

ECHOES

Vol. LIX No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2026

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



A Fresh Start for a Promising Year Ahead

Although a winter snowstorm prevented us from meeting in January, it does give me the opportunity to once again wish each of you a very Happy New Year. In some ways, this unexpected pause has allowed us to start the year with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and a clear focus on what we want to accomplish together in 2026.

Our association continues to be strong because of the dedication and commitment of our members. Time and again, you step up to support our programs, advocate for retired educators, and ensure that our voices continue to be heard. That commitment is the foundation on which we will build another successful year.

As we move forward, we have exciting plans and meaningful work ahead. This is the perfect time to get involved, share your ideas, and help shape the direction of our association. Whether through committee work, special projects, or simply staying engaged, every contribution matters.

I would also like to give a special shout-out to Addie Martin, who somehow managed to plan and execute a wonderful trip to the theater during a snowstorm—clearly, retired teachers are tougher than the weather forecast.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and to working together to make this a productive, rewarding, and inspiring year for our Retired Teachers Association.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” — Helen Keller

Warm regards.

Susie Proctor, President

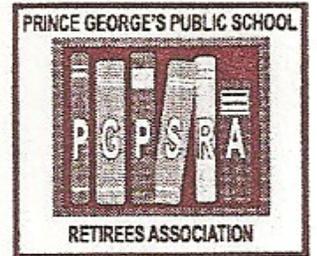


Table of Contents

President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Trips	2
Legislative Comm.	3
Remembrance	3
Bits and Pieces	4
Community	
Service	5
Reservations	7



National Theatre Trip Reflection

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in the trip to the National Theatre in Washington, DC. Your participation made this outing truly special and memorable for all involved.

The performance of “Clue” was a highlight of the trip and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The engaging storyline and talented cast provided a wonderful experience for everyone.

Addie Martin, Trip Coordinator

OUR HAPPY THEATRE GOERS!



TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking: \$32,436.65

Savings: \$145.86

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater,
Treasurer

ATTENTION: **SWITCH & SAVE** **INCENTIVE**



MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2025-2026. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$40 for state dues for 2025-2026, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2025-2026 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under “Switch and Save” (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>). Current Cash dues payers, who have not yet paid their dues, would be eligible for “Switch and Save”.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

If you want to contact the officers or committee chairs of PGPSRA, go to the Contact Us page of the website www.PGPSRA.org.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

J Davis and Laura Downey attended the Jan. 20th meeting of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Committee meeting and the Jan. 27th MRSPA Legislative Workshop. Along with Laura and J, Susie Proctor (President of PGPSRA) attended the Feb. 3rd Legislative Committee meeting.

The Maryland General Assembly is dealing with the constrained budget proposal which has a \$1.5 billion deficit to resolve. Huge federal cuts in employees and grants have impacted Maryland the most of all other states. Maryland has lost 25,000 federal jobs, not including contractors, and over \$315 million in federal funds, so far. SNAP and Medicaid were severely cut, with Maryland covering a \$56 million gap. The Governor's proposed bills promoting his affordable housing priorities have drawn attention and concern among Maryland counties and municipalities. Combine this with it being an election year, legislators are very leery of increasing taxes and fees, possibly resulting in more costs being passed on to local governments. It is predicted that the structural budget deficit by 2031 could reach over \$4 billion. Incoming revenue is static while expenses continue to rise.

Though the budget for public school education was increased, Prince George's County had a decrease in English language learner enrollment, resulting in lower state funding.

The MRSPA strategic Plan encourages all members to get involved politically. Local chapters are to send photos of events with elected officials and to provide contact information of anyone who has a personal relationship with a state or federally elected official.

Major actions taken by the MRSPA legislative Committee can be found on MRSPA's 2026 legislative priorities. Go to: www.mrspa.org or to PGPSRA at www.pgpsra.org.

J Davis and Laura Downey, Chairs

REMEMBRANCE

Patricia Kelley

Tom Wines—September 2025

Deborah Carr—November 2025

Hazel Cater—January 2026

Linda Butler, Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT

Echoes is considering going electronic for all. We are constantly running out of space to keep you all informed. The limit of 7 pages of print is holding us back. There is the cost of the printing and mailing that keeps increasing as our membership is decreasing. Please be sure that MRSPA has an email contact for you and you will continue to receive your newsletter quicker and in color!

Bonnie Brose, Chair and Editor (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Bits and Pieces

Happy **MARCH** birthday greetings to several of our Emeritus members including Phyllis LaBorwit of Bowie, who will be having her 94th birthday on the 1st; Mary Nicholas of Lanham will be reaching her 95th birthday on the 6th; Margaret Fleet of Brandywine will be marking her 96th birthday on the 8th; Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be turning 98 years old on the 9th; two of our members will be sharing the 10th date, when Shirley Duvall of Upper Marlboro will be turning 91 years of age, and Daniel Chase of College Park will be turning 99 years of age; and **Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be celebrating his 101st year of age on the 25th.**

Happy **APRIL** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members including Eva Smith of Ft. Washington, will be celebrating her 95th birthday on the 1st; Mary Lou Williams of Silver Spring will be having her 98th birthday on the 10th; Guyneth Eigenbrode of Cheverly will be marking her 96th birthday on the 17th; Jean Young of Absecon, N.J. is reaching her 94th birthday on the 18th; Catherine Brooks of Aquasco will be observing her 98th birthday on the 19th; **Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 22nd**; Clara Martin of Hyattsville will be marking her 92nd birthday on the 22nd; **Alveta Jones of Landover will be having her 101st birthday on the 25th**; and **Mary Younger of Cheltenham will be observing her 101st birthday on the 27th**!

Gwendolyn Gordon of Ft. Washington retired from the Office of Student Services in 2022. After retirement she went to work as Office Manager at her husband's dental practice until he retired. The Gordons celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary last September. They have two grandchildren: Julian -six and Nylah -one. During the holidays they have provided Target, Giant, and Safeway gift cards to schools to assist needy families. They also provided gift cards through their church for families in need during the holidays. Travel has always been a major interest to the Gordons. In 2022, they traveled to Alaska on a land/sea cruise for 14 days. Prior to boarding the cruise ship in Whittier, AK they traveled by train through the state, which took them to many cities. They have visited Denali National Park, landed by helicopter on Mendenhall Glacier, visited the rainforest in Ketchikan, where they ziplined and sky walked across the rain-forest and traveled to Cozumel, Mexico. They were fortunate to travel with their children when they were younger to the Grand Canyon, Mammoth Caves in KY., the Everglades National Park in FL, Zion National Park, Death Valley and Valley of Fire in NV., Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak CO., and the Florida Keys. They swam in the Cenotes in Cancun and climbed Chichen Itza in Mexico. The Gordons have also visited Hawaii.

Josita Allen of Columbia retired from Scotchtown Hills Elementary in 2024. She enjoys dance classes and going to the gym as part of her daily routine. Josita really likes being retired. She and her two little dogs travel yearly to Hilton Head Island for pleasure. She is proud of her eldest grandson, who is a state trooper in Tennessee.

Gwendolyn Mason of Brookville retired in 2020 as Chief Director of Special Education and Student Services. She has since served as a Trustee at the Peoples' Community Baptist Church in Montgomery County. She has also been active with the Scholarship Committee at her church and in her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Gwendolyn has been a consultant of the school system to improve Special Education. She has enjoyed a Mediterranean Cruise, and trips to Hawaii, Europe, Egypt, France, Germany, and Italy.

Sandra Ingram of Upper Marlboro retired from Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School in 2010, as a teacher of French, after seven years of service. Prior to joining the Prince George's System, she worked for the District of Columbia Public Schools for 32 years, retiring from Eastern High School as a teacher of French in 2003. In both school systems, she served in several capacities: World Languages Department Chair, World Languages Club Co-Sponsor, Co-Sponsor of the City-wide World Languages Declamation Contest, Mentor Teacher, Senior Class Sponsor, and Ski Club Co-Sponsor. Since retiring, Sandra has maintained her connection with both school systems through her volunteer activities with the Continental Societies, Inc, Prince George's County Chapter and the Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., Beta Chapter. With these groups, she has contributed class supplies, student uniforms, student back packs, has assisted in the sponsoring of STEM related class trips, participated in the presentation of class programs with focus on health, education, employment, recreation, and arts and humanities. Having been the Scholarship Chair, she has made presentations on the eligibility requirements for securing a scholarship from the Continental Societies, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter. Through her membership in Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc, Sandra has participated in the "Teach-a-Rama" program workshops for classroom teachers and contributed to classroom libraries. Sandra has served as the Social Committee Chair in which she organized an "Adopt A Unit" program with the Stoddard Baptist Global Care Home, whereby residents are provided personal health care items and holiday parties and craft workshops.

Sandra also stays active in her church, Episcopal Church of Our Savior, through her participation as an Eucharistic Visiting Minister, a member of the Otero B. Tymous Chapter of the Daughters of the King, and as a participant in Bible Study. As a Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, Beta Zeta Chapter, she has been an active participant of the Scholarship Committee, the Elder Care Committee, March of Dimes Committee, and the Shades of Blue Reading Club. Sandra has been an avid traveler. Along with her husband, she has visited many countries on many continents. They now look forward to visiting Australia, making that their sixth continent. In addition, she has visited all of the U. S. states on the East Coast, and several on the West Coast. Sandra and her husband are parents of two daughters; one is an entrepreneur and the other is a computer technologist. Their grandson is a doctoral candidate in physics at the California Institute of Technology. Sandra and her husband are proudly awaiting the announcement of his graduation ceremony this year.

***To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact: JannetteWundrow@comcast.net

PGPSRA Community Service Committee - December 2025-January 2026

Service to the Children in PGCPS

The Oxon Hill Elementary team delivered 25 winter hats and 25 pairs of gloves to the school on January 22, 2026. The Community Schools Coordinator was very grateful for these donations for their students.

The Rosaryville Elementary team provided information to the school regarding tutoring opportunities.

The Hyattsville Middle School team donated uniform tops and pants for the 7th grade students. They also donated pull-ups and wipes for the school's autistic students.



Service to the Community—Forestville Healthcare Center - December 15, 2026

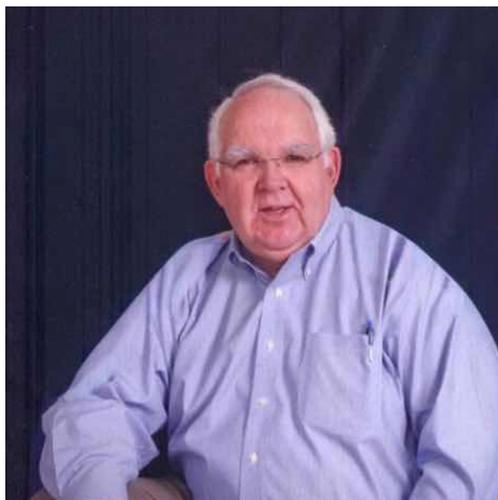
The Community Service Committee pre-assembled toiletry bags and gave out over 50 to the residents. They also received jingle bell necklaces, took photos with the holiday frame, and the bingo winners received holiday prizes.



Shepherd's Cove Shelter for Women & Children - December 18, 2025

The Community Service Committee members facilitating a workshop for the women that tapped into their creative side. Member Diana Kendrick engaged the ladies in making self-esteem bracelets. She guided them step-by-step in utilizing the materials and placing the beads just so. The children were engaged in the science of making slime. They were led by a facilitator from the Mad Science Center of Maryland.





CARL DEWITT LANCASTER

PGPSRA has lost another one of our leaders. Carl Lancaster was born in North Carolina, and anyone who listened to him for a while could clearly guess. While an active educator in Prince George's County Public Schools, Carl was active in PGCEA and MSEA. He served for 20 years on the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System on the Investment Committee and Real Estate and Corporate Governance Subcommittees. He served as the Interim President for the Maryland School for the Blind. Most importantly, for us, is that he served as PGPSRA President and was always looking out for the retired educators.

Carl died on October 13, 2025.

Board of Directors Proposes Bylaws Amendments

The PGPSRA Board of Directors is proposing that two amendments be added to our Bylaws to codify certain budget processes that are not spelled out in the current document. These amendments will provide clarity for the Board in its budgetary actions. These proposed amendments first were presented to the membership at the November General Meeting. Our Bylaws require that they be presented a second time at the next General Meeting. Therefore they will be presented again at the Wednesday, January 28, 2026 General Meeting, where they will be up for adoption by the membership.

It is proposed to Amend **Article III, Board of Directors** by adding the following two sections:

SECTION 12. *Budget.* The Board of Directors shall present to all members at the Annual Business Meeting a proposed budget for the following year. The members may amend the proposed budget, provided that the total expenses do not exceed projected revenues.

SECTION 13. *Budget transfers and amendments.* The Board of Directors may authorize the transfer of budget expenditures within the approved budget and may amend the approved budget by up to 5% of the total budget, provided that such additional expenditures are identified.

Wear a Hat!

Don't forget to wear a hat to the March meeting. It could be our favorite hat or just one that makes a fashion statement. We will share our hat stories and strike up a pose!



PGPSRA General Meeting— March 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, 2101 Willow Switch Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-4216

Name(s) _____

Email Address _____

Our boxed sandwich lunches are, once again, being supplied by C&C Catering. The cost is \$18, if you choose to buy one. You are free to bring your own.

- **All January lunch reservations will be carried over and applied to the March general meeting.**
- **If you require a vegetarian meal option, please indicate this at the time of making your reservation.**
- **Your nametag indicates that you are eligible to receive a box lunch.**

(New meal purchases must be in by the March 18th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)

A variety of sandwich choices will be available.

PGPSRA

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater

2101 Willow Switch Lane

Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

VISIT THESE WEBSITES

WWW.MRSPA.org and PGPSRA. Org

**When you update your email, notify
MRSPA and this Echoes editor.**

Echoes Editor:

Bonnie Curry Brose—bcbrose@comcast.net