ECHOES

Vol. LXI No. 2 The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter November 2026

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fall is here!

The weather is pleasant, the leaves are beautiful, and celebrations are being planned. This is a wonderful time to appreciate the blessings in our lives and, just as importantly, to applaud ourselves for staying active and involved in our organization. Unfortunately, many of our friends and neighbors are missing opportunities to attend school board meetings, community gatherings, and other important informational events. These meetings are where decisions are made,policies are shaped and our voices can make a difference.
Remember, if you are not in the room, you may have little say in what happens!
With state and county resources under pressure this year, we must remain especially vigilant and protect our pension and health benefits. As always, we will depend on our legislative committee to keep us informed, engaged, and motivated to speak up when our interest are at stake.
Across the nation, education leaders are exploring, exciting innovations, including the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI), more personalized learning experiences for students, and new ways to support teachers and strengthen schools. These developments remind us that education never stands still-and neither should our interest in it! We have much to contribute to the future of education.
Let's plan to attend the next general meeting and bring another retiree.
PGPSRA General Meeting
November 18, 2026
PGCEA Center
8008 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747

Together, we can make a difference!

Susie Proctor,
President

Thought for the Day
" Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

Nelson Mandela

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TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2026

Account Balances:

Checking - $39,912.47

Savings - $145.86

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater

MRSPA President Alice Mitchell



President Mitchell will be joining us during our November meeting. Be sure to come to meet her and find out what the plans are for this year.

Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

President-Elect: Dr. Wanda Robinson (wanda63robinson@gmail.com)

Nominating and Awards: Oretha Bridgewater-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

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

Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

Recording Secretary: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.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.

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

Consumer Ed.: Vacant

Historians: McKinley Hayes (mckileyhayes@gmail.com) and Rita Womack (rjw6874@gmail.com)

Inspirations: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

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

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

Newsletter: Bonnie Curry Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net) and Amelia Simmons (dandasimmons@verizon.net)

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Scholarship: Dr. Gladys Williams (scholarly4u@gmail.com) and Vera Davis (davisvera5080@gmail.com)

Website and Parliamentarian: Dr. Wm P. Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Superintendent Joseph



President, Susie Proctor introduced our speaker for the September meeting. We're always ready to welcome our School's Superintendent to the meetings so that we can understand the plans for the year and ask questions.



History



As co-chair of the Historians for PGPSRA, McKinley Hayes is looking to compose a comprehensive history of our Association. Let the committee know if you have anything of interest to share.

MEMBERSHIP



Ceci is always looking for new members! New member, Andrea, found a friend at the meeting and joined in September.



BITS & PIECES

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to several of our Emeritus members, including James Morrison of Westminster, who will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on the 7th; Greta Garrett of Bowie will be having her 92nd birthday on the 9th, two members will be marking their birthdays on the 11th; Phillis Cubbage of Albuquerque, NM will be celebrating her 99th, and John Huffman of Adelphi will be celebrating his 91st; two ladies will be observing their birthdays on the 13th, when Elizabeth B. Proctor of Upper Marlboro will be having her 96th, and **Pauline Staggers of Largo will be having her 100th birthday; on the 21st, Elizabeth KIBLER of Greenbelt will be turning 100 years of age: Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL will be celebrating his 100th birthday on the 23rd; Elizabeth Picciotto of Deale will be marking her 97th birthday on the 25th.**

HAPPY **DECEMBER** BIRTHDAY wishes to other Emeritus members including, **Rennie Quible of Dover, DE who will be having her 102nd birthday on the 14th;** Isabella MacPherson of Salisbury will be observing her 96th birthday on the 18th; Therese Mathieu of Ocean View, DE will be turning 91 years of age on the 22nd; Rosa Lee Rickers of Bowie will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 26th; **Erma Sarahan of College Park will be marking her 101st birthday on the 27th; and Mary D. White of Dayton, will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on the 31st.**

Charles Ross, Jr. of Capitol Heights retired from Bladensburg High School in 1998. Prior to retirement, he looked forward to the things he would like to do in retirement. Many of those have become a reality. He has been able to increase his ongoing involvement in several ministries and organizations at his church, which has given him much satisfaction. He has also remained active in his civic association and Fraternity. Charles is an avid sports fan and also enjoys working in his yard. Keeping busy is his top priority. Travel has remained a part of his life. Since retirement he has been fortunate to visit London, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Dublin, Belfast, Dominican Republic, Bermuda, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands. He has also added two states: Alaska and Hawaii, to his lifetime list of states which now totals 47. Much of Charles' travel was accomplished with his beloved wife of 59 years, Barbara, who is now deceased. He has two daughters and two wonderful grandchildren.

Delphine Malloy, of Oxon Hill, retired from Potomac High School in 2018. She enjoys crocheting, puzzles, and Sudoku. Delphine volunteers at her church with The Pantry, Repast, and the Women's Choir, while serving as a member of the Missionary Society. She's hoping to travel more. She celebrated her anniversary in August. Delphine has two daugthters and three grandsons.

(Cont'd. on page 10)

MEETING DATES FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR

January 6th, March 24, and May 26

Meetings are at PGECA Center at 11:00 (unless otherwise announced)

PGPSRA Community Service Committee - August 2026 – October 2026

Service to the Children in PGCPS – August-September-October 2026

The **Ernest Everett Just Middle School Team** donated 50 Spiral Notebooks, 115 Composition books, 85 packs of filler paper, glue sticks, crayons, pencils, ink pens, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, rulers, dividers, sticky note pads, and 3 ring binders for students to receive during the August 24, 2026, Orientation Day. We also had a great time at the school's Harvest Fest on October 23rd. We gave out snacks, motivational bracelets, pencils, and pens. The students and the vendors were wonderful!







The **Avalon Elementary Team** donated colored markers, composition books, highlighters, dry erase markers, wipes, and stress balls to the school to be used with the students in the special needs wing.





Service to Higher Education – Bowie State University Nutrition Lounge

The CS committee, thanks to the generous donations from the association members, 337 dry and canned food non-perishable items as well as 4 boxes of diapers and boxes of baby wipes on September 24, 2026.



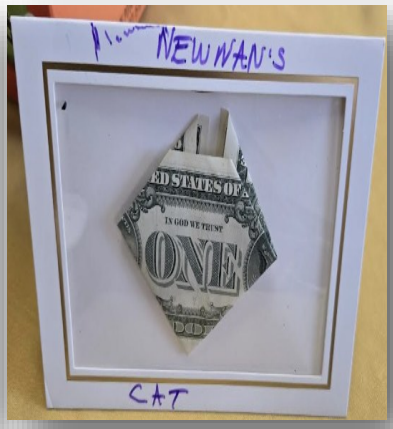
Service to the Community

Forestville Healthcare Center – September & October 2026

On, September 28, 2026, the CSC committee engaged the residents at the Forestville Healthcare Center in creating origami shapes out of dollar bills. After creating their shapes, they were framed so the residents could place them in their rooms. The residents really enjoyed this activity and interacting with the committee members.







The Committee assembled Halloween treat bags for the residents of the Healthcare Center on October 26, 2026. The bags contained sugar-free/no sugar added apple sauce cups, Jello cups, and honey graham crackers. After this, they interacted with the residents by dressing up in costumes, reading a Halloween story and playing a game with them. Lastly, all residents received a bag of treats!

The Committee assembled Halloween treat bags for the residents of the Healthcare Center on October 26, 2026. The bags contained sugar-free/no sugar added apple sauce cups, Jello cups, and honey graham crackers. After this, they interacted with the residents by dressing in costumes, reading a Halloween story, and playing a game with them. Lastly, all residents received a bag of treats!





The residents played the Left – Right game in groups of three while a Halloween story was read by the committee members.





Ayana English Brown danced to the song 'Thriller' for the residents. The committee showing off their costumes.

PGPSRA Knitting & Crochet Club

Some of PGPSRA members have decided to refresh their knitting and crocheting skills. Several members have joined two of the county's community groups for both a social and a service connection. The PGPSRA members meet weekly with community center members to make hats and scarves for students in identified schools. Join us Monday mornings at Upper Marlboro Community Ctr. and/or Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at Harmony Hall Regional Center. For more information contact Diana Kendrick.

It's fun! Come early and do a work-out! Meet new friends!! Learn new skills!!



Help Your Commumity Service Committee

Reminders!!!!!

Bring magazines, calendars, and books for the Oxon Hill library project.

Bring non-perishable food items for the BSU Nutrition Lounge.

Bring $40.00 Cash or a $40.00 check written to PGPSRA to order your Polo Shirt.

Bring a little extra cash or check to make your bid on The Community Service Committee Silent Auction that will be held at the November 18th meeting. This is a great opportunity to get some early holiday gifts!

A Big Thank You!

At the September 2026 association meeting, the Community Service Committee raised $220.00 from the sales of the PGPSRA Polo Shirts.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

J Davis and Laura Downey, Legislative Committee Co-Chairs,attended the MRSPA Legislative Committee meeting on August 11,2026. Amendments were proposed to the MRSPA 2027 legislative priorities, which can be found on the MRSPA website.

Probable future issues facing next year's General Assembly are the budget shortfall,data centers and AI, inadequate funding for Blueprint for Maryland, nursing homes and staffing, Medicare funding and affordable housing.

The MRSPA Legislative Workshop will be virtual on January 26, 2027.



PGPSRA November Meeting

November 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

8008 Marlboro Pike. Forestville, Maryland

.We will be having lunches for this meeting from **Between the Bread**

Sandwiches, sides, chips, cookies and a drink

(We need your reservation by November 11 **to order our lunches!)**

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 - $20 for each lunch reservation $_____
Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

All members are welcome for the meetings. However, if you do not want a lunch, you are free to bring your own. We only order the requests received.

Enjoy the Color!



VISIT THESE WEBSITES www. MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

If you know members who are not receiving these newsletters, please contact MRSPA to update your contact information to make sure you have given them an email address where you can receive your issues.. Also, as they are bulk mailings, they may show up in your spam or trash list. They re mailed out during the first week of the month of our meetings; September, November, January, March and May.

Questions can be directed to either Bonnie or Amelia (see the Officers and Committee Chair list on page 2.)

Bits and Pieces—Continued from page 5

Robert (Bob) King retired in 2011 from Friendly High School, where he taught English, psychology/ sociology, world history, U.S. history, Civics, and coached varsity basketball and girls' softball and baseball. AND NOW, he says, "The state of Maryland is paying me NOT to teach!" Bob and his wife, Lois, moved to North Carolina in 2015, where they couldn't be happier! They live on the Coast of Southeast Carolina and can hear the ocean from their front porch. Bob and Lois have traveled o Europe five times, to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and an unforgettable trip to the Christmas markets in Germany, Austria and Hungary – where, unfortunately, he was injured by a runaway escalator and hospitalized. Bob and Lois celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on September 15th. They have one son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

CMSgt (Ret.) Cornell "Smokey" Langford retired from JROTC Oxen Hill (2011-2014) and JROTC Surrattsville (1999-2011). Since retirement, he has devoted his time as a volunteered for "Carpenters' Shelter for the Homeless" preparing meals. Three to four months out of the year, Smokey does income tax preparations as a sole proprietor through the IRS's, Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and offers free tax service to seniors, widows, and widowers, who live on a fixed income. In his free time, Smokey enjoys riding his motorcycle and fishing (weather permitting). He loves family gatherings, especially during the holidays and sharing joy during the yuletide season. Each year , Smokey and his wife plan a vacation for themselves and also travel with familiy members for special events. This past year they traveled to California, Colorado, North Carolina, New Jersey Pennsylvania, Vrginia, Louisiana, and the Caribbean. Smokey is pleased that he has a daughter who found him after 52 years, increasing his grandchildren from eight to eleven and his great-grandchildren from two to four.

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