



Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

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THE BEGINNING

In the late 1980's, a group of retirees, all of whom had taught at Tucker High School, started getting together socially. The meetings were informal and were held at someone's home. Some of the discussions centered on problems with the early retirement program and the need for some assistance with health insurance costs. At one of the meetings it was suggested that others could be invited to join and form an organization that would provide a strong voice for dealing with these problems.

On February 7, 1991, a small group met at Tucker High School to organize a countywide retirees association. Goals to be achieved and an organizational committee were set up with Elsie Pelfrey as chairman.

Concerns of the new organization were the inconsistencies in the early retirement system relative to individual retiree assignments and the rules changing 'after the fact'. The group also felt it needed to keep a legislative vigil, both locally and statewide, and that it was important to be recognized as a group. Assistance with health insurance costs was also an important issue.

The original Organization Committee was comprised of people who had been contacted from around the county. They were: Anne Friend, Ruth Henry, Jane Gray Kibler, Hugh Palmer, Fran Purdum, Virginia Sencindiver, Charlotte Melton, Marion Yobs, Gloria Cox, and Elsie Pelfrey. The organization decided from the beginning that it would be open to all retired Henrico school personnel, not just teachers and administrators.

The first membership meeting was April 17, 1991, in the Boardroom at the Henrico Government Center. The speaker for the first meeting was Delegate Jack Reid from the General Assembly, who was also Dr. Bosher's Assistant. Approximately 30 people attended ... a beginning! (Now three luncheon meetings are held each year for the membership and average 140 in attendance!)

On June 18, 1991, a Planning Committee meeting was held at Tucker High School. The officers for 1991-1992 were presented: President, Elsie Pelfrey; Secretary, Charlene Ambrose; and Treasurer, Ginny Sencindiver.

Committee Chairmen were: Legislative, Gloria Cox; Social, Nathan Young; Program Planning, Annamae Hill; Hospitality, Fran Purdum; Publicity, Anne Friend; Liason with Henrico County Schools, Joseph Sellers; and Bylaws, Marnell Bradley. Doris Hellams agreed to chair the Telephone Committee that would be responsible for contacting potential members.

THE PRESENT

As HRSPA celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2001, the membership stood at 480. While this makes HRSPA the second largest retired educators group in Virginia, our organization has not reached all of the eligible retirees. In the Fall of 2001 the Contact Program was reinitiated and a representative from each school contacted most retirees who had never joined and past members who had not renewed and membership passed 600. An annual reception is also being held for new retirees each year in an effort to obtain new members. Our HRSPA continues to utilize membership strategies that will encourage others to join the organization.

In the Spring of 2000 HRSPA affiliated with Virginia Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) in an effort to seek support for important retirement issues in Virginia. This also incorporated an affiliation with the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The benefits to HRSPA included:

- ❖ connection with 7000 other retirees to speak with a strong voice to the General Assembly
- ❖ member and leader training and social interaction at bi-annual state conferences and regional workshops
- ❖ subscription to "The Broadcast", the VRTA bulletin that highlights unit activities around the state
- ❖ availability of the resources of AARP and NRTA
- ❖ access to group insurance rates for long-term care
- ❖ opportunities to join socially and to continue lifelong teaching and learning through group activities and community involvement

While members of HRSPA are not required to join VRTA, membership is encouraged at the local, district, and state levels.

CONNECTIONS

From the local association to the nationwide connection, Virginia's retired educators have labored for over 65 years to support retiree's causes, as noted in the following overview.

- 1935: The Virginia Retired Educators was formed under the leadership of Dr. Cornelia Adair of Richmond, former NEA president, 1927-28. They discussed concerns and issues facing retired educators and concluded that forming local groups would help to build a strong network throughout the state, thus the development of county units was encouraged.
- 1947: The National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) was organized by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus who had two interests: to improve state pensions and to work towards group health insurance. (VRTA has had these same issues on the legislative agenda since 2001!)
- 1950: VRTA voted to join the NRTA. By the end of that year, all 50 states had organized RTA units and all joined NRTA.
- 1958: The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) was established by a board of founding directors and was composed of NRTA members under the leadership of Dr. Andrus. This group is a sister organization, allied and parallel to, but independent of NRTA. Both organizations shared the same motto, "To Serve, Not To Be Served".
- 1982: NRTA officially merged into AARP. AARP includes an NRTA division, which is open at no additional charge to retired persons who choose to belong.
- 2003: AARP has over 37,000,000 members (900,000 in Virginia), including NRTA's 1,000,000. VRTA has over 7000 members.
- 2004: HRSPA averages 600 members, including teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodial and maintenance staff, and food service and transportation staff.

For additional information check out website: <http://www.cvco.org/education/hrspa>.

HRSPA OFFICERS

<u>President:</u>	Deborah Firebaugh Dianne Hughs Shuler Swift Williams Elsie Pelfrey	2010 - 2003 - 2010 1998 - 2003 1991 - 1998
<u>Vice-President:</u>	Deborah Williams Rose Tanner LuVellen Spratley Dianne Hughs Shuler Jo Ann Troy Joann McCabe Swift Williams Nancy Harris Nathan Young Gloria Cox	2008 - 2005 - 2007 2003 - 2005 2002 - 2003 2000 - 2002 1998 - 1999 Co-Chair 1997 - 1998 1996 - 1999 Co-Chair 1994 - 1997 1992 - 1993

<u>Secretary:</u>	Rebecca Wickline Rose Tanner Rose Tanner Rebecca Goshorn Linda MacCleave Betty Conner Romaine Jackson Charlene Ambrose	2010 - 2007 - 2010 2004 - 2005 2003 - 2004 2000 - 2003 1994 - 2000 1992 - 1994 1991 - 1992
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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Becky Goshorn Dale Waldrop Nancy Neely Ginny Sencindiver	2004 - 1996 - 2004 1994 - 1996 1991 - 1994
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS (as of July 2010)

Program:	Debbie Williams	Chaplain/Raffle:	Thomas Folly
Member Records:	Cris Chilton	Photographer:	Shirley Uzel
Contact:	Janet White	Philanthropy:	Brenda Huyoung
Hospitality:	Rose Tanner & Janet White	Nominating:	Nettie Addison
Social:	Mary Brownfield	Website:	Linda MacCleave
Newsletter:	Lee Reynolds	Bylaws:	Cris Chilton
Mailing:	Sybil Powell	Parliamentarian:	Gordon Sandridge
Publicity:	Shirley Uzel	VRTA Rep:	Dianne Hughs Shuler
Remembrance:	Linda McCullough	<u>Other Board Members/Former Chairs, Officers:</u>	
Legislative:	Mary Anne Cisne		
Scholarship:	Barbara Holdren		A.P.Hall, Joann McCabe, Barbara Porter, Carol Townes

CHARTER MEMBERS

Edward Altman Sally Alvis Gloria Cox Anne Friend* Dorothy Gregory* Petie Harry Ruth Henry Annamae Hill* Jane Kibler Doris Hellams* Elizabeth Mason Sara McKenna Edna & George* Meadows	Carol Michael Dorothy Miller* Frances Mizell Bill & Jake Motley* Hugh Palmer Elsie Pelfrey Fran Purdum Albert Rinaldi Ginny Sencindiver* Mary Anne Snoddy* Bonnie Stepka* Charles & Josephine Tanner* Ellen Terrell* Marion Yobs*
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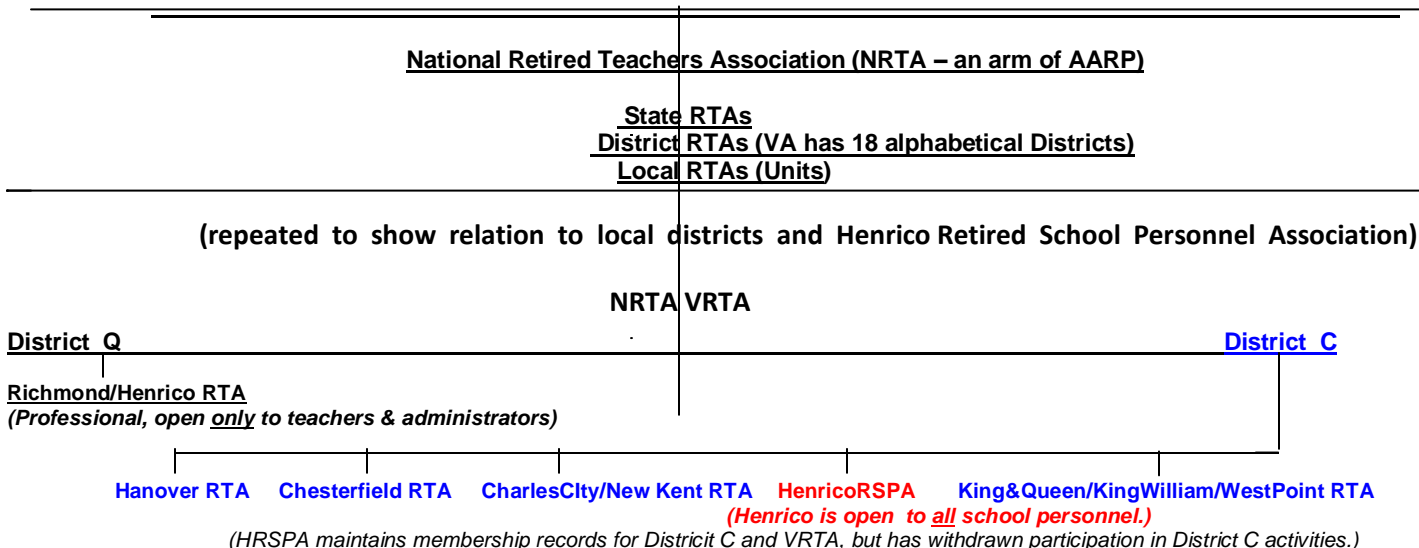
(Deceased*)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOD includes the listed Officers, Committee Chairs, District and Area Reps, and other members:

Former Board Members:

Joseph Sellers, Elsie Pelfrey, Margaret Sadler, Liz Browning, Dodie Corpening, LuVellen Spratley, Ellis Sasser, Jo Ann M. Brown, Myrna Cartledge, Audrey Batchelder, Swift Williams, Nelson Taylor, Nancy Harris



Membership in most District C local units is open to any retiree who has worked in a school, public or private, here or elsewhere. Many retirees belong to more than one local group, e.g. Richmond/HenricoRTA and HenricoRSPA because one may have worked in one school district and reside in another or joined one before the other was established.