

ECHOES

Vol. LI No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2016

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

The President Speaks



Greetings PGPSRA Members,

I trust that everyone enjoyed an exciting and safe summer. Perhaps you visited an exotic place, started a new hobby, or engaged in another pleasure, or got some rest from a busy year. Now that school is back in session and fall is approaching with its cooler days, it's time to resume our good work at PGPSRA.

A special thank you to the Executive Board members who are continuing to volunteer their services this year. Our President-Elect, Mr. George Denny of Brentwood, Maryland, is the newest member of our board. He brings with him a wealth of experience having served as mayor of Brentwood, Maryland for three terms.

Our first general meeting for the 2016 - 2017 session will be on September 28th, 11:00 a.m., at the PGCEA building in Forestville, Maryland. The Honorable Maryland States Attorney, Mrs. Angela Alsobrooks, will be our guest speaker. She will discuss issues affecting senior citizen fraud and elder care.

This year our focus will be two-fold: retaining and increasing membership. Under the capable leadership of Mrs. Charline Jacob, our Membership chair, we intend to increase our membership by 2%. In this regard, please invite a new or inactive retiree to join our association this year. Encourage them to come to listen to our dynamic speakers, attend one of our day-trips, and become involved in one of our volunteer activities.

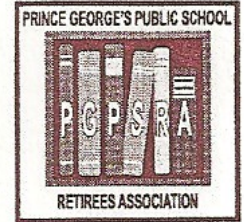
At the MRSPA Annual Business Meeting, the bylaw to eliminate emeritus membership failed. Therefore, members ninety years of age will continue to enjoy dues-less membership as they continue to receive the benefits of membership from both our local and state organizations.

We extend congratulations to Lorraine W. Johnson and Dr. Norma Martof, former presidents of PGPSRA, who will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc. on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Tickets for the luncheon are \$23.00. Additional information will be available at the September 28th meeting.

We mourn the death of Mrs. Ann B. Chotiner our former president, 1993-1994. She was the wife of Dr. Allan Chotiner for 70 years. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you as your president. I look forward to serving you. We anticipate an exciting and productive year.

Brenda Barnes, President



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BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: **Mr. James Nicholson of Louisburg, N.C., will be celebrating his 101st birthday on the 2nd**; on the 6th, Mrs. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D.C. will be turning 91 years-old, while Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S. C., will be turning 94 years-old; Miss Jane Hand of Catonsville, will be marking her 94th birthday on the 15th; Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis, will be having her 96th birthday on the 20th; and Mrs. Mildred R. Gray of Mitchellville, will be celebrating her 96th birthday on the 24th.

Happy **October** birthday greetings to: **Mr. John Jenkins** of Franklin, W.VA., who will be turning 93 years-old on the 9th; Mrs. Beatrice Sager of Hyattsville, who will be marking her 98th birthday on the 21st; and Mr. Charles Hudson of Silver Spring, will be celebrating his 94th birthday on the 24th.

Frances Herbst retired from Northwestern High School as an art teacher in 1984. She and her husband, now deceased, relocated to Ashburn, VA, in 2009 to be near their youngest daughter. Frances has two other daughters – one who lives in Morgantown, W.VA, and another in Oakridge, TN. She also has seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. After retirement, Frances worked for the next 25 years at a travel agency. She has enjoyed interesting travels to Europe, China, Japan, Thailand, and Israel, and has sailed on 16 wonderful cruises.

MaryLouise Isbell, of Capitol Heights, retired in 2003 from Gwynn Park Middle School. She also just completed her term as our PGPSRA President. MaryLouise has continued her dedication to education since retirement, serving as a volunteer in Prince George's, District of Columbia, and Charles County schools. At Eva Turner Elementary in Charles County, she received the "Volunteer of the Month Award" for her work in the Media Center and with the Book Fair. For some years, MaryLouise and her sister, Lillie James, also a Prince George's retired teacher, have been involved with the "Friends of Oxon Hill Library" organization, where MaryLouise has served as President. There, she has written grants, put up bulletin boards, and worked in the library book store. She has served as Assistant Secretary to the Washington Correctional Lay Organization. She has participated in the "Susan Komen

Race for the Cure" breast cancer fund raiser. MaryLouise has traveled extensively by plane to Greece, Spain, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Gambia, Senegal, Egypt, Australia, and New Zealand; by train across country to New Mexico; by bus to Mt. Rushmore, Maine, and Cape Cod; and by ship to cruise the Caribbean. MaryLouise has a son, who is a transportation specialist in Alexandria, VA, and two daughters; one is the Director of the Rocketship Charter School (opening in D.C. this month), and the other is a special education teacher at District Heights Elementary. MaryLouise's goals are: live life to the fullest, give back to the community, and "move" for a healthy body!

Helen W. Meredith retired from Martin Luther King Middle School in 1982. Shortly afterward, she and her husband moved to Roanoke, VA, where his work transferred him. There, Helen took a job as a guidance counselor, and worked in a school she loved for the next several years. She now lives in Salem, VA. She enjoys traveling, and just recently returned from a wonderful trip to Lancaster, PA. Helen has one son and two granddaughters; one is a doctor, and one is an instructional designer trainer. She still has fond memories of her time in Maryland.

Donald (Don) Conway retired in 1996 as a physical education teacher from Ridgecrest Elementary. He and his wife, Joyce, a retired Montgomery County teacher, live in Beltsville. Don is our most competent PGPSRA Historian, snapping photos regularly, then putting them on his computer screen, and running them throughout meetings, to let our members see our "past history". Don is a devoted member of the American Volkssports Association, walking many miles each year in capital cities of each state. Don has a marvelous, extensive collection titled "Moveable Museum of African American Memorabilia". He also has a large collection of stamps depicting African Americans. Don's latest hobby is "Geocaching". This is a worldwide modern day treasure hunt, where a GPS receiver is used to navigate you to the location of the treasure. The treasure is the Geocache. There are more than 2 million hidden worldwide. To date Don has found 900 caches! He was named Geocacher Rookie of the year in 2015, and was recognized in the Maryland Geocaching Society's newsletter and magazine. The Conways have one son and daughter-in-law, and a teenage grandson.

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BITS AND PIECES CONT'D

Elizabeth (Liz) Vanden Heuvel retired as principal of Frances Fuchs Special Center. She and her husband, Dr. Richard Vanden Heuvel, a former Prince George's County School Evaluator for Title I Programs, reside in Annapolis. They recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary. After retirement, Liz went back to college and became a family therapist for several years. Now, she volunteers for several community endeavors in Annapolis. The Vanden Heuvels have three grandchildren, two great grand-daughters, and two adult children, including a son, Rick, living in upstate New York, and a daughter, Sandra Herbert, who is a retired Prince George's County teacher, now living in Harford County, where her daughter teaches!

To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or phone:301-390-7324

WELCOME!

In the summer of 2016 I hope you got to visit with some of your former co-workers and invited them to join PGPSRA. When you wrote letters to ones who have left this area, you asked them if they were keeping up their membership to PGPSRA. If you met new retirees you gave them pens or membership forms for contacting PGPSRA and joining . YOU are our best advertisers! YOU know the information you get from PGPSRA. YOU know the efforts PGPSRA puts into going to Annapolis to ensure that our representatives are working to keep our pensions funded. YOU can tell anyone that PGPSRA is the ONLY local organization that helps to keep retirees and their benefits on the minds of Prince George's county elected officials. During the summer of 2016 and in the future , what YOU do will keep PGPSRA strong. I hope to see you at the September meeting as we gather to ask members to join in activities that will let the community know that PGPSRA is an organization that not only helps it's members but is active in helping citizens of Prince George's County!

Charline Jacob- Membership Chair



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Lorraine & Eugene Johnson celebrating 54 years of marriage are being profiled in the "Jumping the Broom" exhibition at the Douglas-Banneker Museum, in Annapolis, Maryland. Nine married couples with over 50 years of marriage were selected to display their wedding pictures. Lorraine also penned a Poem "The Golden Years of Love" which is being displayed. The exhibition is free and will be open until November.

Community Service Committee

"Together, Everyone Achieves More"

The Community Service Committee is looking for members!!

Interested PGPSRA members should contact:

Ethel Brown at 202 581 0740



Prince George's County Board of Education Recognizes Prince George's Public School Retirees Association

by Dr. Norma Martof

During an executive board meeting in 2015, Dr. Ed Vest, a champion and dedicated Treasurer of PGPSRA, noted the amount of money PGPSRA has contributed to scholarships and to the community service projects from 2007 – 2014. He wished that the school system knew.

PGSRA's board properly moved and seconded a motion that then President Norma Martof write a letter to the Prince George's County Board of Education telling about our contributions to students, schools, and the community. Recognized by MRSPA, our Community Service Committee has also received honorable mention at the national level.

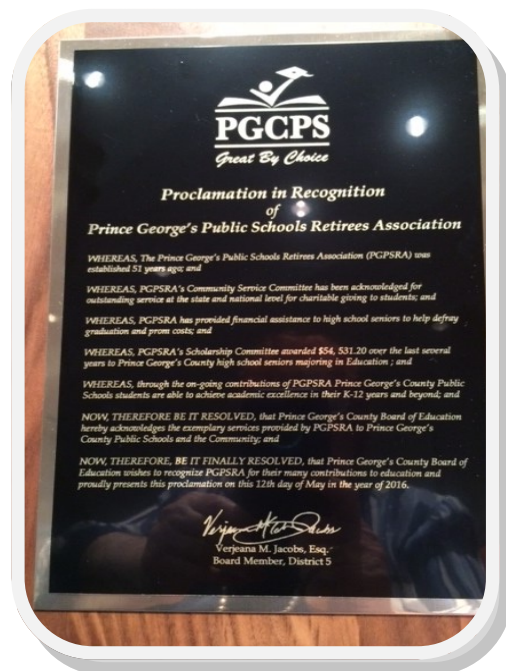
Pursuant to the executive board's motion, I wrote a letter to Dr. Segun Eubanks, Board Chair, and to Mrs. Verjeana Jacobs in May 2015 containing the following information: "The scholarship committee will award five \$2000.00 scholarships to five high school seniors who plan to major in the field of education and pursue a career in teaching. From 2007 - 2008 through 2013 - 2014 the total scholarships awarded amounted to \$54,531.50. Community service activities include the collection and delivery of school supplies, shoes, and coats to students; providing food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day; and providing financial assistance to high school seniors to help defray graduation and prom fees. From 2007 - 2008 through 2013 - 2014 the total contribution amounted to \$33,353.22.

At the fall and spring Board of Education pre-retirement seminars, PGPSRA members continue to assist the school system by registering participants. We also distribute information about PGPSRA and MRSPA to encourage new retirees to become members.

ECHOES, our newsletter, is now online. Echoes, published five times annually continues to keep our members informed about news items, events, and updates about members. We often hear from members who have relocated.

The Legislative Committee represents us each Friday morning at the Prince George's County delegation meeting during the legislative session."

PGPSRA members were invited to the Board of Education meeting held on May 12, 2016 to be recognized and presented a proclamation by Mrs. Verjeana Jacobs, Esq. Twelve members attended. We plan to display this proclamation, in the form of a permanent plaque, at the PGCEA Center along with PGPSRA's additional accolades.



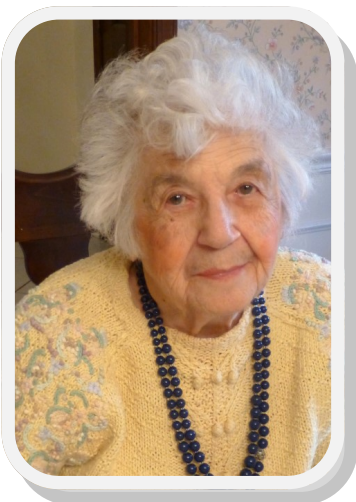
BYLAW CHANGE

The following bylaw was adopted at the May 2016 meeting.

It now reads: "All retired teachers and other Board of Education personnel who are receiving retirement allowances from the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System are eligible for membership upon payment of annual dues. Membership shall include enrollment as a member of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA)(effective July 1, 2017) Current local only members before this date shall be allowed to continue as such.

Rationale: It has become more and more apparent that the work of our local association is enhanced by the work done at the state level. This bylaw change would make our bookkeeping more efficient and would give our membership more information about their retirement situations and present them with more benefit options.

Brenda Barnes, President



Ann B. Chotiner

Our meetings have not been the same since the Chotiners have not been able to attend. We miss them and their contributions to the county. Ann was a past president of PGPSRA.

Necrology/Remembrance

Ann Chotiner	07/19/2016
Martha A. Duckett	06/05/2016
Louis Edward Witt	05/25/2016
Alethea Ann Burt	05/22/2016
Loveyann T. Calloway	05/03/2016
Jeannine Jo Larue	05/04/2016
Eric Griffith	05/10/2016
Diana Kaspen	04/30/2016
Dessamore Hillman	07/27/2016

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@verizon.net)

Past President: Mary Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

President-Elect: George Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.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 (amartin668@aol.com)

Comm. Ser: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)

Inspirations: Lorraine Johnson (johnson6608@comcast.net)

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: Fran Doyle (penguincl@msn.com)

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: Bonnie Curry Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)



TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY – 2016

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$5805.45
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3028.02

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	1410.32
EXPENDITURES	-	0.00

ACTIVITY –

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST	-	0.38
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BALANCES AS OF JULY 31, 2016:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	7215.77
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	3028.40
TOTAL ASSETS	-	\$10244.17

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer

About our Officers for 2016 – 2017

By Dr. Norma Martof,

Nominations Committee Chair

Brenda L. Barnes, President was installed as the President of PGPSRA May 25, 2016. Mrs. Barnes retired from the Prince George's Public School System after 34 years of service as a first grade teacher initially followed by serving as a guidance counselor at all levels.

Active in PGCEA Mrs. Barnes chaired the Nominations, Elections, and Credentials Commission; the Sick Leave Bank; and Faculty Advisory Committees (FAC) at numerous schools. Active in the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA), Mrs. Barnes served on the following committees: Resolutions, Black Caucus, and Minority Affairs.

Mrs. Barnes enjoys many volunteer experiences. She is active in DKG International Education Society, a group of key women educators. She is Secretary of the Bereavement Committee at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, Md. Additionally, she served as a leader for the Girl Scouts of America for eight years and a Mentoring Sponsor at Nicholas Orem Middle, Valley View Elementary and Parkdale High School.

She received her Bachelors degree at the District of Columbia Teachers College and her Masters of Psychology at Bowie State University.

Brenda and Paul Barnes have been married for 44 years. They have five adult children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She spends time caring for her husband and enjoying their grandchildren. She substitutes as a counselor to assist students attain their higher educational goals.

Linda Gray Butler, Co-Recording Secretary, was born and raised in what was then Lakeland, Maryland in the College Park area. She attended first grade through graduate school in Prince George's County, and taught for 39 years in the county. Mrs. Butler's last 30 years of teaching were at James Ryder Randall Elementary School where she taught first grade. Having a love for youth, she still substitutes four to five days a month.

She retired in 2004 when she got her calling from above that said, "You've done a great job and can now rest and enjoy the rest of your life." Ms. Butler stays very busy with many activities. She's very active with her church on all levels and travels to many conferences. She loves going to New York to see plays. She's in two book clubs as well as a game group called Eight is Enough. She constantly goes out to lunch with many friends she has met over the years.

Mrs. Butler is a widow with one lovely daughter, Taryn and son-in-law Maurice. She still says the best is yet to come as she continues to enjoy life

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VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and
www.PGPSRA.org

If you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr. Vest

DISCOUNTS!!

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

Visit the site often!



OFFICERS, CONT'D

George Denny enthusiastically answered my plea in *Echoes* to serve as the President-Elect. A member of PGPSRA since retiring in 2000 after serving 33 years in Prince George's Public School System, Mr. Denny was a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator serving at the following schools: Buck Lodge, Nicholas Orem, Walker Mill and Eisenhower Junior Highs, and Gwynn Park High School. He was rehired at Frederick Douglas High School for two years following retirement in 2000.

He attained both a Bachelors in 1967 and a Masters in 1972 from the University of Maryland.

Mr. Denny served 26 years as Council member and Mayor for the Town of Brentwood. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Educational Systems FCU and King Lion (President) for the Mt. Rainier-Brentwood Lions Club.

In addition, Mr. Denny is a published author of three books on local history. He operates his own flea market business on weekends. He has travelled extensively in Hawaii and Europe as the son of a career Air Force Veteran.

Courtney Pringle presently serves as Corresponding Secretary and is a member of the Community Service Committee. She joined PGPSRA upon retirement in 2004, and immediately volunteered to serve.

She enjoys life away from the association by being an active member of a sizzling social group that meets twice a week, travels to exciting places to acquire knowledge, and communes for lunch in exciting restaurants. She is having a ball!

Ms. Pringle tutors anyone in need of help. She travels and reads when she can. She enjoyed dancing weekly until "yanked" to attention by her degenerating spine. She is presently working her way back to the dance floor and looking forward to the next chapter of her life. She says, "Life is truly great."

Maryann M. Royall currently serves as Co-Recording Secretary to PGPSRA. She is a retired reading specialist from James Ryder Randall Elementary in Clinton. Ms. Royall enjoys reading, word finds, and baking sweet treats to share. During her free time, she likes to travel and visit with family and friends. She is active in her Church, Sorority, and book club.

Dr. Edward Vest holds four degrees from George Washington University concluding with his attaining an Ed. D. in 1972. He continues to be active in many organizations at GWU including being Executive Director of Phi Delta Kappa for 29 years and a member since 1965. A Charter member of the National Council for the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, he is still active with the Alumni Emeriti Society at GWU. Dr. Vest is also a member of NEA, MSEA, and NASSP.

Dr. Vest taught French and coached Baseball beginning in 1959 through June 1965 at Oxon Hill High School. In August 1965 he began serving as Vice Principal at Crossland High School until July 1983 when he became Vice Principal at Friendly High School until July 1989. In 1991 he was Assistant Principal at Boys School – Islamic Saudi Academy until 2002.

Dr. Vest became a member of PGPSRA in 1989 and has provided dedicated service as PGPSRA's Treasurer since 2003.

SCHOLARSHIPS

At our May 25th PGPSRA luncheon meeting, Alyssa Boyd, our 2016 Scholarship recipient, was introduced to members and friends. Co-Scholarship Chairperson, Alveta Jones stated that Alyssa, a 2016 graduate of Fairmont High School, was actively involved in many service activities in her school and church community. She was a member of the Academic Honor Roll and earned multiple college credits in the Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement Courses while serving as Class President and providing leadership in many high school extracurricular activities and being involved in many youth activities at her church.

Alyssa was invited to share her one-page essay with us that she had submitted to the Prince George's Scholarship Fund, Inc. explaining her intended contribution to the teaching profession. Her reading was enthusiastically received!!

In that many of our members were not present, the Scholarship Committee wants to share her writing with you. Read!! Enjoy!!

“As an aspiring teacher, the quality of the youth education has been a major concern of mine. The way teachers interact with students contributes largely to the amount of effort students put into their studies. As a student who grew up in the public school system, I had a chance to see firsthand what it is that my peers and I need to succeed. When I become a teacher, I will provide many of those things to my future students. Along with my creativity and passion for education, I will contribute my knowledge of how the public school system affects its students. I will also provide support for those students who need it.

As an individual who grew up in the technological era, I will be more attuned with the learning style of the next generation. For example, our teachers were taught using encyclopedias and chalkboards; I was raised with the increasing popularity of the internet. In the future, most assignments and lesson plans will be given and turned in online. Adapting new methods to complement youth behavior is key, because the more educators understand about how students learn, the greater our chances of success teaching them, and ultimately improving their overall learning experience.

Within the classroom I look forward to not only being able to successfully teach each lesson in a clear and interesting manner, but also to be a trusted source of support and inspiration to students. I want my passion for education to spill over onto my students by developing a syllabus to fit the way they learn and help with their academic needs. I can help them reach their full potential, be it academics, leadership, or service. I hope to further contribute to my profession by partnering with neighborhoods and other local schools to take education to the next level in combining curriculum with community to broaden the horizons of every student. My ultimate goal is to ensure that the standard curriculum in each school equips students with the knowledge they need to prepare for higher education.

I believe that as a dedicated college student who is willing to research and commit to the betterment of the public school system I can greatly contribute to the teaching profession and make education an inspiring and well supported endeavor. My passion is to teach and bring up others to realize their own potential for success. I am confident that in becoming a teacher I will contribute interactive and engaging lesson plans, and serve as a supportive and caring mentor figure to students unsure about where their education is taking them.”

Alyssa will be entering Towson State University in the fall, majoring in Secondary Education, with a focus in counseling.

Alveta Jones and Delores Brown, Chairmen



Legislative Report

Legislative Report September 2016

Having moved through a very hot summer, we are now into an equally “warm” campaign season. We must stay informed on issues pertaining to education, families, health care and retirement. I encourage you to attend your PGPSRA meetings and become involved in our organization. Also, check in on MRSPA for the latest Legislative updates and to become acquainted with the new Director, Shachar Weizeman. Looking forward to visiting with you at our next PGPSRA meeting.

Sue Finan Legislative Chair



Meet our September Speaker!

Angela Alsobrooks is the State's Attorney for Prince George's County. She will be at the meeting on Sept. 28th to talk with our members. She is the first woman to be elected to this office and she is a life-long member of the county. She lives in Upper Marlboro with her daughter, is a member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden and of Delta Sigma Thjeta Sorority.

Come and meet her and find out what she has to share with retired educators and ask her questions that may be on your mind!

PGPSRA Reservation Form

September 28 at 11:00 A.M.

PGCEA Center

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 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____

(We need the count by the Sept. 21 mail delivery!)

Box Lunch



PGPSRA

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

Editor:
Bonnie Curry Brose
bcbrose@comcast.net



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

Next Meeting

September 28, 2016

PGCEA Center, Forestville

11:00 a.m.

