

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXII No. 1

September 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Another year for us as retired school personnel of the Prince George's County Public Schools to continue our interests in educational, legislative and educational programs that affect public education in the County and State. Another year for us to continue to use our talents and skills, our training and experiences, to further educational growth in our county and state. Another year to be engaged in community service. Another year for us to attend stimulating programs designed to be informative, educational and recreational. Another year for us to stay in touch with fellow retirees through ECHOES, our newsletter. Another year of receiving benefits and services from our county and state through leadership efforts of our association. Another year for us to be included in an educational group that awards five one thousand dollar scholarships to students obtaining higher education. Another year to travel with our friends - one day or extended time - at reasonable rates. Another year of giving service and receiving services through Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association.

Being a member of PGCRTA affords you the opportunity to receive many benefits and services to improve our quality of life. Being a member allows us to give back to the community by joining others who have volunteered their time to carry out the purpose of the Association. Persons are needed to work on the Legislative Committee.

Thanks to all who have committed to the work of PGCRTA this year. Remember the words of Dr. Percy Andrus, founder of NTRA and AARP, "To serve; not to be served."

Alveta S. Jones
President PGCRTA

PGCRTA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS JUNE 2002

Sabrina D. Davis	From Bowie High School To Anne Arundel CC
Virginia L. Hallock	From Gwynn Park High To College of Southern MD
Erin L. Patterson	From Bowie High School To Anne Arundel CC
Olivia F. Wilkins	From Northwestern High To UMCP
Amy M. Young	From Bowie High School To Salisbury University

Our best wishes to these students for a successful and happy freshman year at college.

FLORIDA 2003 REUNION LUNCHEON AND OPTIONAL CRUISE

Luncheon - February 23, 2003
Place - Tampa, Florida

Cruise - seven nights
Aboard the Celebrity's HORIZON
Ports of call :

Key West, Costa Maya, Cozumel, Grand Cayman

Contact : Gerri Sousa (AAA Agent)
Toll free: (877) 226-1973

Tell her you wish to book with Don Kiah's
Group: PG Co Retirees

Prices : \$1544 - \$1744 per cabin (2 persons)

HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT

Two HMO's—Free State and Aetna—will not be offered by the Prince George's County Board of Education as medical insurance plans after September 30, 2002. Those enrolled in the two plans were informed by letter that they could join one of the three remaining medical plans, effective October 1, 2002—Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente HMO or Optimum Choice HMO—and were invited to attend an informational meeting.

On June 24th, at a special meeting called by the Board of Education Benefits Administration, the Coalition—employee and retiree representatives—was informed by Bettie Young, the Team Leader, that Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield had told the Board that there would be a substantial increase in the medical rates for next year. The increase is due to the high number of claims in the past year, the loss of hospital discounts received previously, and the need to increase payments to doctors for their services. The following changes are being made in co-payments and deductibles:

- 1) Option I—increase office co-pays from \$5 to \$10; preferred care provider specialist, \$20
- 2) Add \$25 co-pay for Emergency Room visits—waived if admitted
- 3) Option II—increase deductibles from \$50 Individual/\$150 Family to \$100 Individual/\$300 Family
- 4) Option III—increase deductibles from \$100 Individual/\$300 Family to \$200 Individual/\$600 Family

The newly-appointed School Board, which was legislated by the General Assembly to replace the existing elected School Board, faced a \$52 million dollar shortfall in the proposed school budget for 2002-2003. Last year, when the School Board found it necessary to cut the budget, two Board members proposed cutting more than a million dollars from the amount in the proposed retirees' health insurance plan. Fortunately, the Board did not accept the proposal. We were concerned this year that no cut would be made in our plan, and that was the case.

Bettie Young, on July 30, 2002, informed the Coalition of the Prince George's County Board of Education's Health rates for 2002-2003, effective on October 1, 2002. With more than 4,600 retirees enrolled in Care First Blue Cross Blue Shield, 122 in the Kaiser HMO, and 83 in the Optimum HMO, it seemed more appropriate to select Care First BC/BS Medicare Individual Plan as the example for projecting the increase for the coming year:

<u>Program</u>	<u>2002- 2003</u>	<u>2001- 2002</u>	<u>Plus</u>	<u>%</u>
Medical—Blue Cross	\$20.61	\$16.03	\$4.58	+29
Dental—Aetna	6.96	6.25	0.71	+11
Vision—Blue Cross	0.31	0.31	---	0
Prescription—Blue Cross	21.48	19.85	1.63	+ 8

At our meeting in June, with all the payments for the year still not made, Care First BC/BS projected that the anticipated increase might be in the thirty percent range, and stated that extenuating factors mentioned above would support their increase. With inflation at a low rate, there is no factor that justifies the increase in the prescription prices. Congress and the President have proposed plans for the elderly, but have done nothing to curb the cost of prescription drugs. Canadians can purchase prescription medicines, made in the United States, much more cheaply than those of us in the United States. Something has to be done!

Allan I Chotiner
Liaison, Professional

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
2002-2003**

PRESIDENT

Alveta S. Jones
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Landover, MD 20785-2446
301-772-5594

PRESIDENT ELECT

Jannette Wundrow
1007 Packton Lane
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301-390-7324

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Robert B. Miller
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Jannie Goldston
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301-292-9510

**LIAISON/
PROFESSIONAL**

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7405 Baylor Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-5167

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

NEWSLETTER

Virginia Stuft
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134
301-262-7093

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Edward A. Clement
7101 E. Chesapeake Street
Landover, MD 20785
301-322-1684

PROGRAM

Helen Butler
4511 Woodgate Way
Mitchellville, MD 20720
301-262-6250

**REMEMBRANCE/
NECROLOGY**

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Evelyn Bankett
12119 Old Colony Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-627-2940

TRIPS

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

2002-2003 CALENDAR

- September 11 Executive Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am
- September 25 Membership Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
Forestville, MD
11:00 am
- November 13 Executive Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am
- November 20 Membership Meeting
Restaurant - to be
announced
11:00 am
- January 8 Executive Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am
- January 22 Membership Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
Forestville, MD
11:00 am
- March 12 Executive Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am
- March 26 Membership Meeting
Forest Memorial United
Methodist Church Hall
11:00 am
- May 7 Executive Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am
- May 28 Membership Meeting
Annual Luncheon
La Fontaine Bleu
11:00 am
- June 11 Executive Transition
Meeting
PGCEA Bldg
10:00 am

MAY WE SUGGEST :

Pull out this sheet and post it with your personal activity calendar. You will then have the officer names, numbers, and the PGCRТА calendar for the year as a handy reference.

2001 Legislative Session Update

The Maryland Legislative session ended on April 9, 2001. Some of the bills they passed that are of special interest to us in Prince Georges' County include:

- 1- A state-subsidized insurance plan for seniors who earn less than 300% of poverty level (about \$17,000 per year)
- 2- An extra subsidy to reduce the cost for seniors who receive Medicare and earn less than 175% of poverty level (ie: \$65 for a \$110 prescription)
- 3- A reduced drunken driving limit to .08 blood alcohol concentration, and allow prosecutors to reveal when a person has refused a breathalyzer test
- 4- Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation
- 5- Prohibit racial profiling by police officers
- 6- Prohibit a rubble land-fill in Brandywine and a trash-transfer station in Bowie
- 7- Require public schools to teach gun control
- 8- Provide \$5 million for textbooks to private schools throughout the state
- 9- Require the state Board of Elections to certify a state-wide unified voting system
- 10- Guarantee DNA testing for those convicted of rape or murder
- 11- County budget designations: \$470 million for schools, \$26 million for school construction, \$1 million for a facility for emotionally disturbed students, \$3 million for revitalization of Suitland Manor, \$1 million for an Arts District in Hyattsville, \$500 thousand for the Bowie Arts Center, \$10 million to improve the Greenbelt Metro Station, \$45 million toward replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, \$19 million for Prince Georges' Community College, \$4.9 million for the library system, \$2.5 million for the Trauma Center at Prince Georges' Hospital, \$1.8 million for the Upper Marlboro Detention Center

*Though we are happy with the outcome of most of these expenditures, we must continue to lobby again next year for more and better health care benefits, along with pharmacy assistance, for all retirees in Maryland. We invite you to join the PGCRTA Legislative Committee.

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative chair

BITS AND PIECES

A Happy 90th Birthday to Sylvia Rothstein ! (She celebrated on July 2nd.)

A Happy 90th Birthday to Dr. James Gholson. Opening this September will be a new Middle School in our county named for him. The dedication will be in October.

Roger Ault retired from Francis Scott Key Junior High School in 1981. After pursuing a second career as a legal proofreader, he retired again in 1994. In 1991, Roger relocated to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where he has served as treasurer of the Homeowners' Association. He has performed in several plays and musicals at the Georgetown, DE, Community Theater, and served numerous times as a reader in "radio theater" for senior citizens and other groups. Roger also enjoys traveling and has been to many of the European countries, as well as, to his "time shares" in Paradise Island and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Ann Robinson and her husband enjoyed a cruise to Hawaii last October. In May, Ann and her sister, Veronica Jones, traveled to Michigan to attend their niece's graduation from Eastern Michigan University. In late August and early September, Ann and some members of her family will be visiting her son in Germany.

Evelyn Bankett and her husband look forward to traveling. Last October they went to Las Vegas, and in May they took a trip to Boxwood, CT. They are presently planning to travel to New England and Canada during September.

Anita Kostee retired from Parkdale High School in 1986, and now lives in Edgewater, MD, where she occasionally runs into Marian Lobdell, who reside in Annapolis. Anita says she thinks that retirement is wonderful, as it gives her time to pursue her interest in oil and watercolor painting. She and her husband have enjoyed trips to England and Scotland.

Joan (Jo) Myers retired in 1993 from her job as graphic artist with the school system, and relocated to her home in Bellingham, WA. She has done some free-lance work, and is currently putting her graphic design experience to use as a volunteer with several groups: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Readiness to Learn, Community Network, and as a Board member of the Whatcom County Commission on Children and Youth. Joan also keeps busy designing

annual reports, brochures, and newsletters, and assisting community organizations to create and print their own newsletters. She even assisted in developing a manual for emergency preparedness for her neighborhood that received countywide recognition. (You may want to take another look at the logo on the front of our ECHOES...it was designed by Joan ! Our continuing "Thanks !" to her.)

Donald Wilson, Director of the Annual Bulldog Golf Classic, assisted by Addie Martin, President of the Bulldog Club, and committee member, Diane Wilson-Bragg, proclaimed this year's May 20th event a rousing success. Sixty-six golfers participated in the tournament, which raised money to support the athletic programs at Bowie State university.

Ann Chotiner made a satisfactory recovery from her spring surgery, allowing her and Dr. Chotiner to travel to Alabama in May, to assist their daughter, who teaches at the University there, to close her house and return with them to MD for the summer.

Ann Davis retires from Adelphi Elementary School in 1999, and shortly thereafter moved to Henderson, NV. She spends her free time substitute teaching in Clark County, NV, and ushering for shows at the MGM Grand Garden Hotel in Las Vegas—which is where she met Kurt and Barbara Schwartz, who are both retired Prince George's County teachers. Ann has four delightful grandchildren.

Dan and Linda Williams spent a week last May, visiting with their daughter, Eliza, who is a church music major at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. While there, they were pleased to hear Eliza perform with the orchestra, wind ensemble, and as a vocal soloist.. The three of them then traveled to Garden City, NC, where they were joined by daughter, Melanie, of Chicago, for an enjoyable week at the beach.

Nine of our members attended the Annual May Credit Union Meeting, where Tom Barron celebrated his birthday, Lenore Dehnel won a \$25 drawing, and Claude Duncan, for the second year in a row, won the grand door prize - a TV set !

Rosemary Brinkley, chairman of the Credit Union, enjoyed vacationing in Spain last January.

Twenty PGCRTA members attended the annual MRTA Convention and Business Meeting last May, at Ellicott City, MD, for an interesting and fun-filled three days. Winners of MRTA door prizes were Lloyd Hoover (a lovely ceramic bird house) and Jan Wundrow (\$100.00 cash) !

Almost retired "Bill" William Jarmon, Jr., joined President Alveta Jones and other retirees at their May luncheon meeting. He reports that he was impressed by the company at his table as they shared past school experiences and future plans. He noticed that Howard and Lorraine Skidmore looked as radiant as ever. Bernadine Young, Lillian Wiseman, and Dorothy Prather were happy to share with him both retired and semi-retired happenings.

Everyone who attended the May luncheon meeting at the La Fontaine Bleu in Lanham, was pleased by the modern tap dance performance presented by students from the Thomas Pullen School for the Performing Arts. Erma Green was the day's lucky door prize winner !

Dan Saltrick retired as Area 6 Superintendent of County Schools in 1990, and relocated to Charlotte, NC, to work five years with Dr. John Murphy as Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Next, he and a friend began a consulting firm (Instructional & Accounting Systems, Inc.) to assist school districts in planning and school improvement, which continues to keep him busy, along with presenting national seminars for NAESP. Dan's wife, Dee, formerly a vice-principal at Ridgecrest Elementary, is currently a principal in the Charlotte School District. Together, they enjoy traveling, cruises (most recently to the Western Carribean and Alaska), tennis, boating, fishing, spoiling their five grandchildren, and volunteering in their church and at a homeless shelter. Dan's biggest project still remains: how to introduce Maryland Blue Crabs into Lake Norman, on which he lives, in Cornelius, NC. (Good luck, Dan !)

Dr. Yvonne T. Brown is now living in Hopkins, SC (near Columbia). She is enjoying the different pace of living in that area, but wonders if there are other PG retirees anywhere in that vicinity. If so and you would be interested in getting together, give her a call (803-783-7502).

Congratulations to Ed and Jean Clement on their 40th Anniversary, celebrated June 23rd.

We'd like to hear from YOU! To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jan Wundrow:

dwundrow@erols.com

or

Jan Wundrow
1007 Packton Lane
Bowie, MD 20716

Take rest.

*A field that has rested
gives a beautiful crop.*

Ovid

WOULD YOU BELIEVE !!

Editorial

The May issue of ECHOES was taken to the mail distributor on April 26th, but it was May 23rd before anybody received a copy...(the day after the annual luncheon). Needless to say, this presented many problems for the organization as well as individual members of PGCRTA.

We have been in the transition mode for the last year or so going from a completely volunteer operation as far as the ECHOES newsletter is concerned, to being forced by the US Postal Service to use professional services. It was this past May issue that was processed by a commercial distributor. This company came highly recommended, but unfortunately, our experience with this concern was far from satisfactory.

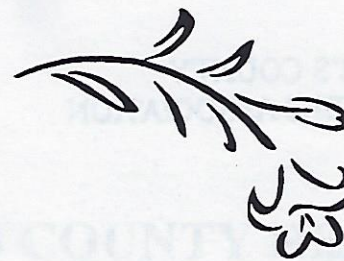
Therefore, with this September issue we have changed to a different distributor company and sincerely hope for a more efficient and speedy mailing.

May I also assure you that our mailing list continues to be a private one, used by PGCRTA only. It is not sold or used by any other organization.

Our sincere apologies for the inconvenience this late issue of ECHOES may have caused our members.

Ginger Stufft, Editor

IN MEMORIAM



Members:

Edith L. Carter	?
Johanna Coda	01-28-02
Lee Fink	04-16-02
Frances I. Herling	?
Norma E. Hurt	04-19-02
Edna Jones	02-12-02
Evelyn Kaplan	04-18-02
Maude Hess Law	?
Muriel M. Neagle	?
Earline L. Oakes	06-10-02
Lucille J. Oosterhaus	04-06-02
Mary H. Peterson	?
George J. Smith	04-11-02
Delores Treston	02-13-02
Stanley R. Ziobro	06-16-02

Percy E. Hailey	06-18-02
Edith S. Harrington	12-31-02
George Heath	03-27-02
John Heim	04-29-02
Deborah Hooks	06-02-02
Amil V. Jinar	06-08-02
Sarah Jones	04-13-02
Doris M. Kohansky	04-27-02
Herman L. Latta	06-14-02
Sam A. Leal	04-22-02
Agnes Q. Lester	05-09-02
Helen M. Lightbown	05-15-02
Hazel R. Magee	10-02-01
Bernice Maye	04-13-02
Winifred J. Neill	04-17-02
Helen E. Payne	03-29-02
Virginia M. Poole	04-14-02
Dorothy Rice	04-25-02
Anne Rohlader	10-14-99
Marguerite H. Rondeau	06-14-02
Catherine V. Schoen	05-10-02
Ursula A. Stillwell	06-20-02
Esther Summers	05-12-02
Eleanor E. Surmick	06-08-02
Robert S. Thompson	04-03-02
Beatrice C. Trotto	05-25-02
Molly L. Walker	04-11-02
Robert S. Weimer	05-16-02

Non-Members :

Orra T. Angelidis	07-05-02
Alice Belanger	03-31-02
Solomon T. Brown	04-14-02
Stanley B. Carr	06-22-02
Nora V. Cartwright	05-09-02
Alan L. Chesser	05-18-02
Robert Coombs	?
Kenneth F. Croushore	05-05-02
Wallace G. Daniel	03-26-02
Rodrick V. Davis	04-18-02
Johnny Davis	04-16-02
Robert Emmans	05-06-02
Elizabeth H. Fairfax	07-04-02
George T. Farmer	12-29-01
Marilyn Flottman	02-05-02
Eleanor H. Frantz	06-12-02
Judith R. Gordon	05-15-02
Frank W. Grzybowski	03-31-02

Remember to contact the Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hal 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.

VOTE !

September 10th Primary Election

November 5th General Election

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 25, 2002

11:00 am

PGCEA Building

Light luncheon (no charge)

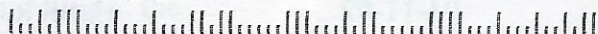
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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1007 PACKTON LN
BOWIE MD 20716-1761



MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 25TH 11:00AM PGCEA BLDG

TRIPS

THOUSAND ISLANDS New York

Leave Sat., October 19, Return Wed., October 23

- 4 nights accommodations - 4 full breakfasts
- 4 full dinners - Sightseeing boat cruise
- Tour historic Kingston - Tour Upper Canada Village
- Tour Ottawa - Visit Thousand Islands Charity Casino

You will NEED: original birth certificate, official voting registration, picture ID (such as a passport)

Cost - based on double occupancy :\$400. for 40 people,
\$420 for 35 people, \$440 for 30 people. \$470 for 25
Single supplement \$95.00
\$100 deposit needed at once - Balance due 9/20/02

Make checks payable to PGCRTA - Tours

ST CLEMENT'S ISLAND Maryland

Wednesday, October 9
Visit of island and the historical sites there
Fee includes bus and boat trip
\$30 per person

PA CHRISTMAS AND GIFT SHOW
Harrisburg, PA - PA Farm Show Complex
One day trip - between Dec 4 and 8
Crafts, specialties, trains, food, dancing, etc.

This may be a one day trip or may be combined with a visit to Strassburg, which would involve one or two more days, and a Christmas Show.

Contact : Charlie Hudson 301-736-6946