

# ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2023

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



Greetings and welcome to a new school year with Prince George's Public School Retiree Association. I thank the PGPSRA Board for placing their confidence and trust in me for the next year as we navigate these challenging times in retirement, in education, and in our world. I promise to do my best to support and defend the goals and interest of our organization.

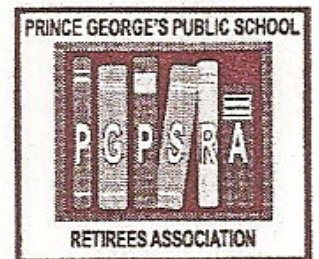
I thank the members who stepped up to serve as President-Elect, Susie-Proctor, Recording Secretary, Alonia Sharps, Corresponding Secretary,

Sharon Collins, and Treasurer, Dr. Barbara Atwater. We have a great team!

I look forward to meeting and hearing from current and prospective PGPSRA members throughout this next year. Please join us for our next general meeting to be held on November 15th at 11:00 am at PGCEA Headquarters Building, 8008 Marlboro Pike, District Heights.

I think you will discover that it will be time well spent.

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, President



President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Inspiration	3
Remembrance	3
Bits and Pieces	4
Community Service	7
Reservation for Nov.	7

November

## This Year's Calendar

Executive Meetings / General Meetings  
2023

Sept 6                      Sept. 6

Nov. 1                      Nov. 15

2024

Jan. 3                      Jan. 24

Mar. 6                      Mar. 27

May 1                      May 22

All meetings are at PGCEA Center



### TREASURER'S REPORT

November 2023

Opening Checking Account Balance	\$37,638.51
Receipts	235.18
Total	37,873.69

Expenses	911.00
Closing Checking Account Balance	\$36,962.69
Closing Savings Account Balance	\$126.86

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer

## ECHOES NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are working to go electronic in the near future. If you do not already get your issues by email there are three reasons that you do not:

1. We do not have your email address.
2. The address we have is wrong.
3. You don't do computers and need to set up another option.

We are currently sending out to all of you that have given us your emails and to all that MRSPA has on their list. Please send in a working one, if you do not receive this electronically. If you are not a computer user, please find someone who will agree to accept it and get it to you (children, grands, neighbors or friends). Doing this will allow us to use your funds to better support the students and teachers in Prince George's County and your Association.

When you get Echoes by email, it can be printed in color and is a much better newsletter!

Bonnie Curry Brose, Newsletter Chair

## Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President and Past President/Nominating: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

President-Elect: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

Recording Sec.: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Barbara J. Atwater  
(Barbaraatwater703@yahoo.com)

Corr. Secretary: Sharon Collins (Sjcollins1908@yahoo.com)

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble  
(pepper3495@aol.com)

BOE Liaison and Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Bylaws: George Denny @aol.com  
(George.dilden@yahoo.com)

Community Service: Betty J. Nicholson  
(sonyaquattlebaun@comcast.net) and Lillie B. James  
(Ljam210@aol.com)

Consumer Ed. and Scholarships: Brenda L. Barnes:  
(blbarnes128@aol.com)

Historian: Vacant

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation and Recognition: Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor  
(beatignor@aol.com)

Membership: Jannette Wundrow  
(jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

Newsletter and Programs: Bonnie Curry Brose  
(bcbrose@comcast.net)

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

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and  
Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

## Inspiration for November

"Our wealth is in our friends."  
Bonnie Moscatelli

Dan Williams, Chair

## REMEMBRANCE

July

Elmore Adams 6/23

August

Naomi Cowgill 3/23

Patricia Klimek 5/23

Sandra Wargowsky 7/23

William Beaver 8/25

Shirley Jones 8/23

Yvonne Brown (no date given)

Camillio DeMuzio (spelling correction)

**Jayne Jones and Linda Butler, Chairs**

## PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

We will be learning about hearing aids and the options that are out there for all of us. Les Greenberg President of the county's chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America will bring us information about over the counter hearing aids and will be getting information from our MRSPA Benefits Committee.

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy NOVEMBER birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 11th; two ladies are having their birthdays on the 13th, when Elizabeth Proctor of Upper Marlboro will be turning 93 years of age, and Pauline Staggers of Largo will be turning 97 years -old; Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be reaching her 101st birthday on the 18h; Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be marking her 97th birthday on the 21st ; Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL will be observing his 97th birthday on the 23rd; and Elizabeth Picciotto of Deal, MD. will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 25th

Happy DECEMBER birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville will be having her 99th birthday on the 6th; Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be marking her 99th birthday on the 14th; Isabella MacPherson of Salisbury will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 18th; two members will be observing their birthdays on the 27th , namely: Erma Sarahan of College Park, who will be turning 98 years old and Robert Thomas of Bowie, who will be turning 92 years of age; and Mary White of Dayton, MD. will be reaching her 99th birthday on the 31st.

Ralette Cruse of Bowie retired in 2007 from the Excel Academy Charter School. She made quite a change of residence after retiring and moved to Sahuarita, Arizona. Soon, Ralette missed working with students, so she got a job teaching first grade. Then she worked at a private school teaching third grade for five years. After that she subbed in classes K-5 until the pandemic happened. Ralette was very active in the Del Webb community. She stayed busy at the clubhouse and her church. She was named the Queen of a Red Hat group! Ralette went on an awesome Viking Cruise to the Netherlands and Belgium – an amazing trip! She travels to Connecticut every fall. Last year while there, she drove to Vermont. She notes, “What a beautiful country we have to enjoy”. Ralette has two adult children - a daughter, Christina, who works in HR at the Prince George’s County Board of Education, and a son, Raleigh, and his family, who live in Gaithersburg. She is the proud grandmother of four wonderful children; the oldest is Marcel, who, is serving in the U.S. Navy. Ralette returned to live in Maryland during the pandemic, to be closer to family and reconnect with old friends.

Phyllis Welch (Kraus, Fowler, Swann) of Alexandria retired in 1996 from Crossland High School as an Administrative Assistant. Afterward she worked in Customer Service for two construction businesses: Home Builders, and a Drywall and Paint Company, then worked as a Tax Accountant, and for eight years she was with a tutoring service. Phyllis has enjoyed travels to visit relatives in Iowa and Florida. She has a son in FL, a brother and his wife in AZ., three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren (that includes a set of twins: Merlin and Arthur) in Iowa. Phyllis likes to walk at least an hour every day, work out in a gym two days a week, and work in her yard. She continues to be an active retiree!

Several H.W. Wheatley Special Center retirees celebrated a “Back to School” lunch at Rip’s restaurant on the first day of school for kids (and we weren’t there!) Attendees were: Joan Ahrens, Diane Bonanni, Maryclaire Dunlap,, Clareen Heikal, Natalie and Skip Kale, Frenicee King, Kathy Labukas, Bev Markowitz, Maureen Norton, Lydia Jones-Nunn, Julie Orgettas, Sue Perkowski, Linda Wiskochil, and Jannette Wundrow.

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



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Committee is starting up for the 2023-24 school year with three new members. We are searching for Prince Georges 2024 graduates who excel in academics, extra curriculum activities and have a passion to become educators of the future.

This year our application will have some changes. We are extending our scholarship offers to students with varied goals. First choice will be students majoring in education.

Please share this information with your family and friends.

The new applications will be on the website ([www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)) by the first week of December 2023. The students can also see their Guidance Counselor for information.

No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

Applications must be typed; including the essay.

Our mini-grant program will not start until January, 2024. We should receive the names from MRSPA in November. Hopefully someone from Prince Georges will win from MRSPA, The number of winners will depend on how many scholarship applications we receive this year.

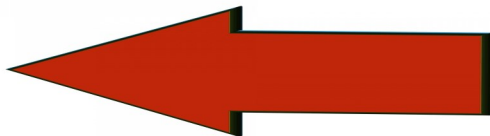
Thank you to all who send donations to the committee.

Brenda Barnes, Scholarship Chairperson

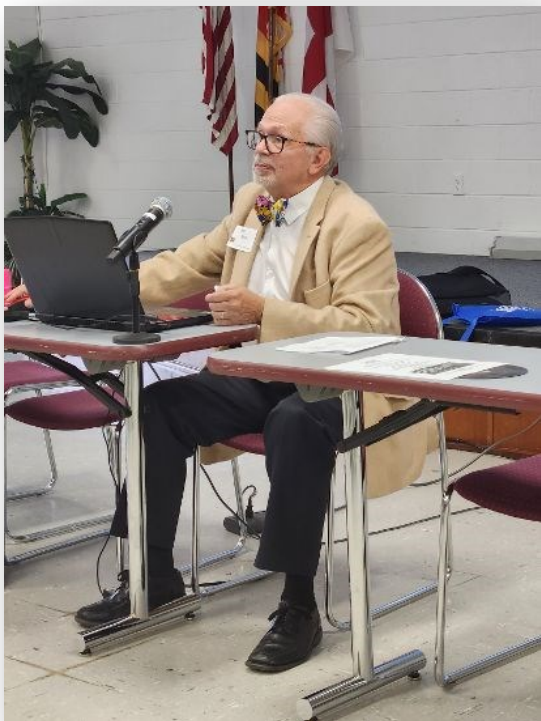




Our Fearless Leader!



Wonder what these three are planning?



Webmaster Bill teaching us all how to use the website. Have you tried it yet?  
[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)



**LUNCH!**

# COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMIT-

We sincerely appreciate the members who volunteered to serve on our committee to enhance the lives of students in our county. We are off to a great start and have selected 5 "tentative" schools in the Central Area.

They are Bladensburg High School, Judge Sylvania W. Woods, Francis Scott Key, Robert R. Frank, and John H. Bayne Elementary Schools.

We are finding fulfillment in meeting new friends and becoming reacquainted with old friends as we co-labor to meet the needs of students.

Lillie James and Betty Nicholson

## PGPSRA November Meeting

November 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

Forestville, Maryland

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater

2101 Willow Switch Lane

Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-4216

Barbaraatwatter703@yahoo.com



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

Amount Enclosed \$18 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each box lunch reservation— \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(We need the count by the November 8th mail delivery!).**

## PGPSRA

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer  
2101 Willow Switch Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

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**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 Bonnie Brose

To get the latest, quickest news.

