

## REPORT ON THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING . . .

## age with a future

**T**he three months since your receipt of the last Journal have been crowded with great and impressive events. Of course, outstanding has been the holding of the White House Conference on Aging. The top news-making recommendation to come out of the conference — that medical care for the aged should be financed basically under the Social Security program — must not overshadow some of the less publicized recommendations that received wide endorsement among the delegates.

It struck us as regrettable that so few retired persons were sent as delegates — while about 15% of the delegates were over 65, only 1/10 was computed to be retired, and yet it is this age group that would have the most acute problems and the practical solutions. But it made us very proud to know that there were in attendance as delegates 45 representatives of our two associations. A luncheon in their honor yielded these pictures of the Conference participants.

In addition to the designees we were also represented by 40 volunteers who served as receptionists or ushers at two hotels where group and section meetings were held. To them we give our official thanks for their tireless services, graciously given. The White House Conference on Aging Act was designed to build a comprehensive inventory of the needs of the older generation and to draft an active blueprint for the future.

Well over 200,000 people, by actual count, were the surveyors and the architects. All over the nation for more than a year they have worked individually and together in conferences, committees and organizations of church service and welfare groups.

The response of these thousands of citizens to the call of the Conference for study and at the Conference the rapt attendance given by them was overwhelming evidence of their dissatisfaction with the lives lived by many of the older generation today; it was clear testimony of their dedicated determination to add in the future a meaning and a vitality to the added years of older peoples' lives.

#### The future as Foreseen

Looking into the future, beyond great increase in numbers, the older folk of 1980 will be the product of the 20th Century with different values from ours of the 19th — and yet values established in part by the pioneering of our generation of older people of today — building new patterns of dignity, usefulness and independence.

#### Higher levels of wellness

One of the most comforting assurances for the future to some, as predicted by the conferences, was the expectation of an expansion of the system of Old-Age Survivors, and Disability Insurance to include health service benefits for all persons eligible for such Insurance. Better habits of nutrition, exercise, and activity and the need of periodic check-ups will have developed the concept of positive health as an attainable goal.

Specialists assure us that most of the suffering from heart disease and cancer will by 1980 have been prevented, and the agonizing pains of rheumatism and arthritis will be definitely controlled or on the decrease. Purely custodial care will have yielded to rehabilitative services in program of home-care and home-service and health maintenance. The health picture of the future is an optimistic one — would it were possible to advance the time of its fruition!

#### Incomes for living

Incomes of the next decade, if the aspirations of the Conference delegates are realized, will be more closely geared to the level of needs and styles of life. The problem of budgetary needs of older people and measures how to provide retirement incomes able to meet those needs was given much thought. Measures of relief were discussed, such as escalator provisions in pension programs, and solutions to the financial

President Eisenhower was very enthusiastic in a demonstration of Freedom Home by Henry Bacon, President of Douglas Fir Plywood Assoc. (left), W. E. Difford, Executive V.P. of D.F.P.A., and Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, President of American Association of Retired Persons — National Retired Teachers Association (right).





hardships faced by elderly folk with dependent and still more elderly parents without adequate income for their support.

Measures of current relief concerned themselves with problems that need legislative action for their solution — questions of tax relief, health provisions, work opportunities, removal of legal inequities, etc.

#### **Work and retirement**

One of the greatest changes, if we may forecast from the hearings of the Conference, will be the more favorable attitude toward retirement. Outmoded will be all compulsory retirement. Continuance in paid employment will be optional for those who have a desire to continue at work if equipped with both skills and a physical and nervous margin. Vocational retraining program will become increasingly available and usual for refreshment of obsolete skills. Part-time work opportunities also will be far more numerous for retired folk whose interest or strength do not make full-time work desirable.

#### **Creation of organizations for sharing experiences**

The tendency of older people to seek out their fellows with like needs and like interests is generally recognized. The increased awareness of their own potentialities and their community of interests have resulted in the formation of just such organizations as our own. In these organizations they can protect the purchasing power of their retirement incomes and also seek an expansion of facilities and services through which their needs may be met. Above all, older citizens are able to act as their own interpreters of their needs and as protectors of their self-respect and dignity.

Adjusted older folk today represent the image of successful aging, far removed from the humiliation of dependency, deterioration and withdrawal from the stream of contemporary life.

#### **Independence in living**

Independence in living arrangements will be con-

tinuously prized. The present generation of older folk has developed independent models of intergenerational relationships in which respect and recognition of the elders' need of independence have erased the sense of guilt in the minds of their adult children. If recommendations made at the Conference hold true, older people will be finding housing more suited to their unique nature and their needs with provisions for independence, privacy, heating and lighting, safety and convenience.

Grouped and congregate housing will be located with ready access to shopping and religious centers, libraries, medical clinics, adult schools and community services, specialized in the future for older persons as they now are for members of other generations.

#### **Older people with responsibilities too**

Older people, as we know them, are insistently determined to accept responsibility for maintaining their own health, for planning their own affairs, for continuing as informed and alert participants in civic and political life, and for serving their communities through a variety of voluntary services; they respect the freedom of self-determination on the part of their adult children as fully as they expect from them that respect for their own independence of action and decision-making.

#### **Mechanics of achievement**

The responsibility to realize these aspirations is the concern of each of us. Every community in the land must plan, stimulate and coordinate programs and facilities toward these aims. In such fashion only will the Conference hopes and plans become permanent actualities. Through the Conference there ran strongly the concept of shared responsibility — by older people, by community planners, by private and public agencies and by all levels of government. The well-being of our nation, the Conference stated, is secured only by the well-being of the individuals who comprise it.

#### **NRTA-AARP executive officers who helped at Conference**

**William C. Fitch**



**Mrs. Ruth Lana**



**Mr. David Jeffreys**



**Mrs. Mary Harris**





Please Note:  
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of Journal



Port Gray's 1792 discovery of the Columbia River.

## ritage of

; spirit enveloped in a land of climatic  
beauty and inviting opportunity.

na B. Ward, State President, O.S.R.T.A.

f Clark, on their famous explorations, wintered on the  
9. Oregon coast in 1805-1806, and this led to the great  
te migration to the territory.

tic "Mountain Men," trapping for furs, were the first  
oy group to establish an industry. These men were fol-  
ing lowed by missionaries and their families who settled  
ike built homes and established new industries such as  
ot. farming and dairying. Seedlings planted became the  
nd center of a great fruit business in Oregon's fertile  
Mt. Rogue and Willamette Valleys.

ds, During the twentieth century, logging camps and  
te, sawmills rapidly sprang up. The state now leads the  
on nation in lumber production. The raising of pepper  
75. mint, hops, and bulbs has drawn many energetic peo-  
rst ple into business in Oregon also.

and With the establishment of industry came the neces-

er during 1805-1806. Headed for Willamette Valley, a weat





## OFFICERS OF OREGON STATE UNITS



Mrs. Lorena B. Ward  
President  
Oregon State  
Retired Teachers Assoc.



Mrs. Hope Davey  
Vice-President  
Oregon State  
Retired Teachers Assoc.



F. O. Bradshaw  
Treasurer  
Oregon State  
Retired Teachers Assoc.



Mrs. Alice F. Willits  
Secretary  
Oregon State  
Retired Teachers Assoc.

sity and gradual growth of a great system of railroad and highway transportation. Now, four trans-continental railroads have terminals in Portland. In addition, every section of the state is connected by a network of buses, trains, and airlines. Oregon is a focal point in the circle of air routes to the Orient. Located in Klamath Falls is the large U.S. jet air base for defending the west coast in case of enemy attack.

The state of Oregon has a variety of climates: the coast is warmed by the Japanese Current and is an ideal area for oceanside recreation; the mild interior has park-like camping grounds where fishing, swimming, hiking and hunting are enjoyed; the eastern area where large farms, cattle ranches and irrigation projects exist is cooler and somewhat more arid. The Pendleton Roundup in the northeastern part of the state is famed throughout the West.

**Oregon has a fine educational system.** Its schools rank in the top three states in scholastic excellence. The literacy rate is one of the nation's highest. Many new schools have been and are being built to accommodate the state's rapidly increasing population. There are twenty-four colleges and universities, of which Reed College has supplied one of the highest ratios of Rhodes scholars in the United States.

In addition to the above mentioned halls of learning, the Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, enrolls students from many states as well as from

foreign countries to train in technological, medical, electronic and other skills. Graduates from this school are expertly trained and in great demand.

Culture has long played an important role in Oregon. Art festivals, museums, symphony orchestras, opera and theatre are enjoyed. Ashland's famous Shakespearean Festival, held each August, is the most widely known.

Of Oregon cities, Portland is largest with an amazing 50 acre shopping center called Lloyd Center. It is the largest shopping center in the world. Salem, the beautiful state capitol city, is in the northwest part of the state. Eugene is the site of the well known University of Oregon, a fine institution of learning in a beautiful campus setting. Medford, the county seat of Jackson County is the location of the spacious Rouge Valley Manor, a home for retirees which is rapidly nearing completion.

**Oregon is a progressive state,** deeply interested in the welfare of its people. In April 1960, a conference on the "Problems of the Aging" was held at Salem. It was the first state in the Union to hold such a conference. Governor Mark Hatfield has shown a vital interest and concern in the aging citizens. Oregon had eighteen delegates at the White House Conference on Aging. One of the most active and interested of these is Mrs. Marshall Cornett of Klamath Falls, a member of the Governor's Council and appointed by him to the White House Conference.

Oregon train rests on the Oregon Trail.



First white women were welcomed to Oregon at Fort Vancouver in 1836.





## OKLAHOMA to get new RTA manor

## MAIL BAG

continued



Mrs. Floy Elliott Cobb, Pres.  
242 Waversly Drive,  
Tulsa 4, Oklahoma

Officers: president, Mrs. Floy Elliott Cobb, 242 Waverly Drive, Tulsa; vice-president, Kate Frank, 1301 Fremont, Muskogee; secretary, H. W. Cooley, 5950 N. W. 32nd, Bethany.

At the annual meeting Oct. 29, reports from the twelve educational districts emphasized constructive growth in membership and emphasis on carefully organized programs. The Payne County Association presented an informative booklet. Speakers were Dr. L. A. Bowlby of the University of Oklahoma; Truman Bennett, executive secretary of the State Retirement System; Kate Frank; Hon. Robert S. Kerr, U. S. Senator; and Ferman Phillips, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Education Association, the two latter challenging the interest of the group in national and state legislation relating to education and aging.

Miss Frank announced that the executive committee and the Board of Directors of OEA had voted to accept plans for the soon-to-be realized Manor for retired teachers. She announced the gift-offer of the Chamber of Commerce of an ample and choice plot of ground in the city of Muskogee for the Home.

Muskogee is the scene of the long and successful career of Miss Frank, and the gift is an expression of the high regard in which she and her fellow retired teachers are held. At the business meeting the new officers were elected.

Pertinent points of a state program:

1. Immediate plans for one home for retired teachers of Oklahoma, with future plans for at least three more of varying types in various sections.
2. An OEA legislative program that includes three goals related to teacher retirement: (a) continued protection of teacher retirement funds by limiting investment to very high grade bonds as now provided by law. (Surprising how many investment groups are interested in this money!) (b) provision for a \$3.33 1/3 per month per year of creditable service after attainment of 15 years of creditable service. (c) actuarial equivalent for retirement at ages less than 65 if "funds are available." (d) cost-of-living adjustment.

— Mrs. Floy Elliott Cobb

## OREGON reports membership growth



Lorena Ward, Pres.  
3930 Bristol Avenue  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

The OSRTA met at the Umpqua Hotel in Roseburg September 22-23. The meeting was well attended and presidents of the several units gave short, interesting reports of the past month's accomplishments. Our state membership as well as national has been substantially increased. Members as a whole are taking added interest in the legislative program of our state.

The OSRTA is a growing organization so much so that it has become necessary to amend the by-laws to fit our needs. The executive board drew up several of these revisions to be presented to the board meeting which will be held during the State Convention at Portland March 15-16, 1961.

Our state organization has been working closely with the Homes for the Aged Committee as well as Golden Age Clubs.

Recently we have written to our Oregon congressmen asking them to introduce an identical bill to that of Congressman Mackrowicz in regard to equalizing tax treatment for all retired persons. A copy of the bill was enclosed to each congressman.

Oregon State Officers: President, Lorena Ward, Klamath Falls; Vice-Pres., Hope Davey, Portland; Rec.-Sec'y., Alice Willets, Ashland; Cor.-Sec'y., Annabelle Newton, Klamath Falls; Auditor, Mary Champ, Salem; Treas., Fred O. Bradshaw, Salem; Historian, Angenette Crissey, Portland.

— Lorena Ward

## RETIRED

(and happy to let the Georges do it)  
O golden sun on gilded shower,  
I glory in your passing hour!  
In snow or sleet or pounding rain  
I may not joy, but ne'er complain,  
Nor even lean toward seeming;  
Exulting rather, in their power  
As thoughts point skyward as a tower,  
I'll read that book, or write this rhyme,  
Do my good deed, or treasure time  
For blest and IDLE dreaming!

— Pearl B. Trembley  
Depoe Bay, Oregon

## PENNSYLVANIA retirement system begun 50 years ago



Dr. David Stewart, Pres.  
Mountain Top, Pa.

About 50 years ago, there was, in the "coal" town of Hazelton, a remarkable teacher, Katherine Longshore. She suffered a nervous breakdown. Her physician was a member of the State Legislature, and she asked him, "What do you think of introducing a bill establishing a retirement system for teachers?" "Not a bad idea," he replied. "Show me the way and I'll do it."

When she was able, she organized a committee of about 12 experienced teachers and superintendents of which the writer, at 82, is the survivor. An actuary was retained, and instead of a bill, an iron clad, foolproof amendment to the School Code was drawn up. Teachers may disagree on salary, tenure, etc., but not on retirement.

In 1917, the amendment passed the Legislature. Since it was an amendment and not a bill, it had to be passed by the succeeding Legislature 1919, and in the interim agreed upon by the school districts.

Philadelphia, I regret to say, held out as long as it could; but at the last moment, it gave in. The amendment passed in 1919, and was incorporated in the School Code, where with periodic beneficial changes, it has remained. Before the governor would sign it, the Appropriations Committee must dig up the money. The state would have to assume the entire back debt. The \$2,000,000 necessary was nowhere in sight. "How much can you give us, Governor Sproule?" "About \$100,000," said he. "All right, we'll take it." The retirement system was on its way.

In 1921, the Legislature under Governor Pinchot's direction cleared up the "inherited" debt, gave the whole appropriation for the next biennium, and since then the Pennsylvania Teachers Retirement System has maintained its rock-ribbed solidarity.

If state retirement systems are contemplated, it might be wise to write to Harrisburg for copies of the Pennsylvania system and study its provisions.

— Sara B. Cummings  
6300 Greene, Philadelphia 44, Pa.





**CLARA YOUNG**  
Administrative Vice President  
3615 N. 18th St.  
Tacoma, Wash.



**KATHERINE SCHUMAKER**  
Director of Public Relations  
1000 Eighth Ave., A-404  
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**A**ll states in Area I now have state associations and are working enthusiastically.

Idaho organized at Twin Falls in October, 1960, with Miss Douglas Hilts as president, while Alaska organized March 10, 1961, at Anchorage under the direction of Miss Lois Morey of the Alaska Dept. of Education. Mrs. Allan L. Petersen of Kenai is president and Mrs. Enid S. McClane of Kasilof is secretary-treasurer. This group formed as a section of AEA which was holding its Western Regional Conference. Active teachers nearing retirement attended and would like to be associate members.

Legislation to improve pensions of teachers retiring before 1957 has gone forward in three states. At this time results are known only for Idaho.

From the *Southwest Idaho RTA Newsletter* we read: "The Legislative Committee is very happy to report that our bill passed both Houses and has been signed by Governor Smylie. Those who retired before January 1, 1958, will receive an increase in their retirement check, starting July 1. Committee: Margaret Duval, Ann Booth, Lelia Pedicord. Senator Nellie Cline Steenson sponsored the bill in the Senate and Mrs. Stebbins in the House. We owe our president and the committee a big vote of thanks for their successful efforts in promoting SB 43. We want, also, to express our thanks and sincere appreciation to Mr. Willmorth for his kind cooperation." Thanks to Senator Steenson and Rep. Stebbins.

Idaho State RTA has completed a constitution to be presented at the annual convention. Representation will be one delegate for each 10 state members. State dues will be \$1 and \$1 registration fee for all persons attending the Delegate Assembly. Expenses of the Delegate Assembly, including those of state officers, shall be paid by the state association.

At a luncheon meeting of the Northwest Regional Conference of Classroom Teachers held in Tacoma March 2-4, I spoke on "What NRTA Has to Offer." On March 16, I had a part on the program of the Oregon State RTA Convention in Portland. OSRTA is increasing in numbers and interest. The newly-elected state president is a retiring County Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Helen Baker of Monroe.

We hope to hear that RTA units have been formed at Miles City and in Ravalli County, Montana. Through the cooperation of J. Hugh McKinney of the Montana Retirement System, pension inserts telling of the benefits of RTA on 3 levels, went out to all retirees in March.

We welcomed David Jeffreys to the Northwest for a series of 6 meetings in April.

— Clara H. Young

**D**irectors sometimes move. Please notice change of address above.

A high point of interest since my last communication was the visit of Mr. William C. Fitch our Executive Director. He delivered an inspiring address to the local RTA and to a group of Civic Workers at Hamilton House.

Hamilton House, established in 1958, is a center in Seattle offering educational, avocational and recreational programs for older adults. The operation of the House is financed by an allocation from U G N, voluntary contributions from individuals, service clubs, and the membership. The University Kiwanis Club provides the house and utilities. Senior citizens who meet here not only help themselves and each other, but visit persons who are ill and homebound. They participate in all civic undertakings and aid all worthwhile organizations. Days are spent making new toys and renewing old ones, sewing and knitting for Children's Homes and needy families.

It was with pleasure and satisfaction that local and state associations were visited this year.

Many local units in Area One are doing splendid work in Membership Growth and Voluntary Service. One group recently asked itself: What evidence of progress can we show? Do we reach out and ask others to join us? Are we satisfied with our attendance at meetings? Do we have the support of the entire membership? Can anything be done? There is something meaningful and fine in this persistency and tenacity of purpose. Our activities are in constant need of growth and development. Worthwhile purposes and ideals must be translated into activities and goals or they will not move forward toward realization. Are we informing retired persons about AARP?

Much is being done in the Northwest in providing opportunities for the retired person to do something for others, something in which he has been interested but for which there was no time before retirement, thus bringing added values to many lives. Wide is the choice of interests provided by Churches, Clubs, Lodges and Councils on aging.

"Though life holds its treasures out  
to be enjoyed by everyone,  
It is the lifted face that feels the  
Shining of the Sun."

— Katherine Schumaker





# Together we are achieving honored objectives

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus

Dear Fellow Members:

This June the National Retired Teacher's Association met again in its yearly convention to consider the epic achievement of its membership, whose 14th year of dedication we are now celebrating, and to focus attention on its program for the future.

Looking back at its founding, we realize that one of the unique features of American life is its multiplicity of volunteer associations seeking to find an answer to some recognized social problem or need. In the days of our rural economy, the fear of fire called into being the voluntary fire brigade; the thirst for learning, the literary society, the library associations, the lyceums and the Chautauqua circuits. Today, with these needs met by governmental agencies, you find men and women banding together to find relief in other fields of non-governmental concern.

Basic to the founding of each of these associations is an idea—an idea shared by its members and a faith in the merit of that idea. The National Retired Teachers Association, and its affiliated organization, the American Association of Retired Persons, hold the truth that aging has a future; they believe that older folk can make this faith a reality, in their own thinking and feeling. They can attain goals of personal dignity and social usefulness, by recognizing their own individual worth in this crusade of service. They respect the truth that esteem and prestige, which they seek, can never be gifts nor concessions but are earned returns for persevering efforts, personal worth and useful service.

Both groups, the NRTA and the AARP, numbering approximately 500,000 are composed of older and retired persons, seeking a healthier acceptance of the aging process by both the elderly and the young. Both groups are hopefully pledged, as far as is in their power, to remove the unhappy apprehensions of aging and replace them with a reasonable and justified optimism.

They propose doing so through their own combined efforts, strengthened by the sympathetic support of health, fraternal, religious and other voluntary organizations which provide humane services to the aged and aging.

The two associations and their leaders consider their self-motivated activities, without complaint, pleas or sense of bereavement, a forward step in the process toward a social and cultural maturity.

The purposes and the programs of the two associations toward the fulfillment of their goals can be broken down into four fields:

1. Public Information and Education
2. Informational Services to Individuals
3. Programs of Our Affiliated Groups
4. Our Associational Non-profit Services

## I Public Information and Education

- 1—For people who look at growing older with indifference, anxiety, curiosity or anticipation.
- 2—About the importance of growth, education and activity for the enriched later years, particularly with problems of loneliness, inactivity and impaired health.
- 3—Using such techniques of communication as
  - a. The magazines of the two associations
  - b. Newspaper releases and stories
  - c. Personal contacts and public appearances
  - d. Forums, conferences, leadership groups and Chautauquas for lectures, round tables, consultations and discussions
  - e. Mobile exhibits and informational brochures, newsletters and pamphlets
  - f. "Leadership Kit," provided for creative workers
  - g. "Ever Since April," a socio-drama on compulsory retirement furnished without fee, for live presentation
  - h. Expansion of library service, through use of materials, book lists, exhibits and bookmobiles.

## II Services to Individuals

- 1—To persons seeking help.
  - a. Gives thoughtful attention to those who seek aid
  - b. Makes available health facilities and services
  - c. Advises on creative activities and interests
  - d. Encourages satisfying friendships and contacts
  - e. Suggests avenues for finding work and maintaining income
  - f. Informally counsels with problems
  - g. Recruiting volunteers in visitation, services, etc.
  - h. Provides a continuing forum for exchange of ideas of "what to do" and "how to do it."

## III Programs of Our Affiliated Groups

- 1—Analyzing how the needs of the aged are being met in their respective communities and reporting findings.
- 2—Helping to coordinate community services for the aged by providing job placement for part-time service and by planning a sales outlet for home crafts.
- 3—Creating adult discussion groups on living arrangements on all income levels for the healthy aged, for those needing a sheltered environment and for the chronically ill.
- 4—Sharing information on the planning of living arrangements
  - a. Methods of financing
  - b. Choosing a site
  - c. Solving zone problems
  - d. Designing residential units
  - e. Choosing residents



- f. Providing social services
  - g. Administering unit
  - h. Field operations
- 5—Encouraging retirement readiness for those of the community in the middle years.
  - 6—Analyzing the nature of the community's facilities for the aged and recommending the initiation or the expansion of homemaker services, Meals-on-Wheels, and like home-care aids.
  - 7—Making appropriate recommendations to the national organization how better it can meet the needs.
  - 8—Providing field operations staff cooperating assistance from headquarters.

#### IV Our Associational Non-Profit Services

- 1—Pioneering in providing budget-priced hospitalization insurance in which doctors' services are being partially compensated.
- 2—Making available throughout mail-order drug buying service, medications, for management and control of physical shortages or ailments with drugs at discount prices.
- 3—Constructing, engineering and operating a retirement residence valued at \$750,000 unique in its being financed and operated by the aged for the aged, without subsidy, gifts or pleas for help.
- 4—Constructing, engineering and operating a pilot-geriatric nursing home, stressing restorative and rehabilitative services with fees at \$12 a day.
- 5—Conducting in St. Petersburg, Florida, a reception center, where visitors may learn free of housing facilities within their means, may rest, visit, write letters, meet friends, etc. A walk-in pharmacy with discount rates is part of the center.
- 6—Making available and administering a European travel service at reduced rates, leisurely spaced and professionally conducted. Six hundred persons are now enjoying this service.
- 7—Presenting through the journals a program of education, stressing vitality through activity, the challenge of adult education, nutrition—the relationship between food and physical fitness, investments and trends, etc.
- 8—Alerting our membership to the need of periodic health examinations and the meticulous following of physician's advice and treatment.
- 9—Cooperating in conferences and in research in background and factual information in preparation for the White House Conference on Aging.
- 10—Cooperating with Veterans Administration is a hospital volunteer service in combating loneliness and listlessness by visitation and the teaching of handicrafts, and clerical assistance to the patient.
- 11—Providing a journal page on Social Security problems written by a policy-determining official in Baltimore.
- 12—Giving testimony on behalf of the aged to Congressional committees and in the federal income tax legislation by recommending on taxation status, removal of discriminations and inequities in the federal income taxation report, by raising the limitations on Social Security earnings, by increasing the exemptions on the purchase of drugs, and the granting of special conditions for the retention of U.S. Government bonds until the attainment of retirement age.
- 13—Hopefully arranging for the benefit of our membership a reduced rate, hearing aids and attendant services.
- 14—Hopefully planning a nationwide Positive Health Week—with free examination for the aged in TB, heart, cancer, diabetes and glaucoma in cooperation with the American Medical Association.
- 15—Initiating a Trusteeship of representatives of humane organizations for dissemination and the proper supervision of generic medicines.
- 16—Providing a field representative and staff to help coordinate community services for the aging and to alert our headquarters' staff with unmet needs within the scope and ability of our association to solve.

These are a general overview of our services and our goals.

We have been honored by being named along with the University associations, the National Education Associations and the State School Superintendents to implement some of the recommendations of the White House Conference on Aging. This is both an honor and a challenge.

Now what of the future? I believe we have shared aims and our hope of greatness as an association lies in these shared aims. We know what they are—we know that they are difficult to achieve and we know that we have not achieved them.

We want and we believe in the dignity and the worth of the retired individual, and it is one unshakable purpose to preserve and protect that dignity.

We believe that every retired person should be enabled to achieve the best in him, and we are the declared enemy of all conditions that might stunt the individual and prevent such progress.

We need the personal attention of many folk. Unlike the pyramids of old, the monuments of the spirit will not stand unattended. They must be nourished by believing men and women. We need the help of a large and informed body of men and women to serve on our legislative council, members from many parts of the land to come together two or three times a year to decide upon our legislative aims and then valiantly to pursue them. We need officers to correspond with those of the Health, Education and Welfare Department so that together we may serve the older citizen in implementing the recommendations of the White House Conference on Aging. We need state officers whom we can count upon to come on call to conferences and legislative deliberations.

We know what our problems are and we agree on our more important aims.

We need conferences with leaders and their *commitment*. I want to talk about commitment.

All our wisdom, all our talent, all our vitality, all our steadfastness will be needed. We need an ample supply of dedicated Americans. Can we count upon them?

The answer must be conditional. If in our group or our community or our nation we understand honor, and respect dedication, the supply will be ample. But if we assume that dedicated men are rare and probably a little foolish, the supply will be low. If the question is "What is in it for me?" there will be none at all.

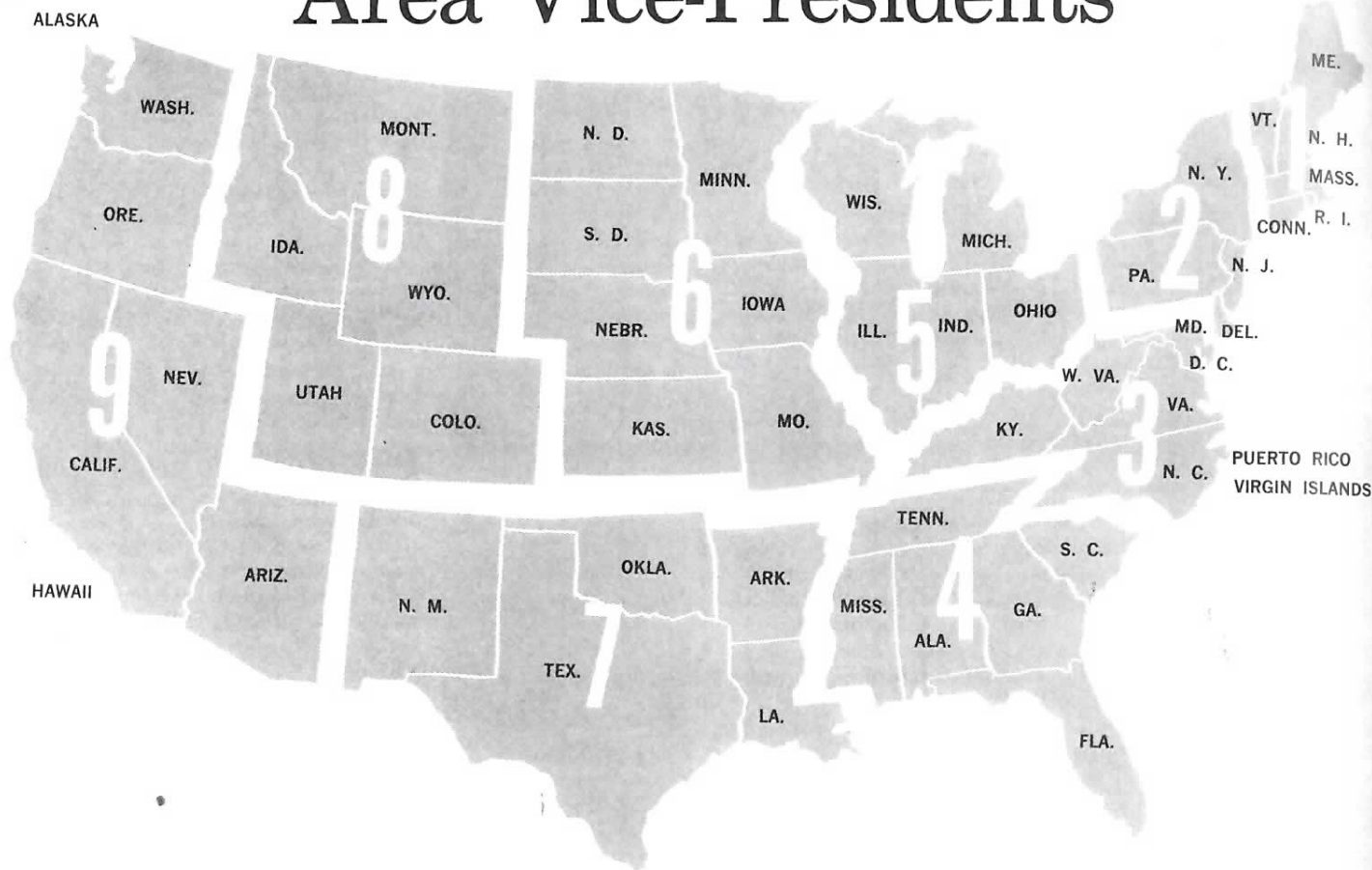
It is unfortunately true that we, as a people, have to some degree lost the habit of asking or expecting devoted action. Long continued, the failure to expect dedication can have only one outcome. We shall eventually lose the capacity for it.

But it is my conviction that our people are responsible folk, proud to offer devotion when the opportunity arises. Our people would rather work hard for something they believe in than enjoy a pampered idleness. They would rather sacrifice their comfort for an honored objective than pursue endless diversions. It is a mistake to speak of dedication as a sacrifice. We all know there is exhilaration in intense effort toward a meaningful end—the age-long struggle of man to realize the best in him, and to be in fact his brother's keeper.

Cordially yours, *Ethel Percy Andrews*



# Area Vice-Presidents



## AREA I



**Margaret T. C. Murphy**  
375 Summer St.  
New Bedford, Mass.

Miss Margaret T. C. Murphy is a graduate of Boston University holding B.S. and M.A. degrees in Education, a life member of N.E.A. and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She has served as president of the New Bedford Teachers Association, Massachusetts Teachers Association, and Bristol County Teachers Association. At present she is very much interested in the problems of the Aging and has been instrumental in establishing a "New Bedford Council for the Aging" of which she is Vice-President; also as a member of a Golden Age Club she has been able to learn at first hand of the many problems of our Senior Citizens.

## AREA II



**Helen D. Homer**  
3 Park Lane 3E  
Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

Helen D. Homer has been a member of NRTA since 1951 and has served as: Recording Secretary, Chairman Area Vice Presidents, and Chairman of Directors of Public Relations. November 1958 to May 1959 she established the NRTA-AARP Center in St. Petersburg and served as Director. This year she sponsored the organizing of the Yonkers AARP Chapter and the Lower Westchester County AARP Chapter in New York State. Her plans now include a conference of Region 2; efforts to increase membership, and to develop closer cooperation within and between state, county, and local associations and the establishments of more AARP chapters.

## AREA III



**Louise E. Broadus**  
1600 Monument Ave.  
Richmond 20, Virginia

Louise E. Broadus studied medicine for three years before she earned a B.S. degree from William and Mary College and an M.A. degree from Boston University. She served the public schools of Richmond, Virginia for 40 years as teacher, primary supervisor and elementary school principal. She taught six summer sessions at State Teachers College, Virginia and the University of Richmond. Mrs. Broadus was Vice-President of Altrusa Club and the Elementary Principals Association. She is the author of a Teacher's Reading Manual and Pre-primer; a language workbook for grades 3 & 4; and has co-authored "Virginia Geography," all done since her retirement.



## AREA IV



**Clara L. Verner**  
1521 10th St.  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Miss Clara L. Verner, principal Tuscaloosa High School 27 years, past president Ala. Assoc. Principals, Secondary Schools; Publications: Magazine Articles, a biography of Mrs. Amelia Gayle Fargas, sponsored by Beta Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma while she was president; is now a newspaper correspondent;achelors and Masters Degrees University of Alabama; Advanced Credit Chicago University; Named Citizen of Year 1950 Civitan Club; Woman of Achievement BPW in 1959; Organized Alabama Retired Teachers Assoc. in 1955; Benevolent Area Vice-President of NRTA 1956.

## AREA V



**Marjorie A. Cook**  
1912 Lincoln St.  
Evanston, Ill.

Marjorie (Allen) Cook, B.A. Smith College, 1917, M.A. Northwestern University, 1933, was a teacher of English at Centralia, Illinois, Township High School, Logan County High School at Sterling, Colorado, and for twenty-eight years at New Trier High School, Winnetka, Illinois. She was president of the newly-organized Illinois RTA in 1956 and 1957 and has continued her keen interest in IRTA by being chairman of its membership committee and by helping to organize new local units. Since 1958 she has been NRTA Director for Illinois. She is now Area V's vice president.

## AREA VI



**Pearl Donoho**  
320 N. 22nd St., #1004  
Omaha 31, Nebraska

Pearl Donoho is a graduate of the University of South Dakota with a B.A. degree. Her teaching experience in South Dakota was done in Vermillion, Rapid City, and Burke; in Sioux City, Iowa; Zephyrville, Florida; and Omaha, Nebraska. She held positions of State Director of Nebraska Education Association and President of Rho Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma; DR Chapter, PEO; Omaha Education Association and District II Nebraska State Education Association. Since retirement Miss Donoho has been President of Nebraska Retired Teachers Association; NRTA Area Vice-president, Region IV; and Director for AARP.

## AREA VII



**Katherine Pearce**  
3812 W. Biddison St.  
Fort Worth, Texas

Mrs. Katherine Pearce is a native Texan educated in Texas Schools with social work in Columbia and Northwestern Universities. She holds B.S. and Music Education Degrees. She retired in 1957 after teaching 41 years in the Music Department of the Fort Worth Public Schools. She is a member of the First Methodist Church, Woman's Club, Opera Guild, Delta Kappa Gamma, and American Association of University Women. She is immediate past President of the Fort Worth Retired Teachers Association and has served NRTA for the past two years as Public Relations Director for Area III.

## AREA VIII



**Mae Gavin**  
2042 Glencoe Ave.  
Denver 7, Colorado

Mae Gavin is a graduate of the University of Denver, A.B. degree. She did graduate work at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the University of Colorado. All her teaching was done in the elementary schools of Denver. Miss Gavin served as Treasurer and Corresponding secretary of the Denver Teachers Club; Treasurer and Secretary of Denver Classroom Teachers Club; President of School Dames Dinner Club. She organized and is President of the Colorado Retired Teachers Association; President of Denver Public School Retired Employees Association; and President of Daughters of Colorado. She has served NRTA as Regional Director and Director of Public Relations.

## AREA IX



**Charles W. Preston**  
2001 Kenilworth  
Los Angeles 39, Calif.

Charles W. Preston received his A.B. degree from Colorado Teachers College and M.A. degree from the Columbia University. He taught 40 years in the Denver and Los Angeles schools. He has served as president of Eagle Rock Kiwanis Club, Los Angeles Elementary Administrators, California Southern Section Elementary Principals Association, and California Retired Teachers Association. In 1955 he was honored as Los Angeles Teacher of the year and has received three NRTA Citations for outstanding service. He is a trustee of the Bureau of Homes, Ojai, California and a director of AARP.



**N. CAROLINA**

**T. L. Looper**  
P. O. Box 177  
Salemberg, N. C.



Thomas Lee Looper graduated from Furman University, A.B. degree and the University of North Carolina, M.A. degree. He taught two years in Greensboro, N.C., was principal for thirty-six years in Gastonia, N.C., and two years as principal of Pineland College, Edwards Military Institute, Salemburg, N.C. Mr. Looper served as President of North Carolina Elementary Principals, County Principals, North Carolina Education Association, Gaston County P.T.A. Council, and as a member of the Southern States Workshop, Legislative Committee and N.E.A. Ethics Committee. He is at present the President of the North Carolina Retired Teachers Association.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**Jessie Wyckoff**  
Fargo, N. Dakota



Jessie Wyckoff graduated from Ellendale Normal School and received her B.A. from North Dakota State University. She did graduate work at Chicago University. After forty-five years of teaching she retired in 1952. Her teaching experience was done in elementary grades in Ellendale and as a teacher of art in elementary and junior high schools of Fargo, North Dakota. Jessie Wyckoff served as Vice-President of the Executive Board of Camp Fire Girls and Secretary of Delta Kappa Gamma. She has been President of the North Dakota Retired Teachers Association for the past two years.

**OHIO**

**A. O. Mathias**  
6992 Grace Avenue  
Cincinnati 27, Ohio



A. O. Mathias is a charter member of the Cincinnati Teachers Association. He served as Chairman of the Welfare Committee of the Cincinnati Teachers Association which wrote the first Group Health and Accident Insurance for teachers; President of the Cincinnati Schoolmasters' Club, 1935; President of the Ohio Education Association, 1945; Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee of the Ohio Education Association, 1946-49; Legislative Commission Member, National Education Association, 1946-49; and President of the Ohio Retired Teachers' Association since 1957.

**OKLAHOMA**

**Kate Frank**  
1301 Fremont  
Muskogee, Okla.



Kate Frank, retired high school teacher of Business Education, has served as president of Oklahoma Education Association and several Classroom Teachers Association as well. She has been a delegate to the Business Assembly of N.E.A. for the past twenty-nine years. Miss Frank is President of the Eastern District Retired Teachers and Vice-President of the Department of Retired Teachers of Oklahoma Education Association. She is secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System, chairman of the Residence for Retired Teachers Committee, and President of the Oklahoma Residence Corporation.

**OREGON**

**Helen P. Baker**  
Monroe, Oregon



Helen P. Baker is a graduate of Oregon College of Education with a B.A. degree. She retired in January of this year after thirty-five years of service during which time she held the position of County Superintendent of Schools, Benton County, Oregon from 1940 to 1961. Since retirement she has served as State President of the Oregon Retired Teachers Association.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Sydney Farbish**  
5117 Green Street  
Philadelphia 44, Pa.



Sydney A. Farbish is a graduate of the Central High School of Philadelphia School of Pedagogy and the University of Pennsylvania. He taught for seven years in an elementary school and then became head of the English Department at the South Philadelphia High School. He concluded his forty-six years of teaching as Vice Principal of his alma mater, Central High School. Upon retirement, Dr. Farbish was invited to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Public School Retired Employees Association and was elected to the presidency in 1960. He was also First Vice President of the Pennsylvania Retired Teachers Association.

**RHODE ISLAND**

**Vivian D. Mathewson**  
124 Greenville Ave.  
Providence 9, R. I.



Vivian D. Mathewson attended a one room rural school and graduated from The English High School in Providence, Rhode Island; taught nine years in rural schools; entered the Providence school system in 1918; became algebra teacher in the Gilbert Stuart Junior High School; and retired from that school in 1944 as head of the Mathematics Department. She assisted the town treasurer of Johnson for 19 years; did volunteer work during World War I; and served as a Red Cross Nurse's Aide at The Lying In Hospital in Providence during World War II. At present she is Financial Secretary at the Church of the Mediator in Providence, treasurer of her D.A.R. Chapter, and President of the Rhode Island Retired Teachers Association.

**S. CAROLINA**

**J. P. Coates**  
107 Southwood Drive  
Columbia 5, S. C.



James P. Coates is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with A.B. and M.A. degrees. He did graduate work at Peabody College, also. He was Superintendent of Schools in South Carolina for fifteen years and taught summer school in colleges for teachers. He served as President of County Education Associations and South Carolina Administrators Association; Vice-president of N.E.A.; and Executive Secretary of the South Carolina Education Association for thirty years. At present he is the President of the South Carolina Retired Teachers Association.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Ella M. Royhl**  
302 E. 18th St.  
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.



Ella Royhl received her B.A. degree from the University of South Dakota and her M.A. degree from Columbia University. She did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. She taught in elementary and high schools before she became an elementary school principal. Mrs. Royhl served as president of the Sioux Falls Teachers Association and the South Dakota Principals Association.





**Charles W. Preston**  
Vice-President  
2001 Kenilworth  
Los Angeles 39, California

## AREA NINE

Arizona, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada,  
Oregon, Washington



Our major project for 1962 is to have an outstanding Area IX Conference next February in San Francisco. Mr. Fay Hunter, HEW Regional Director, promised to attend and speak and also promised that three or four of his staff would help with the planning and take part in the program.

Twice I have attended California division meetings to give a report on the National Convention that was held in Atlantic City.

We are planning an apartment of 276 units for Los Angeles Retired Teachers on a three acre site that has been selected. The project is being handled by nine directors — four retired teachers and five active Los Angeles teachers.

At the Los Angeles Division meeting September 19th, State President E. Louise Jolly explained an automobile and household insurance policy that is open to members of the California Retired Teachers Association at a 20% discount. It is known as the California Retired Teachers Insurance Agency in Paradise, California. Mrs. Lucy Winkler, chairman of the Housing Committee of the ATO LA Teachers Home Inc., described the apartment planned for Pasadena and asked for \$500.00 down payment from those who want an apartment.

I have accepted an invitation to speak to a group of nine Soroptimist Clubs who have combined their efforts and raised over \$71,000. \$46,500 of this has been paid on a two and one-half acre tract for a forty-six unit one story garden type apartment building in Downey, California. It will be occupied by single women who are dependent upon their social security checks.

California Senator Clair Engle is holding a field hearing of a Sub-committee of the Senate Special Committee on aging, in Los Angeles, October 24th.

Tucson, Arizona will hold their first annual meeting November 24th, since re-activating their state association under the leadership of Dr. J. O. Grimes. They have organized several chapters and have a hard working state association. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus will be the keynote speaker.

On November 20 and 21, our three vice-presidents, nine area vice-presidents and I will meet with Dr. Andrus and William C. Fitch in Washington, to be briefed on our work and to make bigger and better plans for 1962.

Mrs. Allan L. Peterson, President of Alaska SRTA, reports March 10, 1961 marked the date of the official organization of the Alaska RTA.

About 10 years ago, Clara H. Young, dedicated, ardent official NRTA "Gardener," planted the "RTA Seed" in Alaska's scattered but fertile Retired Teachers Garden Plot. This "Seed" has slowly germinated, developed and finally blossomed into our official organization. The organizational meeting took place in Anchorage during the 9th Western Alaska Teachers' Conference under the able direction of Miss Lois M. Morey, appointed liaison member of the Alaska Education Association Delegate Assembly. Officers elected at this meeting were: President, Mrs. Allan L. Petersen;

Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Enid S. McLane. Constitution and Bylaws Committee appointed were: officers of ASRTA, Miss Morey and Mrs. Wilma Thompson.

PROJECT #1 of our new association has been a Charter Membership Call. A sincere effort has been made to invite every retired teacher listed by the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System to become a Charter Member of SRTA by July 1, 1961. Today 51 of the 58 eligible have given an enthusiastic "YES."

PROJECT #2 is the drafting, approval and adoption of our Constitution and Bylaws. A simple constitution is being planned. (We solicit sample copies from other associations, state and local).

PROJECT #3 is to keep our membership informed through announcements and reports distributed in monthly pension envelopes through the courtesy of the Alaska Teachers' Retirement System.

PROJECT #4 is to plan and compile activities of mutual interest and benefit to members. Alaska State RTA plans to include as Associate Members active teachers about to retire who are interested in belonging.

So, it is with humble but sincere gratitude that I bring to you this FIRST President's Report from the Alaska SRTA. Please accept our Very Best Wishes and a CORDIAL invitation to all Retired Teachers to visit ALASKA sometime.

June 7th saw the conclusion of the fifteenth Annual Convention of the Washington State Retired Teachers Association held in Bellingham. Over one hundred voting delegates were in attendance. Interest in the activities of the State Association is high.

We are growing! Emphasis is to get all retirees to keep membership alive on all three levels. Mrs. Whitfield, president for 1960-61, visited most of the 24 units during the year. The Membership Chairman, working through Local Group Chairmen, increased the active list of members materially. The Legislative Committee reported favorably the passage of a Bill by the 1961 Legislature giving most Retirees, who retired previous to June 30, 1957, an increase of 83c per month for each year taught up to a maximum of 35 years.

The officers for 1961-62 are: W. H. Conover, President; Mrs. Lillian E. Cornelius, Vice President; Mrs. Elizabeth W. Whitfield, Junior Past President; Mrs. Beryl Bruff, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Adele L. Bennett, Corresponding Secretary; Theo. O. Evanston, Treasurer; Mr. C. Olmsted, Executive Secretary; U. N. Hoffman, Editor of Washington State Retired Teachers Association Journal.

Washington State Retired Teachers have been very proud of their NRTA OFFICERS: Miss Rose Glass, Vice President; Miss Katherine Schumaker, Regional Director; and Miss Clara Young, Area Vice President. The Delegate Assembly again voted to send our WSRTA Journal to all retirees thereby keeping them abreast of the news in our State, retiree-wise. Convention place 1962 will be Walla Walla. The date; June 4-5-6.



## ALABAMA organized last of 27 chapters



Mrs. Miriam Locke  
411 Queen City Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Alabama in Area Four, of which Alabama's beloved Clara Verner is NRTA Area Vice-President, is divided into eight districts corresponding to those of the Alabama Education Association, which recognizes the Retired Teachers' Association as one of its five divisions. ARTA appreciates this recognition and also appreciates the helpfulness of Mr. Raymond D. Fowler, Director of Teacher Retirement.

The last of Alabama's twenty-seven chapters, Morgan County, was organized in Decatur, November twenty-eighth. While the State President and the Director assisted, the credit for organization must be given Mrs. Ruth Bailey, Director of District Eight, where she now has a chapter in all ten counties.

Mrs. L. P. Troup served as temporary chairman, and Mrs. Earle Foster was elected president of the Morgan County chapter.

Alabama State Convention was held at the Stafford Hotel, Tuscaloosa, November eleventh, with President Clara Verner presiding. The executive session was remarkable for business dispatched. Of importance was the appointment of a committee to explore the possibility of securing Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance for ARTA on a group basis. The committee is composed of these outstanding men: W. E. Snuggs, Sylacauga; R. E. Tidwell, Tuscaloosa; R. E. Cammack, Montgomery. Alabama was honored by the presence of Mrs. W. H. Barnard and Dr. Barnard, NRTA Mississippi Director.

Alabama's Convention Luncheon honored Representative A. P. Callahan for his leadership in legislation benefiting Alabama's retired Teachers. The president conferred upon Mr. Callahan a National Citation as a token of the esteem in which he is held. The luncheon speaker was the brilliant Dr. J. P. Montgomery, University of Alabama.

The Convention of Area Four will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Henry Grady Hotel, on May 3, 4, 5. Miss Allie Mann will serve as hostess. She especially urges that everyone arrive in time for the reception on May 3. Clara Verner requests that every chapter from each state in the region send representatives.

## ALASKA organization eager for your help



Mrs. Allen Petersen  
Box 59  
Kenai, Alaska

A request from the Assistant Editor of the NRTA JOURNAL to send in now (December) a "Report from Alaska" for the March issue of the JOURNAL is a difficult assignment.

As of October, 1961, Alaska State RTA had a membership of about 60 retired teachers with only 36 of this number being members of National RTA. We definitely hope to increase this ratio in Alaska during 1962.

Alaska has no NRTA local units as yet. We understand that Area IX of NRTA may use Alaska or Nevada as a "guinea pig" in an experiment project for the promotion of Locals within the state. We welcome assistance in developing these organizations. Our larger cities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Juneau are possible centers for the establishment of NRTA Locals.

At this time we are looking forward with interest and expectation to the NRTA Area IX Conference to be held in San Francisco, March 7-8-9 of 1962. We trust that Alaska will be well represented as we know that ASRTA needs the help this conference will provide. Also we wish to get acquainted with officials and members of NRTA and AARP.

We are interested in the plans, problems and accomplishments of other RTA organizations, State and Local, and solicit your comments and suggestions.

I would like to close this brief report by quoting our state poem and song "ALASKA'S FLAG," written by Marie Drake, beloved and dedicated friend of Alaska's schools and teachers. Mrs. Drake has lived in Juneau, Alaska, for many years. She is an Honorary Charter Member of Alaska State RTA.

"Eight stars of gold on a field of blue —  
Alaska's flag. May it mean to you  
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,  
The mountain lakes, and the

flowers nearby;  
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,  
The precious gold of the

hills and streams;  
The brilliant stars in the northern sky,  
The "Bear" — the "Dipper" — and,  
shining high,

The great North Star with its steady light,  
Over land and sea a beacon bright.  
Alaska's flag — to Alaskans dear,  
The simple flag of a last frontier."

The exciting news of  
constant advancements  
by our several states  
bears testimony to the  
rewarding value of our  
exchange of thoughts  
and ideas through . . .

# NRTA MAIL BAG

The following  
eighteen pages are the  
State Director Reports,  
plus Chicago,  
District of Columbia and  
New York City



C. C. Green



## OKLAHOMA reports 4-point program

### STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS *continued*



**Kate Frank**  
1301 Fremont  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association is a Department of the Oklahoma Education Association, which consists of 12 districts. Ten of these districts have District Retired Teachers Associations which hold their annual meetings the same time as the District OEA meetings in March. There are twelve local Retired Teacher Associations within these districts.

The annual membership dues in ORTA are \$2.00 and life membership is \$15.00. ORTA annual memberships for 1961 were 550 and life memberships were 560, with a total of 1,110. The membership in the National Retired Teachers Association in Oklahoma is 1000. These memberships indicate that only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of those who are eligible belong to the ORTA and the NRTA. A selling job needs to be done and that is just what the ORTA plans to do.

The annual ORTA Convention was held Friday, October 27, Huckins Hotel, Oklahoma City, in conjunction with the OEA annual convention.

Two hundred members were present at the business sessions on Friday morning. Mrs. Kate Bilyeau, president, Tulsa Retired Teachers Association, gave a very informative report of the NRTA Convention in Atlantic City. She urged a large attendance of Oklahomans at the 1962 Convention in Denver. The following resolutions were adopted: 1. That the retirement legislative goal for 1962 should be to secure legislation which would increase retirement benefits from \$3.33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per month per year of credited service to \$4.00 and repeal the 25 years credited service provision to qualify for this benefit. 2. That the Welfare Committee study the need and the advisability of requesting the OEA to set up a Welfare Trust Fund for active and retired teachers. 3. That the need of securing an executive secretary for the three Departments, Classroom, Rural, and Retired Teachers, be discussed. 4. That all retired teachers should give serious consideration to using all of the services of the NRTA, especially its excellent insurance coverage.

Officers elected for 1961-62: President, Kate Frank, 1301 Fremont, Muskogee; Vice-President, A. O. Martin, 631 Jefferson, Stillwater; Secretary, Harry W. Cooley, 6012 N. W. 32, Bethany.

## OREGON shows steady growth in membership



**Helen P. Baker**  
Monroe, Oregon

The annual state convention of Oregon State Retired Teachers Association met in Portland, March 1961, at the time of the Oregon Education Association of active teachers annual convention, as OSRTA is a department of OEA. At the post session of the executive board, the great needs determined for Oregon were increased membership at all levels and organization of new units. Oregon is a rather new state in organization. At present there are seven units in a state of thirty-six counties. Organization of the eighth unit is at present being completed.

In September, an executive board meeting was held in Corvallis, Oregon. Units made excellent reports on local program activities.

The 1962 annual meeting is scheduled for Portland, March 15-16. OSRTA is anticipating the pleasure of meeting Area IX Administrative Vice-President. Mr. C. W. Preston, at the convention. The program for the convention is being set up by Portland Unit I, Miss Lillian Power, president.

Mrs. Myrtle Clark, president of Eugene Unit 7, was appointed by President Helen P. Baker to represent OSRTA at the conference on Aging, called by U.S. Senator Wayne L. Morse in Eugene. Mrs. Clark wrote an excellent report concerning the conference, to Senator Morse. Ten points were emphasized at the conference on matters important to all retirees. Many of these points will likely appear in legislation before the 1962 U.S. Congress.

Communications are carried on between local and state by means of bulletins and personal visits to units by the President, upon invitation. These visits have proven especially helpful to the State President. Oregon's local units have been most cooperative in responding to requests for needed information.

There has been a steady growth in membership at the local level through National, for Oregon, but much work needs yet to be done. Since the State and National often depend upon the local for membership, a strong active local unit in each populated area is a must. It is surprising what a real live unit can accomplish in community, state and national services!

## PENNSYLVANIA to form a more perfect union



**Sydney Farbish**  
5117 Green Street  
Philadelphia 44, Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Retired Public School Employees Association has made "retired" a synonym for "active." As one would expect, the local associations in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, because of the size and resources of their respective membership, have been of great service to the retirees, helping to effect legislation for the benefit of the oldest of their group, providing social and cultural activities, and engaging in benign welfare work through financial aid and morale-lifting for those whose annuities are woefully meager.

The Pittsburgh Association has been pioneering in the field of organizing and strengthening local retirement associations in the counties adjacent to Pittsburgh. Realizing that local retired teacher groups all over the state must be newly founded, in some cases, and reorganized and strengthened in others, in order "to form a more perfect union," the year of 1962 should mark a healthful growth in state-wide local associations.

This forthcoming reorganization will demand time and energy that President David H. Stewart, because of other duties, felt he could not expend. To the sincere regret of his associates and members of the State organization, he resigned. His was a task well done by a dedicated leader. He has seen the PRPSE Association grow from 1765 members in 1956 to 11,080 at the close of 1961.

Mr. Stewart's resignation was announced at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee and delegates at Harrisburg on December 29, 1961. Dr. Earl O. Liggitt, 249 Francis Street, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, was unanimously elected to the presidency. He brings to the office years of experience in leadership, an unusually wide acquaintance with teachers and administrators, and an affiliation with many civic and professional organizations. With these assets, he should be able to effect the necessary state-wide growth and union of local groups, and through them command the attention of legislators when just laws are proposed to them for the betterment of retirees. Some important legislation has already been proposed and, after careful study by actuaries, is to be submitted to the Pennsylvania law-makers during this year.



## DESCI RESIDENCE APARTMENT

Denver Educational Senior Citizens, Inc. Residence, a non-profit organization didn't happen. It constituted years of dreaming, planning and promoting on the part of Denver Retired School Personnel.

When Mae Gavin retired from teaching in 1950, she assisted in organizing the Colorado Retired Teachers Association, and was elected President.

In February 1952, she and Barbara McBreem, Martha Lort, Edmona Pfrimmer, Ella Johnson, Annette Badgely, and Grace Allison met at Miss Gavin's home. They conceived the idea of a Denver Organization, later known as the Denver Public School Retired Employees Association.

An invitation was sent to Retired Personnel to attend a meeting at the Evans School. Mae Gavin was elected President and served in this office for ten years.

Returns from a Questionnaire, indicated the need and desirability of providing adequate housing for retired school personnel.

October 19, 1953, a group of active and retired personnel were invited to meet at the home of Miss Gavin, for the purpose of taking steps to set up a Trust Fund, for this worthy undertaking.

Present at this meeting were: James Reiva, Newell Walters, LeRoy Fisher, Robert Beausang, Barbara McBreen, Carolyn Klein, and Louise Klein.

As a result of this beginning some moneys were made available through bequests, gifts, and donations. Many Retired Teachers contributed to this Building Fund, held in Trust by the Denver Teachers Club.

In the Fall of 1954, the Denver Educational Senior Citizens, Inc. was a representative body of school employees, consisting of two representatives from each department.

Mr. LeRoy Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer of School District #1. Mr. S. Arthur Henry, Attorney for the School Board.

Mr. Newell Walters, Director of Employee Services, were requested to serve as advisers and consultants to this committee.

These representatives met and created interest in the Community and throughout the School System.

The Superintendent of Schools, as well as the members of Education were interested and very co-operative.

Twenty-two Trustees were elected and from this group an Executive Board was selected.

The Denver Classroom Teachers contributed a substantial sum to employ an architect. Later a project promoter and an attorney were retained.

As plans progressed a site was purchased at 1300 High St.; 6½ lots, price \$75,000.

Later two lots across the alley at 1301 Race Street were bought for resident parking area at a cost of \$19,500.

Ground breaking ceremonies took place during the Colorado Education Association meeting, October 26, 1961.

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, President of the National Retired Teachers Association, who came from California for the occasion gave an encouraging and inspiring talk.

Robert Colwell, Principal of East High School, and President of the Board of Directors of DESCI, was master of ceremonies.

The invocation was given by Dr. Kelly O'Neill, Project Promoter.



Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, President of NRTA, spoke at ground-breaking ceremonies; Mae Gavin, President of CRTA and Vice-President Area 8 NRTA, turned first spade of ground.



Mrs. Lois Babbitt Heath, President of the Board of Education extended greetings.

Miss Mae Gavin turned the first spade of ground, followed by Miss Mary Rose O'Brien, President of the Denver Public School Retired Employees Association; Dr. Mildred Doster, Vice President of the Executive Board; Mr. Thomas Allen, President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association; Mr. Jack Boyd, President of the Denver Teachers Club.

The interested participants, numbered more than one hundred. They enjoyed the clear, crisp Colorado air, and offered a silent prayer of thanksgiving.

Following the Ground Breaking Ceremonies, Dr. Andrus gave the principal address at the Annual Luncheon meeting of the Colorado Retired Teachers Association, Eastern Division of the Colorado Education Association.

As of to-day construction is going forward rapidly. Completion is anticipated early in 1963. The occupancy fee is \$1500; and we now have 87% of the apartments contracted for by School Personnel.

— Winifred M. Gordon

## AREA NINE

Arizona, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington



Charles W. Preston  
Vice-President  
2001 Kenilworth  
Los Angeles 39, California

My last two months have been devoted to the Area IX Conference. Being Conference chairman was a comparatively easy task for me since I received so much help from Dr. Andrus and her staff. However, a few details did pile up. I wrote (or I should say — scrawled) a few hundred letters requesting that an invitation to the conference be inserted in various bulletins and announcements sent out by local units. There were many letters to State presidents urging them to attend and to assist



me in publicizing the meeting. Often these state directors had to be informed as to how their expenses would be paid and other details regarding their reservations and such. There were numerous telephone calls to surrounding division presidents and state officials as well as to Washington, D. C., San Francisco, Sacramento, Paradise, California and elsewhere.

We were dubious about the attendance at first but were most overjoyed by the fact that 475 members of the NRTA and AARP came to the conference along with six of the state directors and Miss Mildred Klaus, president of the Reno Chapter, arrived as the substitute for Nevada. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, our president; William C. Fitch, David Jeffreys, Pauline Mower, Dorothy Crippen, Ernest Giddings and Seymour Zelkind attended and contributed much with their dynamic personalities, their knowledge and good fellowship.

San Francisco Division of the California Retired Teachers Association did a most efficient job. George D. Ingram gave a great deal of his energy, time and even money as our local chairman of arrangements. He was ably assisted by President Walsh, Miss Susie Corpstein and Miss Elsie Scheu as well as a score of helpers.

We are deeply indebted to our efficient David Jeffreys, Director of NRTA and AARP Field Operations, who helped the entire conference when he was in Washington and also after he arrived in San Francisco. Mrs. Pauline Mower arrived early to help us get the publicity started.

The San Francisco Woman's Club called a meeting especially to honor Dr. Andrus on Tuesday, March 6th. Anita Day Hubbard, a noted columnist on the staff of The San Francisco Examiner introduced Dr. Andrus as a second generation native born daughter of San Francisco.

The conference opened on Wednesday morning, March 7th, with California State President, Miss E. Louise Jolly presiding. Greetings were extended by George Christopher, the Mayor of San Francisco; the San Francisco Division president, Charles Walsh and the Area IX Vice-president. Dr. Andrus gave the keynote address and Mr. Fitch told us about "The National Program." Our convention luncheon that noon was hosted by Marin County Division and Marin AARP Chapter. Jr. Past President John G. Uhte was the Master of Ceremonies.

The tables were beautifully decorated by the host groups with California flowers plus a string of Hawaiian orchids along the head table. These orchids were the gift of our Hawaii State Director John C. Luiz. He also presented orchid leis to Dr. Andrus and Miss Crippen.

The luncheon speaker was Mr. Fay W. Hunter, Regional Director — Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare. Mr. George Ingram provided a program of music by talented local artists.

On both Wednesday and Thursday afternoons the delegates attended various workshop sessions. The Thursday morning program was in charge of Vice-president Cecilia O'Neil with her Santa Clara County Division as hosts.

One of the important items on the agenda was the reports from the seven State Directors. The fact that the state directors from Alaska and Hawaii chose to attend this area conference instead of attending the NRTA convention in Denver seemed worthy of note and we appreciated having them with us. Mr. Ernest Giddings reported on National legislation and Mr. David Jeffreys gave a fine pep talk entitled, "Working Together."

The conference ended Thursday evening with a dinner in the Vista Room of The Whitcomb Hotel. East Bay Division was the host. President Frits A. Udden was master of ceremonies. Miss Cecilia O'Neil introduced Mr. Dell E. Webb, the dinner speaker, who is the famous builder of three Sun Cities in Arizona, California and Florida and who is active in working with the aged and retired persons. Mr. George Ingram introduced the famous male quartet, The Troubadors, who entertained us for half an hour with beautiful singing and clever clowning.

Dr. Andrus presented citations for service to retired persons to the following distinguished guests: Dell E. Webb; Edna B. Russell, chairman of The California Citizens Advisory Committee on Aged; Anita Day Hubbard, columnist on The San Francisco Examiner and Dr. David E. Snodgrass, President of Hastings College of Law.

Anita Day Hubbard responded at length and most hilariously. Thanks was given to the many who had contributed with knowledge, inspiration and entertainment and work in making the conference such a success. Dr. Andrus closed the conference with a short prayer and sent us back to our homes with renewed inspiration.

I spent Thursday, March 15th and Friday, March 16th in Portland, Oregon at the State meeting of the Oregon Retired Teachers Association. Approximately 100 of the 350 membership were in attendance. I attended a session of the Board of Directors and a meeting of the delegate assembly where their election was held and then a luncheon for those in attendance. Presidents of the seven state units reported upon their activities. I was impressed with the amount of volunteer service most of the members are giving to shut-ins and other lonely souls in veterans hospitals and homes. At Christmas parties they brought presents, not for exchange, but to be given to the inmates of Children's Homes. Their retirement pay might be small but their hearts are as big as all outdoors. I want to congratulate them for making such a great contribution to humanity.

In appreciation for their good services, all the officers were re-elected for another year with two additional officers added for the posts of second vice-president and parliamentarian. Here is the roster of those elected: President, Mrs. Helen Baker; First Vice-president, Miss Agnes Beach; 2nd Vice-president, Miss Lillian Power; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Hess; Recording Secretary, Miss May Phinney; Treasurer, Mr. Fred O. Bradshaw; Auditor, Mrs. Mary Champ; Historian, Miss Augnette Crissey and Parliamentarian, Mrs. Lorena Ward.

Most of Oregon units meet once each month and they have an average attendance of approximately 75% of the membership.

Before leaving Portland I was taken out to see the Terwilliger Plaza, a beautiful co-operative high rise apartment house which is twelve stories high and cost more than \$4,300,000.00. I also saw the Rose Villa, a garden type apartment on thirteen acres over eight miles from Portland. Both homes are for any persons 60 years of age or over. They sell life time leases and charge monthly fees. They both have infirmaries. Terwilliger Plaza has a regular restaurant while Rose Villa operates a cafeteria. No meals are furnished but almost every apartment has a compact kitchen.