

ECHOES

Vol. L No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2015

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks

As I reflect on the mission of the Prince George's Public Schools Retirees Association, I am truly honored to serve as your president for the upcoming year. The principles of the PGPSRA will be upheld by ongoing efforts towards the following objectives:

Encourage members to continue their interest in and use their talents, training and experience in furthering the educational, social and civic growth of the community, the state and the Nation.

Keep abreast of current educational programs, as well as legislative and educational developments affecting public education.

Contribute financial aid to a scholarship fund which assists students in obtaining higher education.

Afford opportunities for united action in problem solving, as it relates to current challenges in education and other persons directly concerned with the educational problems of the County.

Cooperate with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association.



One of my major goals this year is to increase membership. MRSPA's challenge is to reach a goal of 1500 members. At present, the membership is 14,700. Judith Zahren, the Executive Director has challenged every local organization to recruit, retain and regain members by at least 2 percent or more net gain.

Our monthly meetings will resume with stimulating presentations on a variety of topics. Members will be informed about our growth from the various committees via ECHOES and other means. We will continue to receive information from local leadership on issues. Outings to theatres and other locale will provide an opportunity to grow both intellectually and socially. They will also provide an opportunity to forge new friendships, learning new things and visiting interesting places.

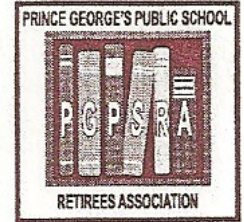
To meet this challenge, we will welcome new ideas, new faces and volunteerism among retirees. Please join us as we work together for an exciting year!

Let's Work Together!

Cordially,

MaryLouise J. Isbell

President



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We do have some great lunches! The programs are always interesting....the friendship is priceless!

Necrology/Remembrance

Sallie M. Craft	6/20/2015
Jack Hart	4/29 2015
Al Klyber	7/10/2015
Elizabeth (Betty) Stanley Lee	6/30/2015
M.Marie Parrish	4/17/2015
Yvonne Tomasello Stahl	4/01/2015
Rena Jones	4/22/2015

Two names have been submitted without dates:

Betty Green

Lesley Newsome

Jannie Goldston, Chair



Area II South Director, Howard Siskind was a visitor to our May meeting. He brought greetings from MRSPA.

Community Service Committee

“Together, Everyone Achieves More”

This year, the committee served the J. Frank Dent Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary, Fort Washington Forest Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle and Potomac High Schools. These are all in the Southern Area. We served 817 families.

Our projected projects are:

Student Workbooks (for skill building)

Coat Drive (boys and girls)

School Supplies and School Uniforms

T-shirts, socks and shoes and underwear (boys and girls)

Composition booklets, notebook paper, math flash cards and index cards

Pencils and sharpeners

End of Year Matriculation needs for three seniors (prom and graduation)

Food Baskets

The team thanks all members who helped make this year a success!

At the May meeting the following seniors from Potomac High were able to join us:

Bria Green, D’Angelo McClellan, Evelyn Williams

They were joined by their family members and school counselor!



We are looking forward to an equally productive 2015-2016 school year!

Ethel L. Brown, Chairman

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

We will soon have a facebook



DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your
MRSPA website
for special offers for you.

Visit the site often!

YOUR MONEY IS IN GOOD HANDS!

TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY – 2015

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$5806.08
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3026.50

ACTIVITY:

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	675.27
NO EXPENDITURES		

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST	-	0.38
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BALANCE AS OF JULY 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	6481.35
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3026.88

TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$9508.23
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Thank You.



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Mary Isbell (misbell3030@comcast.net)
 Past President: Dr. Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 President-Elect: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 Recording Sec.: Maryann M. Royall and Linda G. Butler
 (maryakaroyall@aol.com)(lindabl1217@verizon.net)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (drvest@prodigy.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin
 Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Consumer Ed. Open (see [Mary to volunteer](#))
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: open (see [Mary to volunteer](#))
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (J3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Webmaster: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Mary Isbell (misbell3030@comcast.net)
 Parliamentarian: Bill Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net)
 Alveta Jones (alvetajones@verizon.net)
 Trips: Charles Hudson (301 572 9778)
 Programs: Maryclaire Dunlap (beachbkmcd@gmail.com)



Thank-You plaque presented to outgoing president, Norma Martof by former president, Fran Doyle.

BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Mr. James Nicholson of Temple Hills will be having his 99th birthday on the 2nd; Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S. C., will be turning 92 years-old on the 6th; Mrs. Mildred R. Gray of Mitchellville will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 9th; Miss Jane Hand of Catonsville, will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 15th; and Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis, will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 20th.

Happy **October** birthday greetings to: Mrs. Beatrice Sager of Hyattsville, who will be marking her 96th birthday on the 21st, and Mr. Charles Hudson of Silver Spring, who will be having his 93rd birthday on the 24th.

Anita Koster retired from Parkdale Senior High School in 1986. She was a Hyattsville High School graduate, and that is where she began her teaching career in 1952. Anita participates in water exercises, indoor badminton, and reading. She has been fortunate to have exceptionally good health over the years, during which time she has cared for her mother (deceased) and her mother-in-law, who is now 106 years-old! Anita and her husband of 50 years (who got married on her lunch hour in December 1964) live in Edgewater, MD. They have enjoyed travels to Alaska, New England, and Florida.

Patricia Lowery of Fort Washington, retired from Overlook Elementary in 2010. Since retiring, she enjoys being an active member of Grace Union Methodist Church, including the Mansfield Scholarship Ministry and the Women of Grace organization, along with bowling. Patricia and her husband have had the pleasure of cruising to San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nassau, and the Bahamas, and traveling to Seattle, Reno, Myrtle Beach, and Connecticut. The Lowerys have two daughters: Alicia, who is an engineer with INTEL, representative of INTEL nation-wide "Stay With It" program and Vice-President of the Network of INTEL African Americans for the State of Oregon; and Antonia, who is autistic and non-verbal, in the CSAAC program and doing very well. Patricia had a diagnosis of breast cancer in 2012, and fortunately, after a year of surgeries and chemotherapy – and a wonderful supportive husband at her side – is now doing great!

Adrienne Cannon retired as a Spanish and Italian teacher from Roosevelt High School in 1996. Since her husband's passing, she has relocated to Greenspring Village in Springfield, VA, where she writes for the community newsletter and edits the "Greenspring Writers Guild" newsletter. Adrienne's other interests include serving as a tour guide at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., playing clarinet with the Mt. Vernon Community Bands, NOVA Campus Band, and the Windjammers Circus Band in Sarasota, FL. each winter. She has also published two volumes of reflective essays – "Journey" and "Grace Notes". Adrienne has one son, who teaches Medieval English at New York University, and two grandchildren, who live in New York and Cambridge, England. She has enjoyed travels to many places, most recently to the Baltics, Puerto Rico, and Turkey.

Mary Aist and Beatrice Aist are both county retired teachers, who present a very interesting scenario. They are married to brothers, George and Clark, both of whom are retired Methodist ministers. And, they live across the road from each other in Cheltenham, MD, on the farm that has been in the Aist family for four generations! They raise Black Angus cows on the farm. Both Mary and Beatrice and their husbands have made several trips to Germany to visit relatives of common descendants. In turn, the German relatives have been welcomed into the Aists' homes for visits to America. They are anticipating a visit from another German guest this September.

Mary Aist retired from Clinton Grove Elementary in 1989. She and her husband, George, a Methodist minister of 50 years, celebrated his retirement in June, though he still conducts services upon request in area churches. Mary and George have worked together throughout his ministry, which began in Frostburg, MD. While living there, for seven years, Mary supervised interns from Frostburg University. Mary and George have two married daughters, one who lives in Raleigh, N.C. and the other in Pittsburgh, PA. They have six delightful grandchildren.

Beatrice Aist retired from Forest Heights Elementary in 1998. She and her husband, Clark, a retired Methodist minister, enjoy life on the farm, where he serves as the cow herdsman, and continues his work in the field of spirituality and mental health. Beatrice has been very active in church life, and was the first female person on the Church Council of the United Methodist Church in Cheltenham. She is an avid reader with a passion for British drama and history via PBS. It's hard for

Bits and Pieces, Continued:

her to pass up an antique shop. A highlight for Beatrice each year, is attending her high school reunion in southeast Georgia, where she finds that her classmates seem to have more in common now, than when they were in high school! Beatrice and Clark have two sons and one daughter, along with four very special grandchildren (two of whom live in California).

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact jannettewundrow@comcast.net or 301-390-7324 (Bowie)

Legislative Report September 2015

Hello PGPSRA members and welcome back to a new year. This summer we have been reading about issues around Maryland and Prince George's County that are yet to be decided.

The Purple Line, a light-rail link between Montgomery and Prince George's counties inside the Capital Beltway, needs lots of money to become a reality. According to the 7-21-15 Washington Post, Maryland would contribute \$700 million toward the project, but the governor reduced the state's commitment to \$168 million while asking Montgomery and Prince George's counties, where the line would run, to devote more than the combined \$300 million promised. 7-24-15 Post reported that Montgomery County would contribute \$40 million, in addition to \$177 million in previously committed in-kind contributions.

Prince George's has already committed \$100 million in cash and \$20 million of in-kind contributions, such as county owned land. Thomas Himler, county budget administrator, said the county is still negotiating any further contributions and declined to say how much the state is seeking from Prince George's.

It is fair to say that there are many years between now and our first ride on the Purple Line.

Another controversial topic reported in the Post's 7-23-15 edition is County Executive Rushern Baker's proposal to house his offices and the council's in a newly purchased building at 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo. Moving the county seat from Upper Marlboro, home for nearly three centuries, would bring leaders closer to a growing commercial center in the county.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The PGPSRA Scholarship Committee held its yearly awards luncheon in May. This year we awarded 5 students with a \$2000 scholarship each. The recipients for 2015 are:

Caitlin Godforth graduated from Parkdale High School. She will be attending Prince George's Community College majoring in Special Education.

Racha Torres graduated from Saint Vincent Pallotti High School. She will be attending Virginia State University majoring in Elementary Education.

Lyanne Hunter, Junior, Stevenson University majoring in Elementary Education.

Troiah McCorkle, sophomore, at the University of Maryland majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Amanda Weller, sophomore, at Towson State University majoring in Elementary Education.

We wish these students well in their future endeavors, and we look forward to hearing about their successes.

Delores Brown and Alveta Jones, co-chairs

PGPSRA

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We're on the web!
www.pgpsra.org

See You In September!

PGPSRA Reservation Form

September 23 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center, Forestville

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Ed Vest, 7908 Klovstad Drive, Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$10.00 for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by Sept. 16 mail delivery!)**

Menu: Assorted Box Lunches