

# ECHOES

Vol. LVII No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2022

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

Greetings PGPSRA Members,

I hope you enjoyed reconnecting with friends during our first in-person PGPSRA September Meeting. As we reengaged with one another, I know the excitement of reconnecting will ignite you to assist the organization to be safe, productive, informed and secure in our retirement. Your history of support has been overwhelming.

Each year the Maryland State Department of Education honors 24 excellent teachers. Teachers of the Year are nominated by colleagues, supervisors, parents, and members of their communities. They are selected from their local school systems for their dedication, initiative, creativity, and superior ability to inspire. The Teacher of the Year for Prince George's County is Evelyn Policarpio, Benjamin Tasker Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math instructor. I will send a PGPSRA congratulatory letter and invite the recipient to a general meeting.

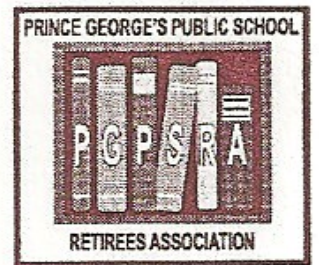
A special program was planned to show the film, "The Tower Road Bus" at Harmony Hall Community Center on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm. This is the story of school desegregation in Prince George's County. Several of our members were featured. They are Dotson Burns, Jr., Courtney Pringle, and Delegate Elizabeth Susie Proctor. A panel discussion and a reception followed the showing of the film.

As always, we are trying to increase our PGPSRA Membership. If you know of someone who recently retired or someone retired and has not joined, please advise them to join. We need your support and very often retirees have not joined because they have not been advised to do so. Let's be the ones who advise.

Please bring a friend or two to the November Meeting. I hope to see you there.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms

obridge@verizon.net



President's Report	1
Bits and Pieces	2
Treasurer's Report	5
Remembrance	5
Community Service	6
Reservations	7



## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **NOVEMBER** birthday greetings to several Emeritus members: Ms. Imogene Woodley of Austin, TX. will be celebrating her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be having her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup>; two ladies will be marking their birthdays on the 13<sup>th</sup>, when Mrs. Pauline Staggers of Largo will be turning 96, and Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor of Upper Marlboro will be turning 92 years-old; **on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be reaching her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**; Ms. Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>; Mr. Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL. will be celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Ms. Elizabeth Picciotto of Deal, will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Happy DECEMBER** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville will be marking her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be reaching her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Isabella MacPherson of Salisbury will be having her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup>; two of our members will be celebrating on the 27<sup>th</sup>: Ms. Erma Sarahan of College Park will be turning 97, and Mr. Robert Thomas of Bowie will be turning 91 years-old. Ms. Mary White of Dayton, MD. will be observing her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Bette Deller of Beltsville retired in 1999 from Bladensburg Elementary, after having taught for 35 years at six county schools. A year after retiring, she began working with Long & Foster Real Estate, and continues as a realtor in the Silver Spring office. Bette is a member of a Lutheran Church in Beltsville, where she serves as Secretary of the Church Council, while volunteering on the Fellowship and Publications Committees. She also belongs to the Laurel Senior Friendship Club, where she volunteers for projects. Bette likes to read, watch TV, bake, do yardwork, and socialize with friends. She has one married son, who lives in Ashburn, VA., a grandson at Virginia Tech and a granddaughter in her senior year of high school. Both grandchildren were inducted into the National Honor Society while in High School – as was Bette. She claims to be a homebody, never much of a traveler, other than visiting family in upstate New York. Bette enjoys good health, exercises daily, and has only recently given up cutting her own grass. She enjoys retirement life!

John Sisson retired in 2007 from High Point and Eleanor Roosevelt High Schools, after a career of 36 years in grades two through twelve, with four of those years teaching in Japan. He now lives in Ocean City, but is proud to maintain his connection with Prince George's County. John has centered his retirement around travel. He has been to all seven continents and all fifty states. – and he's not done yet! He has enjoyed meeting people in less traveled areas such as North Korea, Mongolia, Cuba, Russia, and Zanzibar. He spent two months studying Tai Chi in Wudangshan, China, and has led festival study tours and pilgrimage experiences by bicycle in Japan. His thoughts on travel can be found on the PGPSRA website. He has some amazing photos to verify his travels. Meanwhile, John has stayed active in MRSPA, having chaired the By-laws and Consumer Education Committees for three years each, and he is currently the Director for Area III South. He is in his fourth year as President of the Art League of Ocean City, and enjoying his membership in the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association. He also continues to serve as the Secretary of the Prince George's Kiwanis Foundation. John's motto in retirement: "If you're moving, they can't bury you!"

**(\*\*Editor's Note: John wins the Most Active Retired Teacher Award!)**

Barbara Fretz of Basalt, CO. and Adriene Cannon of Springfield, VA., traveled together on a Grand Circle Cruise from Paris to the Beaches of Normandy this past summer. They have fond memories and many photos of their experiences. Barbara taught at Eleanor Roosevelt and High Point High Schools, retiring in 1995. Adriene taught at Eleanor Roosevelt and Oxen Hill High Schools, retiring in 1998.

Arlene Bloom of Myrtle Beach, S.C. retired from the Office of Comer School Development in 2007. She has enjoyed traveling since retirement, especially sailing on cruises. Arlene has six children, seventeen grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Cont'd on page 4



## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

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

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denny  
(george.dilden@yahoo.com)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest552@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: VacantComm. 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: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor (beatignor@aol.com)

Membership: Maryann M. Royall (maryakaroyall@aol.com)  
and Linda G. Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

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

Recognition: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and  
Linda Butler

Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Scholarship: Brenda L. Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)



### Come to the Meetings

PGCEA President, Dr. Donna L. Christy, Pat Tompkins Dr. Ed Vest,  
Kimberly Jonson, Addie Martin and PGCEA President, Oretha  
Bridgewater-Simms.

These are some of the people you will see!

## Ways to Vote in Prince George's County

### Vote Early

A registered voter can visit ANY early voting site in Prince George's County to cast his/her ballot. If you decide to vote early, you cannot vote by mail or on Election Day.

### Vote By Mail

Any registered voter can request a mail-in-ballot. To request a mail-in-ballot, call the Prince George's County Board of Elections on (301) 341-7300 or visit <http://elections.mypgc.us/> click on "voter information" and mail-in ballots to download an application. You can also text "VBM" to 77788. Once you receive your ballot, you must fill it out, seal the envelope, sign and date the oath on the back of the envelope. You can hand deliver your ballot to the Board of Elections Office, place it in your local mailbox or the nearest drop box. The instructions and more information on deadlines will be included in your mail-in ballot packet.

### Vote on Election Day

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022 Gubernatorial General Election Day, you should vote at your assigned polling place. All polling places will open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Dr. Beatrice Tignor, Legislation Chair**



### New Member Recruitment Incentive!

Earn a \$10 gift card for each **NEW MEMBER** you sign up as a **DUES DEDUCTION** member.




This allows automatic renewal, so no membership interruption while saving trees 🌳, time ⌚, and postage 📧!

Write your name on the membership application, as recruiter.  
Return the completed application to:

**MRSPA**  
8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A  
Odenton, MD 21113

Questions: Email MRSPA at [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org) or call MRSPA at 410-551-1517





Help PGPSRA recruit new members. If each of you enlists just one new member you will have helped our local grow and increased the opportunities to serve our community and our fellow members. Look at the incentive information above and recruit a new member today. YOU are the best recruiter for our organization. New members MUST become members of BOTH MRSPA and PGPSRA. The application form is available on our website--[pgpsra.org](http://pgpsra.org)

## BITS AND PIECES, CONT'D

Lee Epps of Ft. Washington retired in 2013 from the Office of Crossland High School International Baccalaureate Program Director. She is now employed at her church, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal in Ft. Washington, where she also volunteers. Lee's interests include reading, writing, and theater; however, she has spent time providing encouragement through words, deeds, and financial assistance to others who experienced sickness or loss during the pandemic. Lee has not felt comfortable venturing far from home since the pandemic; however, it won't be long before she embarks on a planned cruise to Alaska and an out of the country trip. Lee has one adult daughter and two grandchildren: Raven, who is a senior at Clark Atlanta University and Brian, who is an eighth grader. These grandchildren are her pride, joy, and inspiration.

Mary Elizabeth Wildberger retired from the Pullen Arts (K-8) School in 1991. She and her husband, a retired U.S. Navy pilot, relocated to Palo Alto, CA., then later moved to Fairfield, CA. to a retirement home for military officers. Mary Elizabeth drew on her public school teacher skills and became Director of the Resident Activities Committee. Her accomplishments have included researching and selecting historical sites to visit, arranging for trips to wineries and tours to Napa Valley, along with other day trips. She also edited the monthly illustrated newsletter, "The Elysian Fields" and later "The Write Place" newsletter designed for writers of stories with 500 or more words that was published twice a year. Her duties as Resident Activities Director also included being in charge of the Campus Garden, the first annual Garage Sale, a golf group, and the resident directory. Mary Elizabeth's travels were dictated by her husband's new work at the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto. They visited Paris and London several times, and had other trips to Barcelona, Spain and Budapest, Hungary. Sadly, Mary Elizabeth's husband passed away in 2017, but happy memories of their lives together remain. The Wildberger family consists of five children, ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

\*\*\*To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [jannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetteWundrow@comcast.net)



## NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Director of Business Development, Dominic Powell will speak at our meeting. He will be presenting an overview of their customized solutions for the education community and Support Education effort for Prince George's County.





## TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2022

### BEGINNING BALANCES:

Checking account	\$37657.42
Savings Account	126.86

### ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Rceipts	2866.29
Expenditures	871.88

### NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

### CLOSING BALANCES:

Checking Account	39651.83
Savings Account	126.86

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$39778.69**

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward N. Vest  
Treasurer

## REMEMBRANCE

### 2022

Dr. Robert I. Bickford	August 3
Helen W. Maust	June 30
Calpurnia M. Arrington	July 24
Orval Warner	August 29
Doris Hall	August 25
Thomas Carleton	
My Daniels's Sr.	Sept. 13

### Correction

Dr. Kenneth Turner and his wife, Carolyn, are alive and living in a lovely retirement center in Atlanta, GA. He retired in 1987. We are sorry for the misinformation in September's Echoes.

### We received these names from MRSPA:

Jane Basim	Dale Bittner
Lee Bowen	Katherine Carpenter
Gail Filler	Grace Gordon
Johanna Guiccione	Jean Harrison
George Johnson	Beulah Kramerer
Margaret Leve	Mary Matthews
Doris Munnerlyn	Richard Nemhik
Raymond Peters	Peggy Ann Spriggs-Brown
Allen Springer	Janet Thompson
Doris Twiford	Mathelda Webb-Boise
Willowdean Weldon	Grace West
Peter Whitaker	Nancy Wilson
Ann Giodano	

Submitted by:

Jayne Jones and Linda Butler, Co-Chairs



### COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE THE TASK HAS BEGUN

*Hello everyone, Community Service members are off and running. We spent the latter part of summer scouting for schools in the Southern Area of Prince George's County. We visited schools in the area, checked their statistics on the internet, talked with Principals, secretaries, and pupil liaisons to determine which schools we would select for the 2022-2023 school year.*

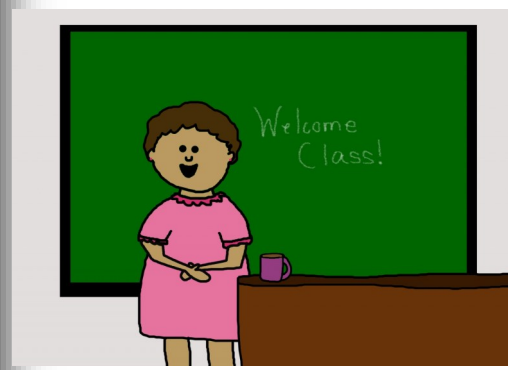
*We are proud to announce we will be servicing the following Elementary Schools; Allenwood Elementary, Barnaby Manor Elementary, Hillcrest Heights Elementary, and North Forestville Elementary. We will also be offering assistance to some of Crossland High School 's graduating indigent seniors who may need assistance with matriculation fees.*

*Community Service is grateful for the monetary assistance provided by our caring PGPSRA Members in the past. We look forward to the continued partnership in our endeavors to assist the schools selected this 2022-2023 school year.*

*Courtney Pringle, Chair*

### DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Gretel James and Ralette Cruse



## SEPTEMBER'S SPEAKER

James Storm, Manager in the Benefits Office of the Prince George's County Public Schools, brought us up to date about or retiree benefits and answered our questions.



## RESERVATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

November's General Membership Meeting will be on the 16th and will begin at the regular time: 11 o'clock. We will meet at PGCEA CENTER in Forestville. (8008 Maboro Pike)

**We must have your reservations by November 9th.** Please put your check in the mail so that he can count you for the box lunch. There will be a variety of sandwiches offered. You may choose to bring your own lunch, if you like. The cost of lunch is \$15 and the checks are to be made out to PGPSRA. Mail it to Dr. Vest at:

7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Please try to get your checks in early to help the caterer be able to order her correct amount and be able to provide sandwiches for all.

If you have any questions direct them to: Ed Vest .....[homevest552@comcast.net](mailto:homevest552@comcast.net)

## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
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Bonnie Curry Brose  
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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

**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

To get the latest, quickest news.

