

ECHOES

Vol. LIX No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2025

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thank you to all who attended the September Meeting of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA). I know you enjoyed the presentation given by our guest speaker, Dr. Janice Trent, an audiologist, who provided information about hearing issues, hearing aids and insurance coverage for them.

I appreciate and value your support and the privilege to serve as PGPSRA President. I am committed to leading the organization that was established to protect our pension and all educationally related issues. It is my hope, as members, you will join me in the work ahead as strives are made to keep our organization strong. There is much to be done by all members to help support increasing our membership and the enhancement of our programs. As you know, each day brings many significant challenges and pressures to us as retired educators.

As we reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of educators to the community, let's continue to celebrate all that we have provided to the history, culture, and enrichment of the lives of our people. Many thanks to you.

I hope to see all of our members at the General Meeting on November 19th to be held at the PGCEA Building at 8008 Marlboro Pike, District Heights. I leave you with this message:

"Be happy not because everything is good, but because you can see some good in everything."

Susie Proctor, President

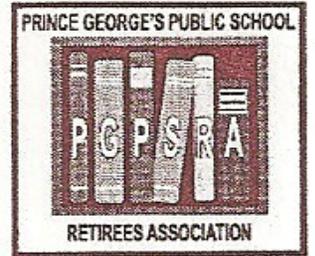


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CHECK OUT THE NEW LOGO!

You may have noticed already from MRSPA publications, we have a new logo to bring us into a new year of service to our retired personnel.

HOPE YOU LIKE IT





TREASURER'S

REPORT

October 2025

Account Balances:

Checking - \$34,696.79

Savings - \$145.86

Dr. Barbara Atwater, Treasurer

Officers and Committee Chairs

President: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

President-Elect: Dr. Wanda Robinson (wanda63Robinson@gmail.com)

Past President, Nominating and Programs: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

Recording Sec.: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.com)

Treasurer: Dr. Barbara J. Atwater (barbaraatwater703@yahoo.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Collins (Sjcollins1908@yahoo.com)

Auditing: Susan Fortgang (sfort@msn.com) & Leah Fowble (pepper3495@aol.com)

BOE Liaison and Trips: Addie Martin (amartin668@aol.com)

Bylaws: George D. Denny, Jr. (Jean.denny2@verizon.net)

Community Service: Lillie B. James (Ljam210@aol.com) and Dr. Wanda Robinson (wanda63robinson@gmail.com)

Consumer Ed. : vacant

Scholarships: Dr. Gladys Williams (scholaruy_4_u@gmail.com)

Historian: McKinley Hayes (mckinleyhayes@g.mail.com and Rita Womack

Inspirations: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

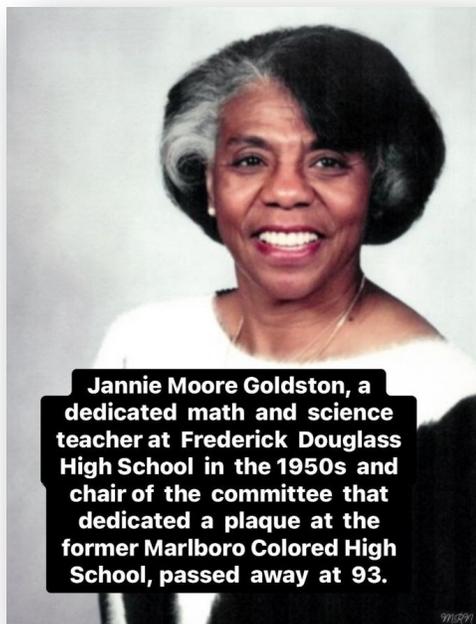
Legislation: Judith Davis (jfintakdavis@aol.com) and Laura Downey (laura.downey@verizon.com)

Membership: Ceci M. Aikens (cmaikems@rocketmail.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Curry Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

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

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)



Jannie Moore Goldston, a dedicated math and science teacher at Frederick Douglass High School in the 1950s and chair of the committee that dedicated a plaque at the former Marlboro Colored High School, passed away at 93.



In Memory

We were sad to hear of the passing of our member Jannie Goldston on July 15, 2025. She retired as a Math teacher in our county and was a member of the Executive Committee, serving as the Chair of the Remembrance Committee for many years. Jannie was always cheerful and welcoming. She will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Bits and Pieces

Happy **NOVEMBER** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members including James Morrison of Westminster, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on the 7th; Greta Garrett of Mitchellville will be having her 91st birthday on the 9th; Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N. M. will be marking her 98th birthday on the 11th; two ladies will be having birthdays on the 13th: Elizabeth B. Proctor of Upper Marlboro will be turning 95 years-old and Pauline Staggers of Largo will be reaching 99 years of age; **Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be celebrating her 103rd birthday on the 18th**; Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be having her 99th birthday on the 21st; Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL. will be marking his 99th birthday on the 23rd; and Elizabeth Picciotto of Deal, will be having her 96th birthday on the 25th.

Happy **DECEMBER** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: **Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be celebrating her 101st birthday on the 14th**; Isabella MacPherson of Salisbury will be marking her 95th birthday on the 18th; **Erma Sarahan of College Park will be having her 100th birthday on the 27th**; and **Mary White of Dayton will be turning 101 years-old on the 31st**.

Diane Stonesifer Bradley Murphy Bair retired some time ago from Prince George's County, then left to go to Fairfax to teach for six years and later taught in Delaware! Diane is totally retired now and lives happily in Lewes, DE. Her teaching career started at Arrowhead Elementary when it first opened. She was interviewed for the job, along with her college roommate, after they stepped over building materials to get to a portable shed, where they were interviewed by Principal William McCarthy. Diane has many fond and interesting memories of teaching in Maryland.

Alonia Sharps of Upper Marlboro retired in 2017 from the Prince George's Community College/Office of the President. Alonia serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for Educational Systems Federal Credit Union and has been a member of the Credit Union Council. She also serves as our most competent Recording Secretary for the Prince George's Public School Retiree Association. Alonia loves to travel, fish, play cards, and play the slot machines. Last February she enjoyed a cruise to the Bahamas, In May, she and her husband, Louis, sailed to Alaska on a seven-day cruise. They are currently planning two cruises for 2026: nine days to the Panama Canal and five days to Bermuda. Alonia and Louis have been married 57 years. He retired from PGCPs in 1999. His last teaching assignment was at Tall Oaks High School. The Sharps have one daughter and three grandchildren, who live in Garner, N.C. *****On October 16, 2025, Alonia had the honor of being one of 25 Maryland citizens to be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. (*Our congratulations!)**

Lissa Lackman Messing retired from Rose Valley Elementary in 2005, after teaching for 30 years. She has relocated to Plantation, FL., where she is enjoying an active retirement. Lissa has acted in commercials. She has volunteered in the local school reading aloud to classes. She loves to sing and dance, tell jokes and stories. Lissa has been learning to play the piano. She had several professional "singing gigs" before the pandemic. Sometimes she takes care of small dogs. Lissa is a world traveler, having been to France, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Denmark. She has two sons and two grandchildren.

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

PGPSRA Community Service Committee

August - September 2025 Preparing to Serve – CSC Planning Retreat-August 6, 2025

The PGPSRA Community Service Committee engaged in an outstanding 1-day retreat at the Rod n' Reel Resort in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. It was wonderful to relax by the water at the end of a busy day of purposeful planning.



Service to Students in Higher Education

On September 25, 2025, the Community Service Committee delivered more than 480 non-perishable food and personal care items to the **Bowie State University Nutrition Lounge!** Some of the students who work in the lounge are featured.



Service to the Community

We had the pleasure of visiting the residents at the Forestville Healthcare Center on September 29, 2025. We stopped by each of the patient's rooms and provided them with a greeting card and word-search book. In addition, CSC member, Jearsel Watson, read a story to the residents who were sitting in the day room. It was wonderful to interact with the people at the center.



Reminders: Please continue to bring, to each meeting, **magazines, calendars, and books for the Oxon Hill library and non-perishable items for the BSU Nutrition Lounge.**

We will also have a **Silent Auction** at our **November 19, 2025**, General Association Meeting. So, bring some cash with you on this day! You might just find some great Holiday Gifts for minimal cost!

November's Speaker—Dr. Janice Trent,



Dr. Trent brought us information on the importance of attending to the needs of our hearing, especially as we age. Hearing loss is very common, especially, in adults over 65. This increases from one in three over 65 to a whopping two in three after the age of 75! Dr. Trent has offices in Bowie and in Oxon Hill and her information is readily available with a short google search.

She is pictured here (middle) with our PGPSRA President, Susie Proctor and Committee Chair for Recognition, Dr. Bea Tignor. As it happens, Dr. Trent's connection with us goes back to her early college years, when Dr. Tignor's sister gave her some needed encouragement to persevere. We're glad she did!

Rep Your School



At the November 19th general association meeting, we want you to show your school spirit by wearing or bringing paraphernalia (hat, scarf, t-shirt, sweatshirt, sweater, tote bag, etc.) from the school where you worked or from a college/university you attended or feel connected to in some way. Let's see what we can learn about each other and what we have in common!

Words to Inspire

Our Inspirations Chair, Gretel James, brought us this to brighten your day.

If I Could Teach You Teacher

If I could teach you, teacher,

I'd teach you how much more you have accomplished than you think you have.

I'd show you the seeds you planted years ago that are now coming into bloom.

I'd reveal to you the young minds that have expanded under your care,

The hearts that are serving others because they had you as a role model.

If I could teach you, teacher, I'd show you the positive effect you have had on me and my life.

Your homework is to know your value to the world, to acknowledge it, to believe it.

Thank you, teacher

By: Euphemia Miyuki

TRIPS

Several trips are being considered for this year. If you are interested in any of these, please contact the Trips : Addie Martin at Amartin668@aol.com.

AT TOBY'S DINNER THEATER

Saturday Night Fever

Rock of Ages

Donna Summer Musical

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE

Chorus Line

SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE

Noah



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Committee met August 12, 2025, to revise its [Legislative Priorities for 2026](#) and to update committee members. It was announced that the Legislative Workshop would be held January 27, 2026. The possibility of a Legislative Day activity, such as a breakfast, will be discussed at the next Legislative Committee meeting. At this time, no special session of the Maryland General Assembly is planned to discuss and amend the budget.

The MRSPA Board has established a 3-year Strategic Plan which includes goals to increase membership, public relations and connect closer ties with elected officials. Local members, including PGPSRA, have been asked to make at least two contacts with state and county legislators and to invite their school superintendent and school board members to their meetings.

Co-Chairs J Davis and Laura Downey



PGPSRA General Meeting— November 19, 2025 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 _____

****Lunch for this meeting will be provided by Milos Catering in appreciation of the retired educators. The boxed lunches will be gratis.****

(We need the count by the Nov. 12th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)

A variety of sandwich choices will be available.

Please notify in your reservation if you need a vegetarian choice.

Your nametag will indicate you are eligible for the box lunch.

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.**

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