

# ECHOES

Vol. LIX No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

Sept. 2025

**PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Greetings,

I hope you enjoyed a happy and memorable summer. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of PGPSRA. Thank you for your contributions so far, your ongoing efforts, and your future work in supporting the organization's progress.

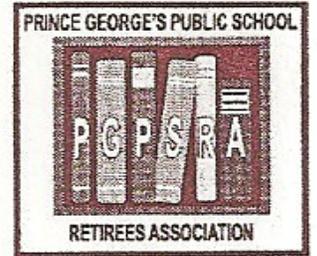
Thank you to our outgoing President Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms for her leadership and outstanding programs over the past four years. I am pleased she will remain on the Board and continue sharing her expertise in strategic planning and program development.

Our theme, "Each One, Reach One," focuses on rebuilding and strengthening our membership. Actions include:

1. Reaching out to retired educators who are not members
2. Reconnecting with those who have become less involved

Together, we thrive when every member plays a role in keeping PGPSRA growing and thriving. Our strength is in senior connections. Our next general meeting is Wednesday, September 24th at 11:00 am at PGCEA Center, 8008 Marlboro Pike in Forestville. We will be discussing upcoming events and initiatives to further strengthen our community. I hope to see you there.

Susie Proctor, President



### Table of Contents

President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Bits and Pieces	3
Community Service	4—5
Reservations for Lunch	7



Delegate Kym Taylor and Past President Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms surprised Past President Lorraine Johnson with a "Thank You" for all she has done for PGPSRA!





## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2025

### Account Balances:

Checking - \$26,956.19

Savings - \$145.86



## Officers and Committee Chairs

**President:** Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

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

**Past President and Nominating:** 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. and Scholarships:** Brenda L.. Barnes: (blbarnes128@aol.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)

**Awards and Recognition:** Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor (beatignor@aol.com)

## AWARD

PGPSRA was awarded a certificate for the best new projects for the year at the MRSPA Annual Meeting. Congrats to you all for great work!!

## PGPSRA Meetings 2025-2026

September 24    November 19

January 28    March 25

May 27

**All Meetings start at 11:00 am**





## Bits and Pieces



Happy **SEPTEMBER** birthday wishes to several of our Emeritus members, including Hilda Norwood of Upper Marlboro on the 4<sup>th</sup>, as she celebrates her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday; Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D. C. will be having her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; **Marguerite Simpson of Fort Washington will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>**; Linnie Marshall of Beaufort, S.C. will be observing her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Frank Pearlman of Silver Spring will be turning 93 years of age on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Ruth Dory of Upper Marlboro will be having her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Lorraine Griggs of Bridgeville, DE. will be marking her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Wanda Antonacci of Riverdale will be celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **OCTOBER** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members: Rosie Lee Summers of Ft. Washington will be celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Elizabeth Schlaefli of Henrico, VA. will be having her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Riedesel of Ashville, N.C. will be marking his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup>; and two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 12<sup>th</sup>: Betty Fanelli of Cumberland, VA. will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday and Shirley Words of Ft. Washington will be marking her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Patricia (Pat) Carlton of Santa Fe, N.M. retired from the Foreign Language Department of Bowie High School in 1993, after 30 years of teaching. She then went to work for the Library of Congress as a GS-5 Cataloging Shelflister. While there, she received a Master's Degree in Library Science from Catholic University. Pat retired from the Library of Congress at the end of 2006 as a GS-13 Senior Cataloger. Shortly afterward she moved to Santa Fe, N.M. with her partner. There, she volunteers with an environmental non-profit, whose mission is to protect endangered prairie dog colonies in the city, through feeding and relocation. She also served two years on the Board of Directors of the local Sierra Club. Pat fell in love with cruising, both riverboat and oceangoing, and has taken one or two trips a year to Europe, the Caribbean, and South America. Also, she has experienced two memorable trips to China and Japan. As an only child, Pat relies on a wide circle of friends and colleagues for social contact. She keeps in touch with friends from the D. C. area. Some of her most rewarding friendships have developed with fellow teachers and former students.

Marilyn Woodbury retired in 2018 from Melwood Elementary as their nurse. She and her husband traveled to the Dominican Republic, as a celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The time of her retirement created a benefit for her to spend much needed time with her husband, due to the decline of his health. Marilyn did volunteer telephone work at home during this time, offering medical suggestions for people. She and her husband celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in May 2021. Unfortunately, he passed in December 2022. Marilyn has two children and eight grandchildren.

Adrienne Cannon of Springfield, VA. retired from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1996 as a Spanish and Italian teacher. She has volunteered since at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts as a tour guide, assisting with Children's Concerts, Young People's and Family Concerts. For a number of years Adrienne has performed as a clarinetist with the Northern Virginia Campus Wind Band, the Mount Vernon Community Band, and the Windjammers (the Circus Band of Sarasota., FL.). Adrienne has written and published two volumes of essays: "Journey" and "Grace Notes". Recently, she wrote and published a book "Journey II" that is on sale with Amazon. Adrienne has enjoyed multiple trips with Rhodes Scholar and OAT, including to her mother's home in Puglia, Italy, to Israel. In Los Angeles, where she helped decorate floats for a Rose Bowl parade. Finally to the Chautauqua Institute in New York state, to the Grand Canyon and Mt. Rushmore, and to Turkey and the Baltic States. During July Adrienne and her daughter enjoyed a Viking Cruise. Adrienne's family includes three grown children and two grandchildren. Sadly, her husband is deceased.

\*\*\*To contribute to **BITS & PIECES**, contact: [JannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:JannetteWundrow@comcast.net)

# PGPSRA Community Service Committee

## May and June 2025

### Service to Students in PGCPs

The PGPSRA Community Service Committee graciously donated several dresses for the girls and several dress slacks and shirts, with ties, for the boys to Ms. Cole's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Columbia Park Elementary. A recipient of an MRSPA Scholarship, we are proud of Ms. Cole and felt compelled to support her in this effort. We wish the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class much success as they matriculate to middle school.



### Service to Students in Higher Education

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Community Service Committee delivered an abundance of individual non-perishable food and personal care items donated to the **Bowie State University Nutrition Lounge!**



### Teacher Appreciation Recognitions

The elementary Community Service Committee Teams recognized Teacher Appreciation Day at Panorama Elementary, Princeton Elementary and Suitland Elementary.



Thank you for a Fantastic Year!



## ECHOES ANNOUNCEMENT

It has become increasingly difficult for this editor to match up the membership list that comes to me, monthly, with the lists for the printer to send and the ones to be sent out here for the e-mailings. From this issue and on, and through the year, the list from MRSPA will be the basis for distribution.

With that in mind, if you do not have the current address for the Post Office to deliver your Echoes, or if you receive your usual emailed issue this time by U.S. Mail instead of the email you expected, you need to contact MRSPA and update your information. You can do this by going to the website (MRSPA.COM) or email directly to: [mrspa@mrspa.org](mailto:mrspa@mrspa.org)

They can be reached by phone at: 410-551-1517 or 1-800-625-6782

Thanks you so much!

## MRSPA President with your new PGCEA BOARD



Your member representatives  
at MRSPA's 2025 Annual  
meeting



# We've lost two of our Leaders



**In recent months, we have lost two of our former Presidents:**

.....

Mary Frances (Fran) Doyle, died on Dec. 31, 2024. She was born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1936 where she returned after leaving Maryland only a few years ago. She retired from Prince George’s County Public School System in 1993. She was an active member of PGCEA. She quickly joined PGPSRA upon retirement and in a few years was elected President. She continued on our Board until her move “back home”.

.....

Mary Catherine (Kitty) Walker passed away peacefully on June 20, 2025. Kitty was born in 1932 in Texas but was raised in Arlington Virginia. After graduation from The College of William and Mary, she began her career at Greenbelt Junior High. Kitty was first, a physical education teacher and later a media specialist. Kitty was active in PGCEA while teaching and, upon retirement, she was involved in PGPSRA and quickly showed her leadership abilities by becoming President.

**REMEMBRANCE: We have also lost....**

Glendora Howard—June 17, 2025 and Anita Hall—June 18, 2025

Linda Butler, Chair



**PGPSRA General Meeting— September 24, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed - \$18 for each lunch reservation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

**(We need the count by the Sept. 17th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)**

Lunch for this meeting will be a boxed treat from C&C Caatering.

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](http://WWW.MRSPA.org) and [PGPSRA.Org](http://PGPSRA.Org)**

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

Echoes Editor:

Bonnie Curry Brose—[bcbrose@comcast.net](mailto:bcbrose@comcast.net)