

THE MAIL BAG



REGION 1

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon,
Washington

Clara H. Young, Regional Director
3615 No. 18th St., Tacoma, Washington

NRTA Regional Conference

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, NRTA President, came to Spokane on Wednesday, April 4, to address the first Regional Conference of NRTA in the Northwest. Secretary Alice Reiterman was also in attendance.

This meeting of retired teachers, held in connection with the Inland Empire Education Association, began with a twelve o'clock luncheon for more than one hundred in the Crescent Auditorium. Guests came from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

After delightful cello music, general chairman Florence Meyer of Spokane introduced the following, who brought greetings: Edna Mason, President, Spokane RTA; Theo Evanson, President Washington State RTA; Eliza Stevens, Portland RTA; Boyd Jacobs, Assistant in Washington State Retirement Office; and Alice Reiterman, NRTA Secretary.

Others on the program were: Rose Glass, National First Vice-President, whose topic was "Teamwork" and Clara Young who spoke on "NRTA Objectives in the Northwest."

Dr. Andrus' subject was "Accomplishments of NRTA." Following the meeting, a reception was held in honor of the distinguished guest.

Since no one from Southwestern Idaho RTA could attend the conference, a letter of greeting from Vice-President Edward Rhodenbaugh was read at the meeting. Poor road conditions around Coeur d'Alene kept some retirees away. However, Mrs. Gertrude Dittmore and Mrs. Laura Harrison both officers of Northern Idaho RTA were present.

We wish to thank Miss Florence Meyer and her capable committee for their fine cooperation and delightful arrangements for this first regional meeting of NRTA.

The hospitable Spokane group arranged a Tuesday evening dinner for the honor guests. Also, after the Wednesday meeting, the four national officers were entertained at the home of Beatrice Jones, one of the founders of Washington State RTA. While there, they met her delightful sprightly ninety-five year old mother. Many thanks and our appreciation to you in Spokane.

COME to OREGON

Shall we see you in Portland at the NRTA Convention? You will receive a cordial welcome at NRTA Headquarters, Room 206, Congress Hotel, when you arrive.

After the convention is over, many of you will wish to linger in Oregon. There are many delightful places to go and interesting things to see. There are ocean beaches to enjoy, the Columbia River Highway to explore, Mount Hood, Crater Lake, and the Oregon Caves.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival presents Shakespeare in the Elizabethan manner from August 1 to September 1, at Ashland, Oregon. Nightly, in rotation the following plays will be given this summer: "Love's Labour Lost," "Romeo and Juliet," "Richard III," "Cymbaline," and "Titus Andronicus."

In Washington State, you may wish to visit Mount Rainier. If you are passing through Seattle on your way home, stop at the Ida Culver House, 2315 East 65th Street. The group there will be happy to serve tea. Perhaps a motor caravan around the city could be planned.

In eastern Washington, plan to visit the Grand Coulee, one of the wonders of the world.

You may wish to fly to Hawaii before you leave the Pacific Northwest.

Idaho

Southwest Idaho RTA sent out to the membership a typed newsletter containing the adopted constitution, a complete list of members with their addresses, and the announcement of an April meeting.

At this meeting thirty-three were present. There was a discussion of NRTA Insurance and also Teachers' Homes. Many of this group already have Blue Cross Insurance. Since Boise has a healthful climate, they wonder if a Teachers' Home should not be located there in the future.

North Idaho RTA was to hold a luncheon meeting April 5 with Vice-President Laura Harrison presiding. The president, Howard McGinley, wrote from Florida that he and his wife were having a fine time, traveling over the country. Everywhere he went he was looking at homes for the elderly.

Mrs. Gertrude Dittmore and Mrs. Laura Harrison of North Idaho RTA attended the NRTA Regional Conference in Spokane.

There are a dozen NRTA members in Pocatello, Idaho. Why not get together and form a local RTA?

Montana

Nellie Baker, president of Silver Bow County RTA (Butte) has spent the winter in Arizona. Dora Drowatzki, vice-president, has been teaching in a business college this year. Teresa O'Donnell, treasurer, reported with regret that their unit could not send a member to the NRTA Regional Conference in Spokane.

There is a correction to make in the March NRTA Journal. It was life-member Ruth Hinman who has been winning members for us in the Missoula area.

There are fourteen NRTA members in and around Missoula. Wouldn't it be a good idea to call a meeting and organize a local unit? If you would write to me, I would be glad to send you the list of names.

Oregon

From Angenette Crissey in Portland came the following summary of recent activities in Oregon:

On March 15 delegates from all units of ORTA met and elected officers for our new state-wide RTA to be known as "Oregon State Retired Teachers' Association." We retain our departmental status in the Oregon Education Association, and in the future, will hold our annual Delegate Assembly at the same time and place as does the OEA. Officers for the year are: President—Mrs. Ivah Murray, 1033 West 11th St., Medford; Vice president—Miss Ethel Reid, 933 East Main St., Ashland; Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Mae Richardson, R. 2, Box 260, Central Point; Recording Secretary—Mrs. Hope Davey, 5915 N.E. 23d Ave., Portland 11; Treasurer—Mrs. Mary A. Champ, 1760 "C" St., Salem; Auditor—H. M. Broadbent, 872 Sunset Ave., Salem; Historian—Angenette Crissey, 3172 N.E. 35 Place, Portland.

At the noon luncheon, presidents of all units or their alternates, gave three minute reports of their year's activities. Announcement of our new OSRTA officers was made, together with other announcements of importance. We were happy to have all delegates in attendance as well as others from our most distant units. The Mallory Hotel dining room was well filled with RTA members and interested friends.

The main speaker at the afternoon business and program meeting was Mrs. Joy Hills Gubser, from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, one of whose main interests is Special Education. She spoke in a most interesting manner of the present and the future.

Our officers were installed by Mrs. Antonia Crater, OEA president, to whom we are greatly indebted for an impressive

ceremony. Our thanks to both for taking time from their own OEA meetings for us!

The short board meeting later, laid plans for the coming year. We are eager to show a growing membership in the new organization.

Since the last NRTA *Journal* we have added a new unit to the Oregon list. It is at Klamath Falls. They have the following officers:

President—Mrs. Stella Bowne, 313 High St.

Vice-president—Mrs. Irene Foster, 1604 Lookout St.

Secretary—Mrs. Edna Russell, 316 Pacific Terrace.

Treasurer—Mrs. Elsie Burton, 431 North 9th St.

They report that 60% of their members have joined NRTA.

A meeting with retired teachers of Corvallis is scheduled for Apr. 12. We hope that another unit will be added before the NRTA year ends.

As for the coming NRTA Convention in Portland, committee meetings are being held. We have reserved headquarters on the second floor of the Congress Hotel, 1024 SW Sixth St. The banquet, which is limited to 200, will be held also in the Congress. All other meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park, within walking distance of headquarters, and not too far from the City Auditorium where the main NEA meetings are to be held.

We shall have folders to give information as to "Where to Go" and "Where to Eat" so that you may have the sort of enjoyment in Oregon that we want you to have.

The visit of Dr. Andrus and Alice Reiterman on April 5th gave us an opportunity to add to or change plans to increase the pleasure of those attending the Portland NRTA Convention July 1-4, 1956.

Henceforth, this association will be known as Oregon *State Retired Teachers Association*.

There were 79 present for the luncheon held at the Mallory Hotel on March 15th, when a State RTA was organized. Short board meetings were held before the luncheon and after the business and program meeting of the afternoon. Joy Hills Gubser, the afternoon speaker, brought school news of the day, and Mrs. Antonia Crater installed the officers. Following are the newly installed officers to serve to March 15, 1957:

President: Mrs. Ivah Murray, 1033 W. 11th, Medford, Oregon, Unit 3.

President: Miss Ethel Reid, 933 E. Main, Ashland, Oregon, Unit 3.

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Mae B. Richardson, R. 2, Box 260, Central Point, Oregon, Unit 3.

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Hope Davey, 5915 N.E. 23rd. Portland 11, Oregon,

Unit 1.

Treasurer: Mrs. Mary A. Champ, 1760 S. St., Salem, Oregon, Unit 2.

Auditor: H. M. Broadbent, 872 Sunset Ave., Salem, Oregon, Unit 2.

Historian: H. Angenette Crissey, 3172 N.E. 35th Place, Portland, Oregon, Unit 1.

The executive board shall consist of these officers and the Presidents of locals.

At the luncheon, presidents or alternates of all the units gave a short report of their years' work. The afternoon meeting and program were held at the auditorium of Multnomah College.

A new unit of NRTA has been organized at Klamath Falls, with Mrs. Stella Bowne, President, 313 High St.; Vice-president, Mrs. Irene Foster; Sec'y, Mrs. Edna Russell; Treasurer, Mrs. Elsie Burton.

Two new life members are Miss Roberta Rippey and Belle Tennant.

To organize a retired teachers club. The professional welfare committee of the Tillamook County unit of the Oregon Education Association has sent out a call to retired teachers. If a sufficient number are interested, they will be organized into a club of their own. Eventually, the club will become a part of the unit. Donald Spiering is president of the unit.

Portland

Oregon Retired Teachers' Association, Unit 1, Inc., Portland, Oregon.

We meet 2nd Tuesday at 16th and Taylor, O.E.A. Building.

President: Mrs. Barbara Rhoades Inger, BE 2-8976.

Rec. Sec'y: Mrs. Hope Davey, AT 7-7463.

Corr. Sec'y: Mrs. Goldie Kerr, CA 8-2521.

Treasurer: Mrs. Ethel Ewing, AT 7-1595.

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, President of NRTA, met with the NRTA chairman, Roberta Rippey, and her committee at the Central Library, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. Miss Alice Reiterman, Miss Clara Young, and Miss Crissey were national officers participating with Dr. Andrus in making plans for NRTA convention to be held in Portland, July 1st to 5th.

The committee voted to pay \$1 each registration fee, also to accept the invitation of Mrs. McHale, vice-president of the Portland Federation, to have a tea at her home on Thursday, July 5th, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. All NRTA members invited. Mayme Johnson, with a committee, will be chairman of the tea.

A program of the NRTA full of interest and activities will be published in the NRTA *Journal*.

The convention program will include a reception; gatherings at a selected headquarters; daily business meetings at which prominent RT's from over the United States will take part; an evening dinner; and, probably a trip up the

Columbia River Highway.

At the business meetings will be discussed such subjects as legislation, both state and national, tending to improve the conditions of retired teachers throughout the nation; health insurance, and retired teacher homes.

Unit 1 of Portland will be the host group, and, as NRTA convention chairman, I urge you all to join with my committee in endeavoring to make this convention of NRTA one of the very best in its history. I am sure that the other retired teacher units in Oregon will stand by us, and many RT's from Washington have expressed their desire to co-operate.

Our ORTA needs the help and assistance of every retired teacher in Oregon in order to accomplish increase in retirement benefits and to increase the exemption for retirees over 65 from \$1200 to \$1500.

In state legislation we should be very well informed as to the 45% increase in state tax on income. Once we are levied a tax, it becomes very difficult to rid ourselves of that increase.

Major projects are: to increase the home fund, make a reserve fund for NRTA Convention to be held July 1-7 and to keep an active committee on State and National legislation for the benefit of retired teachers. Thank you for your attendance and co-operation at our regular meetings.

Our national officers report that Miss Eliza Stevens gave a fine report on ORTA at the NRTA regional conference held April 4th in Spokane.

Thank you, Miss Stevens, we are proud of you as the past president and your loyalty to ORTA and NRTA.

Your president appreciates your service and loyalty. Each meeting develops further friendship and loyalty to ORTA and NRTA.

Barbara Rhodes Inger, Pres.

The Committee on Services to the Aging, of the Community Council, United Fund of Portland issues an informative booklet entitled "So you're over Fifty". Under the captions *YOU MAY*: Make New Friends, Find a Job, Be a-bed at Home, Put Your Talents to Work, Be Assured of an Income, Call a Doctor or Lawyer, Get Help When You Are Ill, are names and addresses of agencies designed to assist when such services are needed.

Washington

The annual convention of the Washington State Retired Teachers' Association will be held in Yakima June 4-6, according to State President Theo Evan-son.

Each local unit sends the president and one other delegate. In addition, one delegate is sent for each 49 state mem-

THE MAIL BAG



REGION I

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon
and Washington

Clara H. Young, Regional Director
3615 N. 18th St., Tacoma 6, Washington

We in the Northwest were most happy to meet many of you at the NRTA Convention in Portland, Oregon. Registration showed more than two hundred in attendance.

New Life Members of NRTA include Hulda Lausted of Billings, Montana, Mildred Simmons of Long Beach, Washington, and Mrs. Rose Bridgman of Sunnyside, Washington. From Portland, Oregon, are: Clara Hansen, Caroline Paige, Mayme Johnson and Ella Ehmsen Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson's Life Membership was a gift from her PTA when she retired. Why not suggest this to other PTA groups?

It is heartening to receive a letter like the following: "Enclosed is my check for \$5 for dues to the Retired Teachers Association. It is some time since I have paid anything. In fact, I think the dollar in November 1953 is all I ever paid. Please credit me for all unpaid dues and let the balance go on the present and future as far as it will. I enjoy reading the magazine and hearing the news."

When you move, notify us at once, giving both old and new addresses. Otherwise, you may lose the next issue of the NRTA Journal.

Pay all inclusive dues to your local unit treasurer and receive a receipt from her. (Some local units have membership cards.) Then the regional director will need to send post card receipts only to the members at large.

The postcard receipt with printing on it costs nearly 3 cents. When dues are so small, we can ill afford to take anything away from the membership dollar.

Always include a stamped addressed envelope when you wish a reply to your letter.

Idaho

North Idaho RTA held a meeting in June at Coeur d'Alene. All officers were re-elected for the coming year.

A constitution was adopted. There will be a minimum of one meeting a year to be held in October before weather makes traveling precarious. A special meeting may be called by the president when advisable. Dues are \$1 a year, payable in October.

Many of the group have individual Blue Cross coverage. This unit has 24

paid memberships, reports Mrs. C. L. Dittmore, Secretary.

From Dana Cowell, secretary of South Central Idaho RTA, comes a report telling of a meeting in March and another in June. At the March 24th meeting held in Jerome at the home of Mrs. Axline Fay Peters, the program was taken from pages of the NRTA Journal, and provided an enjoyable time. The June meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Lu Etta Wright in Gooding, where the 1955-1956 officers were re-elected. Social hours with good fellowship have increased the membership in this unit. Why not plan to attend this year?

Southwestern Idaho RTA met in Boise June 12 with 31 in attendance. Among them was Mrs. Mabelle Young, president of Snohomish Island County RTA in Washington State. She told something about Washington RTA. (Mrs. Young was formerly State Superintendent in Idaho.)

The following officers were elected for the year 1956-1957: Mrs. C. J. Hersey, 1108 East Bannock St., Boise, president; Edward Rhodenbaugh, vice president; Mabel Sturgis, secretary-treasurer.

The NRTA Insurance Plan was discussed, an old-time country school teacher reminisced, and a social hour was enjoyed. NRTA dues of \$22 were collected by the treasurer at this meeting.

Two newsletters were sent to the members this year and proved valuable. These were mailed to the other two units also.

Montana

Silver Bow County RTA held a luncheon meeting June 2 in Butte, Montana. The treasurer sent the regional director the NRTA dues for the entire 17 who attended. (It is a joy to receive dues for a year ahead.) The newly-elected officers are: Nell Baker, president; Catherine Harrington, vice president; Marguerite McDonald, secretary; Teresa O'Donnell, treasurer; Isobel Kelley, director; Lillian Lambrecht, director.

Retirees in other localities in Montana are writing in, desiring the formation of a retired teacher association. One wrote: "If and when an RTA is formed, I wish to belong." Another said, "I taught in Petroleum County and am ready to join when central Montana organizes."

Wherever there are 5 or 10 retirees who wish an association, please let me know.

We are told that it has been a long

time since teachers' institutes were held in Montana. School superintendents send out bulletins from time to time, instead.

Washington

Washington State is again in fifth place in the nation, on the basis of mailing addresses. It has increased in NRTA memberships from 1135 to 1530. Progress in the state shows that, of the 3100 retirees 2300 are enrolled in local units of RTA, 1800 belong to WSRTA, and 1530 belong to NRTA.

There are 24 local units, State President Theo Evanson having organized the latest one called Tri-City RTA. Retirees of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland formed this association on April 6, with the following officers: Mrs. Hazel Oliver, Kennewick, president; Mrs. Lois Dighton, Richland, vice president; Olive Goodman, Pasco, secretary-treasurer. Benton and Franklin Counties are also included.

Blue Cross coverage which has been provided for retirees in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Everett, Bellingham and several other Washington communities, has been improved by a new policy. This allows 31 days in the hospital, among other things. The premium has been increased since Blue Cross claims it has lost money on retired teachers for the past eighteen months.

Washington State is very proud of the fact that Rose Glass, NRTA First Vice President, has been named "Retired Teacher of the Year."

The Tenth Annual Convention of the Washington State Retired Teachers Association was held at the Chinook Hotel, Yakima, Washington, June 4-5-6, 1956. The conference theme was "Life begins at Retirement." The program follows:

Teachers of the State of Washington in the Delegate Assembly of WSRTA in 1956, took action to exempt pensions from the restrictions of Article II, Section 25 of the State Constitution.

We hope to have pensions equalized so that those now retired and those who are to retire in the future may receive the same amount.

Our WSRTA Constitution was brought up to date at this convention.

NRTA Citations for outstanding service to teachers were awarded to the following retirees at the Sunday evening Open House during the Portland Convention: Mrs. Jennie M. French, Tacoma; Mr. Arthur Marsh, Seattle; Miss Beatrice Jones, Spokane; Miss Julia Spooner, Portland.

I wish to extend grateful appreciation to my assistants in Region I: Mabel Sturgis, Idaho; Teresa O'Donnell, Montana; Angenette Crissey, Oregon; Katherine Schumaker, Washington.

I also wish to thank Rose Glass for her inspiration and ever-helpful spirit; all unit treasurers and membership chairmen, and Ida Hamilton of Tacoma.

Clara H. Young

I Growth in Membership

Region I is happy to report a goodly increase in membership. Washington State is again in fifth place in the nation, on the basis of mailing addresses. Last year Region I had around 1530 members, this year more than 2200. They are divided approximately as follows:

	(1954-1955)	(1955-1956)
Washington	1135	1530
Oregon	206	400
Idaho	72	100
Montana	70	100
	1483	2130

Three new local units have been added:

(a) Klamath Falls, Oregon, elected the following as their first officers: President, Mrs. Stella Bowne, 313 High St., Klamath Falls; Vice-President, Mrs. Irene Foster, 1604 Lookout Street; Secretary, Mrs. Edne Russell, 316 Pacific Terrace; Treasurer, Mrs. Elsie Burton, 431 North 9th.

(b) Tri-City RTA (Pasco, Kennewick and Richland) includes Benton and Franklin Counties in Washington. This was organized April 6, 1956 with the following officers: President, Mrs. Hazel Oliver, Kennewick; Vice-President, Mrs. Lois Dighton, Richland; Sec'y-Treasurer, Olive Goodman, Pasco.

(c) Corvallis, Oregon, organized in late spring, 1956. Oregon formed a state RTA on March 15, 1956, electing the following officers: President, Mrs. Ivy Murray, 1033 West 11th, Medford; Vice-President, Ethel Reid, 933 East Main, Ashland; Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. Mae Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 260, Central Point; Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. Hope Davey, 5915 N.E. 23rd Ave., Portland 11; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary A. Champ, 1760 C St., Salem; Auditor, H. M. Broadbent, 872 Sunset Ave., Salem; Historian, H. Angenette Crissey, 3172 N.E. 35 Place, Portland. This state association continues to maintain departmental status with the Oregon Education Association.

At the Washington State RTA Convention held in Yakima June 4-6, the following topics were considered: NRTA Insurance Plan, Blue Cross, Retirement and Social Security, WSRTA Constitutional changes, and health problems of the retired group.

Idaho and Montana—no state organization.

II Donations to Legislative Fund

Donations showing gratitude for income-tax-credit on \$1200 of pensions have not been too satisfactory. It seems to be a personal matter. Several retirees have taken out life memberships instead.

III Life Memberships

The following have taken out NRTA Life Memberships during the past year: Marvin Shelton, Montesano, Washington; Mrs. Dana Cowell, Rupert, Idaho; Mildred Simmons, Long Beach, Washington;

Hulda Lausted, Billings, Montana; Mrs. Mabel Rempel, Shelton, Washington; Daisy Demmer, Portland, Oregon; Lucy Goodman, Gig Harbor, Washington; Anne Thomas, Tacoma, Washington; Anna D. Miller, Tacoma, Washington; Laura Gartrell, Tacoma, Washington; Roberta Rippey, Portland, Oregon; Eleanor Emsen Wilson, Portland, Oregon; Emily Young, Portland, Oregon.

IV Regional Meeting

The first NRTA Region I meeting was held in Spokane, Washington, April 4 in connection with the Inland Empire Association. This was a luncheon meeting planned by the Spokane chairman, Florence Meyer. Dr. Andrus, Rose Glass, Alice Reiterman, and myself were on the program. Over one hundred were present and retirees came from Idaho and Oregon as well as from Washington State.

V Projects of Local Units

The Seattle RTA (800 members) is sponsoring the selling of the book, "Pioneer Teachers of Washington" by Joseph T. Hazard, Seattle RTA Historian. \$1.00 from the sale of each book goes to the local unit selling it. The limited edition of this book contains 3000 copies.

The Ida Culver House, Seattle's fine home for retired teachers, has added an infirmary, financed by the people living there.

Tacoma's active and retired teachers are continuing to increase funds in the Teachers Home Corporation. This now has \$14,000 and a site of three acres.

Spokane Education Auxiliary has both a site and blue prints, and is in process of selling units in the RTA Home.

Yakima, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, are raising money for a Home.

VI Plans For Next Year

Plans for the coming year include working for more units in Idaho and Montana.

REGION II

Hawaii, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

Mabelle Wilson, Regional Director
620 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley 7, Calif.

As Director of Region 2, I should first state that this is probably the largest region in the NRTA, comprising Hawaii, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, and well do I know it, particularly as July first approaches. The telephone calls and frantic attempts of hundreds to enroll because of the insurance plan, all make me aware of the bigness of this position with time for not much more than processing memberships and very little time for answering individual letters. What a stimulus to membership this insurance plan has been!

I do not know our exact membership but would guess approximately between 7,000 and 8,000 at this writing—with bulging mails daily bringing new ones in droves.

I have depended upon various divisions in the state and the Journal to stimulate interest in the NRTA. As for the East Bay Division, of which I am a member, the president has been most active in bringing before her thousand members, the importance of this organization and has had a committee, on several occasions mail information regarding legislation, insurance, etc. The expense has been taken care of by the local division. I am sure other divisions have been equally alert.

The State President, in visiting new areas, has told of the advantages of belonging to the NRTA and as for contacts by Dr. Andrus, returns from her visits are invaluable. I recall the great influx of members from Hawaii after her visit there. Several hundred memberships were processed evidencing tremendous interest on the part of those who had taught in the islands.

I have held this position for about two years but must say, despite the fact that we were all saved \$240 a year on our Federal Income Tax, (two years for some of us) most of us are guilty of gross neglect in not contributing some of that savings to the Legislative Fund. However, mention of this matter in the Journal has brought some returns. This matter could be stressed more in division meetings and I am sure results would be more gratifying. Where, today, does a dollar buy more? How the powers that be at the head of our NRTA do all that they do on dues of \$1.00 per year is the \$64,000 question.

Occasionally we had a Life Membership to process, but since the recent letter sent out from Ojai I am happy to report that many are responding. Just this month, I should say we have had fifteen or twenty join.

There are many problems to be solved in order to better co-ordinate our work. One seems to be educating our teachers to join our divisions, where possible, and to pay their dues to the collector of that division. All dues should then come to the Regional Director, not to Dr. Andrus, Alice Reiterman or to Ojai. So many hours of labor could be saved if all dues were paid in this way. I realize that because of geographical location of some retired teachers that individual dues are inevitable but a minimum of these would be appreciated.

For increasing memberships I would suggest, as some divisions have done, contacts by letter, telephone and personal contacts. Also securing names from local boards of those about to retire. In California the insertion of a notice of our organization and its benefits is mailed with the first warrant to new retirees through the courtesy of the State Retirement System. Just off the press are printed slips telling what has been done and is going to be done for the retired teacher. Insert one or more in a letter to a friend who is not a member. Send to me for the number you wish.

THE MAIL BAG



REGION I

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon,
Washington

Clara H. Young, Regional Director
3615 No. 18th St. Tacoma 6, Washington

Miss Young writes:

The story of my nine-day trip into Montana and Eastern Idaho might well fill a book. My schedule follows: I left Tacoma October 9 on the 2 p.m. Milwaukee train; arrived in Missoula, Montana at 6:25 a.m. October 10, and was met by Edna Mann and Lyle Noble whose breakfast guest I was in their apartment, lovely with antiques. Edna Mann and Ruth Hinman had sent out invitations for a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Florence. Thirty attended, among whom were Dr. W. R. Ames, dean of Education at the "U," and Dr. W. C. Clark of the Latin and Greek department of the "U," who is running for the State Legislature. I was entertained for the night at the best hotel and was treated to a delightful drive about the University campus. Two of the buildings were unique in architecture. One, the Music Building is in the shape of a grand piano; and another, built for married couples is a combination of two crosses. I took the bus at 8:40 a.m. October 11, arriving at Butte at 11:35 a.m. My Montana helper, Teresa O'Donnell, met me. There was a luncheon meeting of Silver Bow RTA at the Finlen Hotel. (Nellie Baker is president of this group.) I spent the night in Butte, again the guest of hospitable Montanans.

On October 12, Teresa O'Donnell drove me to Billings where we were guests of her family for two nights. On October 13, Nellie Brown of Billings had arranged a meeting of interested retirees in her apartment, with luncheon preceding. On October 14, we made the return trip to Butte. On October 15, I left Butte by bus for Idaho Falls, Idaho. With the help of Ethel Boyes, I talked with retired teachers at a 10 o'clock meeting in the Hotel Rogers, October 16. In the afternoon, I took a bus for Pocatello, Idaho, where I was the guest of Ethel Thompson. On October 17, Katherine Burgraf, college teacher, and her committee, which included Ethel Redfield, former superintendent of public instruction; Floyd Barbour, former

principal and author of a new text-book on the history of Idaho; Margaret Prome-roy, former president of the State Classroom Teachers Association; Katherine Burgraf, college teacher and former state school supervisor, etc., and Ethel Thompson, former art and music teacher, arranged a 2 p.m. meeting at the YWCA in Pocatello. With this fine committee, success was assured, and Southeastern Idaho RTA, district V, was organized with Katherine Burgraf as president. At this meeting there were seven men, more than the usual quota, including a retiree from the engineering department of Idaho State College, and a dean of the pharmacy department. The newly retired dean of women also attended.

Summarizing the results of my nine-day trip:

Three new RTA units:

(1) Western Montana RTA, organized October 10 at Missoula (nine counties).

(2) Yellowstone County RTA, organized at Billings, October 13.

(3) Southeastern Idaho RTA organized at Pocatello, October 17.

(4) Progress in the organization of district VI, Idaho Falls. Six retirees met with the district director, October 15 and 16. A former county superintendent has consented to contact a list given him and to arrange a meeting on Nov. 1 or 2, when the IEA meets in Idaho Falls.

I am deeply grateful to the fine retirees of Missoula, Butte, Billings, and Pocatello for their most generous hospitality.

Clara H. Young

Idaho

At the annual meeting of Southwestern Idaho RTA held in June 1956, the following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Mary T. Hershey; vice-president, Edward Rhodenbaugh; secretary-treasurer, Mabel Sturgis. They, with four directors and the chairmen of standing committees, constitute the executive board.

Committees for 1956-57

Program: Elizabeth Shoulders, Mabel Sturgis, Ida Smidt, Lillie Roberts.

Social: Blanche Jeffrey, Lilly Eichelberger, Delta Dillard, Alice Burtenshaw.

Teachers' Home: Gladys Burns, Zella Clark, Emma Trout.

Legislative: Edward Rhodenbaugh, Katherine Semple, George Curtis.

Membership: Mrs. Florence Bartlett, Mary Lucas, Della Maier, Arthur Hays.

Insurance: (Miss) Douglass Hiltz, Mary Harms, Delta Dillard.

The regular quarterly meeting of Southwestern Idaho RTA was held at the Boise School Administration Building, September 11, 1956. Dr. Ernest Weltmer, well known because of his interest in rock-hunting in Idaho and the cutting and polishing of gem stones as a hobby, shared some of his knowledge and enthusiasm with the group. Such a hobby is a natural for Idaho, the gem state.

South Central Idaho RTA met October 6 at the home of Juanita Sutcliff, in Twin Falls. After a business meeting conducted by Miss Sutcliff, vice-president, the program was devoted to a discussion of articles in the September NRTA Journal: Future Legislative Program; and NRTA Insurance Plan. Delicious refreshment were served by the hostess and co-hostess, Alma Walls.

The next meeting will be held in March 1957 at the home of Dana Cowell in Rupert.

Gertrude Dittmore, secretary of North Idaho RTA, reports that her unit has 24 paid up members to date. It is planning a luncheon meeting for October 12, at which time their situation and other matters will be taken up. President Howard McGinley will tell about his winter's travels, mostly in the South.

Montana

Missoula

Under the leadership of Edna Mann and Ruth Hinman, 30 interested retirees of the Missoula area met for luncheon at the Florence Hotel on October 10. They decided to form a retired teachers' group to be known as the Western Montana Retired Teachers' Association with plans to include nine counties. Dr. W. P. Clarke, retired from the University of Montana, and a candidate for the Montana State Legislature, attended the luncheon. Officers elected were: Elsie Wadell, president; Dr. W. R. Ames, vice-president; Marian Porterfield, secretary; W. L. Hodgkiss, treasurer; L. W. Siebel,

chairman of the constitution committee. Dues are to be one dollar. In this organization, members were greatly helped by the presence of the regional director, who had made Missoula her first stop.

Silver Bow County

On October 11, the regional director was guest of Silver Bow County RTA at a luncheon at Hotel Finlen, presided over by the president, Nellie Baker, at which the regional director gave a resume of her trip to that point, and told of the formation of the Western Montana RTA. Six of those present came from Anaconda, thirty miles away. They will decide whether to form their own organization or go into the Butte RTA.

The regional director reported her trip a delight and a pleasure, and expresses appreciation for the fine western hospitality with which they showered her.

Oregon

Angenette Crissy reports from Oregon:

A meeting of the Oregon State Retired Teachers Association Board was held at Hotel Rose in Roseburg on October 10-11, 1956. Those in attendance were the elected Board officers and the Presidents of local Units, or their representatives. A dinner on that Wednesday evening was followed by business discussions and presentation of any suggested changes in, or additions to, the By-Laws that had been adopted by the Delegate Assembly last March. Board action in the form of recommendations will be taken back to local Units for discussion before the coming March Assembly.

Because certain information was desired by our Area Director, Miss Clara Young, a questionnaire was sent to Oregon Units by her Oregon assistant. The newest Unit was the first to answer. That report showed as many National members, less one, as were listed in local and state, combined. Hurrah for National! Hurrah for Corvallis! From that report came these pleasing remarks: "Our organization meeting was the most interesting because there was a new interest involved. Many teachers who had retired some years ago were present."

Most of our Units hold monthly meetings, only one skipping August. Oregon has formed the habit of having picnic meetings during the summer. Unit 1 always enjoys an August picnic at the home of a member, Mrs. Fred Hoyez (our Margaret). Their beautiful home on the bank of the Sandy River insures us a perfect day as more than a hundred could testify this year. Oregon supplied most desirable weather. In fact, the hottest day in Portland was the Sunday after the NRTA Convention closed; we were thankful that the heat waited till then. Ashland has its Lithia Park, and all our other Units have nearby scenic spots and homes with spacious lawns and flowers in profusion, perfect for picnics.

On October 20, the Portland Unit held its annual Tea at the Oregonian Hostess House. All retired teachers and our active teacher friends were invited, as well as our friends in the city and county Administrative offices. The two membership secretaries were seated at a table to answer questions and to take dues from present members and to enroll new ones. As the October News had carried references to local, state, and National dues, the response was excellent. The Hal-low'e'en party at the party room of the Carnation Damascus Milk Company was a success. An admission charge of 50 cents adds to the Treasury and permits us to pay for so-called "extras." The Tea Chairman, Barbara Hoch, is one, who knows what to do to make teas enjoyable occasions.

Presidents of Oregon Units and their addresses might prove of interest:

Unit 1—Miss Maude Cooke, 2705 S.E. River Road, Portland 22.

Unit 2—Mrs. Fannie L. Douglas, 2390 S. Commercial St., Salem.

Unit 3—Miss Ethel Reid, 933 E. Main St., Ashland.

Unit 4—Miss Verlie Tracy, 1119 S.E. Lane Ave., Roseburg.

Unit 5—Mrs. Stella Bowne, 313 High St., Klamath Falls.

Unit 6—Mrs. Adeline W. Stiles, 202 N. 25th, Corvallis.

Oregon now has the following NRTA Life Members: Fanny Chase, Nola Coad, Clara L. Hansen, Bertha Hunter, Mayme Johnson, Caroline T. Paige, Helen Petsch, Irene Rippey, Roberta Rippey, Eliza Stevens, Ella Emsden Wilson, and Emily Young. In addition, Oregon presented an NRTA Life Membership to Charl Ormond Williams, as a token of appreciation for her coming from Washington, D.C., to be the speaker at our July Fourth banquet.

November brings equally busy days and interesting meetings to all Oregon Units. We sent no news from Oregon for the September *Journal* as we knew that Convention news would need much space and would really be Oregon news.

We list some interesting figures for the six Oregon RTA groups. Unit 1, Portland, now has 268 local members, of whom 212 belong to national.

Unit 2, Salem area has 38 local members and 22 national members.

Unit 3, Jackson County RTA has 38 local members, and 24 national.

Unit 4, Douglas County RTA includes 35 local and 10 national, while Unit 5, Klamath Falls, has 10 national members, while Unit 6 has 8 local and 15 national members.

Roberta Rippey, area vice-president for Region I has been contacting retirees in Great Falls, Montana. We expect more news in the future.

Washington

The treasurers of the 24 local units of RTA in Washington State have been successful in collecting all-inclusive dues of \$3 from their members. The regional director receives names and NRTA dues from the local treasurers once a month. Most of them come in the fall. *Since local and state dues end June 30, why can National dues not do the same? Members at large would help by sending dues to the regional director instead of to Ojai or to Edna Rowe, treasurer in Texas. (Both headquarters in Ojai and Miss Rowe are put to the expense of remailing to the regional director.)

We are stretching membership dollar as far as possible. Changes of name or address cost six cents and a letter three cents. Please continue the practice of sending a stamped addressed envelope when you wish a reply. When you report a change of address, be sure to send both the old and the new addresses. When you pay dues, include the address label from your most recent NRTA *Journal*. The regional director wishes to know, too, the state from which you retired.

Tacoma and Pierce County held its annual fall luncheon at the New Yorker cafe on September 20 with one hundred in attendance. Reports of state and national conventions were given. Tacoma active and retired teachers held their third rummage sale recently. Every teacher was asked to contribute something. Every teacher was expected to buy something.

We moved in on Sunday and held the sale the following three days. 30 retired teachers assisted with the selling. Active teachers sold from 4 to 5 p.m.

Suitable publicity, a fine committee and cooperation brought good results. Also we rented a trailer. We paid our bills and cleared \$600 for the Teachers' Home Corporation.

Seattle

The first fall meeting of the Seattle Retired Teachers' Association was held on Monday, September 10th, at the Administration and Service Center, at one o'clock, with 215 members present.

Ernest W. Campbell, Seattle's new Superintendent of Schools, was the main speaker. His subject was, "The Challenge of the Teaching Career." A report of the State Convention was given by Mrs. Dora S. Herren, and one of the National Convention was given by Dio Richardson. At the October meeting, Robert Sethre, Director of Public Relations, WEA, spoke on Election Issues, and at the November meeting, Mrs. Berne S. Jacobsen discussed the Legislative Program for the Schools.

*National dues entitle a member to four issues of the *Journal* for each dollar paid. The last notation on the address label gives the expiration date. It is obviously impossible to adjust dates of national membership to those of state and local units.—ED.

ings and to formulate what seems like a fairly good bill to be sent to the Montana Education Association for working up into the proper form. A representative from our county has agreed to introduce and push our bill.

"Since many retirees leave Montana during the winter, the next meeting will be in April."

Great Falls and Helena should be the next to organize. Will you offer your services?

Oregon

Mrs. Iva D. Murray, President, announces that the Oregon State RTA will meet at the Mallory Hotel in Portland on March 14.

Angenette Crissey, NRTA Director for Oregon, writes: "Almost 450 members are now enrolled in Oregon's six units, and the Oregon NRTA file contains 567 names. Of course, some of those now live in other states, but wish to enroll in the state where most of their teaching days were spent. Some also live where no units have yet been established. All units report interesting meetings."

Unit I had an excellent attendance at a demonstration put on by the Gas and Coke Company, and added \$25 to the treasury. The Ways and Means Committee with Mrs. Mayme Johnson as chairman, is most active and has plans for at least two more money-making projects for the second quarter of 1957.

Washington

Washington State RTA will hold its annual convention June 10-11-12 at the Winthrop Hotel, Tacoma, Mrs. Elizabeth Gill presiding.

Isabelle Carlisle, publicity chairman for Snohomish-Island County which has 100 NRTA members, writes: "A gaily colored yearbook containing names of national and local officers and committees, theme song, time and place of meetings and hostesses for each monthly meeting was an innovation. Fifteen members of our unit have qualified under the new law for higher pensions by reactivation in the teaching field for 20 days. Four are again on the active list, having accepted teaching contracts. Each meeting closes with a tea hour which not only furnishes an opportunity for extending friendships but creates a feeling of unity. The men are hosts at least once a year.

"Lewis County RTA, Clallam County RTA, Lower Columbia RTA and Kittitas County RTA report 100% membership in local, state, and national organizations."

Seattle

Official and Membership Year—We are now using our fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, for memberships as well as for financial records. This makes it possible for our treasurer's books to be balanced with those of the State and National Associations. Dues have always covered this

period, so nothing is now changed except the date on the member's receipts, which was misleading. Dues may be paid as usual, preferably between July 1 and December 31 (Blue Cross members by December 1). Much less bookkeeping is involved and confusion is avoided when the dues for the three organizations are paid to the membership secretary of the local unit. One check is sufficient. Only members at large, who have no local unit through which to be enrolled, send dues direct to the State and National.

Legislation—In the 1955 legislature, the State RTA obtained, as you know, an increase of 25 per cent in the pensions of retired teachers. A recent opinion of the State Supreme Court makes it necessary that further legislation be sought in the 1957 legislature to safeguard the 1955 enactment. Last April, for the first time, our high court declared a pension to be deferred compensation rather than a gratuity, and the State constitution prohibits any increase in compensation after services have been rendered. WSRTA will ask for an amendment to the constitution to exclude pensions from the restriction on compensation increases. Such an amendment would make possible further adjustment in pensions of retirees as advancing living cost may make needful.

Hospital Insurance—Most SRTA members now have some form of hospitalization insurance. SRTA continues to maintain its 75 per cent coverage in the Blue Cross group plan. Some members are enrolled in the new NRTA group plan (at present closed to additional enrollment). Some have individual policies in the Continental Casualty Company, which serves the NRTA group plan, or in other commercial companies. All should have some type of coverage.

"Pioneer Teachers"—The whole state is indebted to Seattle Retired Teachers and SRTA to its able author, Joe Hazard, for production of the 144-page book, "Pioneer Teachers of Washington." It is a collection of interesting and important material from public-school pioneering in our state. The volume is well worth the three dollars (plus tax) that its publication cost. But the project is not completed until the first edition is fully distributed. Wouldn't "Pioneer Teachers" be a fine present for yourself or some friend? For a copy address Mrs. Lydia E. Forsyth, 4137 Beach Drive, Seattle 16, or any SRTA officer. As the TV commercials enjoin, "DO IT TODAY."

Seattle enrollment: local, 800; state 600; national 631.

Seattle—The WSRTA legislative committee, meeting here Oct. 12, reported that F. E. Huston, actuary for the state retirement system, had given it as his opinion that teachers' "annuity would never be less than the amount received by retired teachers before returning to active service." Adjustments will be made

later in the case of retirees whose annuity was reduced after they had taught 20 days or longer and then re-retired.

Findings of the actuary were referred by L. D. Burrus, retirement secretary-manager, to the retirement board, which acted favorably on them, he reported.

Attending the committee meeting were: L. E. Robinson, chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Gill, president; M. C. Olmstead, Arthur Marsh, Adelaide Strite, Mrs. Verna Gloystein and Margaret A. Lap-ham.

The committee also discussed the proposed changes in Article II, Section 25, of the state constitution to remove restrictions on increased pensions for present retirees. The section, if amended, would read as follows, the four capitalized words being inserted: "The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation, OTHER THAN PENSIONS, to any public officer, EMPLOYEE, agent, servant or contractor after the services have been rendered or the contract entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office."

Schedule of Expenses

A definite schedule for estimating travel expenses of officers attending conventions, or for other persons on WSRTA business, was approved by the board, which accepted the Washington Education Association procedure, as follows:

(1) Transportation allowance to be by train, bus or ferry, unless auto or plane is necessary or more economical. If by car or plane, an explanatory statement must accompany voucher. Auto allowance is set at 6 cents a mile for one person, 8 cents for two or more.

(2) Taxi is chargeable in emergency only.

(3) Meals, hotels and tips to be itemized and listed separately.

Tacoma RTA will meet at luncheon on April 18. The annual business meeting will be on May 16.

Washington State RTA furnishes the following: \$25 to the regional director, \$25 to NRTA delegate, \$10 annual dues to NRTA, and \$50 to the NRTA Legislative Fund.

Helen Whitney of Tacoma has given me invaluable aid this year by typing material for the Mailbag and many letters to retirees in new territory.

Clara H. Young

REGION II

Hawaii, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

Mabelle Wilson, Regional Director
620 Vincente Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

Arizona

The news from Arizona is so stimulating that it deserves a special article: *The Arizona Story*.

New Nominee for Office

Last summer in Portland, J. Angie Thomas of Arizona was elected South-

THE MAIL BAG



REGION I

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Katherine Schumaker, Regional Director
1705 Belmont Ave., Seattle 22, Washington

The Regional Director wishes to thank all units in Region I for their fine welcome and co-operation, and to thank the retiring Director, Clara H. Young for her encouragement and unlimited service.

To those who would like to have their NRTA dues correspond with the fiscal year of the unit and State and to answer the many questions concerning this:

To determine the expiration date of your NRTA membership, read the last two figures on the bottom line on the label of your Journal. Your yearly membership entitles you to four issues of the Journal.

Those paying dues early in this year have a reading of 6-58, 9-58, 12-58 or 3-58. A 6-58 reading means your memberships in L.S.N. all agree. A 9-58 or 12-58 means you are paid either three months or six months in advance, which is good. I suggest you be happy with these dates. However, if yours is 3-58, it would be well to pay twenty-five cents for the last quarter and receive a June reading. Please become label conscious.

The same applies to Members-At-Large. Dues should be paid *early* in the quarter following the date on your label.

—Katherine Schumaker

Alaska

We wish to send greetings and good wishes to Clara H. Young, retiring Director of Region I—and extend sincere appreciation for her keen interest and untiring efforts to pave the way for an Alaska Retired Teachers' organization. We welcome Katherine Schumaker, new Director of Region I—assuring her of continued interest and support in the work of N.R.T.A.

It is hoped that 1958 will be the year for completed organization of our own Alaska Retired Teachers' Association. According to lists received from the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System there are now 33 "Retired Teachers" and "36 Teachers Approved for Retirement But Are Still Teaching." With this number of potential members it would seem that it is time for Alaska to have its own R.T.A. A proposed Alaska Retired Teachers' Association affiliated with the very

active Alaska Education Association may be the answer.

In the meantime we urge all Alaska Retired Teachers to join National Retired Teachers' Association—send one dollar dues to your Regional Director—Miss Katherine Schumaker, 1705 Belmont Ave., Seattle 22, Washington—and receive the NRTA JOURNAL and keep informed!

Best wishes for a full and satisfying year,

Sincerely,
Mrs. Allan L. Petersen

Idaho

The Pres. of Unit 1, Howard McGinley, of Post Falls reports the same officers.

In June, after a buffet-luncheon, the Boise Unit elected new officers for the year.

The June meeting of Unit 4 was held at the home of Dana Cowell in Rupert, Idaho. During the business meeting there was a discussion led by Juanita Sutcliff as to how persons retired under provisions of the Idaho Teachers' Retirement Law may qualify for Social Security benefits. The N.R.T.A. Insurance Plan was presented. The October meeting was held in Twin Falls at the home of Alma Wells.

At the May meeting of Unit 5 in Pocatello a committee was named to investigate Social Security for Retired Teachers with Mr. C. R. Galloway as chairman. Their Constitution was adopted. Katherine Burggraf serves as president.

Montana

Nellie M. Baker, Pres. of the Silver Bow Co. unit reports that this year's activities began with a Saturday luncheon meeting in Sept. well attended. New officers were installed. Marguerite McDonald talked on the Community Planning Council and Lillian Lambrecht told of her pleasant visit to Grey Gables. Miss Dora Drowatzky gave an informative talk on pension legislation, pertaining to low paid retirees in Montana and activities of other States along this line.

The Anaconda Teachers were represented by Miss Elsie Hill and Miss Freddie Morse who reported activities for their group.

The Northwestern Montana unit, one of the newest in the Region, held its first meeting in Sept. Pres. Elsie Wadell reports that all previous officers agreed to serve for another year.

Mr. W. J. Abbott of Billings, Pres. of the Yellowstone Co. unit writes that at their meeting in Sept. the purposes of the Association and the Insurance Plan were explained.

Oregon

All organized units of Oregon retired teachers show definite increase in membership and interest. Increase runs high in unorganized parts of the State, also.

Program chairmen seem to be very active and would have been pleased if they could have heard the glowing reports of their presidents at the mid-September State Board meeting in Roseburg. Some members of all units, where work for retarded children is being done, are helping in free contribution of time. Social meeting in the way of picnics were the summer rule. New retirees, members, and other friends were most welcome. Each Oregon unit has unique and attractive spots for such meetings.

The president of Unit 6, Corvallis, has a home at the beach, and a July picnic there was a real occasion. The profusion of flowers, with colors such as only the beach can produce, added much to the enjoyment. Unit 6 had been asked to have representation at the banquet given by active teachers of Corvallis in recognition of the hundredth anniversary of N.E.A. and they had displays in windows of city stores.

Unit 5, centered at Klamath Falls, had one picnic at the Horton ranch in eastern Oregon; they were treated to real T-bone steaks produced on that ranch. In two years, their membership has increased by 300%. They plan social and welfare work, greater publicity, and more work for their Ways and Means Committee, this coming year.

Unit 4 has a "piggy bank," an unusually large one of decorated china, which is taken to each meeting. Contributions are invested in Bonds, now and then. Members are considering the purchase of a membership in an RTA Home for the use of a member unable to make such a purchase, when sufficient bonds accumulate. An out-of-town picnic at the home of two members in Riddle was an enjoyable summer event. The Unit also made arrangements for the mid-year State Board meeting and the dinner the preceding evening.

Unit 3 has 48 local, 26 State and 33 National members—a good record. They meet in homes, or at the new "Girls" Community Club. They have roll call, thinking that a favorite or fitting quotation or remarks will give each a definite part in the meeting. They stress sociability and publicity, and feel that they are members of a large and powerful organization. They have a liaison officer who attends the monthly county meeting of the Oregon Education Association at Medford.

Unit 2 of Salem has had a busy year. Members watch legislation concerning

active and retired teachers during meetings of our Legislature. They anticipate larger attendance and greater activity as monthly meetings are to be held in the Board Room of the Salem School Administration Building. A special meeting was held September 13 to hear an interesting and informative talk on Grey Gables by Mrs. C. A. Ratcliff, formerly of Salem but now of Grey Gables. Members are happy to learn of a movement among business interests to consider construction of a Home for retired people.

Unit 1 increased its membership about 50% during the year ending June 30, and also increased State and National membership. Except for two summer picnics, meetings are held in the Multnomah College auditorium. In recognition of its courtesy in furnishing a central meeting place, the unit contributed \$50 to the College scholarship loan fund. The building fund grows and so does the interest in the project. Representatives attend meetings of the Joint Legislative Council, the Portland Federation of Women's Clubs and the Community Council. The latter is a group interested in the housing of elderly citizens and related matters.

Washington

The Washington State Retired Teachers Association was organized on June 17, 1947—several weeks before the NRTA came into existence. The WSRTA, fifth in national membership, affiliated with the NRTA in June 1949. From three units or chapters, our state organization has grown to twenty-four, so completely covering the state that there are only forty-three retired teachers who do not live in an organized area. Of the total 3,500 retired teachers, 2,400 are members of local units, 1,987 of the state and 1,870 national.

Even before the actual organization of the state association, retired teacher leaders took an important part in securing an increase of maximum pensions from \$40.00 to \$100.00 in 1947. Working together with the Washington Education Association in 1955, the maximum pension was increased to \$125.00 (\$140.00 for those retiring after July 1, 1955) and the privilege obtained of doing 45 days substitute teaching without deduction from pensions. Last year a ruling was secured which resulted in the restoration of full annuities to retirees who had temporarily returned to teaching and then re-retired.

In 1957, the state association was entirely responsible for securing passage in the legislature of a joint resolution which provides for a vote in 1958 to amend the constitution to make constitutional past and future increases in pensions.

Two issues of the WSRTA Journal go to all retirees each year. For the past five years, Blue Cross group insurance has been available for a majority of the

retirees. Others are being urged to participate in the NRTA group insurance. The Ida Culver House, one of the early and most successful homes for retired teachers, was promoted and is operated by the retired and active teachers of Seattle. Spokane, Tacoma and Yakima units have been working several years toward the building of similar homes. The Tacoma unit made and has repeatedly shown nationally, the colored film "Afterglow," which depicts scenes in retirees' lives.

In 1955, the Seattle unit published the book "Pioneer Teachers of Washington," written by the historian of the unit.

It works closely with the Washington Education Association, but has not affiliated with that organization.

Close cooperation exists between the state association and the local units—the state leading in the legislation program and matters of state-wide interest and helping promote the interests of all retirees.

The 1957 annual convention held in Tacoma created the position of executive secretary and provided for an interim committee consisting of the president, the immediate past president and the state treasurer "to make necessary decisions not foreseen by the general assembly." The first meeting of the committee was held on September 14, when several questions needing solution were acted upon.

M. C. Olmsted

Marshalling Our Membership

Washington State RTA has in this year's program of legislative promotion the most momentous project of its eleven years or of its foreseeable future. Our cause is the protection of our present increased pensions from some court finding of unconstitutionality.

Our State Constitution of 1889 vintage has contained no mention of public employees' pensions, which in our state are the product of the last twenty years. It does contain, like many other state constitutions, a prohibition of increase of *compensation after public services have been rendered*. Last year for the first time a case involving the pension of a police officer went to our Supreme Court, and in its decision the Court declared that "a pension is not a gratuity but is a deferred compensation for services rendered." That interpretation would, of course, make unconstitutional the two increases of pensions of retired teachers, in 1947 from \$40 a month to \$100, and in 1955 an increase of 25 percent as a cost-of-living adjustment.

Our State RTA had no alternative but to ask the 1957 legislature for an amendment to the Constitution excluding pensions granted from the section restricting deferred compensation. Our amendment was passed by a vote of 37 to 9 in the Senate and unanimously, 81 to 0, in the House.

Now the amendment must go to the people for approval in the 1958 general election. Explaining this necessary amendment to our 1½ million voters in the hullabaloo of a general-election campaign is, we realize, a stupendous undertaking for our small organization of 2,400 members, many of whom are handicapped by infirmities of old age, and many, now "foot-loose and fancy-free" resident in other states. But it can be done—it must be. And most of our campaigning must be done before next June. We are enlisting our entire membership for our crusade of publicity.

Arthur L. Marsh, Seattle
Legislative Chairman, WSRTA

REGION II

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah

Mabelle Wilson, Regional Director
620 Vincente Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

California

The Quarterly issue of the *Pioneer Teacher* for September is full of informative material. The names and addresses of officers of the 38 divisions are given as well as news of those divisions.

The plan of Mrs. Lutie Gray for a proposed State Retired Teachers' Home was published. The proposal is to establish a home to be managed by the State Board with the help of Division Presidents. Grey Gables, at Ojai, the self-sustaining non-profit, life-care home of the National Retired Teachers Association and the house projects Calreta Court in Santa Cruz and in Fresno were cited as examples to be studied.

From Miss Charlotte Wood, "with 94 years just around the corner," comes the following: "Having taught for thirty-seven years, thirty one of them in the country school near my home, where I was educated (1879-1882), my record as a teacher is such an unusual one, that, in 1950, to my great surprise, a fine new school in Danville was named for me—a deeply appreciated honor. Trusting that my faithful conscientious work among the dear boys and girls have warranted the name and the oil painting which graces the wall of the spacious, beautiful building, the "Charlotte Wood Elementary School" is the crowning glory of a long and ardent teacher's life."

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Retired Teachers Association was held in Santa Cruz October 7 and 8 as a special meeting open to members, with the Santa Cruz Division as hosts, and Edith Fikes, president of the division in charge of arrangements. The Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce provided a typewriter and an efficient typist and also registration cards, which showed the member's name, division, and office held. 132 persons registered.

THE MAIL BAG



REGION I

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Katherine Schumaker, Regional Director
1705 Belmont Ave., Seattle 22, Washington

Washington

Full Annuities Restored

Olympia—A letter sent last August by a WSRTA officer through the state teacher's retirement office to the retirement system's actuary resulted in the restoration of full annuities to retirees who had temporarily returned to teaching and then re-retired. The ruling, prior to that letter, had caused many re-retirees to lose as much as half their annuity upon re-retiring.

Decennial Challenges State Retirees

In the old days teachers who retired found small place in the community. They quietly dropped out and, like old soldiers, they just faded away. However, as their numbers increased with the growing population, they felt keenly the need for fellowship, their economic instability and lack of unity of interest. They learned that as individuals they could accomplish little.

In this Northwest their feelings developed into action, and small groups, recognizing their common problems, were formed in population centers. In these groups they enjoyed companionship, recreation and sympathetic understanding. They earned a definite place in the community, all of which lifted their morale and encouraged them to improve conditions. Retired teachers in isolated areas saw the advantage of such organizations.

Working for All Retirees

The natural outcome was the formation of a state organization whose purpose was to promote the interests of all retired teachers. Now the Washington Retired Teachers' Association is working actively for all in an attempt to meet our many needs.

It constitutes a challenge to every retired teacher, to the local groups, and to the state association itself.

How has the state association met this challenge? It has united all members in a solidarity of purpose. It has encouraged forward looking members to put forth their best in leadership. It has created opportunity for each individual to contribute to the welfare of all. Ten years of untiring effort have been directed toward improving conditions for its members.

It lent its influence in securing exemption on federal income tax. It helped to bring about an increase of pension. It has earned the respect of the general public and is recognized in the legislative halls of our state. It challenges every member and every local group to cooperate with it in a united effort for the betterment of all.

Best Hope for Future

For the future it insures a continuity of purpose which makes for progress and achievement. It embodies our best hope for better days for ourselves, and for future retiring teachers a happier time in their declining years.

After ten years of devoted service the challenge to the Washington Retired Teachers' Association is to meet each new problem of the future with the same fidelity and wisdom that has marked its work in the past.

Jennie M. French

WSTRA Constitution

Due to the careful minutes kept by our fine secretaries and the painstaking work of our archivist, Mr. Olmsted, the history of our association has been well preserved. But I wish to give an "inside story" that may be appreciated.

The founders, at the Seattle meeting in January, 1947, drew up a tentative organization and constitution expecting it to be broadened and improved at the June meeting. We know now that a constitution committee should have been appointed—but it wasn't done that way.

When the delegates met in Wenatchee

in June, 1947, they voted down our constitution. The president then appointed a committee of Mrs. Jennie French, chairman; George Denman, Spokane; Mae Farrar, Seattle, and Beatrice E. Jones, Spokane, to write a constitution. We were excused from the room, while the convention recessed, spending their time getting acquainted. One very fine talk was given them by M. E. Durham.

Nothing ever daunted Jennie French—so she wrote the constitution, faintly aided by her committee. Fortunately, she had served on a constitution committee for another organization just a few weeks before so was familiar with the format. It was finished within the hour, brought back to the delegates and adopted!

As we have grown in stature it has been amended many times, but the basic constitution, with its aims and purposes, has remained the same, showing the wisdom and sagacity of our beloved Jennie French and the founders.

Beatrice E. Jones

State President's Message and Report

Greetings from your president to retirees all over the state of Washington, to 270 in California and hundreds in 39 other states. A special greeting to two retirees in Alaska, seven in Hawaii, four in Canada; to Carroll C. Pease in El Salvador and Beryl Ring in Congo Belge, Africa. How interesting to know we are represented in so many parts of the world! Please write to us occasionally, you faraway folks.

The fiscal year will soon end for WSRTA. The state convention is hurrying to meet us, at which time we shall pause to evaluate the efforts and accomplishments of the busy year just passed and formulate plans for future achievement.

Thanks to Legislative Workers

In this Journal you will also find a report from your legislative committee on the inestimable work they have been doing. Mr. Olmsted and his core committee have spent many hours planning procedures and organizing effort.

You think "retire" means go to your bed? That's not what I mean by it! Heads up! Step out! Let's try it! It also means to have a new tread.

"65 AND OVER"

Membership Chairman—Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer, 403 West Channel Rd., Santa Monica, Calif. Phone EX. 5-5596.

Secretary—Mr. William O. Lundberg, 853 22nd Street, Santa Monica, Calif. Phone EX. 5-4603.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Erma B. Palisades, Calif. Phone GL. 4-3674.

Second Vice-President—Miss Ellen Brunner, 16957 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, Calif. Phone EX. 5-2097.

First Vice-President—Mrs. Irene Holaday, 618-A San Vicente, Santa Monica, Calif. Phone GR. 7-5444.

President—Miss Christine Anderberry, 1617 Camden Ave., Los Angeles 25, Bay District for 1957 and 1958:

Next year's officers of the Retired Teachers' Association of Santa Monica Bay District for 1957 and 1958:

Ralph B. Thomas
ing of the even numbered years.

a term of two years at the June meeting of the even numbered years.

The elected officers for 1957-1958 are the same as for 1956-1957 inasmuch as mentioned in her reminiscences.

recalled participation in the episodes like herself, were reared in the valley.

date. Many of the members present who, on the schools and schooling in the San Joaquin Valley from pioneer days to

lege librarian, spoke most interestingly on the schools and schooling in the San Joaquin Valley from pioneer days to

Daly, recently retired Fresno State College librarian, spoke most interestingly on the schools and schooling in the San Joaquin Valley from pioneer days to

At the regular meeting May 2 Kathryn Daily, recently retired Fresno State College librarian, spoke most interestingly on the schools and schooling in the San Joaquin Valley from pioneer days to

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A news article in the morning paper stating that the Legislature was planning to dip into the teachers' permanent cost back to the State Board.

It was voted to send the question of members who are 65 years old or older.

decided: 1. That we establish life-memberships; 2. That they be offered to more. After discussion, two points were reported with the recommendation that

Life-Membership Committee read her report with the recommendation that

CRTA Board was passed.

Wold's motion that \$50 be given by the was contributed by six divisions. Mrs.

Mr. Ingram gave a short report on memory of her husband.

Herbert Lee gave \$500 to the fund in for this recognition of his college. Mrs.

Barbara, thanked the Settle Committee Mr. Rathbone, new President of Santa

be in honor of Miss Vesta Olmstead. Jose, Riverside and Long Beach. The

leges in Humboldt, Chico, Fresno, San reported \$500 scholarships in State Col-

Ms. Mary Nichols, of the Settle Fund, rolment August 15-September 30.

insurance Plan will be reopened for en- once, and send your renewal. The In-

your membership entitles you. Commu- have received the last issue to which

Journal. If the last notation is 6-57, you the back of your latest issue of the

Journal. Look at your mailing label on discussed. Details are in the June

The subject of NRTA Insurance was in Education in West Europe."

spoke on "Some Recent Developments of the University of California, who

of the Department of Education Reller of the Department of Education

duced by Dr. Yockey, was Dr. Theodore The speaker of the evening, intro-

service to the organization.

a NRTA Citation for her long years of a NRTA Citation for her long years of

At the request of Mr. Preston, Mrs. Luitie Gray presented to Mrs. Mary

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Room at 6:30, music was given by the At the annual dinner, held in the Bowl

cerns city-state systems.

awaiting the Governor's signature, con- ing his session of the Legislature. A bill

Mr. Harvey T. Stewart, Legislative August 15 to September 30.

NRTA Health Insurance Plan would be announced that the open dates for the

year. Dr. Andrus, as President of NRTA will be co-chairman for the North next

been handled. Miss Margaret M. Croak on Welfare and said that all cases had

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, Chairman of Welfare for CRTA, gave a short report

Ruth Hoffman. President of East Bay Division, the gen-

the Leamington, Hotel. F. M. Yockey, was held in Oakland June 11 and 12 at

The twenty-eighth annual convention California 620 Vinciente Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

Mabel Wilson, Director Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

REGION II meetings has been good.

Sloan, program chairman. Attendance at Mrs. Sallie Potter, president, and Sarah

Yakima—This has been another suc- cessful year for the Yakima RTA under

one, and send your renewal. The In- your membership entitles you. Commu-

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