

# ECHOES

Vol. LVIII No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2024

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you enjoyed the summer months and the relaxing time with your family and friends. One thing that I learned after retiring is that time really does seem to move faster.

Thank you for keeping your membership in PGPSRA current which sends a message that you are serious about our professional organization. By being a member, it enables you to connect with other like-minded people, provide community service, learn about scams affecting our seniors, support student scholarships, visit interesting places, receive information on retiree issues, and helps to preserve retirement benefits. If you know someone who is not a member, please share the opportunity with them. If they are not educators, they can be associate members. Our goals for this year include the following:



To develop future leaders in our organization. PGPSRA is only as strong as those willing to take on a leadership role.

To increase membership in PGPSRA.

Provide the best benefits for our members.

To continue providing technology development. Thanks to Dr. Brose for continuing to find other forms of communication and updating the website to keep members connected when meeting in person may not be an option.

To strengthen our advocacy for Pension enhancement.

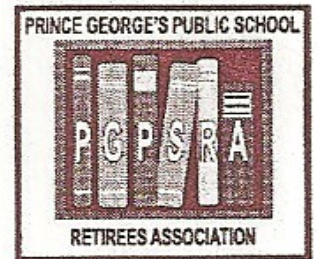
Develop and implement Pre-Retirement Seminars.

Develop ways to develop an accepting organization.

I want to personally extend an invitation to each of you to attend our upcoming PGPSRA General Meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>. I think you will discover it to be time well-spent.

If you have a question, reach out to me at [obridge@verizon.net](mailto:obridge@verizon.net).

**Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, President**



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**Prince George's Public School Retirees Association, Inc.  
Upcoming Trip  
DANIEL  
October 2, 2024 (Wednesday)  
Sight and Sound Theatre  
Lancaster, PA**



**Showtime- 11:00a.m.**

**Following Show: Lunch at Miller's Buffet Restaurant**

**Price: \$175 per person (includes trip, show and lunch)**

**\*\*No refunds after – September 18, 2024**

**(Make checks payable to PGPSRA Trips)**

**Mail to:**

**Addie Martin (Trips)**

**9706 Frank Tippet Road**

**Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

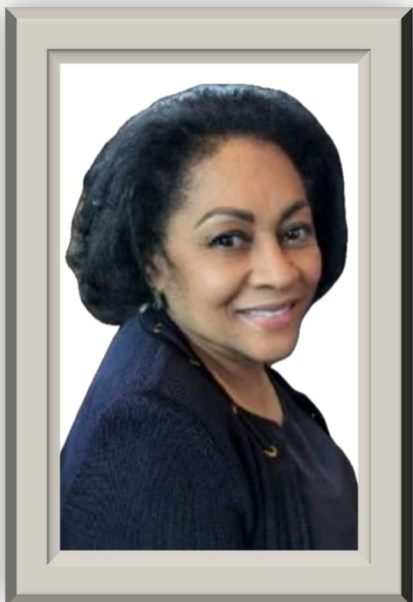
**Questions: (301) 868-6081 (Co-Chair: Sharon Collins)**

**7:00 a.m.-Departure from MD- Equestrian Center**

**10:15 a.m. – Approximate Arrival Time for 11:00 Show**

**2:00 p.m.-Lunch 4:00 p.m. -Depart for MD**

**7:30 p.m.- Approximate Arrival to Equestrian Center**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 1, 2024

Beginning Checking Account Balance	\$26,396.35
Receipts	660.00
Total	\$27,056.35
Expenses	600.00



## 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:** 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:** Dr. Beatrice Tignor (beatignor@aol.com)

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

## A VISIT FROM MRSPA

We thank MRSPA President Carla Duls at our May meeting. We wish her well with her new duties as her term ends and new adventures are waiting!

## BUDGET FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Please review this proposed budget that will be available for your vote at the September meeting. The executive board has reviewed and given their approval. Any questions will be discussed at the meeting.

### Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Approved Budget April 2024 – March 2025 July 24, 2024

	2023/2024 Budget	2023/2024 Expenses	2024/2025 Approved Budget
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Dues for PGPSRA	\$28,046.68	\$	\$ 20,620.00
Community Service	\$ 500.00	\$	\$
Scholarship	\$ 270.00	\$	\$
Interest	\$ 16.55	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 28,833.23</b>	<b>\$ 21,574.21</b>	<b>\$ 20,620.00</b>
<b><u>ACCOUNTS</u></b>			
Archives	\$ 000.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 000.00
Awards & Recognition	\$ 450.00	\$ 248.25	\$ 450.00
Operational	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
President	\$ 100.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 100.00
Secretarial	\$ 000.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 000.00
MRSPA Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 100.00
Treasurer	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Newsletter Publication	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,470.21	\$ 7,485.00
Hospitality	\$ 200.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 300.00
Legislative	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 900.00
Membership	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Programs	\$ 100.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 100.00
Remembrance	\$ 100.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 25.00
*Community Service	\$ 6,751.68	\$ 6,254.73	\$ 6,000.00
*Scholarship	\$10,535.00	\$ 6,760.01	\$ 4,000.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 235.00	\$ 000.00	\$ 235.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 28,046.68</b>	<b>\$ 21,574.21</b>	<b>\$ 20,620.00</b>

**\*SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

\*August 2024, six students are scheduled to receive scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 (\$6,000.00). The balance brought forward for the 2024-25 budget will be: \$760.01.

**\*COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

\*Balance brought forward to 2024-25 budget: \$496.95.

## BITS AND PIECES

Happy **September** birthday greetings to some of our Emeritus members: Hilda Norwood of Upper Marlboro will be observing her 92nd birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup>; Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D. C. will be marking her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 5<sup>th</sup>; two ladies will be celebrating their birthdays on the 6<sup>th</sup>: **Margaret Routten of Port Royal, S.C. will be turning 102 years-old**, while Margaret Simpson of Washington, D.C. will be turning 99 years of age; Linnie Marshall of Beaufort, S. C. will be having her 94th birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup>; Frank Pearlman of Greenbelt will be reaching his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Ruth Dory of Upper Marlboro will be observing her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Lorraine Griggs of Bridgeville, DE. will be celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Wanda Antonacci of Riverdale will be turning 94 years-old on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Happy **October** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members: Rosie Lee Summers of Ft. Washington will be celebrating her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Elizabeth Schlaefli of Henrico, VA. will be having her 95th birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup>; and Betty Fannelli of Cumberland, VA. will be observing her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ceci Michelle Hatcher Williams of Upper Marlboro retired from the Department of Special Education -Data Management & Tech in June 2022. However, she continues to work for the Prince George's County Public School System as a Special Education Consultant. Ceci is an active member of PGPSRA, and is serving as our PGPSRA representative on the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Board. She enjoys dancing, swimming, yoga, travel, activities with seniors, and watching sports. Ceci participates in the Singles Ministry at Cornerstone Bible Baptist Church and is involved with the Bowie State University Hatcher Scholarship Fund. She is a member of the Bowie State University Sports Hall of Fame -Alumni Chapter. In June Ceci enjoyed vacationing in Ocean City, and during July she attended the Alpha Kappa Alpha Boule Sorority, Inc. gathering in Dallas. TX. This month she plans to be in the Bahamas to celebrate her sister, Karen's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ceci has one daughter, Renee, and one son, Willie, seven granddaughters and one grandson.

Maureen Norton of Finksburg, MD. retired in 1996 from H. W. Wheatley Special Education Center, as the Wing Coordinator. She and her husband have a beach house in St. Mary's County, where they enjoy spending time. Maureen is involved at Sacred Heart Church in Glyndon, MD., where she serves on the Pastoral Council, and is active in the "Best Years" organization, a group of members over 55, who meet monthly for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Before Covid, Maureen and her husband experienced a wonderful Vikings Cruise. The Nortons have two sons; one is an ESOL teacher and the other is a civil engineer. They have three grandsons; one is Patrick who recently got engaged to be married.

Emily Frazier of Capitol Heights retired in 2018 from Bladensburg High School as a Business Instructor. Since, she has been volunteering mostly in the ministry: praying online and sharing the "good news". She often finds herself in a counseling position, encouraging and supporting neighbors, homeless individuals, friends, and family. Emily is in the process of writing three books and pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities for her own product, The TripPle Pillow (pillow, bag, and cover). Her travels are based mostly on her grandchildren's celebrations and whereabouts. Between graduations and birthdays, she has traveled to MO., PA., TX., OH., FL, North and South Carolina. Last September, Emily was pleased to join her classmates of 1973 for their 50<sup>th</sup> year class reunion in Charleston, S.C. Sadly, during the pandemic Emily lost a couple of family members, along with four friends. Because of emergency surgery in 2020, she missed her youngest daughter's wedding. She is grateful for every chance she gets to spend more time with her four children and eleven grandchildren. Emily is enjoying retirement, but is looking forward to going back to the classroom, maybe in a shelter or with an organization that supports transitioning adults.

**(Continued on page 7)**



**This year's Scholarship and Community Service Recipients**



**COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUEST!**  
The Community Service Committee is collecting books and magazines.  
Please bring your donations to the September meeting. These books and magazines will be donated to the Friends of the Library bookstore  
Lillie James and Dr. Wanda Robinson Co-Chairs

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
WELCOME to the 2024-25 year ahead! We are very pleased to have you as a member of our Prince George's Public School Retiree Association (PGPSRA) and Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA)! Our local association currently has 1120 members. Every member is valued, especially when we speak with our county and state legislators, who control our retirement funding. 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 children in our county school system. Again, WELCOME!

**Happy Birthday, Alveta!**



### Bits and Pieces cont'd:

Bonnie and Bill Brose reside in Upper Marlboro, though they can be found in many places in the Washington/ Maryland area – always participating in organizational activities. Their dedication to PGPSRA, MRSPA, and formerly to PGCEA is well known – and appreciated. Bill retired in 2007 from Pointer Ridge Elementary and Bonnie retired in 1997 from Kenmoor Middle School. Even before retirement, Bill began ushering at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, and continues today. He began teaching in Prince George's County in 1982, and has worked at all grade levels of the county public school system. He also taught at Prince George's and Anne Arundel Community Colleges. He is a member of MRSPA, where he has served in numerous positions, including the Public Relations Committee and as Webmaster for many of the county organizations, including ours. He served on the Board of PGCEA, NEC Commission, and as Parliamentarian at meetings, and continues in that position for PGPSRA.

Before moving to Prince George's County, Bill taught at the University of Florida while earning his doctorate degree. At Middle Tennessee State University he taught courses in the Masters and Doctoral Programs in educational theory, aerospace education, library science, and educational technology. He joined the National Aerospace Education Association, where he and Bonnie met. His many accomplishments include being able to fix just about anything, as well as, making and playing the autoharp with his friends each summer. Bill is the chief cook in the Brose household.

Bonnie began her teaching in the county as a kindergarten teacher. Upon earning her Master's Degree, she taught elementary and middle school students as a special education resource teacher. After retiring she taught at both Anne Arundel and Prince George's Community Colleges. Bonnie is involved in several lineage societies, especially the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a member of the Volunteer Council for the National Symphony Orchestra, where she has served as President. She currently is a member of PGPSRA and MRSPA, and has served as President, as well as, held committee positions in both organizations. She is a most competent Editor of our ECHOES newsletter and is the PGPSRA Program Meeting Chair. Bonnie enjoys crafting, genealogy, and working crossword puzzles.

Bonnie and Bill have one child, Amelia. Bill has three children from his first marriage and six grandchildren. Bonnie and Bill like to travel and have been in many countries. They recently returned from a vacation to the Netherlands. They look forward to more opportunities to meet new people and experience different cultures.

\*\*\*\* To contribute to BITS & PIECES, contact [JannetteWundrow@comcast.net](mailto:JannetteWundrow@comcast.net)

### REMEMBRANCE

Mary V. Burgess-Ogden	12/29/2022	Sally D. Thompson	12/15/2022
Ruth P. Hanson	5/29/2021	Joanne G. Wasson	6/2/2024
Gordon F. Russell	10/27/2023		



**September's Speaker**

Dominic Powell

ESFCU Senior VP, Chief Strategic Growth Officer

**PCPSRA SCHEDULE 24-25**

**EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:**

Sept. 4, Nov. 6, Jan. 8, Mar. 5, May 7

June 4 Ex. Committee Special Transition Mtg.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:**

Sept. 25, Nov. 20, Jan.22, Mar. 26, May 28



**PGPSRA MarchMeeting**

**Sept. 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**

**PGCEA Center**

**Forestville, Maryland**

**(We need the count by the Sept. 18th 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.

\_\_\_\_\_