

ECHOES

Vol. LVI No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2021

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



Thank you for your membership in the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA).

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of this great organization. I do not take this responsibility lightly.

The most obvious thing that comes to mind is that I have gained so much respect for this organization and

for the tremendous and outstanding work that our former President, George Denny, Jr. performed. Indeed, he is an inspiration and a challenge for all of us. He provided an avenue for us to continue the great work that he began. I thank George for all of his support and understanding.

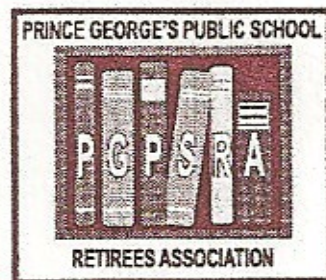
Now more than ever, the commitment continues. It is going to be a busy year. I am convinced that if we continue to work together, we can build on an incredible foundation and that we can do even better.

In summary, we will continue to be your partner after the classroom. We will continue to be your voice in the Maryland General Assembly, your source for retirement planning, and your connection to long time colleagues and friends. I hope you will attend our meetings and ask questions you might have about our programs and services.

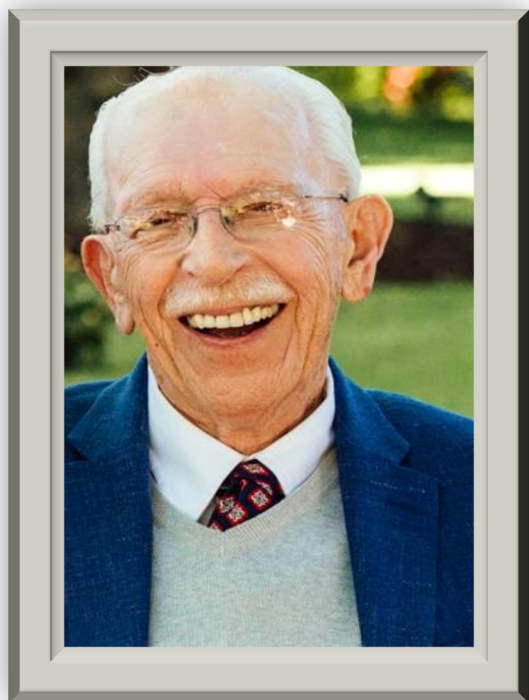
Please continue to stay safe: wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, and routinely check on each other.

Best regards,

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms



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Dr. Edward J. Feeney died peacefully at home on July 1, 2021. He would have been 93 in November. He is survived by his wife of sixty-six years Joan Feeney, his six children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dr. Feeney began teaching in PGCPs in 1953 as an elementary teacher. He earned his PhD at night at George Washington University. He served as Superintendent of the Prince George's County Public Schools from 1976 – 1984. He retired from the PGCPs in 1984 after 30 years of service.

Many of us will remember him well. We have been pleased to have him in what meetings of PGPSRA that he was able to attend.



Inspiration for September

“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read.” Mark Twain

Dan Williams, Chair

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

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

President-Elect: William Barnes (billbarnes2011@gmail.com)

Past President/Nominating: George Denning

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

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest552@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: Maryann M. Royall (maryakaroyall@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose
(wmbrose@comcast.net)

Recognition: Vacant

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net) and Linda Butler (lidab127@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350) & Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Your membership is always appreciated. You may have realized that we are decreasing in members as the years go by. There are many reasons for this and many obstacles in soliciting more retirees to join. Please help us by encouraging your friends to join. Our dues are our only source of income and the fewer members = fewer options for benefits for you.

Prince George's current total membership is 1175 members. We can do better! Membership forms are on the website: www.PGPSRA.org

MARYANN ROYALL, CHAIR

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome back to all our PGPra members. Hopefully, this year we will be able to have our face to face meetings. This year we plan to give out at least four scholarships to deserving students who plan to major in education. Also, we will provide \$300.00 mini scholarships to active teachers and para- professionals to assist them with projects that the school system nor the PTA/PTO's fund.

We wish to thank all who gave donations to the Scholarship fund even during our pandemic year. Hope to see you soon.

Brenda Barnes, Committee Chair

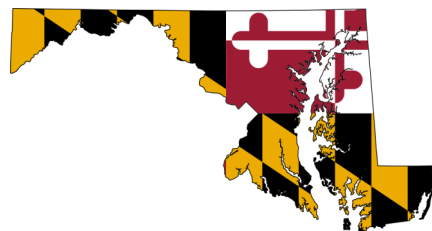
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

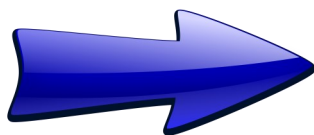
Legislative Report May 2021

On Friday, April 7th, the Maryland General Assembly passed a record \$52.4 billion budget according to The Washington Post. The budget includes bonuses to every state worker, money for a sweeping education restructuring effort while saving over \$2 billion in savings for the future. Money will be spent to build parks and playgrounds and outfit schools with new ventilation systems. There will be cash payments to the poor, tax breaks to small businesses and unemployment recipients and attempts to give broadband access to a half-million residents without it.

For up-to-date progress on the reopening of Prince George's Public Schools, I encourage you to visit their website at pgcps.org

Sue Finan Legislative Chair





TREASURER’S REPORT – JULY – 2021

OPENING BALANCES:

Checking Account	\$18503.81
Savings Account	126.86

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Receipts	40.15
Expenditures	0.00

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

CLOSING BALANCES:

Checking Account	18543.96
Savings Account	126.86
TOTAL ASSETS	\$18670.82

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward N. Vest

REMEMBRANCE

Virginia B. Catterson	03/29
Martha Gibson	03/22
Kevin Mark Johnson	03/28
Leonard Moses	04/24
Jill Sparkman	05/19
Leonard “Dutch” Anderson	06/15
Calvin McMillion	06/19/19
Fred M. Novak	06/28
Dr. Edward J. Feeney	07/01
James Dail III	07/01
Donna Van Meter	04/10
Joseph S. Hall	07/16
Margaret G. Schmidt	07/05
Orval Lee Brown	07/27

Submitted by Jayne Johns and
Linda Butler, Co-Chairs

CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022

September 22

November 17

January 26

March 23

May 18

All meetings except for May will be at PGCEA

May’s meeting will be at the Comfort Inn



Bits and Pieces

Happy **SEPTEMBER** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Mrs. Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D.C. will be celebrating her 95th 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 99 years old, and Mrs. Marguerite Simpson of Washington, D. C. will be reaching her 96th year; Ms. Jane Hand of Catonsville will be having her 99th birthday on the 14th; Mr. Camillio DiMuzio of LaPlata will be turning 94 years-old on the 20th, while, **Mrs. Ruth Hanson of Annapolis will be reaching 101 years-of age on the 20th!**; Mr. John Conner of Annapolis will be marking his 94th birthday on the 22nd; and Ms. Lorraine Griggs of Bridgeville, DE. will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 23rd.

Happy **OCTOBER** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Elizabeth Schlaefli of Henrico, VA. will be having her 92nd birthday on the 5th; and Mr. John Jenkins of Franklin, W.VA. will be observing his 98th birthday on the 9th.

Frenicee Davis-King of Upper Marlboro, retired from Fort Foote Elementary as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher in 2011. She was previously at H. W. Wheatley Special Center. After retiring, Frenicee continued her interest in education by working with new teachers in the Prince George's Alternative Certification Program, serving as their Supervising Teacher for five years. She has enjoyed travels to South Africa and Ghana, and taken cruises to the Meditterean (where she saw the Prymids in Egypt) and the Caribbean (four times!). Frenicee volunteers as a church school teacher at First Baptist Church of Brentwood, and at Shepherd's Cove Center, UCPA.in Capitol Heights. She has one son.

Eva C. Smith of Fort Washington, retired as an English teacher from Oxon Hill High School in 1983. Last April she celebrated her 90th birthday. After graduating from Florida A&M in 1953, she married her college sweetheart, Otto Smith, an officer in the United States Army. She traveled with him over most of his career during the next 30 years. When unable to accompany him, she returned to her hometown of Tallahassee and worked as an English teacher and University Librarian. Eva arrived in the Washington, D. C. area in 1974, and began substitute teaching in Charles County, then moved on to a permanent position in Prince George's. Upon retirement, she enjoyed visiting military friends and family, and taking in an occasional college football game at Florida A&M. Eva served as Secretary for the Retired Army Officers Association, while her husband was Vice-President of the Chapter. She also volunteered at James Madison High School teaching reading to special education students.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Gay retired in 1999 from High Point High School; however, she went back to teach as a retire/rehire at Benjamin Tasker Middle School until 2001. Her interests include genealogy, reading, gardening, hiking, kayaking, her dogs, the Olney Theater, and travel. Betsy has enjoyed travels to the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Greece, Ukraine, Mexico, and 48 of the 50 United States. She feels fortunate that her family lives close to her home in Brookeville, MD. Betsy has two daughters, Christine and Valerie, and six grandchildren, four of whom are graduating from college next year, one in high school, and the oldest is teaching in Frederick County.

Marina Beasley of Davidsonville retired in 1998 after teaching Physical Education at Benjamin Stoddert Junior High School and 4th grade at Riverdale Elementary. She then, volunteered at her Church Pantry for the next 22 years. Marina and her husband, Robert, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 19th. They have two children: Lori Idol, who recently retired from the Calvert County School System, and Robert, Jr., who has an electrical business on the Eastern Shore, also, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Marina and her husband have taken several cruises: to Alaska twice, to Northern Maine twice, and to the Caribbean twice. They have camped in their motor home, and some years ago they spent five weeks in Spain visiting relatives.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Clock is Ticking

The Community Service Committee is alive and well. We met in August to discuss our new budget for the school year 2021-2022. We have decided to stay in the Southern Region of Prince George's County this year. We will work with Tayac Elementary, Brandywine Elementary, Glass Manor Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary and Surrattsville High School. Several schools were offered continued Services from the Community Service Committee since we had unfinished business to address due to the pandemic.

We look forward to serving the schools selected with vim and vigor. We also look forward to the support of our PGPSRA members as we serve the students/families of the schools selected.

We welcome new members, why not join us in this endeavor?

Courtney Pringle,
Chairperson

LOOKING BACK



LOOKING BACK II



RESERVATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Our September 22nd General Membership meeting will be held virtually once more. Due to the continuing issues with the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to “distance” it is felt that we should be cautious and not try to meet in person, just yet.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than September 15 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 22nd. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting.

Ed Vesthomevest552@comcast.net

We hope you will be able to join us!

PGPSRA

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

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.