general music teacher in several elementary schools, with her longest tenure being at Valley View. Since retiring, she and her husband, Robert, who live in Temple Hills, have traveled extensively by land, sky, and sea. The most memorable of these trips include a train ride from Denver to San Francisco. Snaking along the Colorado River through Glenwood Canyon, with stops in Salt Lake City and Yosemite National Park, they experienced an encounter with nature in all its amazing splendor and beauty. Even more breathtaking, was the magnificent scenery and wildlife seen on their Alaska cruise. They awoke one morning in Glacier Bay, where chunks of ice were breaking off glaciers and falling into the water. This was truly an awe-inspiring, spiritual experience. Gretel and Robert are lovers of cinema, concerts, and theater, frequently attending performances at Arena Stage and recently traveling to New York to see Denzel Washington in a performance of "The Iceman Cometh". For several years, Gretel has been active in PGPSRA in several capacities, including serving as President. She also is an active member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Washington, which offers many opportunities to help others.

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Last month's winners of the Membership Drawings.....come and be a winner!



In Remembrance

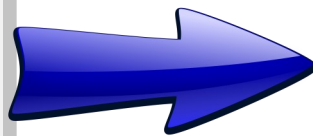
Cowan, Joyce A.	09/20/2018
Conley, Shirley	09/06/2018
Edmunds, June	09/16/2018
Lubetzky, Carolyn Diane	08/03/2018
Reeves, Gloria J.	09/27/2018
Rowles, Gladys	09/07/2018
Scott, Kenneth	08/18/2018
Teske, Joyce A.	09/16/2018

Jannie Goldston, Chair

Back on the Table.....Emailing Echoes!

With the request from MRSPA for us to only send only email copies of Echoes to county presidents and editors, we now have a list of about 40 people volunteering to be on the email only list. With our financial crunch, this is once more a needed consideration. Please let me know if I can add you on that list.

Bonnie Brose, Editor



TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$15427.84
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	1683.53
EXPENDITURES	-	2611,26

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVNGS ACCOUNT

CLOSING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	14500.11
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	28.83
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$14528.94

Thank you.

Edward N. Vest

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

[www. MRSPA.org](http://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.

Bits and Pieces Continued:

Donald Conway retired as a physical education teacher from Ridgecrest Elementary in 1996. He and his wife, Joyce, a Montgomery County retired teacher, live in Beltsville. They had an enjoyable summer traveling in June to Dundee, MI. to visit with their son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and seven-month-old granddaughter and then to St. Petersburg, FL. for his goddaughter's Intern Graduation in Internal Medicine. In July Don and Joyce traveled to quite warm Austin, Texas to attend the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Convention. In August the Conways took a cruise to the Bahamas to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. While vacationing, Don pursued his hobbies of geocache searches and VolksMarching, that included a chance to earn a new state geocache, as well as, geocaches in Dundee, MI., Toledo, OH., St. Petersburg, FL., Austin, TX, Boston, MA, and Bermuda. Of course, he earned many walking steps to find the caches. What an interesting and fun summer he had! Don has returned to Maryland to continue his active membership in PGPSRA, where he has served for several years as our organization's historian and photo/ videographer.

***To our Members, who live in the Carolinas and survived the destruction and flooding from Hurricane Florence, please let us know about your experiences.

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



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

This is the message sent to all members from MRSPA

When Marylanders approved casino gaming, we thought the new revenue would increase education funding.

While almost \$2 billion in casino revenue went into the Education Trust Fund – which can only be used for funding public education – nearly the same amount of existing funding was **shifted from education** to other parts of the state budget.

The result? The new revenue from casinos didn't add to existing funding; it supplanted or simply maintained existing, minimum levels.

Passing (Constitutional Amendment) Question 1, which will be on the General Election ballot in November 2018, **Fix the Fund** will stop this budget gimmick, and ensure that casino revenues go to increasing or supplementing school funding over current levels.

This could be an influx of \$500 million dollars within four years to education funding.

To learn more, go to www.fixthefundmd.org, and please **VOTE YES on (Constitutional Amendment) Question 1 this November!**

Sue Finan

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Happy Fiscal year (2018-2019)! The community service team hopes each of you had a safe and super summer. Thanks for all of your support. The fiscal year 2017-2018 was a success. We served 2,268 students in the southern area.

Our projects are constant! To the "team", I thank you for another job well done. This year, we will serve schools in the Northern Area. Schools are being selected by the committee. We hope you, the members of PGPSRA, will continue to donate monetarily throught the year, due to necessary budget cuts. In order to serve more, we need more. Your donations are tax deductible and are greatly needed.

"Together, Everyone Achieves More".

Again, thanks for all you do for the children in Prince George's County.

Ethel L. Brown, Chairperson

202 285 5524



OUR DELEGATION AT THE ANNUAL MRSPA MEETING IN MAY



This Month's Meeting!!

We have two themes for the November Meeting. First, in going with the Membership goal to increase membership...please bring a fellow teacher to the meeting with you—who is not a current member. Let them know why you belong and how important it is to be involved.

We have invited all new legislative persons to the meeting so that you can hear their thoughts on how they can support us. These people are important to the continuation of all that we have to insure a comfortable future.

They have not all returned a positive yes....but we are hoping for many of them to be able to share their time with us. Three that we know are planning to come are Jazz Lewis, Ron Watson and Julian Ivey. We have a “no” because of a previous commitment, but will come if there is a change. Others are working on trying to get us into their busy schedule. It is important for us to have a good relationship with all of our legislators....Please come.

Let us know on your reservation form if you are bringing a friend....we're working on a special treat for you!

We Learned About Hands-Only CPR



This is Jorge Paucar from the Prince George's County office of Public Safety. He gave us good information on how to help people who are in need of CPR.

Step One....call 911

Step two.....Push Hard and Fast in the center of the chest (to the beat of "Staying Alive".....100-120 compressions a minute.

Mouth to Mouth recitation is no longer recommended.

The office offers free training. Call Jorge at 301 583 1862.

DISCOUNTS!!

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

Visit the site often!

2018-2019 Meeting Dates

September 26

November 28

January 23

March 27

May 22

The Executive Board meets on the first Wednesday of each of these months. Traditional Planning for the following year is in June.



Prescription Drug Coverage

To All Retirees,

If you received a new Prescription Drug Card and its name is SilverScript and not Caremark, please don't become alarmed, you still have the same Prescription Coverage. The difference is for those who are **not** in Medicare and will continue to use the Caremark Card. Once you turn 65 and Medicare becomes your primary insurance then your Prescription Card will be SilverScript. Both cards are with CVS. Co-pays will not be affected by this change.

If you are enrolled in medical coverage through Kaiser Permanente, prescription drug benefits are included as part of your medical plan and you will receive all your prescription medications through Kaiser Permanente, either at the onsite facility or a participating pharmacy.

If you have further questions, please feel free to call me.

Addie Martin
Board of Education Liaison
(301)868-6081

PGPSRA Reservation Form

November 28, 2018 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** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the Nov. 21 mail delivery!)....I am bringing _____ and have included \$15 for his/her meal.**

A buffet lunch is being catered by, member, Nicole Diaz.

Menu: Italian— Baked Ziti, Broccoli Alfredo, Salad, rolls, iced tea.....Pizzelles.....From Nicole and Bill

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 28, 2018
PGCEA Center, Forestville
11:00 am

