

ECHOES

Vol. LIX No. 5

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

May 2026

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964



As the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to applaud and sincerely thank you for your outstanding service. It has truly been a pleasure working with each and every dedicated member of this organization. I would especially like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our exceptional Board of Directors. Your leadership, commitment, and countless hours of service have guided this organization with strength and purpose.

Many of us will attend the MRSPA annual business luncheon in Turf Valley on May 5th. This will be an opportunity to participate in plans to re-organize the structure and purpose of several important committees. Our voices and our votes will help determine how MRSPA will continue to support our local organizations.

We are also enthusiastic about our annual luncheon on May 20th. The highlight of our program will be the introduction of the scholarship recipients. This is our opportunity to recognize and promote the promise of these future leaders.

The members of PGPSRA are supporting our communities in ways too numerous to mention. Follow us on Facebook, read the Echo and remember, you are always welcome to join us.

With warmest regards,
Susie Proctor President

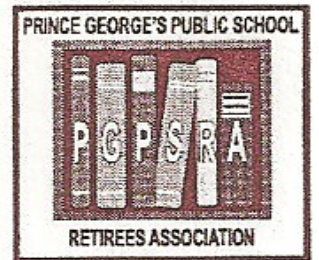


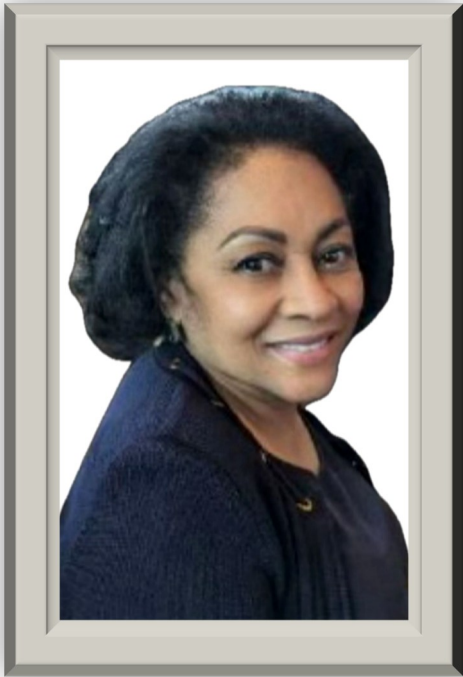
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CELEBRATE SPRING AND SUMMER!

Wear a flower to the meeting. On your hat, in your pocket lapel or in your hair....be creative....we'll be festive!





TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 2026

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking: \$29,142.73
Savings: \$145,86

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater, Treasurer

KUDOS

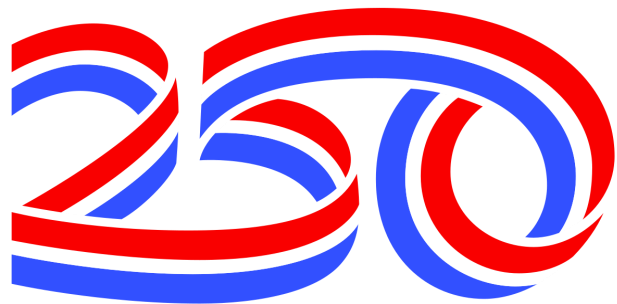
PGPSRA Secretary, Alonia Sharps was presented a thank you from Prince George's County Executive for her work with us and her volunteer work with other county organizations, including the Educational Systems Federal Credit

**ATTENTION:
SWITCH & SAVE
INCENTIVE**



MRSPA has extended an invitation to cash members to switch to dues deduction for 2025-2026. If they make the change, they are eligible for a one-time \$10 reduction in state dues. They would pay \$40 for state dues for 2025-2026, plus their local dues amount. Members need to complete and return the 2025-2026 Dues Deduction Authorization Form, which is available on the MRSPA website under "Switch and Save" (<https://www.mrspa.org/switch-and-save>). Current Cash dues payers, who have not yet paid their dues, would be eligible for "Switch and Save".

AMERICA



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

If you want to contact the officers or committee chairs of PGPSRA, go to the Contact Us page of the website. www.PGPSRA.org.

MAY PROGRAM



Prince George's County Interim Superintendent, Dr. Shawn Johnson -will be with us for our May meeting. Be sure to be with us for the latest information about our schools, as we end this year with our students.



Prince George's Co. Executive Aisha Braveboy and President Susie Proctor presented an award to MRSPA President Betty Weller thanking her for the support she gives to all of Maryland retired educators..

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 were presented to the membership at the November, and March, General Meetings. Our Bylaws require that they be presented a second time at the next General Meeting. Therefore they will be presented again at the Wednesday, May 20, 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.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2026 Maryland General Session ended April 13. As usual, hundreds of bills were introduced, some passed, but many died for lack of support or substance. The Governor's proposed budget passed with amendments. Its impact on county budgets and funding for local boards of education is yet to be seen.

Two bills that the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association's Legislative Committee supported have passed and are awaiting the Governor's signature. The Governor proposed the Longevity Ready Maryland bill which will enable the implementation of a plan to address issues facing the growing population of older adults in Maryland. It will be updated every four years. The Emergency bill that fixes the uncertain COLA issue caused by the government shutdown last year and which would have negatively affected our pension/retirement plans this year will go into effect as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

The Federal Save America Act being debated in Congress, if passed, could impact anyone who has a different name than the name on their birth certificate. They will have to re-register, showing acceptable proof such as a valid passport or birth certificate, in order to vote. Millions of people could be affected, especially women.

Maryland's Primary Election is Tuesday June 23. If you are a registered Republican or Democrat, please exercise your right to vote. (In Maryland, unaffiliated/independent voters cannot vote in a primary election.) Some positions on the ballot have numerous candidates, such as the Congressional seat held by retiring Steny Hoyer.

A reminder about the new USPS policy in which mail is now postmarked at distribution centers and not on the day you mail it. Time sensitive mail, such as income tax returns and mail-in ballots, need to be posted several days before a given deadline. [Legislative Priorities document](#) .

This year Prince George's County Public Schools published their its window into the priorities of the school system. "A culturally responsive district developing distinguished learners, leaders, voices of social justice, and advocates for humanity for the world of today, tomorrow, and beyond."

J. Davis and Laura Downey, Co-Chairs

YOUR ECHOES FOR 2026-2027

Beginning with the September Echoes, all issues will be delivered electronically. Be sure to check any new emails with MRSPA.org to assure your deliveries. All issues are available on our website—PGPSRA.org, if you should miss one—or want to go on a memories tour. With the declining membership and costs of US Mail and the printing fees, it is vital that we take advantage of modern technology in order to keep providing the services to our members and the needs of those in our schools. We hope to be able to provide you all with more information along the way. Your next issue will have the ability to have as many pages as we need and we will be able to share more photos.....and all in color!

Bits and Pieces

Happy **MAY** birthday greetings to several of our Emeritus members, including **Virginia Hobble of Princess Anne, celebrating her 101st birthday on the 6th**; two ladies, who will be having their birthdays on the 13th, are **Mary Martinez of Mt. Rainier, who will be marking her 101st birthday**, and Harriet Sunderland of Annapolis, who will be reaching her 95th birthday; Marie McCaskell of Laurel will be observing her 96th birthday on the 14th; and Joanne Rowe of Upper Marlboro is turning 93 years of age on the 24th.

Happy **JUNE** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members, including Barbara Conley of Winston Salem, N.C., who will be having her 95th birthday on the 6th; **Carolyn Davis of Rancho Verdes, CA. will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 11th**; and June Readen of Fort Washington will be reaching her 92nd birthday on the 19th.

Happy **JULY** birthday greetings to other Emeritus members namely: Elizabeth Vanden Heuvel of Annapolis, who will be marking her 93rd birthday on the 1st; Alma Pinkney of Brandywine will be having her 94th birthday on the 15th; two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 21st, when Gloria Curry of Washington, D.C. will be turning 97 years of age, and Mary Grafton of Clinton will be reaching her 99th year; and Eva Williams of Harve De Grace will be having her 99th birthday on the 29th.

Happy **August** birthday wishes to some more Emeritus members, including: Carolyn Dade of Suitland, who will be marking her 98th birthday on the 1st; Donald Cooke of Huntingtown will be turning 93 years of age on the 16th; Bob Miller of Ft. Washington will be having his 94th birthday on the 19th; Sarah Lent of Silver Spring will be reaching her 97th birthday on the 23rd; and Claudine Eastburn of Gainesville, GA. will be having her 97th birthday on the 31st.

Marion (Micki) Ellis of Bowie retired as a teacher from H. W. Wheatley Early Childhood Center in 2019. She became a substitute teacher there for the next few years. After Covid she became a full-time Paraprofessional at Wheatley and this past year Micki retired again and is now a classroom volunteer a few days a week. (She loves teaching and Wheatley is happy to have her participation.) Micki says she is an Army Brat, living in several states across the United States where her father, a career Army soldier was stationed, to attend seven different schools. Besides living in several of the United States, she has lived in Korea (was there for their first Olympics), Italy and Germany. Following in her father's footsteps, Micki became an Army nurse, stationed in Chu Lai, Vietnam. She married an Army man – and moved 10 more times! Meanwhile, she earned a teaching degree to establish a second career! Micki has three adult children and three granddaughters.

Elsie Metz retired from Melwood Elementary in 1990. After retiring she worked as a volunteer with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for 50 years! She also served as Program Director at the Cub Scout Day Camp. Elsie volunteered to read the newspapers broadcast over the radio for blind people from 2001 through 2008. Then, she moved to Bingen, PA. to care for her mother-in-law for seven years. Elsie and her husband, Paul, enjoyed travels to all 50 states and some places in Canada. Sadly, her husband passed in 2025. Now, Elsie is enjoying life in Spring Arbor Assisted Living in Frederick.

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

REMEMBRANCE

Alease Jackson Thomas, who taught at Lamont Elementary, died March of 2026/

Patsy Housh, was a former principal at Heather Hills and died in February of 2026.

PGPSRA Community Service Committee - February 2026 – March 2026

Service to the Children in PGCPS

The School Teams presented awards to three deserving students at Suitland High School on February 17, 2026, and to three deserving students at Surrattsville High School on March 20, 2026. Each student received \$250.00 to be used for their senior activities. The Oxon Hill Elementary Team provided uniforms, snacks for the after-school program, and Lysol wipes to the school.



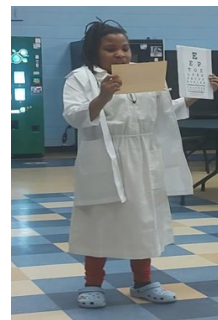
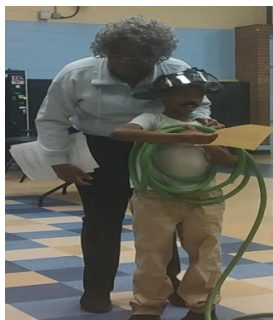
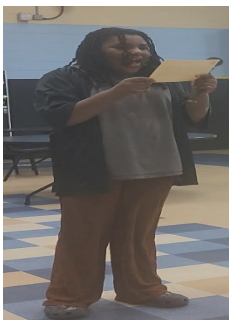
Service to the Community – Bowie State University Nutrition Lounge

The Community Service Committee delivered 415 non-perishable food items to the nutrition lounge on March 26, 2026. Thank you to all association members who donated to this most worthy cause. Our last donation will be on May 21, 2026, so please remember to bring items to our May 20th general association meeting.



Shepherd’s Cove Shelter for Women & Children - February 2026

Community Service Committee members facilitated a mini-living museum of African American Historical Greats to enhance the education of the children at Shepherd’s Cove Shelter. Children were able to choose from 20 different persons to portray. They dressed up in costumes and used various identifying props to portray their selected person(s). The children studied and learned short clips of information about each person. They presented their person to their mothers and other at the shelter. Portrayals: Honorable Khatanji Brown, Patrick Raymond, Patricia Bath, Madame CJ Walker, and Mary Eliza Mahoney.



The women residents had the pleasure of receiving self-defense strategies from the Mu Alpha Sigma Martial Arts Sorority, Inc. These ladies did a fantastic job again this year.



Other Reminders from your Community Service Committee:

Bring magazines, calendars, and books for the Oxon Hill library and non-perishable items for the BSU Nutrition Lounge.

Want to access the PGPSRA Facebook Page? See directions below.

1. Login to your Facebook Page
2. At the top of the page you will see a magnifying glass on the right side.
3. Click on the magnifying glass and type in Prince George's Public Schools Retirees Association (You must type out all the words).
4. Once it pops up you should see the PGPSRA Logo.
5. Click on the PGPSRA Logo



*Have a
Wonderful
Summer!!*

PGPSRA General Meeting— March 20, 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 _____

We will be having a hot meal, being supplied by C&C Catering. The cost is \$30, if you choose to buy one. This needs to be in to Dr. Atwater by May 13th.

Lunch will be: Chicken Piccata, Orzo Pasta, Vegetarian Lasagna, Green Beans, Caesar Salad, rolls/butter, a choice of Desserts

Water and coffee will be available.

You may bring your own drink and/or lunch, if you wish to do so.

- **If you require a vegetarian meal option, please indicate this at the time when making your reservation.**
- **Your nametag will indicate that you are eligible to receive a 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.**

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