

ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 2

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

November 2024

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I greet you right before the next Maryland's Legislative Session which begins in January. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to work along with our dedicated members to advance the crucial mission of our great organization.

During the last meeting, George Denny, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that we will have openings for the following positions for next year: President-Elect, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact

George by email at: george.dilden@yahoo.com.

Finally, I want to encourage our members to share your thoughts, feedback, and ideas with the Executive Committee continuously. Our voice is crucial as we strive to create the best possible experience for our members. Together, we can make profound differences in the lives of retired educators and communities in Prince George's County.

I hope to see you at the November 20th General Meeting!

Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, President

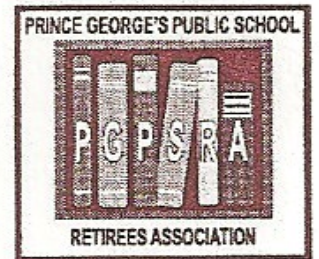


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Legislative Committee

Co-Chairs J Davis and Laura Downey virtually attended the MRSPA Legislative Committee meeting held on Aug. 27, 2024.

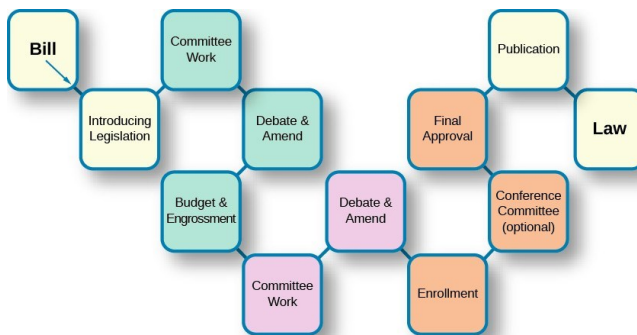
Last year, the MRSPA Legislative Committee reviewed 61 bills. It voted to support 31, to oppose 14, and to monitor the rest. The Annual Legislative Workshop will be Jan. 28, 2025, at 10 AM. It will be held virtually due to budgetary constraints and health concerns. An in-person Lobby Day is being considered; however, cost and possible lack of space might keep this from occurring.

Next year's State Legislative Session will be difficult as a large budget deficit is predicted. Gov. Moore is currently streamlining and culling task forces and committees which number over 300. He has also delayed several planned transportation projects.

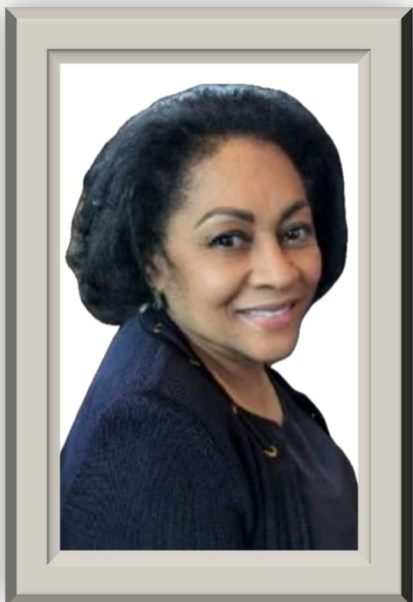
The MRSPA Legislative Committee reviewed and approved its legislative priorities for next year. Some priorities are changing caregiver grants to tax credits, creating tax credits for long term care costs, and having all drugs reviewed for possible cost reduction, not just a select few. A complete list of approved legislative priorities is on MRSPA's website, www.mrspa.org.



**Meet Our New
Legislative Chairs!!**
Laura (left) and J (right)
They have plans for us to stay involved with what is happening in Annapolis, Prince George's County and Washington. DC.



House Senate



TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

Account Balances:

Checking—\$37,558.38

Savings-\$126.86



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 (jannetewundrow@comcast.net)

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

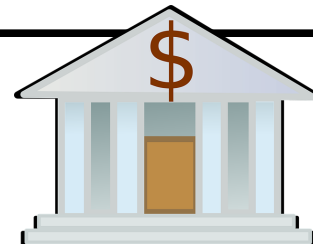
Webmaster/Parliamentarian: Dr. William Brose (wmbrose@comcast.net)

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Awards and Recognition:

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

We were honored to have current news from EFSCU share the latest information with us. Many of us have been members for many years and it's always good to see the people behind the scenes. Remember: there is an Annual Meeting each year if you want more details and were unable to be with us.



Bits and Pieces

Happy November birthday greetings to some of our Emeritus members: Phyllis Cabbage of Albuquerque, N.M. will be having her 97th birthday on the 11th ; two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 13th, when Elizabeth B. Proctor of Upper Marlboro will be turning 94 years-old, and Pauline Staggers of Largo will be turning 98 years-old; Dorothy Sojourner of Silver Spring will be marking her 102nd birthday on the 18th; Elizabeth Kibler of Greenbelt will be observing her 98th birthday on the 21st ; Donald Kiah of Punta Gorda, FL. will be reaching his 98th birthday on the 23rd; and Elizabeth Picciotto of Deal will be 95 years-old on the 25th.

Happy December birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Rennie Quible of Dover, DE. will be celebrating her 100th birthday on the 14th; Isabella MacPherson of Salisbury will be having her 94th birthday on the 18th; Erma Sarahan of College Park will be marking her 99th birthday on the 27th and Mary White of Dayton will be observing her 100th birthday on the 31st.

Stanley Tweedy of District Heights retired in 2004. It wasn't long before she became an active member of PGPSRA. For 10+ years she served on the Community Service Committee, where she connected with students and teachers, providing materials to enhance their education. A friend introduced Stanley to a jewelry designer group, where she learned to design jewelry, attend jewelry shows in Arizona, and sell her jewelry at various venues in the Maryland/Washington area. Art has always been of interest to Stanley throughout her life, and she puts that talent to use in drawing portraits of individuals. Retirement has given her a chance to develop her watercolor skills by taking classes at Prince George's Community College for two years. The "travel bug" has given her a reason to travel to Italy, Spain, Dubai, China, Australia, and New Zealand. Presently, Stanley enjoys exercising with a senior group, attending shows at the Publick Playhouse, and gardening in the spring. In 2023, Stanley adopted Jada, a Tortoiseshell cat, who has become the joy of her life.

Harriet Frost retired as a Media Specialist/Librarian from Samuel Chase Elementary in 2022. Since retiring, her interest has been preserving the history of Rosewood and the families affected by this tragic event. Recently, Harriet published a book about this historic event of our American history. The book is titled "The Rosewood Settlement": A Story about Idella Carrier's Families of Rosewood and includes African American Family Accounts of the Mcleod's Family". The book was recently included in the State Library of Florida's collection. This is an opportunity to make the book available to the public. Harriet and her family have resided in Washington, D.C. for many years. She has, however, enjoyed travelling abroad to Canada, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and throughout the United States.

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



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It was a privilege to welcome many of you to the first meeting of the Prince George's Public School Retirees Association (PGPSRA) meeting of the 2024-25 year.

We are very pleased to have you as a member of our local association and the Maryland Retiree School Personnel Association (MRSPA). Every member is valued, especially when we speak with our county and state legislators, who control our retiree funding.

All members are encouraged to pay your yearly dues by "dues deduction." You will no longer need to remember to write a yearly check for dues, and you will get a \$10 discount, when you change to "dues deduction" by contacting the MRSPA office at 410-551-1517.

You may also get a \$10 gift card from MRSPA by recruiting a new member, who agrees to "dues deduction".

We hope you will find a place among some of your former colleagues in our organization, plan to attend the five yearly meetings when you are able, and join in some of the committee work we do to support our members and children in our county school system.

Again, WELCOME!

The door prize winners at the September meeting were Alveta Jones and Stanley Tweedy.

Jannette Wundrow, Membership Chair



Nominations Sought for PGPSRA Officers!!

The search has begun for interested members willing to be considered for election to one of four different offices in the association beginning July 1, 2025.

Up for election are the offices of:

President-Elect,
Treasurer,
Corresponding Secretary and
Recording Secretary.

Some incumbents have indicated that they are willing to serve another two-year term if elected, but the office of President-Elect will be open because Sue Proctor will be advanced to the position of President on July 1.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact:
George Denny at 301-641-3147.

PGPSRA Community Service Committee

September/October 2024

The Community Service Committee is off and running! The committee will focus on a variety of new service projects, while continuing to support select schools in the district.

This year, the committee will engage in a program to support the children and women at Shepherd's Cove Shelter in Capitol Heights, Maryland. Once per month beginning in October 2024 and ending in May 2025, the committee will engage the children in math, reading, and arts activities that will be fun while reinforcing core learning skills. For the month of October, the theme for the children is "Johnny Appleseed". The women at the shelter will engage in a variety of activities that will support their mental, physical, social, and emotional growth. The October theme for the women residents is "Changing Seasons, Changing You". The guest motivational, inspirational speaker will be Dr. Sonia L. King.

The committee will also be providing support to three schools in the southern area of the county: Panorama Elementary, Princeton Elementary, and Suitland Elementary. Central High School will also be supported through the financing of senior fees for at least 3 needy, but well deserving students. Meetings with the Principals, Guidance Counselors, and/or Community School Coordinators have already taken place and donations of uniforms and school supplies have been provided to all three Elementary Schools. We are very grateful to Dr. Carolyn Cuff for partnering with the Community Service Committee in providing some of the donations that we have provided to the schools.

The committee is very appreciative to all PGPSRA members who have donated books, current magazines, and 2025 calendars to our project led by Lillie James in partnership with the Friends of the Library, Oxon Hill. This is an on-going project, so continue to bring your donations to the general meeting.

Lastly, we have a few new projects that will begin in the coming months in addition to a raffle at the general PGPSRA meeting in November. Be certain to bring a few extra dollars so you can participate. YOU might be the lucky winner!



Panorama Elementary: Tawana Lane, Community Schools Coordinator, Gloria Douglas, Dr. Wanda L. Robinson, and Don Yvonne Harvey, PGPSRA Comm. Serv. Committee



Princeton Elementary: Sandra Boswell, PGPSRA Comm. Serv. Committee, Jessica Coley, Principal, Lillie James, PGPSRA Comm. Serv. Committee, and Lorna Garrison-Morton, Asst. Principal



FLOWERS OF THANKS!

Susie and Oretha present thank-you gifts to Pat Tomkins and Linda Butler for all that they do for all of us!



PGPSRA March Meeting

Nov. 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

Forestville, Maryland

(We need the count by the November 13th 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 - \$18 for each lunch reservation \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

(Remember! We need the count by the 18th 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.

We will be having our box lunches. Please let the treasurer know if you need a vegetarian meal.

PGPSRA

Dr. Barbara J. Atwater
2101 Willow Switch Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Editor:

Bonnie Curry Brose

bcbrose@comcast.net

We're on the web!

www.pgpsra.org



WORKING TOGETHER!

VISIT THESE WEBSITES
WWW.MRSPA.org and PGPSRA. Org
If you have not already done so, send
your email address to
Bonnie Brose

