

ECHOES

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXXII No. 2

November 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committee who have volunteered their talents and services in making PGCRTA an organization that is moving forward. It was through all of our efforts that members attending the September meeting said to me after the meeting: "Good meeting!" "Glad you invited Bea Tignor." "Comments about Ehrlich and Townsend were right on time." "I might volunteer in a school this year." "The Christmas trip sounds like something I might do." And the remarks go on.

Thanks to all members who attended - a relative small number when we have a large membership in and around the County, however, we as an Executive Committee, have made a commitment to work toward improving retirement years of our members. We are encouraging each member to personally invite a retired friend to become a member, and then make a date to attend the next meeting together. Our Program Committee is planning informative, educational and recreational programs for us. You want to be present to witness it "first hand."

Again this year we are partnering with Prince George's Educator Association in the READ ACROSS AMERICA program. Last year we donated \$500.00 to help provide bookmarks for 35,000 children and many of us read to children in schools. We intend to provide bookmarks for 72,000 and to increase the number of volunteers reading in the schools on READ ACROSS AMERICA March 3, 2003. Please continue to read/tutor in schools of your choice.

Thanks for the memories of two active members of our organization., Ruth T. Combo and Etta I. Marshall. Ruth - Legislative Chair, Past President, Program Chair. Etta - Member of the Legislative Committee, attended most PGCRTA meetings and MRTA Conventions in Ocean City, until failing health. Two retired educators - each in

her own way - gave much to public education and to our retired teachers' organizations.

Alveta S. Jones
President, PGCRTA.

BOB MILLER HONORED

It is with pleasure that we announce that our very own Robert "Bob" Miller was selected to receive induction into the Maryland Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame. This honor was bestowed upon him at the Annual Awards Luncheon at Michael's of 8th Avenue, Glen Burnie, on October 24, 2002.

Bob retired from the Prince George's County School System in 1988. He immediately became active in our retired teachers' organization, where he has served on numerous committees and even filled the office of President twice (1999-00 and 2001-02). Bob also served as a most competent Maryland Retired Teachers' Association President (2000-02). His participation on both the state and county executive boards continues to be significant. AARP, too, has valued Bob's input for several years. He was a representative of the National Retired Teachers' Association on the AARP Volunteer Review and Planning Committee that forged ways for both groups to work together in areas of mutual interest.

Community activities claim much of Bob's time too. He is involved with his church, and several senior citizen projects.

In his free time (?) Bob enjoys visiting with his three daughters, and their families. In addition he spends time as the primary caregiver for his 97 year old mother.

Our congratulations to Bob upon receiving this award !

BITS AND PIECES

Bette Deller retired from the PG School System in July 1999, after 35 years of teaching, and continues to live in Beltsville. She has become a realtor, has been certified as a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, and enjoys working with adults, helping them to find their dream home. Bette became a first-time grandmother in April to a grandson, Mitchell, who lives in Ashburn, VA, with her son and daughter-in-law.

Alice Myers enjoyed visiting family in New Jersey in August. Meanwhile, Oliver, along with his brother-in-law, went deep sea fishing in Kodiak, Alaska. Their catch was very good - 40-90 pound halibut and salmon !

Marguerite Simpson vacationed for eight days this past summer in the Bahamas, both Nassau and Paradise Island, then took a seaplane back to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, before flying home. While in Nassau, she attended the International Training In Communication Meeting (formerly known as the Toastmistress Club).

Linda and Dale Kirkland both retired from Friendly High School - Linda in 1988, Dale in 1986. They continue to keep very busy. Linda is involved with church work that includes participating as a vocal choir member and choir bell ringer, serving as financial secretary, and head of the board of trustees. She also tap dances with a women's group ! Dale has done Department of Defense work, surveillance work for the NASDAQ Stock Market, and is currently employed by the National Association of Securities Dealers in Rockville, at the Market Regulation Department. The Kirklands have traveled to many places, and especially to Scotland several times to visit family. They also enjoyed a cruise last December, which sailed around Cape Horn from Santiago, Chile, to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Addie Martin was recently appointed by County Executive Curry to the Prince George's County Board of Ethics. (Congratulations !)

Barbara Taylor is on the road again! Having just returned from Vermont, she is now heading to Branson, MO, via St. Louis, Louisville, and Lexington, KY. She considers motorcoach a great way to travel.

Lorraine and Howard Skidmore and several relatives enjoyed their annual vacation in Ocean City, MD, the last

week of July. In August, they along with 10 family members, relaxed on a cruise on the Royal Caribbean Navigator.

Charlie Hudson was honored this summer by the Maryland Secondary Schools' Athletic Association for his 55 years of service, and he received a special award from the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials for his many accomplishments. (Congratulations !) Charlie and Ann spent time with their son and his family in Linden, WA, in July, and then traveled to North Carolina to visit relatives and former students, and play golf.

Jim (James W.) Schrodt has retired to Longwood, FL, where at 87, he remains very active in music, playing with the Presbyterian Orchestra and Community Band there. This past summer Jim spent a week in Denton, TX, performing at the International Trombone Festival and visiting family and friends. On July 4th, he directed the Fun Band and community singing at Maitland Shores. On August 3rd, Jim played a trombone solo with the Akron-Alden, New York community band and directed an arrangement he had written. Also in August, Jim attended the 60th reunion of the Class of '42 of Flora High School, in Illinois, where he did his first teaching (1937-40) as band and chorus director, and tennis coach. He reminisced again in August, while attending his WW II Air Force Band Reunion in New Jersey. Besides being musically attuned, Jim also participates in a Seniors' Bowling League.

Hanna and Mark Spencer and five other family members spent a fun week last Easter in Las Vegas, NV. They stayed at the Luxor Hotel to get accustomed to the Egyptian lifestyle, because...a month later, Hanna and Mark took off for Egypt and the Nile. There they traveled extensively in Cairo, where they saw many pyramids and the Sphinx. They spent eight days on the Nile, stopping at Abu Simbel (the enormous Temple complex that was moved and rebuilt by Unesco engineers.). Hanna and Mark had a memorable experience touring Luxor, Aswan, and many places in between. Most of the summer, they spent relaxing in Brandon, FL. They are now looking forward to Christmas in Spain, with Hanna's brother and his wife from Holland.

Phyllis Evans vacationed in Nags Head, NC, in May, and then traveled to Charleston, WV, for a reminiscent high school reunion. Later she sailed from New York to Canada, on a most enjoyable cruise that made stops in

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Jane Jones, traveling with her friend, Betty Courtney, went across country by Amtrak in the summer. They took the train from Washington to Chicago to Portland, and on to California, stopping in Alameda, CA, to visit with Jane's daughter and her family. While there, they toured San Francisco's sights (Scharffen Chocolate Factory, seals at Pier 39, Hearst castle, etc.). Their return trip took a different route through Sacramento, Salt Lake City and the Rockies. The scenery both East and West was spectacular. When Jane and Betty changed trains in Chicago to return to Washington, they heard about the train that had derailed that morning in Kensington, MD, and at Pittsburgh they were put on a bus to complete the journey home. It was a most interesting trip.

Shirley Hagans retired with 30 years as a county educator after teaching secondary mathematics, working as a K-12 mathematics specialist, and serving as a coordinating supervisor for the countywide summer school programs. Since retiring, Shirley has been working as an Education Consultant for the NASA Education Department in Washington, DC. There she has served as both facilitator and leader on numerous outreach projects involving science and math. These have included work with students and administrators across the country. Shirley is also active in her church, currently singing in three choirs, and acting as administrator for the Senior Center there. In July, she was named as a member of the Board for Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority. (Congratulations, Shirley !)

Rowena Jackson was the lucky door prize winner at our September PGCRTA meeting in Forestville. Everyone was treated to a special elaborate salad and homemade cake luncheon by June Readon, Dottie Futzko, and Ella Hall. Thank you, Ladies!



We'd like to hear from YOU ! To contribute to BITS AND PIECES, contact: Jan Wundrow,
1007 Packton Lane,
Bowie, MD 20716

or by email: dwundrow@erols.com

FALL LUNCHEON

November 20, 2002

La Fontaine Bleu
7963 Annapolis Road
Lanham, MD 20706

11:00 am

STATUS - PENSION AND RETIREMENT FUNDS

Speaker: Carl Lancaster

12:00 pm Buffet Luncheon

Reservations required

\$16.00 per person

1:30 pm Entertainment

BOWIE SENIOR HIGH STRING QUARTET

Menu

Garden Salad/House Dressing
Maryland Southern Fried Chicken
Baked White Fish
Swedish Meatballs
Seasonal Vegetables
Carrot Cake

DEADLINE for reservations - Wednesday

November 13, 2002

No refunds after November 13, 2002

Send reservations with check payable to
PGCRTA to:

Mrs. Helen Butler
4511 Woodgate Way
Mitchellville, MD 20720

Clip and return with your check:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

AARP celebrated National Day of Service on September 26, 2002. Frances Clark of Bowie, Maryland, who is now deceased, was honored by the organization at a nursing home in Adelphi, Maryland, where she was employed. She founded the "Buddy System" with volunteers while working there. The Community Service Committee is asking our retired members to give some time as volunteers in a nursing home in your area.

Some schools in the county need your service in the areas of reading and mentoring. They are as follows:

Patuxent Elementary	301-952-7700
Cooper Lane Elementary	301-925-1350
Phyllis E. Williams Elementary	301-499-3373

For the January membership meeting, please bring canned goods and non-perishable items to donate to needy families or a shelter.

Have you signed up the school of your choice to receive the benefits of your purchase receipts at GIANT and SAFEWAY? This can be done at the store itself, or on the Internet.

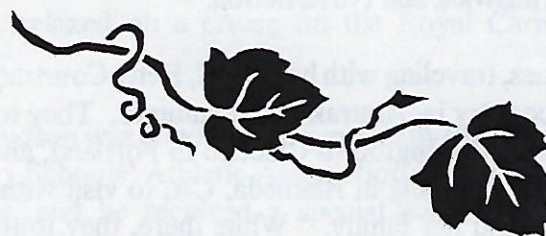
Shirley Johnson
Doris R. Edwards, Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It was good to see so many of you at our September meeting. Special welcome to Godelieve W. Bartley, Betty Washington, and Charlotte Faison.

For about 50 members, this will be your last issue of ECHOES. Anyone who has not paid as of November 1st will be removed from membership in PGCRTA and MRTA. If you are not sure about paying, please call me at 301-559-8533. You can renew by sending a check for \$35.00 (for PGCRTA and MRTA) or \$10.00 for only PGCRTA. My address is: 5912 36th Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Remember - our membership year is from July 1st to June 30th. Checks sent now will renew your membership to June 30, 2003. You will receive renewal notices in May 2003 for the 2003-2004 membership year

Hope to see more of you at our November 20th meeting. Jane Jones, Chair.



IN MEMORIAM

Members:

Ruth Cumbo	08-28-02
Frances L. Herling	07-22-02
Maude Hess Law	11-12-02
Etta I. Marshall	09-23-02
Mary H. Peterson	03-02-02
Constance K. Reid	?
Ann L. Smith	07-16-02
Barbara L. Smith	?
Jean F. Smith	07-20-02

Non-Members:

Freddie C. Curtis	09-12-02
Marion Gruber	01-29-02
Norman L. Hellmann	07-16-02
Ann M. Hite	08-17-02
Catherine Hubbard	08-30-02
Joyce A. Jones	06-27-02
Margaret L. Miller	06-18-02
Florence Mixa	08-08-02
Alma Ruth	07-25-02
Mary L. Schubert	07-25-02
Richard L. Sheets	07-30-02
Edward M. Snipes, Jr.	08-12-02
Wilmet A. Tauber	08-15-02
Mary E. Thomas	07-26-02
Maggie Watts	07-26-02
James H. Williams	08-19-02

Remember to contact Remembrance/Necrology Committee Chair, Doris Hall at 301-249-7669, if you know a member is ill, is hospitalized, has experienced the death of a spouse, or has passed on. She should also be notified if any non-member who was eligible for membership has passed on.

MRTA's Gubernatorial Candidate Survey

1- MD's current pension system for teachers compares poorly with those in other states. Will you support improving the Teachers' Pension System?

Ehrlich: I will give strong consideration to legislation that enhances this pension system.

Townsend: Yes, working together we can improve the pension system

2- Retired educational personnel do not currently have a designated representative on the MD Retirement and Pension System Board of Trustees. Would you support legislation to ensure a position on the board for retired school employees?

Ehrlich: I believe the MSTA should represent all teachers, both active and retired.

Townsend: I would be willing to discuss the possibility of adding a position for retired school employees.

3- Would you support a state subsidy to assist in offsetting the rising cost of school retiree health benefits?

Ehrlich: The state will not be in a position to create a subsidy to cover the cost of school retiree health benefits.

Townsend: I will search for solutions to expand health coverage.

4- What major elements of health care reform do you support?

Ehrlich: I will work to increase health insurance access for all Marylanders, promote safety-net health care such as Community Health Centers, invest in mental health care, and work with all public and private health care providers on common sense solutions to responsibly contain costs for all patients.

Townsend: I will expand coverage to the parents of low-income children who qualify for Medicaid/CHIP, work with Speaker Taylor on his expansive proposal of individual insurance reforms, tax incentives, and sliding fee scale subsidies for the uninsured, work to make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors, promote public health by strengthening and improving drug treatment, HIV screening, dental and eye care, community mental health systems, and bioterrorism and disaster preparedness.

5- Will you support the level of funding that will be needed to implement the Thornton Commission recommendations as approved in SB856? What funding mechanism(s) do you favor?

Ehrlich: I support the recommendations. I will bring slot machines to the racetracks of MD. This revenue will be dedicated to funding the Thornton Commission.

Townsend: Yes, I support the recommendations of the Thornton Commission. Funding education remains a top priority. Currently the HB1 Commission is undertaking a review of Maryland's sources and funding needs.

6- What strategies would you favor for dealing with the problems of violence in the community and public schools?

Ehrlich: I will reform the Juvenile System in MD, and I will implement "Project Exile", which will send criminals convicted of gun related crimes to Federal Prison with stiff, mandatory sentences.

Townsend: I have worked with our teachers to pass strong school safety legislation that allows teachers to remove disruptive students from the classroom and provides stronger protections for teachers intervening in violent situations. I will seek to expand character education.

7- Will you help to ensure the Maryland Accountability effort (student testing) is done responsibly, assuring that the tests match the curriculum taught in MD schools?

Ehrlich: I led the way in promoting President Bush's educational plan, the NO Child Left Behind Act. One of the major provisions of the plan requires students to test each year to track their progress and the success of their schools. I am anxiously awaiting the test MD will use as a replacement for the MSPAP.

Townsend: Yes. I believe that it is essential for MD to set high standards for its students and teachers, convey those standards clearly, and institute systems of accountability that test the extent to which students and teachers are meeting these standards.

*This is not a verbatim text of the candidates' answers. This survey is dated 9-19-02, and was sent to the candidates by MRTA, who is sharing the responses with local RTA's.

Jan Wundrow, Legislative Chair

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

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Bowie, MD 20716-1134

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BOWIE MD 20716-1761

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TRIPS

HARRISBURG CHRISTMAS AND GIFT SHOW

Thursday, December 5, 2002

500 vendors, gifts \$2.00 to \$700.00

Full cafeteria, Food Court

100 foot Model Train Display

Musical and Dance groups

Cooking Clinic

Cost : \$40.00 Need 30 people to go
Bus size limits group to total of 50 people

Due to Charlie's being away in November send
Check for **\$40.00**, made out to **PGCRTA Tours**:
ASAP to:

Mrs. V. W. Stufft
12741 Holiday Lane
Bowie, MD 20716-1134

Leader - Charlie Hudson

FLORIDA REUNION

Luncheon and Optional Cruise

Prepare yourself for an attractive and exotic setting as well as a unique experience when you join us at the famous Columbia Restaurant for lunch on Sunday, February 23, 2003. This restaurant is Florida's oldest (1905) and is also the largest Spanish restaurant in the nation. It is located in Tampa's "Ybor City" (E-Bor) district, a national landmark area and once the "Cigar Capital of the World".

Lunch will be served from 12:15 - 1:15 pm, followed by a social hour 1:15 - 2:15 pm

A December letter will be mailed with more details, menu selection and a reservation form. If you do not receive a letter by January 1, 2003 and are interested in making a reservation, contact Don Kiah, at 941-637-7384 or by email: bungra@nut-n-but.net

You may still contact Geri Sousa, AAA agent, toll free at 877-226-1973 if interested in the optional cruise and book with Don Kiah's Group: P.G. Co. Retiress.
Don Kiah - Host