

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXI No. 1

September 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My year as MRTA President ended as of June 30th, and I now look forward to becoming more involved once again with the activities of PGCRTA. I wish to extend a special thanks to so many of you who volunteered your time and offered so much encouragement to me throughout the year. One overwhelming highlight of the year for me was to have repeated opportunities to actually see first-hand the degree of involvement that so many local RTAs have within their respective communities. This reflects countless hours that members quietly give in order to make a difference.

After discussing various ideas with the members of the PGCRTA Executive Committee, we have decided to give priority to two major themes this year in addition to the many routine activities in which we are involved.

Leadership Development

As each year passes, it is increasingly more difficult to fill vacancies that occur in the elected offices and committee chair positions of our Association. This is not unique only to Prince George's County, but has become a problem throughout the state. Many opinions abound that attempt to explain this phenomenon, as yet, however, there does not appear to be a clear and concise answer to this dilemma that so many RTAs are confronting

As a result, one goal of PGCRTA this year is to actively recruit members to serve at the committee level, and to provide leadership experience to those who demonstrate an interest in an elected or committee chair position.

Procedure Review Committee

This will be an AD Hoc Committee appointed by the President for one year. Initial plans call for approximately 10 members to serve on the committee: 3 veteran members; 3 who have only been active for several years; and 3 or 4 members who are new to the Association. They will be asked to report their recommendations to the

Executive Committee by spring of 2002.

They will be charged to extensively review all of the current and past procedures of the Association, and to recommend any revisions that could potentially: update the statement of purpose of the Association; improve the organization of the Executive Committee; revitalize the general membership meetings; expand the sources of funding for the Scholarship Program; strengthen the process of nominating and electing the leaders of the Association; broaden our degree of community involvement; foster a growth in membership among new retirees, and encourage more active involvement in the legislative process in Annapolis.

The work of this committee will be exploring how the Association should be positioned to deal with issues that will affect the lives of seniors in the 21st century. They will actually be helping us to plan ahead so that we can remain an organization that is respected by the community, and one that continues to serve our members.

Bob Miller

PGCRTA President

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 26, 2001

Place	PGCEA Building Forestville, MD
Time	10:30 am
Agenda	Business Meeting Lunch (no charge) Entertainment

**Prince George's County
Retired Teachers Association
2001-2002**

President

Mr. Robert B. Miller
617 Cedar Avenue
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-292-9510
harrtmiller@msn.com

President-Elect

To Be Elected

Past President

Mr. Edward A. Clement
1701 E. Chesapeake Street
Landover, MD 20785
301-322-1684

Treasurer

Mrs. Isabella MacPherson
7208 Kempton Road
Lanham, MD 20706
301-459-0060

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Helen Greene
9604 Caltor Lane
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-248-7446

Recording Secretary

Mrs. Ray Smith
8501 Reicher Street
Landover, MD 20785
301-773-8706

Parliamentarian

Ms. Mary Frances Doyle
3317 Huntley Sq. Dr. (C-1)
Temple Hills, MD 20748
301-894-7231

Community Service

Mrs. Helen Greene
9604 Caltor Lane
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-248-7446

Constitution & By-Laws

Mrs. Alveta S. Jones
3113 Amador Drive
Landover, MD 20785
301-772-5594

Education & Protective Svcs

Mr. Fred Novak
10912 Bomedale Drive
Adelphi, MD 20783
301-937-6606

Historian

Mrs. Joyce A. Cowan
1901 Porter Avenue
Suitland, MD 20746-1041
301-735-4642

Legislation

Mrs. Jannette Wundrow
1007 Packton Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
301-390-7324

Liaison / AARP

Mr. Robert B. Miller
617 Cedar Avenue
Fort Washington, MD 20744
301-292-9510

Liaison / Professional

Dr. Allan I. Chotiner
7405 Baylor Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-5167

Membership

Mrs. Jane G. Jones
5912 36th Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20782
301-559-8533

Membership Co-Chair

Ms. Mary Frances Doyle
3317 Huntley Sq. Dr. (C-1)
Temple Hills, MD 20748
301-894-7231

Newsletter Editor

Mrs. Virginia Stufft
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134
301-262-7093

Newsletter Distribution

Mr. Daniel Williams
9624 Small Drive
Clinton, MD 20735-3543
301-868-4857

Program / Luncheons

Mrs. Ruth Cumbo
13804 King Frederick Way
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-952-8183

Remembrance / Necrology

Mrs. Doris W. Hall
506 Crain Highway
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
301-249-7669

Scholarships

Mrs. Virginia Stufft
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134
301-262-7093

Trips

Mr. Charles Hudson
6710 Kipling Parkway
District Heights, MD 20747
301-736-6946

CALENDAR 2001- 2002

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
2001-2002**

September 12 PGCRTA Executive Meeting
 25 MRTA Leadership Workshop *
 26 General Membership Meeting
 NOTE: Begins at 10:30 am
 Place: PGCEA Building

November 14 PGCRTA Executive Meeting
 28 General Membership Meeting
 Place: To be announced

January 9 PGCRTA Executive Meeting
 NO General Membership Meeting

March 13 PGCRTA Executive Meeting
 27 General Membership Meeting
 Note: Begins at 10:30 am
 Place: PGCEA building

May 1 PGCRTA Executive Meeting
 6 MRTA Business Meeting/
 Convention **
 22 Annual Spring Luncheon
 Place: To be announced

June 12 Executive Meeting -
 Transition meeting

PGCRTA has provided five scholarships in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) each to students who intend to enter the teaching profession. In order to be selected, the student must be a senior or a graduate of a Prince George's County public high school, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and submit letters of recommendation and an essay on their intended contribution to the teaching profession.

Shannon Ambush From Eleanor Roosevelt HS
 To UMCP

Michelle Harrison From Northwestern HS
 To Bowie State University

Vivian Johnson From Eleanor Roosevelt HS
 To Delaware State College

Crystal Mitchell From Parkdale HS
 To Frostburg State College

Sharon Southern From Friendly HS
 To Hood College

FLORIDA RETIREE'S LUNCHEON

The annual Florida retiree luncheon will be held in Fort Lauderdale at the Sea Watch Restaurant, 6002 North Ocean Boulevard on February 27, 2002. This is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances with friends and former colleagues, as well as enjoying the beautiful scenery along the ocean. Other entertainment ideas are being explored. The final details of this event will be communicated by letter to those interested. INTERESTED !??!

Contact Jeannette and Bill Yates:
 2646 Shadow Cove, Annapolis, MD 21401
 (July through December) or

8590 SW 18th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324
 (December through January)

MD phone # 410-721-0538.
 FL phone # 954-473-6913

• Four PGCRTA members are invited to attend. President, President-Elect, Legislative Chair, and someone who is interested in Member Benefits.

** The combined MRTA Business Meeting/Convention will be held at Turf Valley in Howard county from May 6 through May 8.

FINANCIAL REPORT	
July 30, 2001	
Checking Account	\$12146.69
Savings account	\$ 6440.81

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT

The Coalition, composed of three union representatives for employees with the Board of Education and myself, for the retirees, met a number of times the past few months with the Board of Education negotiating team about our health plans.

The first meeting was called by the Board's group regarding the prescription plan. In the past, drugs were divided into generic and brand. For the 2001-2002 year, a new division will be added, known as non-formulary; and the brand will be designated as formulary-brand. Under the new co-payments for the prescription plan, the change would be

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Pharmacy</u>		<u>Mail Order</u>	
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Generic	\$3	\$3	0	\$6
Brand	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$10
Non-Formulary	---	\$7	---	\$14
<i>Supply</i>	21 days	34 days	90 days	90 days

Some Federal employees are presently paying \$20 for a 90-day supply of a brand drug. Members of the Coalition expressed their disappointment that the Board team had approved the new prescription co-payment prior to discussion with the Coalition to obtain our input.

The second meeting of the Coalition and the Board's team was held June 11, at which time the HMO rates for the 2001-2002 year were presented. The rates quoted were in the double digits, and some rates were increased as much as 40 percent. When Aetna's rates were questioned, Aetna suggested design changes which could lower the increases. The Coalition believes that with the new HMO increases, some enrollees might want to change plans. At the meeting, Bettie Young, the Team Leader of the Board's group, was not able to give any information regarding Blue Cross/Blue Shield Choice rates for 2001-2002.

With the passage of the Board of Education budget for 2001-2002, the Superintendent cut teaching and other positions for 2001-2002. This action caused two members of the Board of Education, Angie Como and Robert Callaghan, to submit a proposed amendment to the budget, to be considered at the Board meeting on Saturday, June 23. Their proposal would have cut 16 million dollars from several areas of the budget, including 950 thousand dollars from the retirees' health benefits plan. The Coalition strongly opposed the proposal, because it would violate the negotiated contract, and made known its views to Board members and others. We, the Coalition members, attended that Saturday morning meeting and were especially pleased when by a 6-to-3 vote, the retirees' benefits remained in the budget.

On July 27, Bettie Young sent me a copy of the Health Insurance Rate Chart for Retired Employees—effective October 1, 2001—that will be mailed in August to all retirees enrolled in the Board of Education's Health Plans. The table includes the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan that was not available at the June 11 meeting.

There is an interesting article by Jane Bryant Quinn in the August 6 issue of *Newsweek* concerning President Bush's proposed discount card for prescription drugs. Something has to be done to curb the excessive cost of prescriptions. From all indications, his proposal does not seem to be the solution for retirees and others as well.

Allan Chotiner
Liaison--Professional

TRIPS

Charlie Hudson has several trips being planned for the fall. Complete details and information should be available at the September General Membership meeting. Early in the fall he is looking for a dinner theater with a play that we haven't seen recently. This would be a day trip with a luncheon show.

A trip to Strasburg, PA, is planned for 3 days and 2 nights November 29, 30, and December 1. This will include a Christmas show, a waterfalls show, and a music show. Plus there will be delicious Amish food for breakfast and dinner.

The big trip of the fall season will be to western North Carolina. The tentative schedule is for 6/7 days and 5/6 nights, probably during the last week in October. Along the route visits to the Virginia State Capital and the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, the NC Transportation Museum, the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville and Grandfather Mountain are among the many sights to be seen. Flyers will be available at the September General Membership meeting for those interested. As soon as you decide a \$100.00 deposit will be required to secure your reservation. If you have any questions contact Charlie Hudson at 301-736-6946

Friendship and wine are very similar; in the pure form they keep well indefinitely; and the more aged, the more satisfactory to heart and palate.

Fernando Carbajal, Rotarian

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome back!

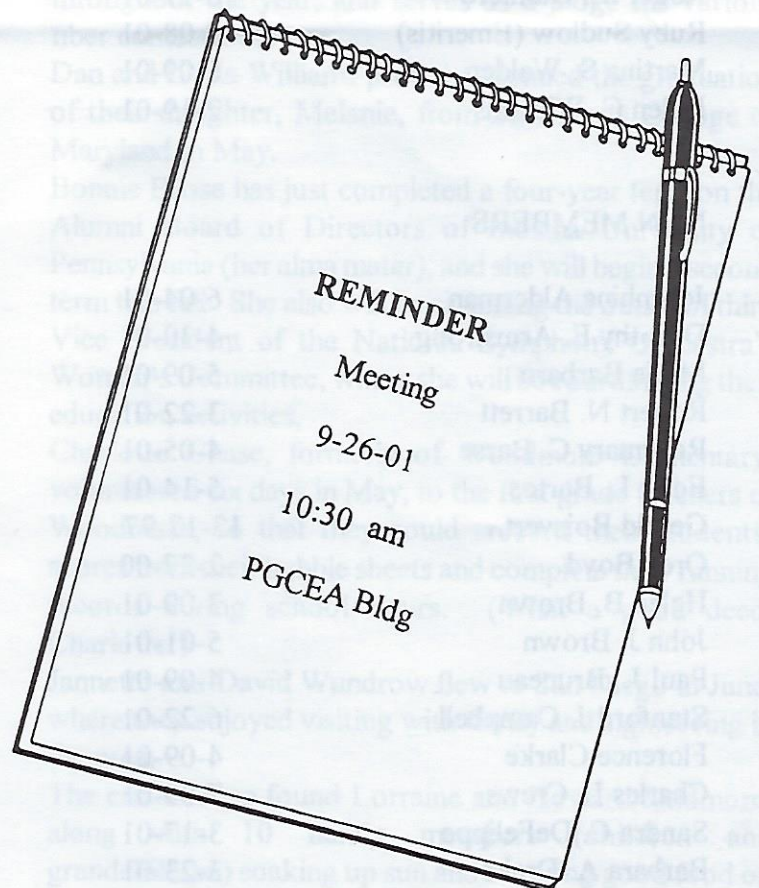
Thanks to all who have paid their 2001-2002 dues. Second notices went out August 1st.

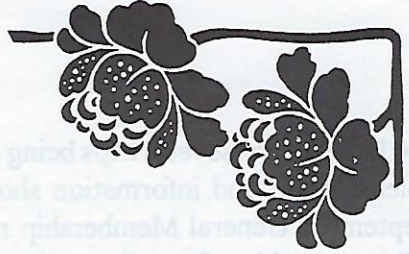
If you want to avoid sending a check next year, switch to dues deduction. Payment will be taken out of your July check. A note with your Social Security Number and signature will take care of it.

Since early April we have 12 new members. Be sure to tell your teachers/staff friends, who retire, about the PGCRTA and MRTA.

Hope to see you at our September meeting in Forestville.

Jane Jones
Membership Chair





IN MEMORIAM

Members:

James B. Carpenter	3-27-01
Thomas M. Davis	4-20-01
R. Francis Eigenbrode	6-26-01
Annabelle Ferguson	7-07-01
Lois G. Garner	4-27-01
Maureen Gormas	3-05-01
Judith K. Griffin	6-03-01
June Harrell	2-26-01
Lillian Harvey	7-15-01
Rosalie Kim	3-14-01
Carlyn Lakin	5-01-01
Dorothea Lembke	5-08-01
Mary H. Lloyd	4-17-01
Bess Lockhart	6-18-01
Doris M. Mann	5-23-01
James Neelon	7-08-01
Evelyn M. Nigh	5-02-01
Col. Francis O'Clair	6-12-01
Gladys T. Page	7-10-01
Rubye C. Patterson	6-28-01
Roger M. Quintero	6-17-01
Ruby Sudlow (Emeritis)	7-08-01
Martina S. Walden	6-09-01
Helen C. Williams	2-19-01

NON MEMBERS:

Josephine Alderman	6-04-01
Dorothy E. Armstrong	4-30-01
Maria Barbaro	5-09-01
Robert N. Barrett	3-22-01
Rosemary C. Barse	4-05-01
Edith L. Bartos	5-14-01
Gerald Boisvert	12-17-97
Oren Boyd	2-27-00
Helen B. Brown	3-09-01
John J. Brown	5-01-01
Paul J. Bruneau	4-09-01
Stanford J. Campbell	6-22-01
Florence Clarke	4-09-01
Charles L. Crews	7-09-01
Sandra C. DeFelippo	3-17-01
Barbara A. Drake	3-23-01
Zelda Dunlap	3-09-01
Martha Fenton	4-16-01

Julian G. Fields	7-08-01
Peggy Forman	4-15-01
Phyllis G. Geisler	3-23-01
Jane L. Givens	1-30-01
Adrienne green	5-19-01
Warren Hankley	2-10-95
Mary Henderson	5-01-01
Robert J. Hill	2-05-01
Hazel Hunsberger	3-14-01
Alice W. Hynes	5-18-01
Angeline Ingegnerei	2-22-01
Elizabeth F. Johnson	3-07-01
Melva B. Kleiman	7-11-01
Mary Layman	6-13-01
Virginia J. Leahy	7-18-01
Josephine L. Long	6-25-01
William J. Makle	4-15-01
Anita J. Mauldin	3-05-01
Michael C. Parker	5-12-01
Anne Peters	4-24-01
William A. Plummer	7-14-01
John E. Richel	7-25-01
Catherine Riley	5-30-96
Ethel G. Robinson	3-15-00
Wanda M. Schultz	5-10-01
Katherine Shunk	4-01-01
Earl B. Stacy	4-03-01
Marie C. Stephens	4-13-01
Gary V. Steuler	1-16-01
Edith M. Thomas	5-25-01
Geral E. Turner	7-24-01
Dorothy L. Underwood	5-21-01
James O. Vann	6-07-99
Laverne E. Williams	3-08-01
Michael Yacko	4-22-01
Suzaanne L. Zappasodi	5-07-01

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall, at 301-249-7669, if you know that a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

BITS AND PIECES

Natalie Nugent Straley enjoyed a marvelous trip to Ireland, Scotland, and England June 25th through July 18th, accompanied by her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. They were able to visit several relatives while there.

Delores Muse will be traveling to Raleigh, NC, this month for the marriage of her daughter, Pamela.

Belated Happy 90th Birthday greetings to Lucille Osterhaus and Mabel Crittenden!

Catherine Ross and her daughter, Betsy, are planning a wonderful 14 day cruise to Hawaii this month, along with several friends and family members.

Jack Hart and John Moran moved in May to Riderwood Retirement Home in Silver Spring. It was difficult parting with numerous antiques and other possessions collected over the years, selecting only a minimum to take to their new, smaller home, but the move was necessary for health reasons.

Rebecca Armstrong attended the 18th Annual Governor's Volunteer and Service Awards ceremony and reception on May 2nd, at the Baltimore Convention Center. She received a certificate from the Maryland Governor's Office for outstanding volunteer service with Safe Passages, a mentoring program for youth.

Ron Beury is enjoying his retirement by working with his wife, Jan, in real estate (a time consuming occupation).

Ruby Gross left for Memphis May 28th. Returning home only briefly, she, along with Maude and Joe Pinkney traveled to El Paso for a vacation.

Dotson Burns continues to be involved in music, playing bass regularly with the McLean Symphony, as well as, performing in the orchestras of area shows, including "Pippin", "Oliver", and "Man of LaMancha" most recently.

Christine Henry has been pleased to tutor both elementary and middle school students since her retirement 10 years ago.

Greta Garrett along with her spouse, attended her 45th class reunion in May, at Hampton University, in VA. It was a fun event!

Dorothy Troeschler spent a week in March, in Monterrey, Mexico, with her brother and four of her six children. Last December, she visited her daughter, Chandra, who lives in Paris (and is married to a professional jazz drummer). Chandra and her family then went with Dorothy to Florence and Venice, Italy. (This was a good chance for Dorothy to practice her language skills, as she has been studying Italian and Portuguese at UMCP.)

Dorothy plans to do a study abroad program in Bahia, Brazil, next January.

Carl Lancaster traveled to the Rocky Mountains in July. During the trip, he visited Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky, Montana, and then went north to attend the Stampede (Rodeo) festivities in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In June, J. Davis flew to Warsaw, Poland, with her 84 year old father, whose family origins are in Poland. There they met her sister and six year old niece, who presently live in Cairo, Egypt. Together they toured Poland by car—quite an experience with such an age-range of participants, but a wonderful, memorable trip. They even spent two nights in an ancient castle. Shortly after returning home, J. was elected President of the Prince George's County Municipal Association. (Our congratulations!)

Lona Florence is keeping active by serving as Vice President of W.A.C. (Women's Action Coalition). She welcomes the opportunity to tell anyone interested about this organization.

Ginger Stuftt participated in the annual MAFA Weavers Convention held in Baltimore in June. Ginger not only is a weaver, but she teaches several classes in loom weaving throughout the year, and serves as a judge for various fiber contests.

Dan and Linda Williams proudly attended the graduation of their daughter, Melanie, from St. Mary's College of Maryland in May.

Bonnie Brose has just completed a four-year term on the Alumni Board of Directors of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (her alma mater), and she will begin a second term this fall. She also will be assuming the duties of third Vice President of the National Symphony Orchestra's Women's Committee, where she will be coordinating their education activities.

Charlotte Chase, formerly of Woodmore Elementary, volunteered six days in May, to the first grade teachers of Woodmore, so that they could record their students' scores from their bubble sheets and complete their running records during school hours. (What a good deed, Charlotte!)

Jannette and David Wundrow flew to San Diego in June, where they enjoyed visiting with family and sightseeing in the area.

The end of June found Lorraine and Howard Skidmore, along with 10 family members (children and grandchildren) soaking up sun and savoring good food on the Royal Caribbean ship, "Explorer of the Seas".

(Continued on back page)

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

9624 Small Drive
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(Non-Profit Org.)
U. S. Postage
PAID
RVerdale, MD
Permit No. 2906

DATED MATERIAL

BITS AND PIECES (Continued)

Tom Barron is now an organ repairperson (his 4th career!), and he even makes home visits. His specialty is large, old rusty organs, one of which he recently worked on at St. Ann's in Annapolis.

Bob Miller enjoyed a marvelous birthday cruise on the Chesapeake Bay in July, that included his daughter, Rachel, and her family.

Charlie and Ann Hudson found relaxing at their time-share home near Shenandoah, VA, a pleasant way to spend summer days. They also enjoyed their annual trip to Washington State to visit with their son and family. The ladies of the group had the pleasure of having "high tea" at a special hotel location.

Jane Jones and a friend drove to Ohio to visit her son and family in June.

ECHOES STAFF		
Editor	Ginger Stufft	301-262-7093
Distributor	Dan Williams	301-868-4857
Mailing List	Jan Wundrow	301-390-7342

James Schrodt, age 86, is living in a Florida Retirement home. He is still very busy with his music activities. In May he received the John Phillip Sousa Award, and a plaque from the Retirement Residents Association. In addition he performed with the Maitland Presbyterian Symphony Orchestra and then played in Atlantic City, NJ, at the Reunion of the Air Force Band that he directed during World War II. Those of you that attended the Florida Reunion luncheon last March heard Jim play there. Alice Hutchinson made the trip of her lifetime this past spring to South Africa and Zimbabwe. South Africa was truly spectacular. The tour provided a variety of places to see and things to do, including visits to Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban (where she swam in the Indian Ocean), Cape Town (where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet). In Zimbabwe, she visited Victoria Falls—an awesome sight. Alice says, "It was a wonderful trip, and I'd love to return."