

Oregon thrives well on its active unit in Portland. They were almost "bowled" over when one of their members donated \$1,000 dollars for their "home" fund, an just lately another \$100 dollars. I can see that building going up right soon. We do need to do some work in the state this spring to get more national memberships. That is my next job.

Note: Montana not yet in the picture.

What matters are of interest to the Washington State Retired Teachers Association? —

A state-wide committee, composed of a member from each of the thirteen units, is making a survey of ways and means of encouraging able and worthwhile young people to consider the teaching profession as a career. A full report will be given by the chairman at the convention.

A growing interest is being shown in home for retired teachers. Seattle has a going concern in the Ida Culver House. The Tacoma and Spokane Units have incorporated and are busy with memberships and money raising projects. Other units are investigating possibilities.

The initial movement made by the Blue Cross Plan in the State of Washington for a group policy covering retired teachers is, we understand, the first of its kind in the United States. The Seattle Unit is now operating under this Plan, having far exceeded the necessary 75% membership participation. The Tacoma Unit hopes to be covered by early spring. Inquiries are pouring in from other units, and the Blue Cross is looking forward to providing eventually a blanket policy for the State of Washington.

Through the efforts of the state membership chairman and her thirteen unit chairmen, memberships are increasing and retirees are becoming more and more RTA conscious.

All welfare committees are accomplishing much in the matter of looking after the needs of the sick and afflicted and assisting, when possible, in cases of death. This type of service is building confi-

dence in the necessity for and the value of the retired teachers' organizations.

And last, but not least, member participation in the work of the association is showing a healthy growth. Many who are not able to carry heavy official duties are asking for something to do which will promote the development of the units. This voluntary cooperation is evidence of deepening interest and appreciation of the value of united effort.

All units are anticipating the sixth annual convention of the WSRTA to be held in Bellingham, Washington, June 10-11, 1952, at which time we shall be honored by having as our main speaker, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

MARGARET A. LAPHAM,
President

VERNA S. GLOYSTEIN,
Corresponding Secretary

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Since the autumn issue of the NRTA Quarterly went to press, two new local RTA groups have been organized in Washington State—the Kitsap County Unit with headquarters at Bremerton, our fast-growing U. S. Naval Center, and the Clallam County Unit, centering at Port Angeles, chief base of the Coast Guard in the Pacific Northwest.

When the robins nest again and the flowers begin to bloom, we hope to organize one or two more units to add to the thirteen already established in this state. Plans are also under way for organizing new RTA units in Oregon, Idaho and Montana. And inquiries are coming in from Alaska that give promise of some RTA activity there.

Seattle Unit, now more than 600 strong in paid-up memberships, has succeeded in securing from the Blue Cross group health insurance for its members at modest cost, covering hospital, medical and surgical care. Tacoma and other local units are now negotiating with the Blue Cross and will soon be enjoying the same coverage.

Ida Culver House, Seattle retired teachers' charming modern residence, has been running smoothly for a year and a half now with a full house of happy

Who's News

REGION I — Lillian E. Smith, Director

As always, Region I is astir with purposeful activity. The cheery director seems to galvanize folks into dedicated service.

Washington State, under the leadership of Margaret Lapham, is planning its annual two-day convention, to be held this year at Bellingham, June 10-11. The National President and Secretary will be guests and speakers. The plans are delightful and the occasion promises a real treat to both hosts and guests.

Rose Glass, as Membership Chairman, reports thirteen active locals, all alerted to the need of supporting HR 2764, and is expecting to inaugurate two more in the near future. Rose reports 697 paid-up members in the Seattle RTA alone.

Edith Post, president of the Seattle Education Auxiliary, Inc., which is the sponsor and promoter of Ida Cluvser House, is just returned from a trip to California and is planning a trip to Vermont by way of Detroit.

Tacoma RTA is engaged in a project to raise funds to acquire and maintain a home for retired teachers under the title of Tacoma Teachers Home Corporation. Mrs. Jennie M. French, president, 301 North Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma 3, will gladly give the details upon inquiry.

Oregon is up and coming. Mrs. Minnie K. Searle reports that March 17th was no greater day for the Irish than it was for the ORTA, because on that day the Association was awarded departmental status in the Oregon Education Association.

The ORTA is ably staffed by: Helen B. Petsch, Tiyard, president; Edith N. Snere, Portland, vice-president; Mrs. Minnie K. Searle, Portland, recording secretary; Roma G. Stafford, Portland, corresponding secretary; Fred W. Groshong, Portland, treasurer.

The memorable meeting was well planned. The program presented included reports by our NRTA representative, Roberta Rippey, greetings from the president and the executive secretary of the Oregon Education Association and the state superintendent.

Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction, not only brought congratulations from the State Board but his own personal felicitations, and added, as he paid his dues, the assurance that 'he would be seein' them soon.'

Mrs. Minnie K. Searle, who was tireless in gathering data and display material for this momentous event wants the regions which responded by sending bulletins, posters and other material to know her appreciation and the gratification of those attending. To them, one and all, she says her "Thank you!"

Every region responded. Those individuals most helpful were:

Lillian Smith, Rose Glass, I; Dr. Andrus, Leslie Towler, Warren Conrad, II; Ann Reynaud, III; Pearl Donoho, IV; Harry Senger, George Sype, Mr. Columbia, V; M. Smith Thomas, Isaac Serven, VI; Ellen Hubbell, VII; Paul Augustine, VIII. In addition Mrs. Searle and the display are indebted to Oregon Retired Teachers Association, and Oregon Education Association for courtesies received.

Idaho is Mrs. Smith's youngest and therefore her dearest charge. Membership is growing, and a state organization may soon be in the offing.

Montana, due to the kindness of the Executive Secretary of the Retirement Board is awake to the need of organization. Promotional literature has been sent to the retirees, and a healthy progress made toward the development of a strong relations program. Having the aid of Hazel Dell Putnam is like gaining another regiment in the field.

The Mail Bag

REGION I, ROSE GLASS, Director

The Oregon RTA News carries this slogan, "One must kneel to garden or to pray". Alice Briley. A cheery, chatty sheet we are always glad to read.

The Seattle News of February 12, 1953 gives the following information.

The general impression is that the state pays each retired teacher a pension of \$100 a month. That is not exactly the case. A retired teacher receives an allowance from the state, part of which comes from the teacher's own contributions and part from state funds. The average allowance has been \$97 a month, not \$100. Some receive a little more, some less, depending on the length of service upon retirement. The bill before the Senate would increase the total allowance by about 15 per cent. It includes other desirable features which would be no expense to the state.

The Senate bill deserves kindly consideration. Retired teachers do not have the benefit of free medical, hospital or pharmaceutical care as other state pensioners have. In these respects they are on their own. The 15 per cent increase falls considerably short of rises in living costs since 1947. There are about 2,600 teachers on the retirement rolls. Even a modest increase in the allowance would be a boon to every one of them.

* * *

Oregon RTA has been offered a home and spacious grounds on the outskirts of Eugene. Yakima too has recently received gifts, and is raising funds for a Home. Tacoma and Spokane are making good progress on their plans and fund-raising.

Mrs. Allan Peterson, Box 52, Kenai, Alaska, is an active helpful lieutenant to Director Rose Glass. The territorial superintendent of schools is cooperating, also the head of their Teachers' Retirement system, sending out NRTA notices with pension checks.

Rose Glass is planning an exciting trip to Miami. First she stops at her preparatory school, Frances Shimer, now a junior college, as guest of the school for May and as much of June as need to write the history of the school for a Centennial booklet to be published in July. After the Miami Convention she will attend the Women's Overseas Service League Convention to be held in Fort Worth, Texas, July 6, 7, and 8. Miss Glass' last trip to Miami was to preside as National President over this same W.O.S.L.

REGION II, LESLIE FOWLER, Director

To state that NRTA is thriving in Region II is merely to note the name of the lady who is its Regional Director. Miss Fowler has a way with her. Already she reports over 5000 memberships in California alone!

Rumors of growing organization come from the sister states, Arizona and New Mexico.

Utah, through its State President, Mattie C. Sanford sends the following cheery news and good advice.

Well, the Legislature passed our bill to get the R.T. pensions tax free and I am so glad I don't know what to do.

Here is how our bill went: The first amendment we put in was to take the tax from R.T. pensions. We didn't get to first base with it so we amended another bill with a similar request and it died in the Senate where it originated. We knew something was wrong. After much pro and con meditation we decided that we should not mention R.T. in our bill but we should ask that the tax be taken from all annuities and pensions paid in the State of Utah. So next morning we had our sponsor draw up a new bill and ask that it be made retroactive as of July 1, 1952 (The beginning of our fiscal year).

You'd be surprised what that bill did because it touched the pockets of all the

Rose Glass, Northwest regional director of the NRTA will speak.

Oregon . . .

The Summer Quarterly will feature the work being done in the State of Oregon, where Rose Glass, with the assistance of Angenette Crissey, has successfully organized RTA units in Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford. Portland has long been a going concern.

REGION II

Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah,
and New Mexico

Victoria Connelly, Director

Members of N.R.T.A. will ever remain indebted for the splendid program developed in Region II by the former Director, Leslie Fowler.

She worked unceasingly for a national body, through which the interests of retired teachers may be fostered. We give "thanks for the hero souls of old who dared wild seas their mission to fulfill." The men and women had that same spirit with vision and determination, who organized the N.E.A., the C.T.A., the C.R.T.A. and the National Retired Teachers' Association.

Your present Director has inherited the results of those laborious years. I pray that I might have your good will and endorsement in this rather up-hill work of fitting into the mechanics of the secretarial and financial technique.

Four hundred and eighty new members have joined the N.R.T.A. in the last three months. Total membership to date numbers 6855. We are dedicated to the task of spreading good will and information with the hope that every retiree of the teaching profession will join the N.R.T.A.

—Victoria Connelly

California RTA is already planning for its annual State convention to be held at the Arrowhead Springs Hotel in the San Bernardino mountains, June 9 and 10. Membership to date is 5500, although the State Retirement Board shows 13,757 retired teachers on the roll.

The CRTA, in conjunction with the State association of active teachers, is busy at work on two problems: 1) that of correcting injustices inadvertently caused those retiring on age or disability in the computation of the newly-gained increase (\$170 minimum); and 2) two plans for increased benefit, one providing a minimum of \$2400 for 30 years of service at age 60; and a second, one that grants \$2100 with only a \$60 increase over that already enjoyed.

At its meeting on March 8th the State Board arranged for a dual type for collecting membership; one, a unified type including the \$2 State charge and the \$1 National fee; and a second, which would serve those taking membership in the State organization only. Also, at this meeting, the State President, C. W. Preston, was delegated as State Representative with expenses paid, to the NRTA Convention the last week of June, in New York City.

Major James E. Addicott of 16281 Lucky Road, Los Gatos has delighted his many friends and admirers with the publication of another volume of pioneer days, and legends of California's yesterday.

Ohio RTA in California

Ohio RTA in California is a thriving organization with officers for 1953-54 as follows:

Pres., Mr. C. O. Edington

4264 Shirley Ave., Lynwood

Vice-Pres., Mrs. C. H. Irving

1025 W. Roses Rd., San Gabriel

Secretary, Dr. R. B. Pease

233 W. Grandview, Sierra Madre

Treasurer, Miss Ethel L. Switzer

421 Wild Rose Ave., Monrovia

Editors:

Miss Elizabeth J. Alfred

1621 S. Grand Ave., Suite 314

Los Angeles 15, California

Miss Melvina K. Ellis

1990 Rose Villa St., Pasadena, Calif.

Cora B. Streitell

1319 Calumet Avenue

Los Angeles 26, California

The Mail Bag

REGION I

Rose Glass, Director

Region I, comprising the four northwestern states and Alaska, is coming up to the close of the year with colors flying. During the past twelve months this Northwest Area has come to the fore in a big way. Its retired teachers have been alerted and are keenly aware of the needs of education and educators in these parts, as well as of the needs of the retired teachers of this region. This fresh awareness has led to a letter-writing campaign to urge our Congressmen and Senators to support the legislation our leaders are pushing in Congress and to laying careful plans through the work of our local and state legislative committees to launch measures to provide for sorely needed cost-of-living increases in our teachers' pensions.

Due to intensive membership campaign, inaugurated early last fall, the paid-up memberships received since July 1st, 1953 have gone from 560 (the maximum reported at the close of the 1952-53 year) to 1190 in mid-May of this 1953-54 fiscal year, with six weeks yet to go. Much more than half of these national memberships are from Washington State's retirees. We now have 16 local units in this state, all affiliated with the Washington state RTA, the last of 16 organized at Mt. Vernon, Washington just this April. The next highest number are from Oregon. Considering that Idaho, Montana and Alaska are rather sparsely settled, these areas are really well represented in NRTA. The greatest boost to this membership drive came as a result of sending to each individual retired teacher of the northwest a printed slip which carried an invitation to join, telling what NRTA is, why it is, and what it is doing. These were sent out with pension checks through the courtesy of the executive secretaries of state pension systems.

Last November your Regional Director for the Northwest accompanied by her able and trusty assistant director, Miss Angenette Crissey, "invaded" Oregon in golden autumn weather amid colorful beauty. Driving south from Portland we met with small groups of retired teachers by pre-arrangement and took first steps in the organization of local RTA's in Salem, Eugene, Roseburg and Medford-Ashland (the last named are twin cities now only four miles apart). Up to the time of this "invasion" Portland had been the only city in Oregon with an organized group of retired teachers. However, they have met as a department of the Oregon Education Association for the past three years when the O.E.A. has held its annual meeting. They are now arranging to expand and integrate the five groups in the Oregon RTA.

Montana retired teachers are presently shaping up plans to organize a Montana Retired Teachers Association and it is hoped that the Idaho retirees will organize before another year rolls around.

Oregon teachers have recently come under federal social security, which supplements their retirement pensions. Montana and Idaho teachers should organize in the near future so as to further improvement of their pension systems. The Washington State Retired Teachers Association, through its state legislative committee, which ties in with the legislative committees of all local units, is working for increased pensions, planning to introduce at the next biennial legislature in January, a bill providing for a 25 per cent cost-of-living addition to the \$100 base our retired teachers now receive monthly. (The cost of living has risen slightly over 25 per cent in this state since 1946, when our teachers' pension system was set up). On top of that base, given us by the state, retirees receive an annuity which comes in monthly as a result of each teacher's