

ECHOES

Vol. LXI No. 1

The Prince George's Public School Retirees Association Newsletter

September 2026

PGPSRA Founded and Established June 18, 1964

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome Back!

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you had a wonderful, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. It is so good to see you again as we begin another year together.

Last year was a year of tremendous progress for our Retired School Personnel Association. We established new committees, strengthened our Facebook presence, received state recognition for our committees, and

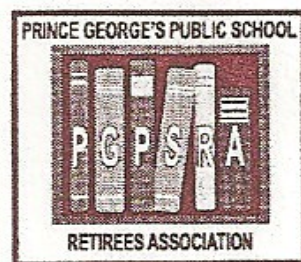
continued working together to make our association stronger and more active.

As we begin this new year, let's build on that momentum. Each accomplishment we made last year was possible because of the dedication, ideas, and participation of our members.

I look forward to another exciting year filled with fellowship, service, advocacy, and opportunities to make a difference. Together, we can continue to grow our association, support one another, and make our voices heard on behalf of our retired school personnel.

Thank you for all that you do, And once again, welcome back! Let's make this another great year together!

Warmest wishes,
Susie Proctor
President



Contents

President's Report	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Membership	2
Bits and Pieces	3
Community Service	5-7
Program	8
Reservation/May lunch	8
Scholarships	9
Remembrance	9





TREASURER'S REPORT August 2026

Account Balances:
Checking - \$23,792.06
Savings - \$145.86



Officers and Committee Chairs of PGPSRA

President: Susie Proctor (proctorsrs@gmail.com)

President-Elect: Dr. Wanda Robinson (wanda63robinson@gmail.com)

Nominating and Awards: Oretha Bridgewater-Simms (obridge@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Barbara J. Atwater barbaraatwater703@yahoo.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

Recording Secretary: Alonia C. Sharps (asharps@icloud.com)

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

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

Bylaws: George D. Denny, Jr.

Community Service: Dr. Wanda Robinson and Lillie B. James (Ljam210@aol.com)

Consumer Ed.: Vacant

Inspirations: Gretel James (gret2349@gmail.com)

Legislation: J (Judith) Davis (jfintakdavis@aol.com)

Membership: Ceci M. Aikens (maikens@rocketmail.com)

Newsletter: Bonnie Curry Brose (bcbrose@comcast.net) and Amelia Simmons (dandasimmons@verizon.net)

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

Remembrance: Linda Butler (lindab1217@verizon.net)

Scholarship: Dr. Gladys Williams (scholarly4u@gmail.com) and Vera Davis (davisvera5080@gmail.com)



BITS & PIECES

Happy **SEPTEMBER** birthday greetings to several of our Emeritus members, including Hilda Norwood of Upper Marlboro, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on the 4th; **Beatrice Marshall of Washington, D.C., will be marking her 100th birthday on the 5th; Marguerite Simpson of Ft. Washing-**

ton, will be having her 101st birthday on the 6th, Linnie Marshall of Beaufort, S.C., will be turning 96 years of age on the 12th; Frank Pearlman of Silver Spring will be observing his 94th birthday on the 14th, and Ruth Dory of Upper Marlboro, will be reaching her 94th birthday on the 17th; Thelma Barnes of Silver Spring will be having her 91st birthday on the 18th; Lorraine Griggs of Bridgeville, DE will be celebrating her 97th birthday on the 23rd; and Wanda Antonacci of Riverdale is turning 96 years of age on the 28th.

Happy **OCTOBER** birthday wishes to other Emeritus members, including Rosie Lee Summers of Ft. Washington, who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on the 1st; Elizabeth Schlaefli of Henrico, VA will be marking her 97th birthday on the 5th; Stephen Riedesel of Ashville, VA will be reaching his 91st birthday on the 7th; Betty Fanelli of Cumberland, VA will be having her 97th birthday on the 12th; also on the 12th, Shirley Words of Fort Washington will be having her 92nd birthday; Donald Kaufman of Williamsburg, VA will be observing his 93rd birthday on the 14th; Marina Beasley of Owings will be marking her 91st birthday on the 23rd; and Shirley Weems of Upper Marlboro will be turning 93 years of age on the 30th.

Charlena Carney of Washington, D.C. retired in 2021 as a history teacher at Parkland High School. She also has served as Associate Dean of Woodstream Christian Academy. Currently, Charlena volunteers for "Food & Friends" in Washington. She is the President of the National Association of Seniors of the Church of God. She continues to serve as the Sunday School Superintendent at her church. Presently, Charlena also is an Adjunct Professor at Trinity University in Washington. She has enjoyed travels to China, South Africa, Mongolia, England, France, and the Bahamas. Charlena is married to Judge Fred Carney, Jr. They have two children; one is a writer for Netflix and the other is a second grade teacher.

Phyllis T. Brown of Silver Spring retired in 2004 after teaching elementary students for 30 years at various county schools, the last being Templeton Elementary. She has been involved in extensive volunteer work since at St. John United Baptist Church in Washington as Historian, Deaconess, Choir President, and teaching new members about the church. She has traveled extensively to South Africa, India, Hong Kong, Greece, Australia, and the Holy Land. Phyllis is proud of her two daughters, Katrina J. Brown and Sylveta L. Brown, both of whom are in the education field.

- Bits and Pieces Cont'd on page 4 -



In Memoriam

Dr. Edward N. Vest August 8, 1937-May 25, 2026

Members of the Prince George's Retired School Personnel Association and the education community in general mourn the passing of Dr. Edward N. Vest on May 25, 2026. Dr. Vest grew up and attended school in Prince George's County, then earned an AA degree in 1957 from George Washington University. Dr. Vest went on to receive a BA, MA, and EdD from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Dr. Vest spent over four decades in high school leadership positions, much of it at Crossland and Friendly High Schools in Prince George's County, Maryland. He also served as president of the GW Alumni Association from 1988 to 1992. Additionally, he also served as Treasurer for the PGPSRA from July 2003 to June 2023.

Bits and Pieces Cont'd -

Linda Felton of Lanham retired in 2016 as a Library Specialist at DuVal High School. She says that this is her 10th year of retirement – and it's great! She now has time to spend with elderly relatives by helping them navigate the "new normal with computers" with making appointments, sending documents through email, and using APPS to send and receive information. Through her sorority, Linda volunteers at a local high school by assisting in teaching life skills to about 20 girls twice a month. She is active in her church, community, Maryland State Retired Teachers Organization, DCPS Retired Teachers, and her alumni association. Linda notes that travel is her favorite hobby. She has taken a tour of the National Parks in the Southwestern Region of the U.S. from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Yellowstone. She has cruised the Greek Isles from Venice, Italy and sailed on a European cruise from Brussels to Paris. She has been on two Caribbean cruises and enjoyed beautiful beaches and sights along the way. Linda has taken a road trip from Nashville to Memphis, and to Austin, Texas. During the COVID pandemic, she babysat her granddaughter. Linda is happy to report that she and her husband have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary!

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

PGPSRA Community Service Committee - April 2026 – June 2026

Service to the Children in PGCPs – April 2026



Shepherd's Cove Shelter for Women & Children - April 2026

Community Service Committee members facilitated a Family Fun and Fitness Night for the women and children at the shelter. They engaged the residents in corn hole, hoola-hoop, ice cream cone bowling, skippit, jump rope, and sticky catch. Women and their children rotated to each station to participate in each activity. At the end of the fitness portion, each participant received a 'Star Performer' medal! A variety of smoothies and healthy snack/fruit bars were available for each participant to taste. A great time was had by all.

**Family
Fun
&
Fitness
Night!**





Service to the Staff in PGCPs – May 2026

The CSC School Teams presented Teacher Appreciation Gifts to staffs at Hyattsville Middle, Oxon Hill Elementary, and Rosaryville Elementary Schools



Winners of the MRSPA Community Service Award Again! – May 2026

The PGPSRA Community Service Committee was one of two associations who won the state award this year. The committee received a certificate and \$150.00 check for the work they have done at the Forestville Healthcare Center. Thank you to all Community Service Committee Members for their tireless work!



Certificates were resented to Prince George's and Montgomery County for their outstanding projects, by Kathy Campagnoi (left), Chair of the Committee and Betty Weller (right), President of MRSPA at the MRSPA Annual Meeting. May 5, 2026 at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City.

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
6. Once it opens you should see all the posts that have been entered on the page.
7. In order to follow the page, you need to click on the word 'Follow' near the area where the logo is located.
8. Happy Viewing!



PROGRAM

Be sure to attend and meet

Prince George's County

Schools Superintendent, Dr. Shawn Joseph

Dr. Joseph comes to us from Howard University, where he was an assistant professor of educational leadership, administration and policy.

He will be sharing his ideas for our schools and students.

Be sure to attend!

PGPSRA September Meeting

September 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PGCEA Center

8008 Marlboro Pike. Forestville, Maryland

.We will be having lunches for this meeting from Office Catering:: Black Box Lunch

Lemonade and Sweet Tea will be provided

(We need your reservation by September 16th to order our lunches!)

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 - \$20 for each lunch reservation \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PGPSRA.

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.

REMEMBRANCE

Joanne Rowe

Theadeus Boyd

Pamela Robinson

Velincinia Howard

Yvette Faison

Pamela Gainous

Robert (Bob) Lee Gough

April 8, 2026

Jane Brumbaugh Gough

2014

SCOLARSHIPS

This year, the scholarship committee will hold raffles, a fundraiser, and accept donations to raise money to offer at least 5 scholarships to Prince George's County Public Schools high school seniors in public and charter schools. Further information and the applications will be available online beginning on Monday, November 2, 2026 and will be accepted through Monday, March 1, 2027.

Donations to the scholarship fund should be sent to: Dr. Gladys Williams, Chair, Scholarship Com-

Checks should be made out to PGPSRA.



VISIT THESE WEBSITES www.MRSPA.org and www.PGPSRA.org

If you know members who are not receiving these newsletters, please contact MRSPA to update your contact information to make sure you have given them an email address where you can receive your issues.. Also, as they are bulk mailings, they may show up in your spam or trash list. They re mailed out during the first week of the month of our meetings; September, November, January, March and May.

PGPSRA Membership Report

August 2026

Membership as of 7/1/2026

Total Members—1,991 (98 Emeritus)

The Committee is contacting 369 current members who do not have emails with MRSPA and Committee will be contacting the new 2026 retirees(389) to invite them to join the association.

Letters are being composed to invite retirees to join and will be included in the retirement packet provided by the school system.

Plans are being made to have a social with new retirees.

Share our membership form link:

Please complete form and mail to:

MRSPA; 8379 Piney Orchard Pkwy'Suite A

Odenton, MD 21113

You may also choose to email to: mrspa@mrspa.org