

ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 4

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

March 2025

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year is well underway. The PGPSRA Board and I hope that 2025 will be a safe and healthy year for all of us. Our Executive Board continues to meet regularly to discuss PGPSRA business.

We are especially excited that hot lunches will be provided at our next General Membership Meeting which will be held on March 26th at 11:00 a.m. at the PGCEA Center. Join in the fun and bring a friend to the luncheon. The lunch registration form is attached to this newsletter.

Retiree benefits continue to be a major focus of this organization. This leads me to the importance of continuing to build our membership. Our ability to preserve our pension and health benefits is dependent on our numbers. "Strength of numbers" enables us to advocate by creating a larger, more impactful voice when lobbying for changes related to our retirement benefits, pension, and health care, as a united group can exert more pressure on decision makers. If you know retirees who are not PGPSRA members, please encourage them to join.

Lastly, I found the following tips from keeping fit and healthy to making the mental adjustment of being retired. These tips might be helpful for new retirees, as well as those well into their retirement years. Be patient with yourself, and do not expect perfection! (Source: British Heart Foundation, <http://www.bhf.org.uk>).

1. Prepare for occasional ups/downs by making a backup plan.
2. Develop a routine for the day.
3. Exercise your mind by challenging yourself to paper/pencil tasks or by learning something new.
4. Keep physically active by aiming for 150 minutes of moderate-intense physical activity per week.
5. Mental health is just as important as physical health—be kind to yourself and stay connected to your friends and family.
6. Make lists—a list of specific, measurable goals or a daily/weekly to-do list,
7. Seek social support by joining a group or club or by reconnecting with an old friend.
8. Keep your doctor appointments up to date. (Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms)

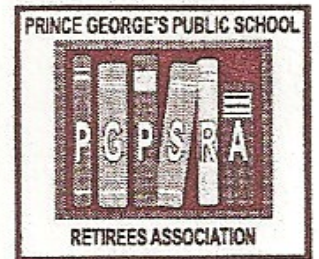
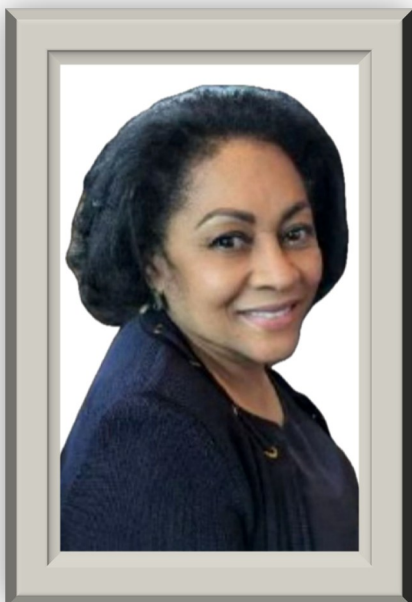


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TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2025

Account Balances:

Checking - \$33,717.94

Savings - \$125.86



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It was a pleasure to see so many retired educators at the January meeting on the very cold, frozen snow, winter day.

Presently, PGPSRA has **1053 members**. We currently have **82 Emeritus members**, of whom four are already 100 years-old, and eight are turning 100 years -old during 2025!

The \$10 gift card incentive continues! Any PGPSRA member who recruits a NEW MEMBER via DUES DEDUCTION will receive a \$10. Walmart gift card.

I attended the MRSPA Zoom Membership Meeting on January 15, when ideas for gaining new members were shared by Membership Chairs of all 23 counties and Baltimore City. There was also discussion of creating a new MRSPA logo and updating the entire website.

We are fortunate to have some very involved, dedicated, and creative members who serve as our PGPSRA officers, along with committee chairs and committee members, who carry on the work of PGPSRA within our organization and in the community. They all deserve a huge "THANK YOU"!

The January door prize winners were Thomas Rose and Liz Burley!

Jannette Wundrow – Membership Chair

Officers and Committee Chairs

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

President-Elect: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

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 and Nominating: George Denny (George.dilden@yahoo.com)

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: Vacant

Inspirations: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

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

Membership: Jannette Wundrow (jannettewundrow@comcast.net)

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

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

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Awards and Recognition:

Scholarships: Brenda Barnes (blbarnes128@aol.com) and Vera Davis (davisvera5080@gmail.com)



Bits and Pieces

Happy **MARCH** birthday greetings to some of our Emeritus members: Phyllis LaBorwit of Bowie will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 1st; Mary Nicholas of Lanham will be having her 94th birthday on the 6th; Margaret Fleet of Brandywine will be turning 95 years-old on the 8th; Gloria Martin of Upper Marlboro will be marking her 97th birthday on the 9th; Daniel Chase of College Park will be reaching his 98th birthday on the 10th; Jannie Goldston will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on the 19th; and **Carson Smith of Silver Spring will be turning 100 years of age on the 25th**

Happy **APRIL** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Eva Smith of Ft. Washington will be having her 94th birthday on the 1st; Mary Lou Williams will be turning 97 years-old on the 10th; Guyneth Eigenbrode of Cheverly will be turning 95 years of age on the 17th; Jean Young of Absecon, N.J. will be reaching her 93rd birthday on the 18th; Catherine Brooks of Aquasco, will be observing her 97th birthday on the 19th; Jane Larson of Spring Hill, FL. will be celebrating her 99th birthday on the 21st; Clara Martin of Hyattsville will be reaching 91 years of age on the 24th; **Alveta Jones of Landover will be having her 100th birthday on the 25th**; and **Mary Younger of Cheltenham will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 27th**.

Godelieve Bartley of Bowie, retired from H. W. Wheatley Early Childhood Center in 2002. She returned to teaching two years later, as an instructor in the Foreign Language School - University of Maryland, College Park, teaching Dutch for the next six years. In 2005, Godelieve became a docent at Calvert House Museum in Riversdale, where she continues to this day. She guides visitors through the Calvert Mansion on a pre-set schedule by appointment. Mrs. Rosalie Calvert (wife of George Calvert) was from Belgium, and since Godelieve is a Belgium native, her ability for speaking Dutch, has been a valued asset to Calvert House; she has interpreted letters written to Mrs. Calvert from her Belgium family. Mrs. Calvert also wrote letters to her family in Dutch, telling them about her life in Maryland. Sadly, Godelieve lost her husband in 2014. However, while he was living, they went on a total of 14 cruises throughout the world! After his passing, Godelieve flew solo to West Australia to visit friends. She also has made trips to Belgium and Scandinavia to visit family. Godelieve has one son, who lives in California. She has visited him and his wife there various times. However, this past summer they came to Rehoboth and Dewey Beach, DE. for a family reunion. Godelieve lives at Collington-Kendal Senior Community, where she is actively involved with the Gardening Committee, serves as Chair of the Flower Committee, is a member of the Collington Singers Group, is Manager of the Dutch Speakers' Club Luncheons, and serves as the Section Ambassador for Independent Living Residents.

Glenna Hull of Clear Spring, MD. retired from Robert Goddard Middle School in 1995. Afterward she worked at the Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum for some years. Glenna has one son, Barry Hull.

Ethel Gilmore of Mitchellville retired in 1998 from New Carrollton Elementary School. She has since become a Ministry Leader at Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church and is involved with the Scholarship Ministry. Ethel loves to travel and has been to Greece, Egypt, London, Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Australia, the Caribbeans, Florida, and Las Vegas! Ethel has one son, a Godson, and seven grandchildren. Sadly, her husband is deceased, as are two of her sons. Ethel enjoys socializing with friends, celebrating birthdays, doing Word Searches, and reading news about other educators.

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

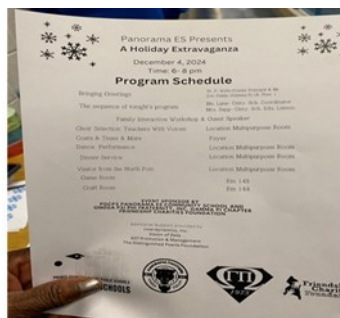


PGPSRA Community Service Committee

December 2024/January 2025

The Community Service Committee is on the move! We are excited to share the projects we have conducted with Shepherds Cove Shelter for Women and Children as well as with some of our adopted schools, and the nursing home project.

On December 4th the PGPSRA Community Service sub-committee assigned to Panorama Elementary engaged in the school's "Winter Extravaganza". The school partnered with several other community partners to provide dinner, informational tables, winter photos of children/families, children and staff performances, arts and crafts, bicycle give-a-ways, winter coats and accessories distribution and raffling of Christmas Trees. The Sub-Committee, Don Harvey, Gloria Douglas, and Dr. Wanda L.



On December 10th, the High School sub-committee, McKinley Hayes and Carolyn Kelly, presented 5 well-deserving students at Central High School with \$300.00 awards to fund their senior fees and prom.



The Nursing Home Card Project was conducted on December 23rd at the Forestville Healthcare Center. Ayana English-Brown and Dr. Wanda L. Robinson went to each room and distributed Christmas Cards and 2025 Calendars to residents.



The Shepherds Cove Shelter Project engaged in the third session with the children and women residents on December 18th. The Mad Science Center of Maryland were invited to engage the children in learning about various science phenomena. The children (and some moms) were excited to see the science experiments and hear the explanations provided.

Cont'd on pg. 5

Community Service cont'd



The women residents received self-defense demonstrations and strategies facilitated by the Mu Alpha Sigma Martial Arts Sorority, Inc. They were great! They provided scenarios and strategies that they practiced with the women residents to help them stay safe. All women residents as well as the facilitators, received an emergency alarm key ring as a gift for their participation.



PGPSRA Officer Elections During March Meeting

The **March 26, 2025 PGPSRA General Meeting** will be an exciting event you that you don't want to miss. Among the items on the agenda, there will be the election of officers for the coming two years.

Susie Proctor, our current President-Elect, will become President of PGPSRA on July 1. Elections for our other four officers will also take place at the March meeting. We have an outstanding slate of nominees for those positions, however nominations will also be taken from the floor.

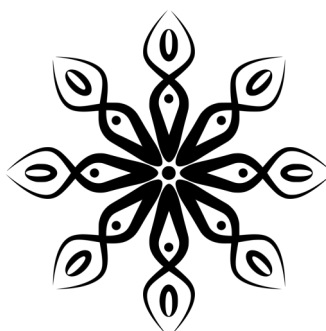
Nominees include: Dr. Wanda Robinson, President-Elect; Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer; Alonia C. Sharps, Recording Secretary; and Sharon Collins, Corresponding Secretary



Our New President: Susie Proctor 2026-2028



Wanda Barbara Alonia Sharon





Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee met on October 5, 2024 to review our plan of action for the 2024-2025 school year. We first discussed getting PGPSRA Letterhead for correspondence for Scholarship Committee and a flyer for all counselors to place in their offices, lunchroom and school newsletters. We want to publicize this great opportunity.

Secondly, we made a conscious decision that PGPSRA student applicants will continue to submit applications online at pgpsra.org. All applicants must be from Prince Georges County Public Schools. The Scholarship Committee members have contacted senior counselors by January 1, 2024. We distributed information to counselors to give to their graduating seniors. We also want to solicit our Retired Educators to share this information with family and friends for this awesome opportunity using the pgpsra.org website. All applications are due by **February 28, 2025**.

Lastly, our next meeting will be held on March 13, 2025 to choose candidates for the [Prince Georges Public School Retired Association](#) scholarship. We plan to give our qualified candidates a \$1,000 scholarship. By April 14, 2025 acceptance letters will go out to qualified students and mini grant teachers from Prince George's County from MRSPA.

Vera Davis, Committee Chair

Our January Speaker \

Mr. James Storm, Supervisor of Retirement and Other Benefits at the Prince George's County Board of Education

PGPSRA General Meeting **March 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.**

PGCEA Center,

(We need the count by the March 19th mail delivery! Mail it now!!)

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 - \$21 for each lunch reservation \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

(Remember! We need the count by the 19th date!)

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. Late orders make it difficult for the caterer.....be kind, order as soon as you are able.

The lunch provided for March will be a buffet. The Menu is: an Entrée of chicken and/or salmon; sides of rice pilaf and roasted mixed vegetables . Rolls/butter and Dessert Sodas and water for drinks

If you require a vegetarian lasagna for your entrée. Please indicate that when you place your order.

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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