

ECHOES

Vol. LIV No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2019

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

From the President:

As Thanksgiving approaches, we have much for which to be thankful. Our September General Meeting got us off to the races in grand style, with a Kentucky Derby theme, wonderful decorations and centerpieces, important information about changes to our health plan and rates, and seven first-time attendees.

Although we continue to experience a decline in membership due to circumstances beyond our control, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the members and other attendees at the meeting.

Charline Jacob, our Membership Chair, stepped down due to serious health issues. However, Maryann Royall volunteered to take the position and is already hard at work. Delores Brown, our Scholarship Co-Chair, also has been dealing with health issues, as has Past President Lorraine Johnson and member Jannette Wundrow. We offer our concern and support for each of them as they work to recover, and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

Program Committee Co-Chairs Bonnie Brose and Dr. Norma Martof hope to have a singing group at our Nov. 20 General Meeting, which will be held at the PGCEA Center starting at 11 a.m. We will confirm the program later this month in a blast to those members for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving blasts in the past, it might be that we do not have that address on file. Please email Dr. Vest at hom-vest552@comcast.net to be sure we have yours. We hope you will attend the General meeting and bring a guest with you. Please see the luncheon registration form elsewhere in this issue. As always, you can attend the luncheon meeting without purchasing a lunch. Simply bring your own lunch if you prefer. But whether or not you purchase the lunch, please register so that we can have adequate seating for the attendees.

Our Community Service Committee, chaired by Courtney Pringle, will be working with Crossland High School and four elementary schools this year. The members of that committee volunteer a lot of time to help meet the needs of students and staff in those schools and communities.

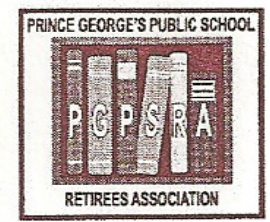
Scholarship Co-Chairs Brenda Barnes and Delores Brown have already begun work on getting scholarship applications out to schools. Awardees will be recognized at the May 2020 General meeting.

A trip to visit the Maryland General Assembly will be led by Legislation Chair Sue Finan on March 5, 2020. Please see her report elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will sign up to take that free trip.

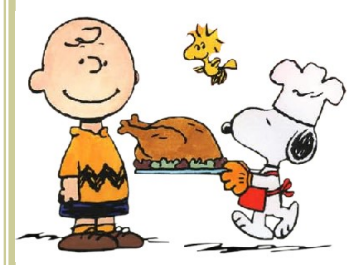
As you can see, there are a lot of moving parts in your organization and we haven't even come close to mentioning all of them. With your help we can grow membership and spearhead more opportunities for our students and communities to be successful. If you can't serve on a committee, you could encourage retirees you know to become part of the PGPSRA/MRSPA family.

Meanwhile, we wish for you and yours to have a Happy Thanksgiving. We also ask you to reflect on those who are not as fortunate as you, and do what you can to share your good fortune with others.

Thanks and best wishes,
George D. Denny, Jr., President



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CHARLINE

Our, long time, Membership Chair has resigned her position to take care of some health issues. We wish her the very best!

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms
(obridge@verizon.net)

Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson
(johnson6608@comcast.net)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)

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: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

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

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)

Membership: Maryann M. Royall (maryakaroyall@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: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net), Vera
J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

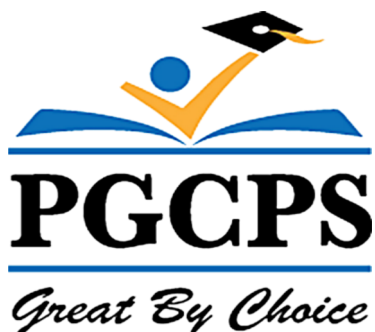
The Committee was represented at the Maryland Retired Personnel Association Leadership Workshop held on September 18, 2019 at Comfort Inn in Bowie, along with President George Denny, and President -Elect Or-etha Bridgewater-Simms. The theme of the Workshop was “Can You See Me Now?” Our logo represents more than a symbol for MRSPA. It stands for a distinctive identity based on a promise of value different from any other. We are still trying to increase membership on both the state and local levels. We listened to some counties tell what they do to attract and maintain new members.

Our September 25, 2019 meeting was held in Forestville with 7 first time attendees. We were excited to have such a large number of first timers. Many of them promised to become members. Each new member was given a door prize, and an application for membership. Our GOAL IS TO ATTRACT AND MAINTAIN AS MANY NEW MEMBERS AS WE CAN. I am asking each person to bring one new person with you to our next meeting. EACH ONE, BRING ONE!!

We want to thank our former Chairman, Charline Jacobs for her service to the committee and wish her God’s best.

Maryann M. Royall, Chair, Mary Isbell and Jayne Johns

At Our November Meeting !!
Come and Meet Dr. Monica Goldson
CEO of Prince George’s County Schools



Find out how she sees the vision, mission and the teaching of core values in our schools

11:00 am.....see reservation information on page 9.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is off and running. We have chosen Crossland High School, Glass Manor Elementary, J. Frank Dent Elementary, Samuel Chase Elementary and Forest Heights Elementary school for the 2019-2020 school year. Letters of notification have been sent out and we look forward to receiving their reply.

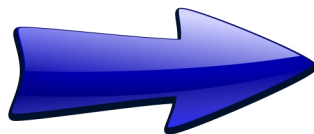
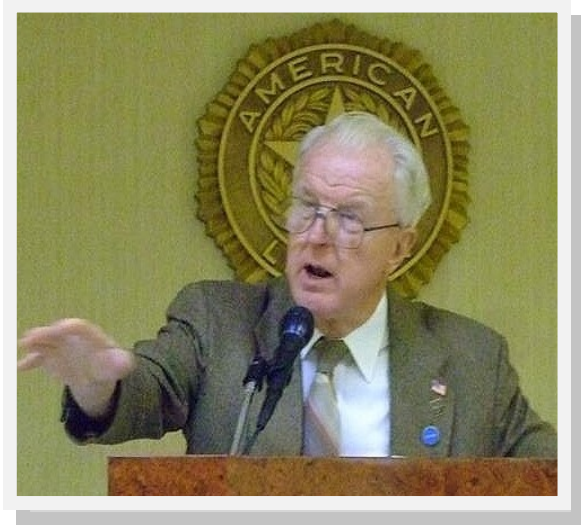
The Community Service group is very grateful for your past monetary contributions and we'd like to see that continue for the year 2019-2020. We have need of all the contributions you can give. When writing your checks please specify in the note/memo line of your check, Community Service.

We look forward to a great working relationship with the schools selected and a great partnership with our PGPSRA organization.

Submitted by: Courtney Pringle/Chairman



Members dressed the part for our racetrack theme.



TREASURER’S REPORT – SEPTEMBER – 2019

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:	\$13818.42
SAVINGS ACCOUNT:	26.83

ACTIVITY

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS :	2635.59
EXPENDITURES:	1127.03

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

CLOSING BALANCE:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:	15326.98
SAVINGS ACCOUNT:	26.83
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$15353.81

Dr. Edward Vest. Treasurer



September Program

Our Board Liaison, Addie Martin arranged for county staff members to present the changes for our benefits for this year to members who were able to attend the meeting.

Pictured is our Membership Chair, Maryann Royall and board representative, Michelle Avenie.

We have the information for you on the website. Or, go to PGCPS and search “Benefits Guide”.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Our own PGPSRA Legislative trip to Annapolis will be held on Thursday March 5th 2020.

For our recent members, we leave PGCEA at 8:30 in the morning arriving by bus to Annapolis to view an introductory film, sit in on The House and Senate, Tour Special Exhibits and The Governor's Mansion. We join together for luncheon and visits from our Delegates. We return to PGCEA by 2:30.

There is no cost for this wonderful trip! Sign up will be available at our next meeting or by contacting Sue Finan. Hope you will be able to join us!

Below, please find a recent press release from Anna Palmisano
September 26, 2019

Contact:

Anna Palmisano
palmscience@verizon.net
301-529-0946

Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights Goes into Effect for all Marylanders

New Law will provide consumer protection for Maryland hospital patients

A landmark Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights that swept through the Maryland General Assembly in a unanimous vote last spring will go into effect October 1. The new law guarantees that all hospital patients—whether admitted, in ER or outpatient—will receive a list of their 24 legal rights. These rights will provide additional protection for hospital patients, who are some of the most vulnerable consumers.

"Patients will need to ensure they get a copy of their rights when they enter a hospital and that those rights are honored," said Palmisano. "Forward-looking hospitals such as Frederick Memorial Hospital are already well-prepared for implementation, and we look forward to productive discussions with other hospitals."

Sue Finan Legislative Chair
Sfinan77@gmail.com



Bits and Pieces

Happy **November** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: two of those will be celebrating their birthdays on the 11th: Ms. Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be having her 92nd birthday and Mr. Edward Feeney of Catonsville will be marking his 91st birthday; Ms. Pauline Staggers of Largo, will be having her 93rd birthday on the 13th; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring, will be turning 97 years-old on the 18th; Mrs. Huguette Audin of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. will be marking her 97th birthday on the 19th; two members will be celebrating on the 21st: Ms. Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt, will be turning 93 years -old, and **Mrs. Helen Stevens of Ormond Beach, FL. will be turning 101 years-old!** On the 23rd, Mr. Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL. will be having his 93rd birthday;

Happy **December** birthday greetings to some other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville, will be marking her 95th birthday on the 6th; Mrs. Rennie Quibble of Dover, DE. will be having her 95th birthday on the 14th; Ms. Betty Moore of Port Orange, FL. will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 19th; Ms. Daisy Chapman of Lanham will be marking her 98th birthday on the 22nd; and on the 27th, Mrs. Erma Sarahan of College Park, will be having her 94th birthday.

Karen Speicher of Crofton retired as an ESOL teacher from William Paca Elementary. She reflects fondly on her years of teaching children English in Prince George's County, and is very concerned about the difficult time it is for immigrant children and their families now. She has faith that the current county teaching staff is giving these children the care, understanding, and encouragement they need to succeed. Since retirement, Karen has volunteered with Animal Rights and working at farm animal sanctuaries. She also engages in vegan cooking. In 2016, Karen spent a month in India, and during the following two years, she spent several weeks in France and Spain. She has participated in retreats to the Sivananda Ashram in the Bahamas. She has also enjoyed trips to Florida, New York, and Arizona to visit with family. Karen is happily anticipating the arrival of her first grandchild in February!

Marlene Taliano Smith retired in 1990 from Frederick Douglas and DuVal High Schools. In 2002, Marlene lost her husband, George, who taught at Bladensburg High School. In 2015, in order to be near her family, she relocated to Avon Lake, Ohio, just west of Cleveland. During her retirement years, Marlene has volunteered weekly at the Lorain Historical Society, and she belongs to Altruse – a service organization. She has traveled to Alaska, Mexico, Canada, and most of the Caribbean Islands. She has also enjoyed attending plays in Cleveland. Marlene has had some serious health issues in the past year, but is happily now off of oxygen, and doing much better.

Renee Roth of Pasadena retired as a third grade science teacher from Tulip Grove Elementary in 2016. She was named Prince George's Teacher of the Year in 2015! She has also served as an adjunct professor at Bowie State University. Since retirement Renee has been working as a consultant with the PGPS Elementary Reading Department, also as an Instructional Coach for the Urban Teachers /JHU, and volunteering as Treasurer for her church. Renee has done some traveling to Puerto Rico, Sarasota, FL., Nashville, and Wisconsin. She and her husband, John, celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary last June. They have one son, Alex, who works for the U.S. State Department.

Ann Robinson of Upper Marlboro, retired from Melwood Elementary in 1999, and began subbing immediately afterward. She enjoys reading, word-search, and traveling. She sings in the Contemporary Choir at St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro, where she also serves as a Lector. Ann is a member of a professional Sorority ETA PHI BETA, ALPHA ZETA, and she has attended five of their week-long "Boules" in Chicago, Las Vegas, Atlanta, Memphis, and Virginia. She has taken trips to visit relatives in Michigan, Florida, Georgia, and Texas, and vacationed in London, Paris, Spain, Italy, Canada, Jamaica, and New Mexico – where she enjoyed a Rodeo and a Native American Bull Roast. Ann and her husband have two boys, seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. One grandson is stationed with the U.S. military in Germany, and a granddaughter has interned in business in Australia. Sadly, in 2018, Ann and her husband lost their daughter, Brenda Carter, after a lengthy illness.

Joan Rothgeb lives in University Park with her husband, Maryland Senator Paul Pinsky, also a former Prince George's County teacher. Having spent 37 years as a special educator in the county, Joan retired in 2016 as Executive Director of the Department of Special Education. She now participates in athletics, particularly playing tennis, and supporting the Maryland Terps Women's basketball team. Joan has a new job, consulting part-time with Johns Hopkins University Center for Technology in Education. In her free time, she enjoys reading, relaxing, and being at Bethany Beach. In 2017, Joan and Paul traveled to Amsterdam, Bruges, and London, in 2018, they went to Cinque Terre, Florence, and Tuscany, and each December they spend time at Sanibel Island, FL. Joan and Paul celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary last May. They have two adult daughters, who fortunately live close by in Washington. Joan finds it a joy to spend time with her mother, who will be celebrating her 99th birthday this November.

To contribute to "BITS & PIECES" contact Jannette Wundrow: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or by phone: 301-390-7324

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

It is a new year and we can't wait to hear from students planning to go into the teaching field. We are having more success by contacting students face to face in their schools to create interest in our educational scholarships in the last few years. We have five members on our committee but due to health problems they cannot go into the schools. Prince Georges County now has a program for students who inspire to become teachers so we have better contacts in the schools. If you are interested in being on our committee come join us. Our Committee meets in late October and I will have an exact date for the scholarships and more information. The information will be placed on our website www.PGPSRA.org and in our January issue of ECHOES.

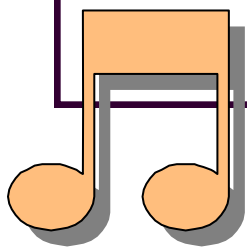
At our general meetings we hold a fund raiser for our scholarships a 50/50 raffle. At our September meeting we raised \$180.00. Ms Beatrice Leonard a new member won \$80.00 Of course she was thrilled. It was her first meeting. I'm sure she will return and get involved. Other donations received were from Mr. Wes Griling, benefits office and Ms Laura Brewing-Heilig. Every year some of our members make monetary donations to assist us. 2019-2020 we gave four scholarships. We hope to continue the legacy. Please help us by buying a raffle ticket at the meeting or sending a donation. Any amount will be helpful make checks out to PGPSRA and place scholarship donation on the memo line. All amounts will be appreciated.

Be there! Northwestern High School Choir is coming!!

November 20th meeting

at

PGCEA Center



This year's Calendar of Meetings for PGPSRA

Board Meetings:

Sept. 4, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 6, 2019 “

Jan. 8, 2020 “

March 4, 2020 “

May 6, 2020 “

General Membership Meetings:

Sept. 25, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 20, 2019 “

Jan. 22, 2020 “

March 25, 2020 Comfort Inn

May 20, 2020 “

SAVE A TREE

Help our Budget!!

Send in your name and email address.

We will email your Echoes to you!

You get it faster

And

In Color!!

Let me know: Bonnie Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net



President-Elect, Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms with September's centerpiece a la Kentucky Derby.



PGPSRA Reservation Form

November 20, 2019

PGCEA, Forestville MD

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. 13 mail delivery!).

C and C Catering received great reviews in September.....We're doing it again!

NOTE: the box lunch is \$15.00.

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

Nov. 20, 2019

PGCEA, Forestville

11:00 am

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.

