

ECHOES

Vol. LIX No. 3

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

January 2026

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we welcome the start of a new year, I hope each of you are entering 2026 with renewed energy and good health. January is a time for reflection- an opportunity to look back with gratitude and to look ahead with purpose. For

our community of retired teachers, January serves as a reminder of the lasting impact we have made and continue to make in the lives of others. Our dedication to the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association is an example of the values we support and a testament to our belief in the power of education. Our experiences and voices still matter, perhaps now more than ever. Every new year is a fresh chapter-may we have the courage to write it with purpose, gratitude, and hope.

I look forward to seeing all of you (and maybe a friend) at our next general meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 11 AM.

The heart of a teacher never retires. It simply finds new ways to light the path.

Susie Proctor, President

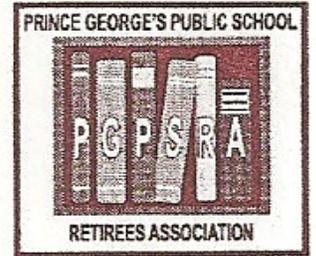
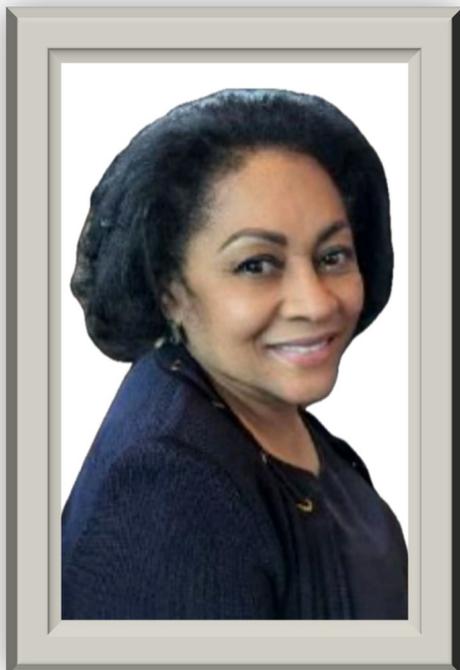


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TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2025

Account Balances:

Checking - \$32,793.75

Savings - \$145.86

Dr. Barbara J. 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 (scholarly4u@gmail.com)

Historian: McKinley Hayes (mckinleyhayes@g.mail.com and Dr.Rita Womack RJW6874@gmail.com)

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)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is proud to announce an opportunity for graduating seniors from Prince George's Public and Charter High Schools to apply for the Retirees Association annual award of \$1,000 scholarships. Students must be graduating with at least a 2.50 GPA, write a 300-word essay and submit two letters of recommendation. For further information and to access the application, please visit: submit-application@pgpsra.org

All completed applications are due by Friday, February 27, 2026. The committee members are Vera Davis, Co-Chair; John Brooks, Dolores Tilghman, Dr. Sheila Jefferson, and Dr. Phyllis Gillens.

Dr. Gladys Williams, Chair

Bits and Pieces

Happy **JANUARY** birthday greetings to some of our Emeritus members, including Lannie Morehead of Ft. Washington who will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 7th; **Betty Bailey of Greensboro, N.C. is having her 100th birthday on the 11th**; Helen Brewer of Waldorf will be marking her 96th birthday on the 22nd; both Michael Tronzo of Stafford, VA. and Delores Smith of Huntingtown will be celebrating on the 23rd, when Michael will be 95 years of age and Delores will be turning 96 years-old; Patricia Moon of Easton will be reaching her 92nd birthday on the 26th; Kenneth Turner of Marietta, GA. will be observing his 94th birthday on the 28th; and Beverly West of Annapolis will be having her 98th birthday on the 30th.

Happy **FEBRUARY** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: both Ina Lou White of Burke, VA. and Mary Brinton of Palm Coast, Fl. will be celebrating their birthdays on the 7th, when Ina Lou will be turning 99 years of age and Mary will be reaching 92 years-old; Mildred Mitchell of Washington, D.C. will be having her 96th birthday on the 10th; on the 11th two members will be sharing a birthdate when **James Ruckert of Chesapeake Beach will be observing his 101st birthday**, and Barbara Taylor of Frederick will be turning 93 years of age; Rowena Jackson of Forestville will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on the 17th; two ladies will be having their birthdays on the 25th, when Cora Marshall of Ft. Washington will be marking 99 years of age, and Ann Rakow will be reaching her 95th birthday; Audrey Moore of Forestville will be observing her 97th birthday on the 29th.

Dr. Wanda Robinson of Upper Marlboro retired after 18 years as Principal of Highland Park Elementary School, having served as an educator in Prince Georges County for a total of 34 years. She continues to serve as an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc--Delta Zeta Zeta Chapter and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International-Key Women Educators. Wanda's volunteer work in her sorority consists of Chairperson of Adopt-a-School Program and Co-Chair of Elder Care and March of Dimes Programs. Wanda also serves on several church ministries, sings in the Senior Choir, and is serving as President-Elect of our Prince Georges Public School Retiree Association. Wanda enjoys engaging in activities that ignite her creativity. She loves creative and performing arts, as well as, attending musicals, operas, plays, and concerts. In her early years of teaching, she wrote scripts for school plays and musicals that her students performed. Since retiring she has enjoyed a "Girls Trip" to The Palms of Isle in South Carolina and attended a sorority conference in Rhode Island. She drives to her hometown of Charlottesville, VA. several times a year. This is a nice place to relax where the vibe is much slower. In a few years, she plans to pursue a part-time position at the college level. Wanda truly enjoys helping others – and she hopes that if she is blessed to live to an older age, that someone will do the same for her.

Barbara Walker Matthews of Upper Marlboro retired from Kettering Elementary in 2005. She has taught in various locations: Dinwiddie County VA., Washington, D.C., Harford County MD., and ended her 43 years as an educator in Prince George's County. This last move occurred when her husband, Rev. Marcus Matthews, was elected as a Bishop in the Methodist Church in 2004, and he served in PA., Upstate New York, and the Baltimore-Washington area. Barbara and her husband of 51 years, have traveled extensively, visiting 35 of the 50 states, including Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Panama, The Islands of St. Lucia, St. Martin, and St. Thomas, AND the countries of Oceania, New Zealand, Botswana, DR Congo, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mozambique, Denmark, Canada, South Africa, South Korea, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Barbara's bucket list includes cruising to Antarctica and visiting the rest of the 15 US States. Barbara's interests also include quilting, crocheting, macrame, working out, Bible Study, reading mysteries and historical books. She is a member of Asbury Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. The Matthews have two children, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Barbara and her husband are enjoying retirement!

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

PGPSRA Community Service Committee

October - November 2025

Service to Students in Prince George’s County Public Schools

The Rosaryville Elementary team supported the school’s attendance incentive by serving fresh popcorn to the students during their recess. They also provided three Thanksgiving baskets, three \$25.00 gift cards from Aldi’s, and coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for needy families.



The Oxon Hill Elementary team supported the school through donations of snacks for their after-school programs/ clubs. They also donated school uniforms to needy students.



The Hyattsville Middle School team supported the students and families through giving toiletries and coats.



Service to Higher Education – Supporting the BSU Nutrition Lounge

The Community Service Committee, with the support of PGPSRA members, donated 316 non-perishable and toiletry items, as well as six grocery store gift cards (totaling \$170.00) to the nutrition lounge on November 20th.



Service to the Community – Shepherd’s Cove Shelter for Women & Children-Oct. 23, 2025

Community Service Committee members facilitating workshops for the women & children



January is HAT Weather!



All PGPSRA Association members please wear your most stylish or just your favorite hat to our January 28th meeting. If there's a story behind your hat, be prepared to share it at the meeting. If there is no story behind it, just wear it and be ready to 'strike a pose'.

Other Reminders:

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

PGPSRA-TRIP

To
DC National Theatre

CLUE

Musical, Comedy Murder Mystery

January 31, 2026

Saturday

(2:00 p.m.)

&

Lunch at Hard Rock Café at 11:00 a.m.

Trip: \$200.00 person

Includes: Bus, Show, Lunch and Tip for the bus driver

Make checks out to PGPSRA Trips

And mail to me by Dec. 20, 2025 (I have to pay in full -end of Dec.)

Children – 14 or older

Orchestra Seats (no steps)

Addie Martin, 9706 Frank Tippet Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Questions: Call me – (301-868-6081)

**Bus - Leaving Equestrian Center 10:00 a.m. (up the hill by the water tower)
14900 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro, MD**



PGPSRA Membership Report

Current Members: 1007

Request: Invite/Bring a Friend to the January Meeting

Committee will contact recent unpaid members to renew

Ceci M. Aikens, Chair

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.



It's MRSPA Foundation Raffle Time!

Entering the drawing is fun and easy!

Make your check payable to **MRSPA Foundation**.

Write **MRSPA Foundation Raffle** on the FOR line.

Date and **sign** your check.

Mail check and completed form to: MRSPA

8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A Odenton, MD
21113

before March 20, 2026.

Will you send a donation today?



Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets and send your ticket stubs to you in the US Mail when we

receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2026 Annual Business Meeting, whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

Be sure to include all your contact information, in case you should win!!

AARP and US

November's guest speaker was Sara Westrick who is the Advocacy Director for AARP-MD. She presented us with valuable information about our financial security issues, our care-giving decisions and the upcoming Legislative concerns for this year.

Members were able to ask questions and discuss issues of concern to all of us. AARP is there for all of us.....do not hesitate to call if you have questions or want to get more involved with their work here in Prince George's County or wherever you are located in your retirement.

Our association works with AARP, but you are not automatically a member. There are many benefits to joining and teachers are important to them....and always has been!



AARP.org



PGPSRA General Meeting— January 28, 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.

(We need the count by the January 14th 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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