



# ECHOES

## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXXI No. 1

September 2007

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the new year for PGPSRA, and thank you for choosing me to be your President for the 2007-08 year. The Executive Board has met and planned for a "forward thinking" year for our association. We hope to keep you informed on important issues of concern while offering times to gather and continue old friendships and to build new ones. As retirees of the Prince George's County Public Schools, we continue to share many common goals and interests which require our faithful cooperation and commitment if we hope to be successful.

That being said, all of you need to know that we are experiencing a budget crisis. To continue programs adopted during the past several years, we have spent more money than we brought in. Consequently, this year you will see some changes in our operating budget. We have pared our budget to the "bare bones." Lunches will cost more, and you will find that we will be strict in adhering to deadlines. We have been trying to accommodate everyone, but that has left us paying for more lunches than we actually serve. We can no longer afford to do so. We are also looking for entertainment that does not cost as much as we have been paying. We will gladly consider programs that are recommended by our members. With your help, we will be on a more solid financial footing at the end of the year.

Our first event this year will be a Legislative Luncheon which will serve two purposes. First, we will be able to offer a chance to have our members interact with our state legislators

without having the expense of renting a bus to take us to Annapolis. Secondly, we hope that PGPSRA members who are unable to make the annual trip to Annapolis will be able to join us at PGCEA Headquarters. There is no cost to you for this lunch. You are, however, asked to RSVP to let us know you are planning to attend so that we can have an accurate count to plan for the lunches. If you have made reservations, there will be a ticket for you to pick up your box lunch. If you choose not to reserve a lunch, you are still welcome to attend the program just to meet and greet our legislators. This first meeting is a good time to bring in new and/or prospective members. If you do so, just let us know ahead of time so that we can have their lunches ready ... and a welcome gift.

You have a great Executive Board working for you, and this looks to be a great year for your association. Do plan to attend our meetings so that you can continue to be a contributing member. We are only as good as those who take the time to make us so. And, I hope that is YOU.

See you on September 26<sup>th</sup>!

Bonnie Brose

### SEPT. 26<sup>th</sup> LUNCHEON RSVP

Call Bonnie Brose at 301-627-1097 or e-mail to [BCBrose@comcast.net](mailto:BCBrose@comcast.net).

The deadline for reservations is Monday, September 17, 2007.



**PGPSRA CALENDAR  
2007 – 2008**

- Sept. 12:** Executive Committee /  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Sept. 26:** General Meeting &  
Legislative Luncheon \*\*  
PGCEA Building
- Oct. 31:** Executive Committee /  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Nov. 14:** General Meeting &  
Program  
Fontaine Bleu
- Jan. 9:** Executive Committee /  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Jan. 23:** General Meeting &  
Program  
PGCEA Building
- Mar. 12:** Executive Committee /  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Mar. 26:** General Meeting &  
Program  
Site to be announced
- May 14:** Executive Committee /  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- May 28:** Annual Meeting &  
Presentation & Election of  
Officers  
Site to be announced
- June 11:** Transition Meeting  
Site to be announced

**Board Meetings** are at 10:00 a.m.

**General Membership Meetings are:**  
11:00 a.m. – Business Meeting  
12:00 noon – Luncheon  
12:45 p.m. - Program

**\*\* COME JOIN US SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

We're looking forward to seeing you at our first PGPSRA meeting of the year. It will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at the PGCEA Building, 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD. We have invited all of our Prince George's legislators to join us for an informal lunch at noon, after which you may meet them and hear them discuss the important issues to be addressed at the coming General Assembly session.

Over the past several years, we have traveled by bus to Annapolis during March for a "Legislative Day", where we invited our legislators to an informal lunch and chat with our members. This year we decided to hold a different type of legislative activity, by inviting our Prince George's representatives to join us at our meeting in Forestville.

There is no cost for this lunch, but you must make reservations according to the directions on page one. If you don't order lunch, come and enjoy the program anyway. **Please plan to attend!**

**ATTENTION: CURRENT, NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

We intend to honor new and prospective members at the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, but we need to know who you are. If you are a new or prospective member, please mention that when you call in your reservation. Current members who bring a prospective member should do likewise. All are welcome.



## **COME JOIN US SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>!**

We're looking forward to seeing you at our first MRSPA meeting of the year, that will be held on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 11a.m., at the PGCEA Building (1800 Marlboro Pike in Forestville)! We have invited all of our Prince George's legislators to stop by and join us for an informal box lunch at noon, after which, you may meet them and hear of what they feel will be important issues in Annapolis during the coming General Assembly session.

Over the past several years, we have traveled by bus to Annapolis during March for a "Legislative Day", where we have invited our legislators to an informal lunch and chat with our members. This year we've decided to hold a different type of legislative activity, by inviting our Prince George's representatives to come and join us in Forestville.

Please plan to attend! (There is NO COST for the lunch!)



# RETIREMENT TRANSITION

## April 2007 Workshops:

- **Attended by local presidents and pre-retirement chairs**
- **“Train the Trainer” model**
- **Workshop materials including two copies of “Don’t Retire- Rewire” were given to attendees for possible replication at local level**
- **Workshop materials and books were sent to those locals unable to attend**
- **If you do not have the workshop materials, contact immediate past president or pre-retirement chair**

## Local Workshop Possibilities:

Over the past several years, we have traveled by bus to Annapolis during March for a “Legislative Day”, where we have invited our legislators to an informal lunch and chat with our members. This year we’ve decided to hold a different type of legislative activity, by inviting our Prince George’s representatives to come and join us in Forestville.

### Part of pre-retirement program

Program offered to new retirees and those recently-retired—summer or fall

## Need Help? Contact Carol Shaw, Pre-Retirement Chair

We’re looking forward to seeing you at our first MRS/PA meeting of the year, that will be held on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m., at the PGCEA Building (1800 Marlboro Pike in Forestville)! We have invited all of our Prince George’s legislators to stop by and join us for an informal box lunch at noon, after which, you may meet them and hear of what they feel will be important to you. This meeting is important to you and your general Assembly session.

COME JOIN US SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>!



# Prince George's Public School Retirees Association 2007-2008

## **President**

Bonnie Brose  
14700 Willoughby Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
301 627 1097

## **President Elect (Programs)**

Jennie Jones  
3800 Viser Court  
Bowie, MD 20715  
301 262 3828

## **Past President**

Kitty Walker  
12140 Palisades Drive  
Dunkirk, D 20754  
301 855 6239

## **Recording Secretary**

Joann Sloan  
119 East Quail Lane  
LaPlata, MD 20646  
301 653 8306

## **Treasurer (&List Serve)**

Dr. Edward Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744  
301 248 2807

## **Corresponding Secretary**

Sherry Blakeney  
3506 Jeff Road  
Springdale, MD 20774  
301 773 2682

## **Community Service Co-Chairs**

Delores Brown  
7906 Dellwood Avenue  
Lanham, MD 20706  
301 773 7245

## **Jennie Thomas**

11110 Riverview Road  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744  
301 292 7285

## **Constitution & Bylaws**

Elinor Ford  
1023 Girard Street NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
202 526 2784

## **Education & Protective Services**

Fred Novak  
10912 Bornesdale Drive  
Adelphi, MD 20783  
301 937 6606

## **Historian Co-Chairs**

Charline Jacob  
3518 Jeff Road  
Springdale, MD 20774  
301 772 6254

## **Shirley Johnson**

11701 Decesaris Blvd.  
Mitchellville, MD 20721  
301 249 6549

## **Inspirational Reader**

Martha Franklin  
2953 Edgewood road  
Bryans Road, MD 20616  
301 848 9296

## **Legislation**

Janette Wundrow  
1007 Packton Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
301 390 7324

## **Liaison/Professional**

Addie Martin  
9706 Frank Tippett Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
301 868 6081

## **Consultant**

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

## **Membership Co-Chairs**

Jane G. Jones  
5912 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
301 559 8533

## **Pat Tompkins**

7B Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301 474 3858

## **Newsletter**

Alice Hutchinson  
9026 Volta Street  
Lanham, MD 20706  
301 577 6938

## **Parliamentarian**

Edward A. Clement  
7101 E. Chesapeake Street  
Landover, MD 20785  
301 322 1685

## **Pro-Tem**

Dr. William P. Brose  
14700 Willoughby Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
301 627 1097

## **PR/Media**

Courtney Pringle  
9203 Foxcroft Ave.  
Clinton, MD 20735  
301 856 2126

## **Remembrance/Necrology**

Jannie Goldston  
35 Jefferson St., NE  
Washington, DC 20011  
202 829 8868

## **Scholarships**

Alveta S. Jones  
3113 Amador Drive  
Landover, MD 20785  
301 772 5574

## **Trips**

Charles Hudson  
3154 Gracefield Road  
Hunter Glen, #319  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
301 572 9778



## PGPSRA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MRSPA was invited to join an Education Coalition that met with Dr. Nancy Grasmick at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education in Annapolis on July 20, 2007. Betty Ann White and I represented our organization. The main topics of discussion were the High School Assessments (which showed a slight improvement this spring) and efforts to oppose any cuts to K-12 funding in the 2009 budget.

MRSPA hosted a Maryland county association President's Meeting in Odenton on July 24, 2007, for the purpose of informing the leaders of each local about the workings of our state organization. In attendance was our Prince George's President, Bonnie Brose.

The state of Maryland is facing a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall in the coming year. Some suggestions for making up the difference have been raising taxes, cutting state employees and services, legalizing gambling, and having counties fund 50% of the retirement and pension benefits. This move to assess 50% of the cost to the counties would be devastating for them. It is time for our members to begin to play a proactive role in the state budget deficit. Please contact your local legislators to let them know that we want the state to continue to fund our pension and retirement system --- not to put half of the responsibility for the cost on the individual counties. **CALL TODAY!** Call Annapolis toll-free at **301-970-5400** or **410-946-5400**, and ask to be connected to your legislator. If they don't hear from you, they'll think you are unconcerned. **Please Call!**

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Brought Forward: June 2007

Checking Account	\$4,104.92
Savings Account	\$2,979.01
Receipts	\$5,706.60
Expenditures	\$7,392.51

Balance on Hand: June 30, 2007

Checking Account	\$2,419.01
Savings Account	\$2,979.01

Total Assets \$5,398.02

E. Vest, Treasurer

## PGPSRA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

PGPSSRA, a member of Prince George's Scholarship Fund, Inc., awarded five \$2000.00 scholarships to three persons entering college this fall and to two continuing students. All five students are majoring in education.

The awardees are as follows: Aneshia Truesdale, a graduate of Central HS, will attend Clark University in Atlanta, majoring in Political Science Education; Lucy Wright, a graduate of Flowers HS, will attend Trinity University in Washington, DC, majoring in Elementary Education; William Asiedue, a graduate of Laurel HS, will attend Howard University, Washington, DC, majoring in Music Education; Danielle Miller, a continuing student at University of Maryland, College Park, is majoring in Special Education; Jessica Johnson, a continuing student at Fiske University, Nashville, is majoring in Music Education. ***Our congratulations to the scholarship recipients!***

Alveta Jones, Scholarship Chair



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee had a very successful year serving our adopted schools. We provided volunteers who assisted students and teachers, and we contributed funds to the media centers of five elementary schools. Additionally, we made a monetary donation to the Good Shepherd School in New Orleans.

We could not have completed these accomplishments without your outstanding support. Please enjoy the rest of the summer and be ready to join us this coming school year. Finally, we need new members so that we can extend our efforts to more schools.

Jennie Jones, Chair

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dues for 2007 – 2008 have been coming in steadily. It does take time for Pat, the treasurer, and me to process your payments and get a list and cover check to MRSPA. This process has resulted in some of you receiving second notices when you have already paid. MRSPA sends out the dues notices to those of you who belong to both organizations. I send out dues notices only to those who only belong to PGPSRA. We appreciate your understanding of our system. Annual dues deductions would avoid your need to write a check. Close to 1100 members do have dues deduction. We do understand that some of you do not feel comfortable doing this, however.

Pat, her husband, and granddaughter had a vacation in England and Ireland. I spent a long weekend in Ohio at a grandson's wedding. We hope your summer was good. Call if you have any membership questions (301-559-8533).

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Our constitution provides the opportunity for spouses of members to join PGPSRA too.

“Associate membership may be accorded, without payment of dues to members' spouses or surviving spouses, who are supportive of goals and purposes of the Association. Associate members shall be entitled to participate in all activities of the Association except chairing a committee, voting, and holding office. Spouses may apply for membership, and membership cards will be provided.”

If you are interested and qualify, fill out the following application.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Jane Jones  
5912 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20792-2924

Jane Jones & Pat Tompkins, Co-chairs



## BITS AND PIECES

Dr. Allan Chotiner of College Park celebrated his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday in August. (Our Congratulations!)

William (Bill) Altemus retired from the psychology department in the county in 1987. Three years later he and his wife, Evelyn (Evie), moved to Saylorsburg, PA, where they built a home that they call Tyn-y-Bryn (Welsh for house on the hill). The view there is spectacular and has brought them pleasure and solace. Bill and Evie celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2005. (\*Our Congratulations!) They have twin daughters, but sadly, they lost their son in 1993. Grandchildren and other family members live in Colorado, where the Altemuses visit yearly. Bill and his wife were part of a small group that founded the Unitarian Universalistic Fellowship of the Poconos in 1992, and they remain very involved in this endeavor. They also have attended TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) for several years --- and have lost over 100 pounds between them! Bill is currently leader of their chapter, and Evie has served as co-leader. Bill remains interested in woodworking, mainly hardwoods, with which he has made furniture and the lectern for his church. He has also served for two years on the Advisory Committee of the Monroe County Children and Youth social agency. Bill encourages anyone who would like to contact him, to do so at: [althaven@epix.net](mailto:althaven@epix.net).

Gloria Curry of Washington, DC retired as a foreign language teacher. She and her husband John celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August! (Our Congratulations!) Gloria watched proudly as John, a Tuskegee Airman, received the Congressional gold Medal of Honor in an impressive service in the Capitol Rotunda on

March 29<sup>th</sup>. The medal was presented by President Bush to over 300 of the famed original (1941-1949) pilots and other service people.

Elizabeth Driver of District Heights retired in 1990. She enjoys being a member of the Prince George's Herb Society, antiquing, doing needlework and yard work. This spring Elizabeth spent time in Tennessee and traveled to Florida and Mississippi. Sadly, Elizabeth has lost her husband of almost 60 years. She has one son in Florida and a daughter in Port Republic, MD.

James (Jim) Braswell retired from Employee Relations and Services in 1990. He and his wife, Claudette) have lived in the same house in Upper Marlboro for the past 43 years, but are now preparing it for sale. Since retiring, Jim has served as an AARP tax counselor for six years in Florida, spent time renovating houses, and is presently serving as a trustee of a large estate in the capacity of a Court Appointed Conservator. Jim is proud of his wife's Senior Olympics' accomplishments, especially the past two years when she was named "Outstanding Female Athlete" of Polk County, FL. The Braswells have twice enjoyed trips to Europe and South Africa, traveled across the USA, engaged in a memorable hike up and down the south rim of the Grand Canyon, and taken several cruises to the eastern and western Caribbean and Alaska. In 2009, they are planning to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by taking their children and 11 grandchildren on a cruise.

Phyllis LaBorwit of Bowie retired from Kenilworth Elementary in 1992. She and her husband Leo recently completed their twelfth annual walking trek from coast to coast across the Highlands of Scotland, for a distance of 200 miles through varied terrain and weather conditions!



Cloyce Spinks, of Waldorf, MD, retired from Oxon Hill Senior High in 2000. He now works as a real estate agent. Cloyce's hobbies include collecting stamps and quarters. He and his wife Josephine, a retired teacher from Charles County, who now mentors new teachers, have taken some enjoyable cruises. This past summer Cloyce and Josephine spent vacation time in North Carolina and are planning to relocate there in 2009. The Spinks have two sons and two grandchildren.

To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact Jannette Wundrow at [jannetewundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetewundrow@comcast.net) or 1007 Packton Lane, Bowie, MD 20716.

#### E-MAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

One goal of the Executive Committee is to improve communication among our members. E-mail messages can be a very effective tool in this effort. Therefore, each member is asked to become a part of the PGPSRA list serve by submitting his/her e-mail address to Dr. Vest at [drvest@prodigy.net](mailto:drvest@prodigy.net) or to Bonnie Brose [BCBrose@comcast.net](mailto:BCBrose@comcast.net). Adding your name means that you can receive reminders and updates to supplement *Echoes* which is published only five times a year. The list will not be given to any person or organization but will be used only for communications regarding PGPSRA.

#### PROFESSIONAL LIAISON

The Prince George's School System's Wellness Office has informed us that it will again, this year, provide flu shots for retirees (covered by our insurance) at the cost of \$10.00 per person. Locations will be at the sites similar to the ones they had last year (Bowie HS, Sasscer Administration

Building, High Point HS, Oxon Hill Staff Development Center, Bonnie Johns Media Center, Gwynn Park HS, Kingsford ES, and Parkdale HS) from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. The scheduled dates will be available by the end of August. Please sign up online at the Prince George's County Public Schools new website ([www1.PGCPS.org](http://www1.PGCPS.org)) or call the Wellness Office at 301-368-1638.

Addie Martin, Chair

#### NECROLOGY

##### MEMBERS

Nancy Allison	3-27-07
Evelyn Contee	3-18-07
Junius L. Jeffries	3-12-07
Marian E. Lobdell	6-08-07

No dates given for the following members:

Charlotte C. Bell	Susan Bienaisz
Nicolas G. Dounis	Rose M. McCarther
Helen M. Sheridan	Ellese M. Spriggs
Virginia A. Theis	

##### NON-MEMBERS

Gloria Bailey	Evelyn Bobo
James Crawford	Melvin Davis
Pauline Davies	Thomas Dixon
Walter Evarard	Rhonda Farewell
Elinor Fullerton	James Gardner
Susan Goins	Marie Goslin
Alvin Hall	Richard Jackson, Sr.
Leroy Jenson	Burdell Jones
Karen Lewis	Amy Libby
Evonne Lyles	James Medley
Anna Nolan	Drummond Orr
Madeline Parker	Margaret Perkins
Henry Poniatowski	Beverly Ross
Howard Sesker	Elizabeth Singleton
Thomas Slater	Robert Taylor
Susan Thompson	James Weems
Lori Woods	Marcus Wright



## TRAVELING WITH CHARLIE

Charles Hudson, PGPSRA Travel Coordinator, has organized a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Strasburg, PA, to see the production entitled *In the Beginning*. The trip, scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 2007, costs \$110.00. The price includes the round-trip motor coach transportation to Strasburg, tickets to the show, and a buffet lunch at the Hershey Farms Restaurant. The trip is sold out at the present time. However, if you wish to be put on the wait list, contact Charles Hudson at 301-572-9778.

## CRUISE ALASKA --- MAY 2007

Donald Kiah submitted this final report from Florida retirees: We had ten brave souls to take this cruise, and four of them are retired in Maryland. What an adventure we had! On May 12, we embarked in Vancouver, headed for Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, and College Fjord. After disembarking in Whittier, eight of us went by train to Denali and then on to Mt. McKinley but decided we were not brave enough to accept the challenge of climbing the beautiful mountain.

We had such a great time and hope that more of you will join us next year. Stay tuned for more information about plans for our exciting 2008 adventure.

Donald Kiah, Tour Organizer

## CARIBBEAN CRUISE 2008

The Florida contingent of PGPSRA invites you to join them for ten days, beginning on March 15, 2008, aboard a Princess Cruise Lines ship. The ship leaves Fort Lauderdale

and cruises to Aruba, Bonaire, Grenada, Dominica, St. Thomas, and Princess Cays.

The cost per person is as follows: Interior - \$899; Ocean View - \$1,099; Balcony - \$1,399; Mini-Suite - \$1699. A \$450 deposit is due September 19, 2007. Final payment is due on or before Dec. 31, 2007.

For further information, contact Jerry F. Keeney, 395 Cabana Road, South Venice Beach, FL 34293-5804; Tel: 941-493-4914; E-mail: [jerry.keeney@verizon.net](mailto:jerry.keeney@verizon.net).

For reservations contact Rose Schreckenghaust, at AAA Auto Club South, 2100 South Tamiami Trail, South Venice, Florida 34293, or phone 941-493-2100, ext. 2224 or e-mail her at [rsschreckenghaust@aaasouth.com](mailto:rsschreckenghaust@aaasouth.com). Mention Prince George's Retirees or Jerry Keeney's name to receive the low rates.

## CONGRATULATIONS:

Gloria Cobb, the PGPSRA door prize winner at our May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and luncheon.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A recent article from the MRSPA *E & PS Communicator* explains how fruit stickers tell more than prices. Pick up a piece of fruit at the grocery store, and you will notice a little sticker containing a mysterious number such as 94035. The number is a code that tells if the fruit or vegetable is bioengineered or organically or conventionally grown. Here's the key. The four-digit number means the fruit or vegetable has been conventionally grown using pesticides or herbicides. An organically grown fruit or vegetable has a five-digit number beginning with 9. Genetically modified produce has a five-digit number beginning with 8. However, stickers may soon disappear in favor of information laser imprinted into the skin, which, some say, allows for better tracking, tracing, and protection against bioterrorism.



**Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association**

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

**DATED MATERIAL**

**NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SOUTHERN MD  
PERMIT #2151**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &  
LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**

September 26, 2007  
PGCEA Building

11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting  
12:00 - Luncheon

Reservations Due - September 17<sup>th</sup>

**2007 - 2008**

Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.