

# ECHOES

Vol. LV No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2020

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

**From the President:**

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving I surveyed the world as we know it and, believe it or not, found a lot of things for which to be thankful.

In September PGPSRA held its first General Membership meeting via Zoom. We had 42 "attendees" and heard a wonderful presentation from Kriste Kidd, senior advisor for the Oasis Senior Living Program. The "attendees" joined in from as far away as Arizona and North Carolina, and received information about funding options to keep monthly housing costs low, independent living, retirement communities, assisted living, residential care homes, memory care, skilled nursing facilities, respite services, hospice, and more. You can see the slides from the presentation by visiting our website--pgpsra.org . When our page comes up, at the top middle of the page is the word OASIS, which provides a link to the slides.

Then, thankfully, the November Election is essentially behind us--or not!! (Remember that crystal ball I talked about in previous messages? The one that I do not have?)

The November PGPSRA General Membership meeting will again be offered via Zoom, on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m. Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks has agreed to be our speaker. She will undoubtedly discuss progress being made against Covid-19 and other matters of importance to county residents.

Please note the registration form for the meeting that is printed in this issue. If you wish to "attend" the virtual meeting, you will need to send your name and **email address** to Dr. Vest at his email address provided on the form. More information will be provided to those who register. In order to participate you **MUST** provide Dr. Vest with your name and email address by Nov. 10.

The Community Service Committee is working with schools to continue to provide the outstanding service for which PGPSRA is known. The Scholarship Committee is contacting schools to solicit applications for PGPSRA scholarships.

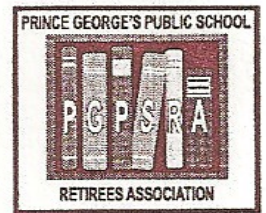
The Scholarship Committee also has decided to offer two \$300 mini-grants to teachers or para-professionals to support student needs-based projects that are not covered by the school system or parent-teacher organization. This program will mirror one offered by MRSPA. The deadline for our local mini-grant program will be announced at a later date. This will be the first time that PGPSRA has offered these mini-grants independently.

Please remember that you can visit our organization website at any time of the day or night. That address is pgpsra.org and there you will find copies of past newsletters, calendars, photographs and a lot more interesting information.

PGPSRA continues to work with the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) to insure that due diligence is given to protecting our retirement pensions. We hope that you will encourage retirees you know who are not members to join PGPSRA and MRSPA as soon as possible. There is strength in numbers.

There are, indeed, many things for which to be thankful. Thank you for every act of kindness you have shown to fellow retirees and other residents of our community. Please continue to be strong.

I leave you with this thought, which did not originate with me: "Always find time for the things that make you feel happy to be alive."



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**Prince George's County Public  
Schools  
Names 2020 Teacher of the  
Year**



Congratulations to Mary Piccirilli for being named the Prince George's County Public Schools 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Piccirilli is a third grade teacher at Cooper Lane Elementary School in Landover Hills. Her outstanding dedication to her students and her community was an important factor in her being selected for this award.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – SEPT – 2020**

OPENING BALANCES:  
CHECKING ACCOUNT - \$28099.08  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.86

ACTIVITY – CHECKING ACCOUNT:  
RECEIPTS - 2540.15  
EXPENDITURES - 20.00

NO ACTIVITY IN SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30:  
CHECKING ACCOUNT - 30619.23  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - 126.86  
TOTAL ASSETS \$30746.09

Respectfully Submitted,

**Officers and Committee Chairs of  
PGPSRA**

President: George D. Denny (george.dilden@yahoo.com)

President-Elect: Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
(obridge@verizon.net)

Past President/Nominating: Lorraine W. Johnson  
(johnson6608@comcast.net)

Recording Sec.: Gretel James (gret22@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Edward Vest (homevest@comcast.net)

Corr. Secretary: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

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

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

Bylaws: Mary Louise J. Isbell (maryi32@verizon.net)

Comm. Service: Courtney Pringle (pringc@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Norma Martof (nmartof@verizon.net)

Historian: Don Conway (donconway5@icloud.com)

Inspirations: Dan Williams (hapycmprs@mac.com)

Legislation: Sue Finan (sfinan77gmail.com)

Membership: Maryann M. Royall  
(maryakaroyall@aol.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net)

Programs: Bonnie Brose and Norma Martof

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

Recognition: Fran Doyle (penguinCI@msn.com)

Remembrance: Jayne Johns (jaynejohns@verizon.net)

Scholarships: Vera J. Davis (301 452 350)

& Brenda Barnes

Trips: Addie Martin



**Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks  
Is Nov. 18 PGPSRA Guest Speaker**

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks has agreed to be the guest speaker at the Nov. 18 PGPSRA General Membership meeting. She is expected to address the current pandemic status, the state of the county, and a number of other topics.

## Scholarship Committee

### Brenda Barnes, Chair

COVID-19 has challenged the outlook, energy, and participation of most organizations, however, the PGPSRA's Scholarship Committee is endeavouring to continue its

mission to promote education by providing scholarships to assist students who desire a college education but lack the finances to do so.

The Scholarship Committee thanks all for assisting in providing the funds the students need to become educators, and in assisting our school system in reaping the benefits of our gifts through those students who continue and become educators.

Evidence of your gifts are readily seen in the number of students attending college and becoming educators.

The Scholarship Committee is composed of former teachers and counselors: Vera Davis, Ruth Butler, Lorraine W. Johnson, and Brenda Barnes who have a vested interest in the education and success of our children. They keep Prince George's County High Schools aware of the assistance available for high school graduates who desire a career in education. The committee works with all of Prince George's County's high schools.

In addition to the scholarships offered by the Scholarship Committee, the committee strives to keep students and staff aware of other assistance available from the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association in the form of mini-grants. The Mini Grant program is designed to support student needs-based projects that are not covered by the school system or parent-teacher organization. Information and applications for the mini-grant are available on our website. The deadline for applying for this assistance is November 1st of each year.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of our scholarship program. The students appreciate the investment you make in their lives educationally. The testimonies the students give is an indication of their gratitude.

-- Lorraine W. Johnson

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership report is based on information as of: 8/10/20

MRSRA'S final billing notice for unpaid memberships will be mailed out the last of August, 2020. Members who remain unpaid on November 1, 2020 will be dropped.

Our total membership:	1,266
Dues Deducted:	800
Paid Members	127
Unpaid Members	233
Emeritus:	80
New Since 3/1/20	11
Increase:	2
TOTAL:	1,266

MARYANN M. ROYALL, CHAIR

Jayne Johns, Linda Butler, Mary Isbell

## FOR FUN!

"Hello, is this the Sheriff's Office? "Yes, what can I do for you?" "I'm calling to report 'bout my neighbor, Virgil Smith. He is hidin' marijuana inside his firewood! Don't quite know how he gets it inside them logs, but he's hidin' it in there." "Thank you very much for the call, sir." The next day the sheriff's deputies descended on Virgil's home. They searched the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, the busted open every piece of wood, but found no marijuana. They sneered at Virgil and left. Shortly the phone rang at Virgil's house. "Hey, Virgil, this here's Floyd....did the Sheriff come?" "Yeah." "Did they chop your firewood?" "Yep" "Happy Birthday, buddy!"

**Dan Williams, Inspiration Chair**

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **November** birthday wishes to a number of our Emeritus members: Ms. Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Pauline Staggers of Largo will be having her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 13<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be marking her 98th birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be turning 94 years-old on the 21<sup>st</sup>; Mr. Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL. will be having his 94th birthday on the 23rd; Ms. Elizabeth Picciotto of Deale will be observing her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>; and Mr. Edward Feeny of Catonsville will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on the 28th.

Happy **December** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Mrs. Dorothy Tupper of Beltsville having her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be marking her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Erma Sarahan of College Park will be turning 95 years-old on the 27<sup>th</sup>; and Ms. Mary White of Dayton, MD. will be observing her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Gloria Curry of Washington, D.C. retired in 1989 after teaching Spanish and English at Francis Scott Key Middle School and Thomas Pullen Middle School. She and her husband, John, a Tuskegee Airman, celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past August. They have two sons, four grandchildren, and one great grandson. The Currys have enjoyed travels to Spain, France, Mexico and Central America, and their most favorite place: Nova Scotia, Canada. Since retiring Gloria has enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren, watching them grow, graduate from college, and get jobs. Gloria's hobbies include stamp collecting, reading, classic movies, music, and supporting Maryland Public TV and WETA.

Dorothy Campbell of Upper Marlboro retired from Fairmont Heights High School as a business teacher in 1995. She enjoys crossword puzzles, dance, adult coloring, and TV. She has had the pleasure of visiting several European countries, Russia, Ukraine, and Israel. Dorothy has one daughter and two grandsons, both in college at "Ole MS."

Greta Garrett of Bowie retired from Greenbelt Middle School as a special education teacher in 1996. Prior to her employment with Prince George's County, she was a teacher with the Youth Services Administration in Washington, D.C. Greta has been an active member of PGPSRA since her retirement, having served as secretary and an auditor. She is also a member of Iota Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc. Greta attends Reid Temple AME Church in Glendale, where she belongs to the Golden Reids, the November Community, and the Reid Temple Senior Services. She also attends Senior Fellowship at Hughes Memorial Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. Greta and her (now deceased) husband enjoyed travels to 30 U.S. states, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Greta has a son, two stepdaughters, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

William Boyd retired from Robert Goddard Middle School in 1996. He has since become an active resident of the Ridderwood Village Retirement Community in Silver Spring, where he does "In-house Travel TV Shows", conducts "Travel Talk Shows", and sponsors a monthly Ballroom Dance for residents. William is well-qualified to speak about travel, as he has travelled to 308 countries! His other interests include sports, exercise, and dance. He's a very busy fellow!

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### It's PGPSRA Election Time!!

**The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the upcoming year for the following:  
President-Elect (2 years), Recording Secretary (1 year), Corresponding Secretary (1 year) and  
Treasurer (1 year).**

If you are interested: contact Lorraine Johnson (chair, johnson6608@comcast.net or Brenda Barnes (member, blbarnes128@aol.com

(Cont'd from page 4)

Pamella Caesar of Ft. Washington retired in 2017 from Prince George's Community College as an Associate Professor. Her interests have always involved caring for others, reading and sharing knowledge. With this in mind, she has created her own online business "Zar's Health". To learn about it, you may go online to [zarshealthandwellness.com](http://zarshealthandwellness.com). For the two years following her retirement, Pamella was able to travel to her birthplace in Guyana, South America. She and her husband, Julian, celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last March. They have three sons and nine grandchildren.

Lucy Jane Seymour of Rockingham, VA. retired from Robert Goddard Middle School in 1990. She immediately became an active member of the Salvation Army Auxiliary and continues to volunteer with the organization. Sadly, her husband of 64 years has passed. The Seymours had two sons, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. One of Lucy Jane's favorite things to do is to sit on the front porch of her childhood home in Mazer, W.V. and watch the birds and wild animals. She also enjoys spending time with her two very young great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Brown retired from Central High School in 2008. Then, she retired a second time after working twelve years as a Clinical Supervisor of Education Interns at the University of Maryland. Dorothy now volunteers for the Help by Phone Pantry at Berwyn Presbyterian Church and, also, assists recording for the church Financial Secretary. She closely follows both the Women's and Men's University of Maryland Basketball Teams. She also finds pleasure in exploring the nooks and crannies of Maryland and the Southwest. Dorothy and her husband, Robert, live in Lanham. They celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past June. The Browns have two children, and three grandchildren.

To contribute to "BITS & PIECES" contact [jannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:jannetteWundrow@comcast.net) or 301-390-7324

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Community Service*

***We, Community Service members, have begun our work in September in that we are continuing our unfinished business sited for 2019-2020. The chairman has contacted the five schools previously selected, (J. Frank Dent Elementary, Forest Heights Elementary, Glass Manor Elementary, and our new addition Brandywine Elementary) who have welcomed our assistance with glee. The High School previously selected (Surrattsville) has yet to respond. We will keep you posted on any new developments.***

***We realize this year's program is a challenging one since we are working virtually to make things happen. Please continue to pray for our success in assisting the teachers and children participating in this endeavor (2020-2021).***

***We continue to need your help, and thank everyone making contributions to assist us.***

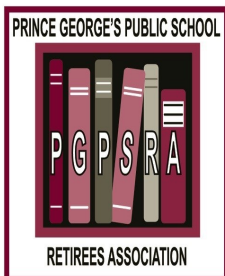
***Submitted by,***

***Courtney Pringle***



## Donations Help Support PGPSRA Scholarships, Community Service Activities

The PGPSRA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools and to graduates who plan to pursue a career in education. Last May PGPSRA awarded two \$1,000 and two \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors and provided over \$6,000 in clothing, school supplies and other necessities to students and families in several elementary schools. We are seeking donations for these two committees so that they may continue their great work. All donations come with our thanks and appreciation. Please forward your donation as follows:



Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744-1729

Enclosed is my donation (check payable to PGPSRA) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Service Committee  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Committee

**(If you choose to split your donation between the two committees, please feel free to do so by placing the amount for each after the names of each.)**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please include this form with your donation.***

### Remembrance

Robert J. Poling 7/19/2020	Janet Cason	William McKenzie
Mary Nixon 8/04/2020	Jacqueline Faison	Carole Mumaw
Gloria Doby 8/06/2020	Ellen Fiosk	Grace Russell
Huguette Audin 4/2017	Tina Fortson Rivers	Quita Shelton
Betty Moore 5/2017	Janice Gordon	Carole Tice
Anne Teyssler 8/16/2020	John H. Hayes	Charlene Mattingly 8/14/2020
Jerry K. Richardson 8/01/2020	Robert Jenkins	Charlene Jacob 9/10/2020
Mary M. Aist	Veronica Jones	Betty Monroe 9/13/2020
Carol Bailey	Vincent Kordack	Joyce Schmitt 9/20/2020
Helen Bonfield	Richard Krafchek	Frank J. Parise 10/01/2020
Linda E. Brudce	Edmond Lawrence	
	Mary Markey	<b>Jayne Johns and Linda Butler,</b>
	Barbara Martin	<b>Chairs.</b>



## RESERVATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Our November 18 General Membership meeting will be held virtually! Due to this COVID-19 pandemic and the need to “distance” there is not a venue that will allow us to meet safely.

You must let Dr. Ed Vest know that you plan to attend! Please email him your name and email address no later than Nov. 10 to be on the list. You will then receive the invitation to join the meeting that will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 18th. You will also receive an agenda, by email, for the meeting

Ed Vest .....[homevest552@comcast.net](mailto:homevest552@comcast.net)

Last meeting we had “attendees” from as far away as North Carolina and Arizona. You may see people you have not seen for ages who are not able to attend our in person meetings. If you’re feeling new to the idea....ask your children or grandchildren! Feel free to bring your own lunch and refreshment!!

### Charline Jacob, Life-Long Educator, Passes

PGPSRA mourns the passing of long-time member and community servant Charline Jacob. Charline served as an educator for 38 years in the Prince George’s County Public Schools, retiring from James McHenry Elementary School in 1997.

She was an active member of the Prince George’s Public School Retirees Association, where she chaired the Membership Committee.

She was also involved in a number of community organizations, including serving on the Board of the Family Crisis Center of Prince George’s County, where she was a tireless advocate for victims of domestic violence. Charline supported cancer patients as a Patient Care Volunteer with Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Charline was a graduate of Dillard University in New Orleans, LA, an initiate of Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and charter member of Iota Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She served in many leadership positions in the Dillard University National Alumni Association and the Dillard University Metro Washington, D.C. Alumni Association, and for more than 50 years championed the mission of Dillard University and HBCUs across the nation.

Among her many honors were induction into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, recipient of Dillard University’s Henry Lucas Service Award for Alumni, and nomination for the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation’s Hall of Fame Legacy of Leaders award.

On the home front, Charline shared her life with her 104 year old mother.

The family has indicated that she continued to be an educator well past her retirement, donating her body to science for educational uses. A virtual memorial service was held for her in late October.

We will miss Charline and wish the best for her mother and family.



## PGPSRA

Dr. Edward N. Vest  
7908 Klovstad Drive  
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Editor:  
Bonnie Curry Brose  
bcbrose@comcast.net




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**We're on the web!**  
**[www.pgpsra.org](http://www.pgpsra.org)**

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### PGCPS Benefits—Addie Martin

As you may know, even though medical claims have increased significantly in our county, the PGCPS continues to share the cost (80%) for our medical, prescription drug, vision and dental coverage. The spike in claims has affected our co-payments for our prescription drugs for not only retirees but active employees as well.

Please remember that Open Enrollment (always in October) is your once a year opportunity to review your options and select the medical benefits that work best for you. During Open Enrollment you can:

- Drop your current coverage – if you drop coverage, you will not be able to re-enroll at a later date;
- Drop dependents – if you drop a dependent, that dependent will not be able to enroll at a later date; or
- Switch medical plans from CareFirst to Kaiser Permanente or from Kaiser Permanente to CareFirst.

**VISIT THESE WEBSITES [www.MRSPA.org](http://www.MRSPA.org) and [www.PGPSRA.org](http://www.PGPSRA.org)**

If you have not already done so,  
send your email address to Dr. Vest  
To get the latest, quickest news.