

# ECHOES

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

Volume XXXXII No. 1

September 2008

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome! I hope you had a fantastic summer. The summer break is a beautiful thing. It allows us to rest, to replenish our energies, and to take a new perspective on our lives.

It is natural, therefore, that we look back with fondness on the lazy, easy days of summer, but it is also natural to look forward with equal anticipation to the 2008-2009 school year.

We will continue with past programs but look forward to new, fresh ideas from you. Our primary goal will be to increase our membership. We can't do that without your active participation and support. We are encouraging each of you to try to bring in at least one new person, a potential member, to our first membership meeting.

I look forward to working with all of you. Yes, there will be troubles; yes, there will be setbacks; but yes, there will be great accomplishments and growth. We will be part of it.

Our first membership meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at the PGCEA Building. Dr. Vest will use the List Serve to get information out to us.

Our Board of Directors is eager to serve you.

Jennie Jones

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement Pension System has begun talking to the Joint Committee on Pensions about the importance of changing from the corridor method of funding to the full actuarial method. They must convince the General Assembly to implement the change. Although this issue does **NOT** affect current retirees, our PGPSRA members can assist in this effort for change by speaking to the legislators about the importance of eliminating the corridor method of funding and replacing it with the full actuarial method to build up and sustain the Maryland State Retirement Pension System. (Currently, the system has fallen to 81% funded for teachers and 77% for other employees.)

Please remember that neither PGPSRA, nor MRSPA, will take a position on slots in Maryland. It is up to each individual to voice his opinion on the November 4<sup>th</sup> election referendum.

On a lighter note, the 2008 Maryland General assembly passed resolutions at the end of the session making the Smith Island seven layer cake the official state cake, and walking the official state exercise. So, now you can have your cake and eat it too!

Jannette Wundrow, Legislative Chair

**PGPSRA CALENDAR  
2008 – 2009**

- Sept. 10: Executive Committee/  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Sept. 24: General Meeting &  
Luncheon  
PGCEA Building
- Nov. 12: Executive Committee/  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Nov. 19: General Meeting &  
Program  
Site to be announced
- Jan. 14: Executive Committee/  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Jan. 28: General Meeting &  
Program  
Site to be announced
- Mar. 11: Executive Committee/  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- Mar. 25: General Meeting &  
Program  
Site to be announced
- May 13: Executive Committee/  
Board Meeting  
PGCEA Building
- May 27: General Meeting &  
Program  
Site to be announced
- June: Transition Meeting  
Date, time, site to be announced

Board Meetings are at 10:00 a.m.

General Meetings are as follows:

11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

12:00 noon – Luncheon

12:45 p.m. – Program

**\*\*\*JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> \*\***

***“Believe: Members Make the Difference”*** is the MRSPA motto for this year. Your Executive Committee hopes that each member will take this motto to heart and become more actively involved in the work of our local organization. This involvement can even include extending a personal invitation to other school retirees to become members of our association.

A good start would be joining us for our first meeting at 11:00 a.m. on September 24, 2008, at the PGCEA Building. It will be a time swap stories, make new acquaintances, and renew old friendships. The new President, Jennie Jones, will outline the goals, challenges, and plans for the coming year, and you will find there is a place for each of you to make your own unique contributions.

In addition, there will be a presentation on a topic of interest to all retirees – ***Increase and Protect Your Retirement Income***. The guest speaker will be Paul Hynes, Certified Financial Planner, who also happens to be a 1981 graduate of Laurel Senior High.

Lunch will be served, at no cost to members. However, you must make reservations for yourself and for any guests you may bring. To do so, you must contact President-Elect Bonnie Brose at 301.627.1087 or at [BCBrose@comcast.net](mailto:BCBrose@comcast.net). All reservations should be made by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Even if you don't order lunch, come and enjoy the program anyway. **Please plan to attend!**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report as of July 27, 2008, is as follows:

### Beginning Balance as of July 1

Checking Account	\$7182.81
Savings Account	3001.98

Receipts – Checking	1111.71
Expenditures	654.67

Receipts – Savings	3.74
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### Total Assets as of July 27, 2008

Checking Account	\$7639.85
Savings Account	3005.72

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$10645.57</b>
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E. Vest, Treasurer

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dr. Vest does a fantastic job of keeping track of our finances. However, a yearly review of the books is necessary. It is now time for the books to be audited for the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year, which ended on June 30. Volunteers from the general membership are needed to serve on the Audit Committee. Please contact President Jennie Jones or President-Elect Bonnie Brose if you are willing to serve in this particular capacity.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee of PGPSRA is launching a Scholarship Drive beginning in September 2008 and ending April 2009. This is an activity for all member-participation and we solicit your support. Last year the committee sponsored a 50/50 raffle at each meeting and netted \$531.50 towards our scholarships. Each of the

awardees received \$1200.00. This year our goal is \$5000.00, to be added to our budgeted amount of \$10,000.00 for scholarships to be awarded in May.

The levels of donations are:

Silver Contributors	\$25 - \$49.00
Gold Contributors	\$50 - \$99.00
Platinum Contributors	\$100 & above

All contributions will be accepted regardless of size.

A framed wall hanging will include all donors and will be unveiled at the May 2009 luncheon meeting and will be placed in the PGCEA Building with our other plaques.

Your check donations can be made payable to PGPSRA, earmarked Scholarship Drive, and mailed or given to the Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Alveta S. Jones, 3113 Amador Drive, Landover, Maryland 20785.

Thanks for your support and the commitment to award scholarships to at least five persons entering the teaching profession each year.

Look for a follow-up article in the next *ECHOES*.

Alveta S. Jones, Chairperson

**May 28, 2008 Prize  
Winners**

**Door Prize - Helen Butler**

**Scholarship 50/50  
Ethel L. Brown**

## **BITS AND PIECES**

Christine V. Wells of Glen Burnie retired in 2003 from Columbia Park Elementary, where she had worked as the vocal music teacher for twenty-five years. Her music career has continued. She taught music at Woodmont Academy in Howard County from 2003 until 2007; and each year she was there, her students sang the National Anthem at the Frederick Keys' opening game. They also performed at the opening of the National Catholic Educators' Conference in Baltimore in 2007 and sang at a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal Keeler and Bishop Malooly of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Christine has taught piano lessons at the Langley Park Senior Center for three years, and she is the organist at two churches, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez and Holy Rosary. She has also performed with the Greenbelt Arts Center and the Pasadena Theater Company. Christine is a member, assistant director, and board member of the Friday Morning Music Chorale. She has three adult children and two granddaughters. Her travels consist of visiting relatives on the East Coast.

Ellen Kendrick of Waldorf retired after twenty-two years as secretary at Hillcrest Heights Elementary. She and her husband Bob celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June! The Kendricks have three children, twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Ellen enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, and volunteering at her church. The Kendricks also like spending time at their condo on the beach in Ocean City. Their most recent travels have included sightseeing in Andover and Salem, MA; Kennebunkport, ME; and bi-monthly visits to Bob's twin brother in Williamsburg, VA.

James R. Matthew retired in 1990 from Oxon Hill High School. In 1994 he relocated to Asheville, NC, where he continued to officiate at football games and umpire softball for the next twelve years. James and his wife Mary Ann have traveled quite a bit since retirement, including visiting Spain and Italy three times each, England five times, and Turkey once. The Matthews have four children and eight grandchildren.

Grace Hansborough retired from Brandywine Elementary in 2001. Grace is a singer! Her voice can be heard singing barbershop harmony with the Sweet Adelines International, the Ft. Foote Baptist Church Choir, and the Potomac Harmony Chorus. Grace and her husband live in Ft. Washington. They celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last summer with a most enjoyable trip to Italy and Greece. The Hansboroughs have one married son, Mark.

Yvonne Koolhof retired in 1985 from Applegrove Elementary. She and her husband Russ live in Naples, Florida. Yvonne belongs to the Fakatchee (an environmental group), is active in her church, and meets every Friday with other writers at Hodges University, learning and receiving helpful comments about her writing. The Koolhofs have sailed on four Caribbean cruises and to the Galapagos Islands. They spend each summer visiting their four children in Maryland and Virginia. Yvonne is particularly proud of her daughter Eileen who was nominated Woman of the Year in 2003 by the Governor of Maryland for her work in transportation. The Koolhofs have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Alan Oresky retired as a music teacher from his base school, the Beltsville Academic

Center, in 2001; however, he is still very much involved in music. He continues to direct the PPCPS Preparatory (Elementary Honors) Orchestra, teach instrumental music part-time at Langley Park – McCormick and Cool Spring Elementary Schools, and give private instrumental music lessons. Alan also plays for concerts and on other occasions with adult groups in the area, and he volunteers to perform at senior citizens' centers and nursing homes. When he has free time, he enjoys traveling to the mountains or beach. Alan and his wife Diana live in Laurel. They have five children. The youngest graduated from high school this past June, and another recently graduated from college. Their eldest daughter entered the teaching profession and is an assistant professor of art at Illinois State University.

Jewell Greer retired from Hyattsville Junior High in 1974, and moved with her husband, retired Major General Edward Greer, to El Paso, Texas, two years later. The Greers celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 31<sup>st</sup> in Vancouver, BC. They have three children, four grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters. Jewell and her husband enjoy traveling both here in the U.S. and abroad, volunteering in their community, and visiting their children in various parts of the country.

Gordon Wilson of Ft. Myers, Florida, retired from Owens Road Elementary in 1984. Now that he is 91 years old, Gordon claims to have slowed down! Still he drives to Kentucky each summer to spend time at the house he built on his son's farm; being a "snowbird", he returns to Ft. Myers for the winter months. Gordon walks one and a half miles six days a week and plays golf an hour every day. He enjoys corresponding with two other retired Owens Road teachers, Janet Worthington and Juanita Eppard.

Over the years, Gordon has sailed on 91 cruises, the most recent being last January to the Republic of Panama, where he was stationed as an Air Force Combat Pilot from 1949 through 1953. Gordon has a grandson and twin great-grandchildren. Since the death of his wife Lois five years ago, Gordon has married a childhood sweetheart from Indiana.

Gaynelle (Gay) Wood retired as a vocal music teacher from Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary in 2001. She and her husband Jim live in Washington. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Gay spends her free time taking jazz piano lessons, relaxing in her Virginia beach house, and babysitting the grandchildren who live in Minneapolis and Pittsburgh. This past spring, Gay enjoyed a wonderful journey on a 90-day cruise aboard the Queen Elizabeth II, which made exciting stops in Mexico, several South American countries, some Pacific islands, Australia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Shanghai, and Japan. Gay felt especially privileged to sail on this cruise as it was the last world cruise of the QE II.

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

**ECHOES Deadline**

**NOVEMBER ISSUE**

**October 1, 2008**

**[ahutchinson00@hotmail.com](mailto:ahutchinson00@hotmail.com)**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE Award of Excellence 2007 – 2008

The PGPSRA Community Service Committee was honored with the *Community Service Award of Excellence* from MRSPA on May 13, 2008, at the MRSPA annual meeting in Odenton, MD.

The Committee has been exceptionally active in 2007 – 2008. They successfully completed several projects which provided support and encouragement for various members of our school population. Following are some of the services they provided: a.) made a monetary contribution to the Good Shepherd School in New Orleans, b.) sent back-to-school packs to Shepherd's Cove homeless shelter and a Prince George's family care center in Hyattsville, c.) sponsored three homeless students from Eleanor Roosevelt HS with graduation assistance and attire for the prom, d.) sponsored three families with Share baskets from January to June, e.) volunteered tutors for MSA testing.

The Committee's co-chairs are Delores Brown and Jennie Thomas. The members are Ethel Brown, Margaret Morgan, Gretel James, Doris Porchea, Madera Parker, Stanley Tweedy, Courtney Pringle, Mary Pannell, Addie Martin, Betty Dixon, Charlene Jacob, Rose Miller, and Katie McClellan. New members are welcome.

The next Committee meeting is at 11:00 a.m. September 10<sup>th</sup> at the PGCEA Building.

Delores Brown, Community Service Co-Chair

Congratulations to Our Community  
Service Committee

## AIRPORT VOLUNTEERS

College Park Airport will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. The oldest active airport in the world, it was the first airfield to test army airplanes used between 1909 and 1939. The Wright Brothers were among the American and European pilots who flew there.

Three of our fellow retirees are volunteers at the museum at the historic College Park Airport. **Bob Kovalchik**, who retired as coach and teacher from Parkdale High School in 1991, now serves as President of the "Field First", the air museum's fundraising arm. **Jack Crabill**, a former science supervisor, now works on support activities and projects involving the museum. He recently finished restoring a 1940 Aeronca Chief plane, which will be test-flown soon. **Dale Woodburn**, former DuVal High School principal, not only volunteers at the museum, he also teaches math at Mother Seton High School. These three fellows continue to teach, as they enlighten the public about College Park Airport and its history. Bob, Jack, and Dale invite you to visit.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Restaurant, located nearby, serves a delicious buffet lunch which comes with a discount on your ticket to tour the museum.

### WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

Keep informed by adding your name to the PGPSRA list serve. You will receive pertinent memos and updates. Send your name and e-mail address to Dr. Vest at [drvest@prodigy.net](mailto:drvest@prodigy.net).

## PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION 2008-2009

### **President**

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

### **President Elect (Programs)/**

**Past President**  
Bonnie Brose  
14700 Willoughby Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
301-627-1097

### **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**

Shirley Johnson  
11701 Decesaris Blvd.  
Mitchellville, MD 20721  
3301-249-6549

### **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**

Pat Tompkins  
7B Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-3858

### **Education & Protective Services**

Fred Novak  
10912 Bornesdale Drive  
Adelphi, MD 20793  
301-937-6606

### **Historian Co-Chair**

Charlene Jacob  
3518 Jeff Road  
Springdale, MD 20774  
301-772-6254

### **Inspirational Reader/ Membership Chair**

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

### **Legislation**

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

### **Liaison/Professional**

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

### **Consultant**

Dr. Allan Chotiner  
7405 Baylor Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740  
301-474-516

### **Newsletter**

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

### **Parliamentarian**

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

### **PR/Media**

Courtney Pringle  
9203 Foxcroft Avenue  
Clinton, MD 20735  
301-856-2126

### **Remembrance/ Necrology**

Jannie Goldston  
35 Jefferson Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20011  
202-829-8868

### **Scholarships**

Alveta 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

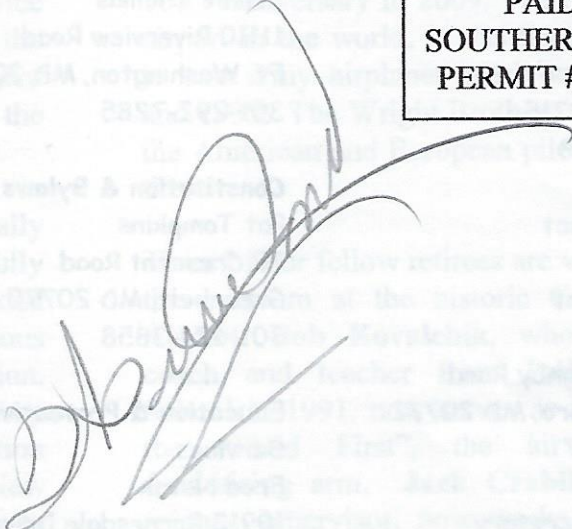
**Prince George's Public School  
Retirees Association**

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**MEMBERSHIP MEETING &  
LUNCHEON**

**2008 - 2009**

September 24, 2008  
PGCEA Building  
11:00 a.m. - Business Meeting  
12:00 - Luncheon

Do more than belong, participate.

Do more than care, help.

Reservations Due - Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>