

ECHOES

Vol. LIV No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

Sept. 2019

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

From the President:

If we all managed to survive the intense heat of the last two months, it is not unreasonable to believe that we can survive anything. We hope that despite the extreme weather fluctuations you were able to enjoy your summer, and that you are eager to begin another exciting and successful year.

This time last year PGPSRA President Lorraine W. Johnson was pointing out that our members are doing an excellent job of presenting outstanding programs and serving the many needs of our schools and communities. That did not change in the ensuing year. We continued to provide meaningful activities to keep our members involved, while advancing our goal of working with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) to monitor our pensions and support pertinent legislation that affects our health and welfare.

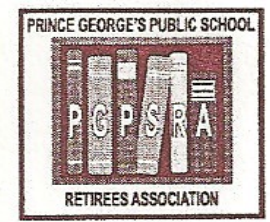
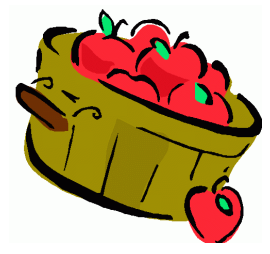
We were pleased that Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms stepped up to serve as President-Elect for the coming year. Gretel James also came forth to serve as recording secretary. They join Dr. Edward Vest, treasurer, and Courtney Pringle, corresponding secretary, as your officers for the coming year. We continue to seek a new crop of leaders, ideas and activities to take us to the next level of success. Perhaps you would be willing to serve on one of our committees this year. We have Community Service, Scholarship, Legislation, and Membership committees, and other opportunities to volunteer at whatever level of participation you feel comfortable doing.

There is unity in numbers. We need you to invite a friend to become active in PGPSRA, and for you to take a more active role as well. Our numbers keep dwindling due to circumstances beyond our control. However, with your help we can grow membership and spearhead more opportunities for our students and communities to be successful. Dues paying members are very important to our organization. The more members we have, the more services we can provide to our schools and community. If you can't serve on a committee, you could encourage retirees you know to become part of the PGPSRA/MRSPA family.

We look forward to seeing you at our Sept. 25, 2019 General Meeting, 11 a.m. at the PGCEA Center, 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville. The reservation form can be found elsewhere in this publication. Our program will feature the Director and staff of the Benefits Office of the Prince George's County Public Schools. We also have invited the Teacher of the Year to join us at the meeting.

PGPSRA is only as successful as you help us make it. Please do your part.

Thanks and best wishes,
George D. Denny, Jr., President



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PGPSRA President George Denny was also inducted at the MRSPA Annual Meeting as their President-Elect. He is shown here with Carla Duls, who was sworn in as Secretary.

SAVE A TREE

Help our Budget

Send in your name and email address.

We will email your Echoes to you!

You get it faster

And

In Color!!

Let me know: Bonnie Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: George D. Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms
(obridge@verizon.net)

Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson
(johnson6608@comcast.net)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)

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: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.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 (penguinCI@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Delores Brown (brownjr1@verizon.net), Vera
J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Senior Outreach: Jayne Johns & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome back after a HOT, HOT summer! We hope all are doing well and ready to get back to the work of MRSPA/PGPSRA....strengthening our membership and supporting our organizations as they lobby for our pensions and benefits in Annapolis. Sadly, this may be the last copy of Echoes some of you receive because of non payment of \$45.MRSPA and \$15.00 PGPSRA dues. We urge you to reconsider and send your dues in so that you will not be taken off of our mailing list.

The May meeting was enjoyed by all, especially Brenda Barnes, Alice Hutchinson and Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms who won the monthly \$20.00 door prizes. Thanks to Oretha for donating her prize to our Scholarship Fund.

Many organizations around the state have sent in sponsored events to hopefully increase their membership. Most of these groups are a lot smaller than PGPSRA and we can't do some of the same activities but our committee would like to know what activities our membership would like to see our group do. Addie Martin has set two show dates but only a few members have signed on as we send this Echoes out. We need your feedback on activities you will support. The executive committee can't make decisions without feedback from our members.

Have you talked with BOE retirees that you come in contact with to invite them to become members of MRSPA/PGPSRA? Main talking point...IT IS THE ONLY ORGANAZATION IN MARYLAND THAT WORKS EXCLUSIVILY FOR RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.

Hope to see you and any retiree you can invite at our September meeting.

Charline Jacob-Membership Chair

Fern King-Mary L. Isbell- MaryAnn Royall- Committee members



Your new PGPSRA officers were sworn in by MRSPA President, Ann Marie Downey.

Come to the September meeting and meet them all!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE

Community Service Committee presented 4 aspiring indigent seniors from Northwestern High School to our final PGPSRA luncheon at Comfort Inn in Bowie, on May 15, 2019.

Community service presented a stipend of \$500.00 to each student to assist them in purchasing their Senior Graduating package and prom attire. In return, they were asked to share their life story with us and make sure they included their aspirations and plans after graduation.

The four students did what they were told to do. All four students intend to pursue higher education. Miss Diana Zelaga has received a four year scholarship, Mister Davae Clegg will be going to a Community College, Mister Paul Oriala will continue his education, and Mr. Eliot Nzipou, the artist, is unsure at this time of his fate here in the United States of America.

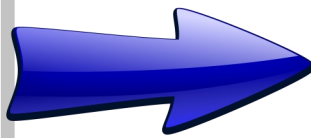
It was Eliot Nzipou who brought the PGPSRA audience to their feet after delivering his essay which talked about being an immigrant from Nigeria, a very poor country with war and strife. He revered his mother who wanted a better life for her 3 girls and him. He spoke of his mother being sent to the US on a work assignment. She managed to send for her children and immediately enrolled her young son in school. Eliot spoke about his struggles, shyness and fears in his life thus far.

You should have been there to hear the entire story.

The Community service committee served more than 1400 students and families in the Northern area of Prince George's County this 2018-2019 school year, thanks to the dues and contributions made by members of PGPSRA

The Community Service Committee looks forward to another year of service in another region of Prince George's County for school year 2019-2020. We invite you to join our committee in our endeavor to serve the community in the fall of 2019.

Submitted by: Courtney Pringle/Chairman



TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY – 2019

OPENING BALANCES:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	- \$ 228.21
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	- 28.83

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

RECEIPTS	- 12030.03
EXPENDITURES	- 125.00

ACTIVITY – SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

LOW BALANCE FEE	- 2.00
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BALANCES AS OF JULY 31:

CHECKING ACCOUNT	- 12133.24
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	- 26.83
TOTAL ASSETS	-
\$12160.07	

Dr. Edward Vest. Treasurer

Senior Citizen Hall of Fame To Induct Stanley Tweedy

Congratulations are in order for PGPSRA member Stanley Tweedy, who will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen Hall of Fame in October. Stanley is a volunteer member of the PGPSRA Community Service Committee.




"Gallop" with us into the New Association Year

**Hear the latest news about our Retirement Benefits,
Meet the Teacher of The Year**
 Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019
 11 a.m.
 PGCEA Center
 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville
 Please complete the registration form found elsewhere in this issue.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

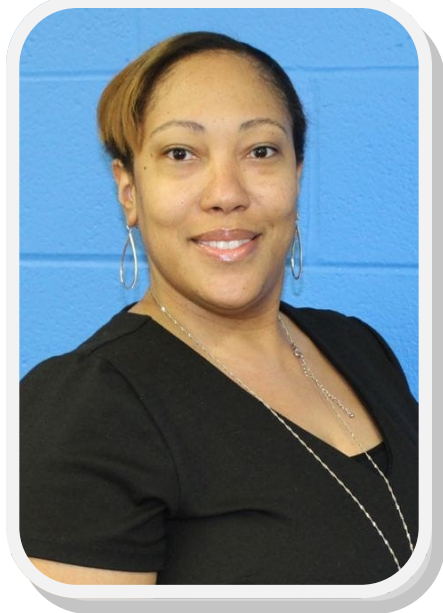
Legislative Report September 2019

As your Legislative Chair, I thoroughly enjoy staying in touch with Annapolis news and planning our annual trip to the Prince George’s Delegation in March. I would love to have company on this important committee. I deliver welcome letters to the delegates and state senators in January. I attend the Friday morning Delegation meetings between January and April and plan our annual trip. Interested members may help out in any area. Thanking you in advance.

Sue Finan

Sue Finan, Chair

sfinan77@gmail.com



Prince George’s Public School Teacher of Year Invited to September PGPSRA General Meeting

Angelica Brooks, choral director at Bowie High School, has been selected as Prince George’s County Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2019. She has been invited to attend the September PGPSRA General Meeting. Ms. Brooks was nominated by her colleagues who cited her engaging instruction, passion for her work and dedication to budding vocalists.

BE THERE! SEPT. 25!!



Our Community Service Committee is Marvelous!

Bits and Pieces

Happy **September** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members: Ms. Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D.C. will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 5th; two ladies will be having their birthdays on the 6th: Mrs. Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S.C. will be turning 97 years-old and Ms. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D. C. will be celebrating 94 years; Miss Jane Hand of Catonsville, will be marking her 97th birthday on the 14th; Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis will be having her 99th birthday on the 20th; Mr. Camillo DiMuzio of LaPlata will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on the 20th; Mr. John Connor of Annapolis will be turning 92 years-old on the 22nd; Barbara Davenport of Glenwood will be having her 92nd birthday on the 23rd; and Mrs. Mildred Gray of Mitchellville will be reaching 99 years of age on the 24th.

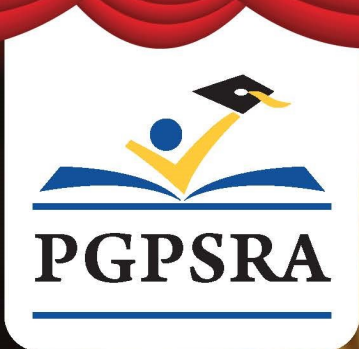
Happy **October** birthday greetings to two other Emeritus members: Mr. John Jenkins of Franklin, WV. will be celebrating his 96th birthday on the 9th; and Mr. Charles Hudson of Silver Spring will be turning 97 years-old on the 24th.

Clareen Heikal of Cheverly, retired from H.W. Wheatley Special Center in the Infants & Toddlers Program as a pediatric physical therapist in 2004; however, she continued part time until 2010. Since retiring, Clareen has put on several volunteer “hats”. In addition to the “hat” she has worn for 35 years with the therapeutic riding program at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, she has worn a grassroots political activist “hat” with Progressive Cheverly since 2008. Since 2014, she has worn a Cheverly Village “hat”. The Village movement is sweeping the country, as communities establish a non-profit group (Village) to provide services to seniors and others who need help to stay in their homes. She puts her teacher “hat” back on once a month, when she volunteers at a Cheverly pre-school play group. Clareen, as a former teacher at J.R. Randal Elementary, has joined other retirees who taught there in the 70’s and 80’s, for a summer Rehoboth Beach week vacation for the past 40 years! She also takes advantage of every opportunity to visit her family in Minnesota and to annually visit her late husband’s family in Cairo, Egypt. For 30 years before his passing in 2001, she and her husband, Fawzy, made intermittent trips to Egypt. Since 2002, she stays with family members joining in the ordinary things that families do, with an occasional trip to a Red Sea Resort, an oasis, or a concert at the Cairo Opera House. Clareen notes that Egypt has changed dramatically since 1970, when it was much more open to the West. For her, the fascination of being in the Land of the Pharaohs is enough to overlook some of the inconveniences that come with being in a third world country. The Egyptian Museum displays awesome statues and artifacts. A Nile Cruise to Valley of Kings and Queens is a pleasure. The past attacks on tourists by extremist groups have had dire consequences on tourism, the country’s main source of income. This, plus an economy compromised by the political situation and the rise of religious conservatism, makes a visit to Egypt less enjoyable. Soldiers with guns guard churches at high holy times of Christmas and Easter. Clareen advises visiting Egypt with a tourist agency, not on your own. Many people in hotels and restaurants speak some English but, being with someone who speaks Arabic is a must in order to grasp and enjoy the Egyptian experience. She has found that most Egyptian people are very welcoming and friendly.

Both Patricia (Pat) and Dr. Ronald (Ron) Robeson retired from the Prince George’s Public School System. Pat retired in 1998 from the Beltsville Academic Center and took another job as an educator as the Teacher in Residence at the Maryland Geographic Alliance at University of Maryland Baltimore City until 2017. There, she developed geography lessons for elementary teachers using National Geographic Standards and Maryland Standards. She traveled around the state sharing lessons and activities with teachers on incorporating geography into what they were already teaching. She has been a writer for: (1) Maryland With Pride Website Lesson Plans for the Pride of Baltimore II, (2) Mission Geography Lessons with Texas A & M Research Foundation and NASA, (3) John Smith Exploration of the Chesapeake Bay 400th Celebration, and (4) Port of Baltimore 300th Celebration. Pat was also a contributing developer for the National Geographic Society: Picture Show U.S. Regional Geography Activities, and the National Geographic Society Geography Essentials. Ron retired from Bowie High School in 1993 as a social studies teacher. Immediately afterward, he served as the computer teacher at St. Pius X Regional School in Bowie, until 2005. He spent the next 12 years as a Middle School substitute teacher at the School of the Incarnation in Gambrills. Amazingly, Ron and Pat have found time to visit all 50 states, cruise yearly from Baltimore to the Caribbean in winter, taken several riverboat cruises in Europe (The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland), taken Ocean Cruises (the Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Mexico), and Land Cruises (to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Italy). Both Pat and Ron volunteer with the Black Saga Competition – a program to help students understand the African American Experience. They enjoy cooking a monthly dinner dish for Our Daily Bread Program in Baltimore and baking weekly desserts for the Friday ministry for the Homeless in Baltimore. The Robesons, who have been married for 55 years, live in Odenton, MD. They have one married son and one married daughter, and four grandchildren – ages 13 to 23 years-old.

Elizabeth Johnson Rice taught at Thomas Johnson and Robert Goddard Schools, and then worked at Piney Branch School in Washington, D. C. until she completely retired in 2010. She has been a Civil Rights activist since she was arrested in the Richmond, VA. area when she was a student at Virginia Union College. She and her brother decided on February 22, 1960 to join a peaceful protest at Thalimer’s Department Store, by sitting down at a segregated lunch counter. They were arrested, along with 32 other students, who became known – to this day - as the “Richmond 34”. The “Washington Post” did a story with photos of some of the “Richmond 34” (including Elizabeth) this past February, and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam invited them to the Governor’s Mansion in Richmond for a breakfast. Elizabeth remains an active member of the group, speaking at schools, churches, and organizations, sharing her story, encouraging students to be active and to stand up for what is right for all Americans. There is a children’s book written about her early civil rights experiences: “Sit In – Stand Out With Elizabeth Johnson Rice”. She has served as the Chair and Coordinator of the “Richmond 34”. Her first teaching job was as the first African American teacher at Petersburg, VA. High School. Elizabeth was married for 52 years, until his passing, to Richard Rice, the Pastor Emeritus of Liberty Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. She now lives in Midlothian, VA. She has two married sons, and four grandchildren.

To contribute to “BITS & PIECES” contact Jannette Wundrow: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net or by phone: 301-390-7324



Prince George's PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Trips

Toby's Dinner Theater

59 Symphony Road, Columbia, Maryland

Buffet

Served from 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Show

Starts at 12:30 p.m.

Cost for Each Show

\$95.00 per person

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

Make checks out to
PGPSRA

Mail to:

Addie L. Martin,
9706 Frank Tippet Road,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Please call the phone number below if you need wheelchair accessibility.

Questions? Call: **Addie Martin**

(301)868-6081

MAMA MIA!!
8/28/19 (Payment due 7/25)

BODYGUARD
10/30/19 (Payment due 9/25)

It takes a Village to keep an Association Working for You!



This year's Calendar of Meetings for PGPSRA

Board Meetings:

Sept. 4, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 6, 2019 “

Jan. 8, 2020 “

March 4, 2020 “

May 6, 2020 “

General Membership Meetings:

Sept. 25, 2019 PGCEA

Nov. 20, 2019 “

Jan. 22, 2020 “

March 25, 2020 Comfort Inn

May 20, 2020 “

PGPSRA Reservation Form

September 25

PGCEA, Forestville MD

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

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

Name(s) _____

Amount Enclosed **\$15** (checks payable to PGPSRA) for each lunch reservation— \$ _____
(We need the count by the Sept. 18 mail delivery!).

We will have an assortment of sandwiches in a box lunch form from C&C Catering.

NOTE: Our box lunches are now \$15.00.

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
Sept. 25, 2019
PGCEA, Forestville
11:00 am

VISIT THESE WEBSITES [www. MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and
www.PGPSRA.org

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

