

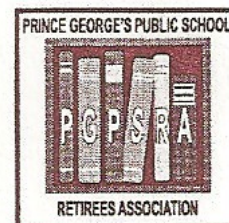
ECHOES

Vol. LII No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2017

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



Greetings PGPSRA Members,



Summer seems to have flown by, but we trust you were able to take a vacation, start a new hobby, visit with family and friends or simply relax at home. Now it's time to get back to the outstanding services performed by volunteer members of PGPSRA.

Under the leadership of outgoing President Brenda Barnes PGPSRA committees were active on a number of fronts on behalf of our members. The **Community Service Committee** provided food baskets, school supplies, clothing, shoes and other items to children and families, as well as financial assistance with prom and graduation fees to the neediest or homeless high school seniors. The **Scholarship Committee** provided financial aid through a scholarship fund to assist two students in obtaining higher education. The **Legislative Committee** organized a field trip to Annapolis to talk with State Legislators regarding proposed laws that could affect education, and our volunteer **Board of Education liaison** kept us abreast of actions that impact our retirement benefits.

General Membership meetings offered stimulating presentations on a variety of topics. Members are informed about our growth from the various committees via, the ECHOES newsletter and other means. Dr. William Brose is currently redesigning our Website to make it much more informative. The first General Membership meeting of the new year will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m., at the PGCEA Headquarters building in Forestville. Details and reservation information will appear in the September issue of ECHOES, as well as via an e-mail blast from our Treasurer, Dr. Ed Vest.

Three of our members have been nominated to the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame in the Fall. Congratulations to Lillie James, MaryLouise J. Isbell, and Dr. William Brose for their nominations.

Addie Martin and Nicole Dias have volunteered to take on the Trips/Travel duties formerly held for many years by Charlie Hudson, who finally decided to pass the baton to others. Charlie was recognized at the May meeting for his outstanding service to PGPSRA members. Look forward to a number of opportunities to forge new friendships, learn new things and visit interesting places in the coming year.

Brenda Barnes and Jayne Johns have agreed to head an Ad Hoc committee to provide a senior outreach program for members who are not able to attend meetings, and Membership Chair Charline Jacob is ramping up efforts to retain current members and add new ones. If you would like to assist in either of these efforts, please let the chairs know.

It is impossible in this space to highlight all of the exciting things that PGPSRA members are doing for the benefit of the community, but one thing is for sure. We could do even more with your help. We welcome new faces, new ideas and volunteerism among retirees. Mark your calendar for the September meeting and plan to attend. Bring a friend. Join us as we work together for another exciting year!

George D. Denny, Jr.
President

Inside this issue:

President's Report	1
Bits and Pieces	2
Speaker for September	3
Community Services	
Meeting Dates	4
Officers And Chairs	
Remembrance	
Health Benefits Change	
Membership	5
Legislative	6
Treasurer	6
Scholarships	7
Trip	8
Need for Pres. Elect	9
Reservation form for Lunch	9



BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: **Mr. James Nicholson of Louisburg, N.C. will reach 102 years-old on the 2nd**; Mrs. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D.C., will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 6th; Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S.C., will be having her 95th birthday also on the 6th; Miss Jane Hand of Catonsville, will be marking her 95th birthday on the 14th; Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis, will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 20th; and Mrs. Mildred Gray of Mitchellville, will be marking her 97th birthday on the 24th

Happy **October** birthday greetings to: Mr. John Jenkins of Franklin, W.VA, who will be having his 94th birthday on the 9th; Mrs. Beatrice Sager of Hyattsville, will be marking her 99th birthday on the 21st; and Mr. Charles Hudson of Silver Spring, who will be celebrating his 95th birthday on the 24th.

Crystal Morris of Adelphi, retired from DuVal High School in 1995. She has since, volunteered at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, where she has currently donated 41,095 hours of service! She enjoys reading and exercising and traveling with her husband, Warren. They have cruised in the Caribbean many times, and visited Mexico, Aruba, and Williamsburg, VA. Crystal has been actively involved with the Washington, D.C. Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and attended their National Convention in Las Vegas in August. The Morrisses have two adult sons and three grandchildren.

Dr. Karol Thompson retired from Suitland High School in 1992 – and again in 1997 from Suitland School for the Arts. She moved to Beaufort, South Carolina last year, where she is continuing with her interest in the arts. Karol enjoys working in her own art studio. She held a recent one-person art show at the Charles Street Gallery in Beaufort. Her travels this year have included Germany and the Netherlands.

Judy Moore of State College, PA, retired in 2003 as Music Department Chair from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She has continued her work with music by serving as director of a flute group “Toot-in-Common” and as a member of the St. Andrews Episcopal Choir. She attends the yearly National Flute Association Meetings, and participates in yearly travels with the International Flute Orchestra – this year to Ireland. She also enjoys spending vacations at her “time share” on Hilton Head Island. Judy has one daughter, Victoria. Sadly, she lost her husband and adult son some years ago. She has two valued pet mini-doxies, Rex and Lucy, who keep her smiling.

Helen Bonfield, of Crofton, is turning 90 years-old his month. She has interesting memories of her teaching career in the county school system. She began as a volunteer parent at Bradbury Heights Elementary (selling savings bonds in the hallway in the 1950's), when she was asked by the principal to substitute for an absent teacher one morning. Helen soon became the most popular sub in the school, and was encouraged to get her teaching degree. She entered Prince George's Community College when it was just beginning to be built; education classes were held in Suitland High School. Within a few years, she enrolled at the University of Maryland to earn her elementary teaching degree, and was assigned (by choice) to do her student teaching at Bradbury Heights. Helen went on to receive her masters' degree – and became an enthusiastic teacher. She kept maps open on a table in her home, and with her teaching curriculum in mind, and her children's participation, planned trips each summer to the places about which she taught. She made slides of points of interest in each place, and brought them back to supplement her social studies teaching. As her children grew older, she planned extensive trips to all 50 states, Arctica and Antarctica, seven continents and seven oceans. Helen retired from Highbridge Elementary. She was married to a Navy career man, who has since passed away. They lived for a time in San Diego, where he was stationed. Helen has two adult children and three grandchildren.

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



A Conversation with CEO, Prince Georges County Public Schools

By Dr. Norma Martof



Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO of Prince Georges County Public Schools will be our honored guest speaker at the general membership meeting of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA) on September 27, 2017 at the PGCEA Center located at 8008 Marlboro Pike in Forestville. This meeting will begin at 11:00 a. m. (See the form in this newsletter to register.)

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

[PGCPSRA Community Services Committee](#)

We, the "Team", thank all of those who have supported us the fiscal year 2016-2017. Our services assisted 2,063 students. The needs are constant and on going. We are proud to serve. Services were rendered to:

Andrew Jackson Academy, Capital Heights Elementary, Largo High School, North Forestville Elementary, and William Paca Elementary.

This year, we assisted our first set of twins at Largo High School, Ashley and Zachary Windsor. They and their parents Mr. Steven and Mrs. Regina Windsor attended our spring luncheon. Also, DaSchmiere Fenwick and her mother, Lakeisha Fenwick attended and they were accompanied by Mr. Harold Smalls from Largo.

The Committee also hosted Jabari Reddock and her mother Mrs. Maureen Reddock, Talaya Trotter and her mother Mrs. Taria Graham. Their Counselor, Mrs. Monet Hawkins and Jr ROTC Instructor, Major Gerald Barnes were able to join us.

Ethel Brown, Chairman

"TOGETHER, EVERYONE MAKES THE DREAM WORK"

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Board	General Meeting
Sept 8	Sept 27
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Jan. 3	Jan. 24
Mar. 7	Mar. 28
May 2	May 23

REMEMBRANCE

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Lina E. Bowers	06/28/2017
Dennis Curry	07/03/2017
Ann Marie Garofalo	06/27/2017
Carolyn Elizabeth Glover	07/05/2017
Geneva L. Halsey	06/24/2017
Joyce Ann Henderson	05/01/2017
Brenda Brown Jones	07/12/2017
Clifford E. Lancaster	07/05/2017
Kathleen Elizabeth Thomas Patterson	05/08/2017
Beatrice K. Sager	07/04/2017
Dr. Dale Bryant Woodburn	06/28/2017

Jannie Goldston Chair

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny, Jr (george.dilden@yahoo.com)
 Past President/Nomimating: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com)
 President-Elect: VACANT
 Recording Sec.: Nicole Dias (nicoledias134@gmail.com)
 Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)
 Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)
 Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)
 BOE Liaison: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)
 Bylaws: Marylouise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)
 Comm. Service: Ethel Brown (elbrown45@verizon.net)
 Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)
 Historian: Don Conway (donjoy5@comcast.net)
 Inspirations: Gretel James (Gret22@msn.com)
 Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77!gmail.com)
 Membership: Charline Jacob (j3518acob@aol.com)
 Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)
 Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof
 Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)
 Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinc1@msn.com)
 Remembrance: Jannie Goldston (clay1231@verizon.net)
 Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net) & Brenda Barnes
 Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net & Brenda Barnes
 Trips: Addie Martin and Nicole Dias

Health Benefits Changes! Come to the Meeting in September for Information!!

Prince George's County Public School System (PGCPS) is transitioning to a new Medicare Part D prescription plan effective as of January 1, 2018. All retired members who are in the CVS/Caremark prescription plan and receive Medicare may want to attend our September 27, 2017 General Meeting at 11:00 am. Two representatives from the Benefit Office will be present to present the new plan and the importance of Medicare recipients responding to the correspondence they will receive in the mail regarding the change. Also, there is new information regarding PGCPS and the Kaiser Permanente Insurance Company.

Addie Martin
 Professional Liaison

MEMBERSHIP

Membership

How was your summer? Hope you have done some exciting things that you can share with members at our September 27, 2017 meeting. If you took trips or did unusual activities please bring pictures and items to share.

The Membership Committee is charged with coming up with programs-projects-events-etc. that will hopefully encourage more BOE retirees to become members of MRSPA/PGPSRA. Please consider joining with other members to make this a productive committee.

You should send your information to me at j3518acob@aol.com -or phone **301-772-6254** to let me know you are willing to join this committee. Please contact me by Friday, September 15th. If possible we could meet during the week of September 17-23 and have a meaningful report to share at the meeting on the 27th.

Charline Jacob- Membership Chair



join

CAN YOU NAME THESE PEOPLE?

If you can not.....attend our next meeting and find out who they are!



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Report September 2017

The Maryland State Retirement System posted a 10.2% return for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The expected return was 7.55%, so this was a bonus return! As of June 30th, the pension fund stood at \$49 billion, thanks greatly to the improving economic growth across the globe, along with stabilization in renewable energy markets.

Your Legislative committee will continue to keep up with issues pertaining to retirement funding and issues that are relevant to seniors. If you would be interested in joining us, we would be happy to have you. See you at our next general meeting.

Sue Finan, Legislative Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY 2017

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	\$ 626.53
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2029.53

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	-	785.20
EXPENDITURES	-	225.00

ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

INTEREST	-	0.35
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BALANCES AS OF JULY 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	-	1186.73
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	-	2029.88

TOTAL ASSETS		\$3216.61
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Thank you.

Edward N. Vest
Treasurer

Prince George's Public School Retirees Association

Congratulations on your induction into the 2017 Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame



MaryLouise J. Isbell



Dr. William P. Brose



Lillie B. James

Thank You For Your Volunteer Services!

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

www.MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

If you have not already done so,
send your email address to Dr. Vest
To get the latest, quickest news.

DISCOUNTS!!

Check out **Abenity** on Your MRSPA website
for special offers for you.
Visit the site often!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

PGPSRA 2017 scholarship awardees, Elisabeth Ramos from High Point High School and Eberechukwu Goodness Nwaneri from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, addressed the members and guests at the May PGPSRA luncheon meeting. Both awardees were very passionate in detailing their reasons for wanting to enter the teaching profession and they thanked us for providing a \$ 2500.00 scholarship. Elisabeth is enrolled in a summer program at University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland and will continue her studies in Education there in the fall. Goodness will enter Towson State University, Towson, Maryland, majoring in Education this fall. Congratulations to Elisabeth and Goodness!!!

Leah Fowble was the 50/50 scholarship winner and she donated her \$98.50 winnings to the Scholarship Committee. Susan Fortang donated her \$25.00 door prize to the Scholarship Committee. Thanks for their contributions!!!

I write this last column as the outgoing Scholarship Co-Chair, having served as Chair and/or Co-Chair for the last ten years. Even though I have served as a member of the Executive Committee since 1981 as Treasurer, two one-year term as President, and Chair of Membership, Education and Interpretation (now Consumer Education) and Telephone Tree, I have found my time working with the Scholarship Committee most rewarding. Having conversations with persons planning to enter teaching and listening to their stories of teachers who impacted their lives and encouraged them, and then planning to follow in their footsteps, make all of us who have been in the teaching profession, proud.



Delores Brown is continuing as Scholarship Co-Chair and Brenda Barnes is joining her as Co-Chair. I know they will be a great team and I wish they and their committee a great year together.

Alveta S. Jones, Out going Scholarship Co-Chair



PLEASE JOIN US!
PGPSRA
Prince George's Public School Retirees Association



TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE

5900 Symphony Road, Columbia, MD
 Wednesday, October 25, 2017
 Buffet served from 10:30 am – 11:45 am
 Show starts at 12:30 pm
 Cost - \$85.00 per person

Bus will leave from the PGCEA Building on 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD at 9:00 am

Trips/Travel Co-Chairs Nicole Dias & Addie Martin
 Nicole Dias – 240-299-3957
 Addie Martin – 301-868-6081

Deadline: Make payment to PGPSRA - Due Sept. 15, 2017
 Mail to: Addie Martin, 9706 Frank Tippet Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

THANK YOU CHARLES HUDSON

Most of you are aware that Charley Hudson has been planning and leading our trips for many years. Due to health issues, he has decided to turn over this responsibility to Nicole and Addie. They have big shoes to fill, but will do their best to carry on the tradition of offering venues to us. Please take time to thank Charley for his service to us when you see him. He has been a wonderful addition to our associa-

Plea for a President Elect for 2017 – 2018

By Dr. Norma Martof

PGPSRA members, our organization has a vacancy for President Elect for 2017– 2018. Here are several reasons why filling this vacancy is so critical.

The first of these reasons is that the President-Elect receives a foreshadowing of his/her future role and responsibilities as president. You only need to be willing to accept this position. Help as needed will be available from several sources.

The second reason is that our President will welcome the support a President-Elect provides. The third and most important reason is that we all enjoy and want PGPSRA to continue. The best way is to have a President-Elect on board. What happens if we come to the end of 2017-18 with no one on board to take the reins?

Please, seriously consider stepping up and serving as the 2017-18 President-Elect with President George Denny and the other members of the executive board. It is not too late.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Brenda Barnes, Immediate Past President.



PGPSRA Reservation Form

September 27, 2017 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 \$15.00 (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____ **(We need the count by the Sept. 20 mail delivery!)**

Buffet

Herb Roasted Chicken, Grilled Salmon, Roasted Potatoes, String Beans

Water, Iced Tea

Dessert

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 27, 2017

PGCEA Center

11:00 am

