



ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

XXXXVII No. 1

September 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thank you for the great honor you have bestowed in electing me president of this organization during the next year, 2013 – 2014. I am honored and humbled by your confidence in me. I intend to do all I can to justify your trust.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our out-going leadership, led by Past President Gretel James, for their efforts in advancing the aims of the association. No organization can survive unless people make a commitment to keep it alive. And this is a viable organization.

As your former Membership Chair, I know the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association is highly esteemed throughout the State of Maryland and beyond. I received communications from former colleagues who have moved out of state but continue to maintain their ties to this organization via our newsletter, *ECHOES*.

Your continued support is necessary for us to keep our reputation spotless. Each of you is needed: the officers, the members, the former colleagues, the out-of-towners, the uninvolved, etc. It is my hope that you will not only add your names to the roll but that you will attend at least one meeting this year and contribute your share in moving our organization forward.

We are anticipating another year of accomplishments and activities that will move us a step further towards realizing our goals of membership involvement and recruitment. There are many committees that need your help. There are many children who can still benefit from your skills, talents, knowledge, and presence.

Please join us this year; many of your colleagues are waiting to welcome you and renew relationships.

Again, thank you for your confidence, and with your help, we will have another successful year.

Lorraine W. Johnson, President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our summer season of fun and relaxation is slowly slipping away. It is time to get back to serious work on behalf of our organization. It is also time to renew our memberships and to encourage other retirees to join us.

Our May meeting was very exciting. Four seniors from Bladensburg High School, along with their parents, were our special guests. The students expressed their joy and appreciation for the support PGPSRA gave them during their senior year.

Our door prize winners at that meeting were Anthony Agbemble, Gretel James, Joann Sloan, Fran Doyle, and Sue Finan. The grand prize winner was Jannette Wundrow; the 50/50 winner was Jannette Bell.

Join us on September 25th to find out what's new with PGPSRA. Bring a new member to start the new year off right.

Charlene Jacob, Chair

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Hello everyone, my name is Sue Finan and I will be serving PGPSRA as Legislative Chair. Jannette Wundrow has guided me along for over a year and assures me that I am ready. More on that later. Now for the news:

Prince George's County Executive, Rushern Baker, has appointed Dr. Kevin Maxwell as CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools. Maxwell, who started his career in Prince George's and lives in Bowie, was approved by the Board of Education on July 9 and began work on August 1, 2013. Prior to his appointment, Maxwell served as Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. He will become the eighth Prince George's school's chief in 14 years and will draw a salary of \$290,000 per year. Segun Eubanks, the school board chairman, was quoted in *The Washington Post*, as saying, "We think we put together a contract that is going to keep an excellent superintendent a long time to come."

Moving right along:

On May 29th the Maryland Board of Public Works unanimously approved a contract to relocate the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development from its current location in Crownsville to a new mixed-use development being built in New Carrollton.

Construction of this innovative shopping center destination, transit hub and office complex will begin early next year. We anticipate that the agency, which has 380 employees, will relocate in 2015 to a newly-built complex with residential units, a grocery store, retail space and the offices of the first major state agency to be based in Prince George's County. This move demonstrates the faith that our State has in the continual improvement and prosperity of Prince George's County. We will be a strong partner in ensuring the smooth transition for the agency and welcoming this new opportunity.

At a retirement luncheon in June, Jannette Wundrow was asked, "Is gambling money going into an education fund?" After some research, Jannette was able to report the following:

(1) Treasurer Nancy Kopp's office says: There is an Education Fund that was set up three years ago, and it has been receiving funds from the state casinos. Gaming revenue from the three active state casinos - Perryville in Cecil County, Maryland Live in Anne Arundel County, Ocean Downs in Worcester County - in the year to date (June 2013) is \$121,885,562. The casinos pay 48.5% of their profits to the state. Three more casinos are scheduled to open within the next three years.

The money was never intended to be used to fund NEW programs, but to make sure we could continue to meet the large obligations to education that we've already incurred (Thornton, etc.). The money is specifically designated for education, public safety, health, and environmental programs within the school system.

(2) Neil Bergman, of the Maryland Budget & Taxation Policy Institute (whom I also contacted), says: The casino money that goes to the schools (Education Fund) does NOT ADD TO THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING for the state schools; it just relieves the need for more tax dollars to be used for education.

Here is the Medical Center update from July 25th *Washington Post*. Two sites remain in the running for a new, \$645 million regional hospital in Prince George's County to replace the financially ailing Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly and create a full-service medical campus. The board of Dimensions Healthcare System, which oversees county-owned medical facilities, voted unanimously Thursday to send letters to Maryland health officials endorsing Largo Town Center and the shuttered Landover Mall as possible locations for the hospital. The move buys officials a little more time to negotiate with representatives of the sites. The

board's chairman, C. Philip Nichols Jr., said he expects a final decision by September.

Good news from Maryland State Retirement and Pension System!

Baltimore, MD (July 16, 2013) — The Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System has been informed that its portfolio returned 10.6 percent on investments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013—exceeding the 7.75 percent assumed actuarial return rate. The 10.6% return is net of investment manager fees. The performance also exceeded the market benchmark for the total fund of 8.6%. The performance raised the assets of the system to \$40.25 billion—a total gain of \$3.2 billion for the year.

“We are happy to report preliminary returns for the year that exceed both the fund's market benchmark and the actuarial assumed rate,” said Dr. A. Melissa Moye, Chief Investment Officer. “The strong performance was driven by public equities with significant value generated from active management.”

Ah yes, now having one Legislative Report under my belt, I must offer thanks to Jannette for mentoring me. She has guided me through the State House and office buildings of Annapolis including the Prince George's County legislative offices. We have traveled up and down elevators, through parking lots and tunnels, in and out of buildings and I have met everyone and have been shown the special closets in which lunch supplies may be stored. Many thanks, Jannette.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT - JULY 31, 2013

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	17451.68
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3023.48

ACTIVITY - CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	990.55
EXPENDITURES	-	658.13

ACTIVITY - SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST	-	0.38
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BALANCES AS OF JULY 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	17784.10
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3023.86
TOTAL ASSETS	-	20807.96

E. Vest, Treasurer

PGPSRA AWARDS TWO \$2500 SCHOLARSHIPS

PGPSRA awarded a \$2500.00 scholarship to Samuel Botchway of High Point High School and to Lauren Wynn of Friendly High School. Both persons, along with a parent, were guests at our May meeting. They thanked the association for awarding them the scholarship and shared their future plans with us. Both plan to major in education: Samuel at Towson State University in Towson, MD, and Lauren at Florida Memorial University in Miami, FL.

Thanks to all of you for your support. The Scholarship Committee hopes to award at least two scholarships in the spring of 2014.

Alveta Jones, Co-Chair

A NOTE FROM SCHOLARSHIP WINNER LAUREN WYNN

My name is Lauren Wynn, and it is privilege to accept the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Scholarship. I will be attending Florida Memorial University this coming August with a full academic scholarship. My neighbor, Mrs. Cave, is an alumnus of the school and recommended I look into the school. I

would like to thank the teachers throughout my school career who took the extra time and effort to help me along the way. If it weren't for them, I would not have chosen this career path. I hope to inspire my future students to be the best they can be, just like my teachers inspired me. After graduating from college, I look forward to coming home to my roots and community to work in the Prince George's Public School System. Some of my other future goals are to travel to Europe, dedicate some time to the Peace Corps, and finish visiting all 50 states, of which I've seen fifteen. As I continue my journey into college, I know I must remain hardworking, honest, compassionate and a contributing citizen of my community. Thank you for awarding me the scholarship.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee begins this academic year with high hopes and great aspirations for helping selected schools in the central region of Prince George's County. The committee members have selected the schools where assistance will be provided. The schools are Longfield and William Beane Elementary Schools, Kenmore Middle School, and Central High School.

Letters have been sent to the selected schools expressing the desire of the PGPSRA Community Service Committee to be of service to these schools during the 2013-14 school year. When written acceptance is received, the committee will begin its work of providing school supplies, clothing, shoes, food, and graduation fees for the children and families who are selected.

The first project will be collecting school supplies. The committee is asking that PGPSRA members to assist us by bringing a donation of school supplies to our September 25th general meeting. These supplies will be sorted, bagged, and delivered to the selected schools.

The Community Service Committee continues to solicit ideas and assistance from our PGPSRA members as we embark on our mission for this school year. **Teamwork makes the dream work.**

Courtney Pringle, Newsletter Writer

MEETING SCHEDULE 2013 – 2014

(Note: All meetings will be at PGCEA Center unless otherwise noted.)

September 4 Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

September 25 General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

November 6 Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

November 29 General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

*Metro Points Hotel, 8500 Annapolis Rd.,

New Carrollton, MD 20784

January 8 Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

January 22 General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

March 5 Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

March 26 General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

*Comfort Inn, 4500 Crain Highway

Bowie, MD 20716

May 7 Executive Mtg. 10:00 a.m.

May 28 General Mtg. 11:00 a.m.

*Comfort Inn, 4500 Crain Highway

Bowie, MD 20716

PGPSRA PROPOSED TRIPS 2013-14

For the tentative date of Wednesday, October 9, 2013, a trip is being organized to the historic town of Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This town was established in 1642, and only St. Mary's City is older. The departure time is 8:00 a.m. Our first stop will be in Easton, where we will visit the 3rd Haven Meeting House, one of the earliest Quaker churches in America. Leaving Easton, we will stop at Furnace Town. In earlier times iron bars were made there for use in Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The next stop will be in Snow Hill in Worcester County. We will visit the following places: (1). Makamie Church, the oldest church in America; (2). All Hallows Episcopal Church, an historic site with some items donated by the Queen of England; (3). WhatCoat United Methodist Church, another old church named after Rev. Richard Whatcoat, who was sent to America by John Wesley. All three churches have beautiful stained glass windows and unique designs. There is no charge to visit them.

Next we will tour the town of Snow Hill, where many homes are over 175 years old. We will try to visit a renovated one-room school house as well.

No meals will be provided. Snow Hill has two fine restaurants and a fast food stop where you can buy lunch, or you may bring your own bag lunch. On our way home, we will stop at Fisherman's Inn where you can order off the menu.

The cost of the trip is about \$70.00 per person and will cover the bus, driver's tip, Bay Bridge toll, and admission to Furnace Town and the one-room schoolhouse. All meals are on your own.

For February 2014, I am planning two trips. One will be to the Dutch Apple Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see the follow-up on the show *Run for Your Wife*, which we saw earlier this year. The other trip will be to Sight and Sound Theater to see *Moses*, followed by dinner at Hershey Farms after the show. Dates and costs will be available at the November meeting.

Charles Hudson, Trip Coordinator

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday wishes to: Mr. James Nicholson of Temple Hills, who will be celebrating his 98th birthday on the 2nd; Ms. Jane Hand of Catonsville who will be having her 91st birthday on the 15th; and Ms. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis who will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 20th.

Happy **October** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Eleanor Murray of Phoenix, AZ, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on the 12th; Mrs. Beatrice Sager of Hyattsville who will be marking her 95th birthday on the 21st; and Mr.

Charley Hudson of Silver Spring who will be having his 91st birthday on the 24th.

William (Bill) Higgins of Silver Spring began his teaching career at Frederick Sasser Junior-Senior High School as an industrial arts, algebra, consumer math, and physical science teacher in 1958, and retired in 1992 from High Point High School. Upon retiring, Bill and his wife, Patricia, who retired after 46 years from the University of Maryland – Food Service Department – built an addition onto their house and installed a wood-burning catalytic stove. They have enjoyed traveling to Russia, Germany, France, Belgium, China, Thailand, the Netherlands, and the former Yugoslavia. Bill's hobby involves model railroads. He belongs to a Modular HODCC Club, whose members join in setting up the Great Scale Model Show in Timonium four times a year. He also attends the National Model Railroad Association Conventions each year. His favorite convention was in 2011 when he traveled with a group around Germany, visiting nine major cities and the Black Forest, doing many HO layouts and participating in cultural and dining experiences. The group traveled 1600 miles via ICE high speed trains doing 200 mph and diesel powered trains through the old Eastern part of Germany. Next they went to Switzerland and rode the famous Glacier Express from Zermatt to St. Moritz, finishing their tour via the regular rail system to Frankfurt before returning home. The Higgins will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary in November. Bill and Patricia have one married son and two teenage grandchildren, whom they enjoy taking on vacations with them each summer.

Jan Ritter retired from Brandywine Elementary in 2004. She and her husband Bob live on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Southern Maryland. Jan likes walking for exercise, shopping, antiquing, reading, and working crossword puzzles. However, a good portion of her retirement time has been writing a book, *Breaking the Tecumseh's Curse*, with her husband. The book tells the story of Jan and Bob's early married life, when Bob was a U. S. Secret Service agent involved in presidential protection. The Ritters have been married for over 40 years – and still cherish each day together. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially their five granddaughters.

William (Bill) Boyd of Silver Spring retired from Robert Goddard Middle School in 1996. Bill is a member of the

Travelers' Century Club, having traveled to 301 of the 321 countries and/or travel destinations listed on the *Travel Club's Travel Destinations!* (Some states such as Hawaii and Alaska are listed as travel destinations.) Now a resident of Riderwood, Bill enjoys the TV Travel shows on the Riderwood Village Retirement Community cable station. He also likes to exercise, play the piano, and cook. Bill's advice to everyone is "to eat right, exercise, stay busy, and focus on being mentally alert."

Dessamore Hillman retired from Lewisdale Elementary in 1987. After retirement she taught music and basic skills at a preschool in Bowie for ten years and volunteered at several elementary schools. Following the death of her husband of 61 years, Dessamore moved to an independent living facility in Leawood, Kansas. There she participates in water aerobics, chair yoga, bingo, and Bible study and enjoys the companionship of new friends. Her other interests include watching sports on TV, doing needlework, and making Christmas tree skirts and stockings. She looks forward to travels back to Maryland to visit family and long-time friends. Dessamore has two children and twin grandsons.

Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring retired from Beacon Heights Elementary in 1998, then went back to teach Reading Recovery for five years. She has since served as a volunteer in kindergarten and first grade at Bond Mill and Fairland Elementary Schools. Mary Lou remains active at Liberty Grove Methodist Church. She has taken cruises to Hawaii and along the east coast of the United States. For 26 years she has happily joined her family for a summer vacation at Bethany Beach, DE. Mary Lou has five children, 16 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren!

A lovely April afternoon was the setting for a special gathering of friends at the home of Thelma Boyd and Charles Nash in Cheverly, MD. The group that attended was the former Suitland Junior School faculty, who had worked together 50 years ago! Those in attendance were Nancy Meyer of Valley Stream, NY; Pete and Pat Speier of Morningside, MD; Fred and Jewel Hawkins of Annapolis; Leroy Battle of Harwood, MD; Art and Sandy Curry of Wilmington, NC; Tony Liberatore of Davidsonville, MD; Linda and Ron Campbell of Waldorf, MD; and Jan Stocklinski of Calabash, NC. Jan was a student teacher at the school before becoming a staff

member there. What an enjoyable and reminiscent time everyone had!

To contribute: Contact Jannette Wundrow at jannetewundrow@comcast.net

REMEMBRANCE/NECROLOGY



Phyllis A. Dunan	07 – 17 – 12
C. William Johnson	03 – 27 – 13
Juanita B. Lee	12 – 11 – 10
Marjorie Jean Bell Moseman	04 – 22 – 13
Thomas J. Murphy	03 – 08 – 13
Fern Novak	04 – 21 – 13
Evelyn Eckert Shank	11 – 25 – 12
Francis Thomas	03 – 27 – 13
Dr. Joyce Thomas	06 – 27 – 13
Jannie Goldston, Chair	

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES EXCEL

Prince George's Public School Retirees Association has garnered success in several areas this past year. Two committees, Community Services chaired by Ethel Brown and Scholarship chaired by Alveta Jones, have rendered exemplary service to our community.

Projects undertaken by Community Services included food baskets, supplies, shoe drives, and uniform and coat drives for both elementary and middle school students. In addition, the committee provided financial assistance to needy students which assisted in defraying their graduation and prom expenses.

Students assisted in 2012 – 2013 were from Bladensburg High School. Their counselor, Mrs. Conseulo, is to be commended for assuring that students needing assistance were served according to the committee’s guidelines. The seniors and their counselor were special guests at our May 22nd luncheon held at the Comfort in Bowie, Maryland. The students and their families received heart-felt recognition from the committee at the affair.

The Scholarship Committee has also done an outstanding job reaching out to and encouraging college-bound seniors to consider education as their career choice. Students who received the PGPSRA scholarships and their parents were also guests at the May 22nd luncheon. They expressed their gratitude and shared their hopes and dreams as future educators. (One of the recipients, Lauren Wynn, has an article elsewhere in this issue.)

We applaud the effort and dedication of the Community Services and Scholarship Committees and look forward to their continued work in reaching out to and assisting those members of the community who need a helping hand. (Submitted by Lorraine Johnson)

PGPSRA MEETING/LUNCHEON

Date: September 25, 2013
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Place: PGCEA
 Cost: \$10.00 (Box Lunch)

To make your luncheon reservation, please send your check, payable to PGPSRA for the appropriate amount to Dr. Edward Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729. The reservation deadline is September 18, 2013.

STAY CONNECTED IN 2013-14

- Attend the first PGPSRA meeting on September 25. Get firsthand knowledge of plans for the year. Bring a guest.
- Bring your suggestions and ideas to subsequent meetings.
- Join a committee or agree to hold an office.
- Join our list serve to get frequent updates on topics concerning our retirees. Contact Dr. Vest to do so.
- Visit our website at www.pgpsra.org.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF ECHOES

October 1, 2013

Prince George’s Public School Retirees
 Association

Dr. Edward N. Vest

7908 Klovstad Drive

Fort Washington, Md 20744-1729

<p>LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Lunches Ordered: _____</p> <p>Amount Enclosed: _____</p> <p>Names of Guests:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON

September 25, 2013

PGCEA Center

11:00 a.m.

Reservations Due – Sept.18

*Donations of school supplies
are welcome and so are new
members.*

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PERMIT #3070
Washington, DC