



Henrico Retired School Personnel Association

Dianne Hughs Skuler, President
2207 Dartford Road
Richmond, VA 23229

Phone: 747-1966
email: dianne4744@verizon.net
www.cvco.org/education/hrspa

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. Boshers'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>.

HRSP OFFICERS

President:	Dianne Hughs Shuler	2003 -
	Swift Williams	1998 - 2003
	Elsie Pelfrey	1991 - 1998
Vice-President:	Deborah Williams	2008 -
	LuVellen Spratley	2003 - 2008
	Dianne Hughs ShulerJo	2002 - 2003
	Ann Troy	2000 - 2002
	Joann McCabe	1998 - 1999 Co-Chair
	Swift Williams	1997 - 1998
	Nancy Harris	1996 - 1999 Co-Chair
	Nathan Young	1994 - 1997
	Gloria Cox	1992 - 1993
Secretary:	Rose Tanner	2007 -
	Rose Tanner	2004 - 2006
	Rebecca Goshorn	2003 - 2004
	Linda MacCleave	2000 - 2003
	Betty Conner	1994 - 2000
	Romaine Jackson	1992 - 1994
	Charlene Ambrose	1991 - 1992
Treasurer:	Becky Goshorn	2004 -
	Dale Waldrop	1996 - 2004
	Nancy Neely	1994 - 1996
	Ginny Sencindiver	1991 - 1994

CHARTER MEMBERS

Edward Altman
 Sally Alvis
 Gloria Cox
 Anne Friend*
 Dorothy Gregory*
 Petie Harry
 Doris Hellams*
 Ruth Henry
 Annamae Hill*
 Jane Gray Kibler
 Elizabeth Mason
 Edna & George* Meadows
 Sara McKenna
 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
 *Deceased

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Committee Chairs

Program: Executive Committee
 Membership: Debbie Firebaugh
 Contact: Janet White
 Hospitality: Carol Townes
 Social: Mryna Cartledge
 Newsletter: Lee Reynolds
 Mailing: Sybil Powell
 Publicity: Bev Beazley
 Remembrance: Linda McCollough
 Raffle: Thomas Folly

Legislative: Nelson Taylor
 Scholarship: Barbara Holdren
 Historian
 Scrapbook
 Web site: Linda MacCleave
 Ad hoc
 Bylaws: Nettie Addison
 Nominating: Gordon Sandridge
 Parliamentarian: Shirley Uzell
 Photographer
 VRTA Liason Nancy Harris

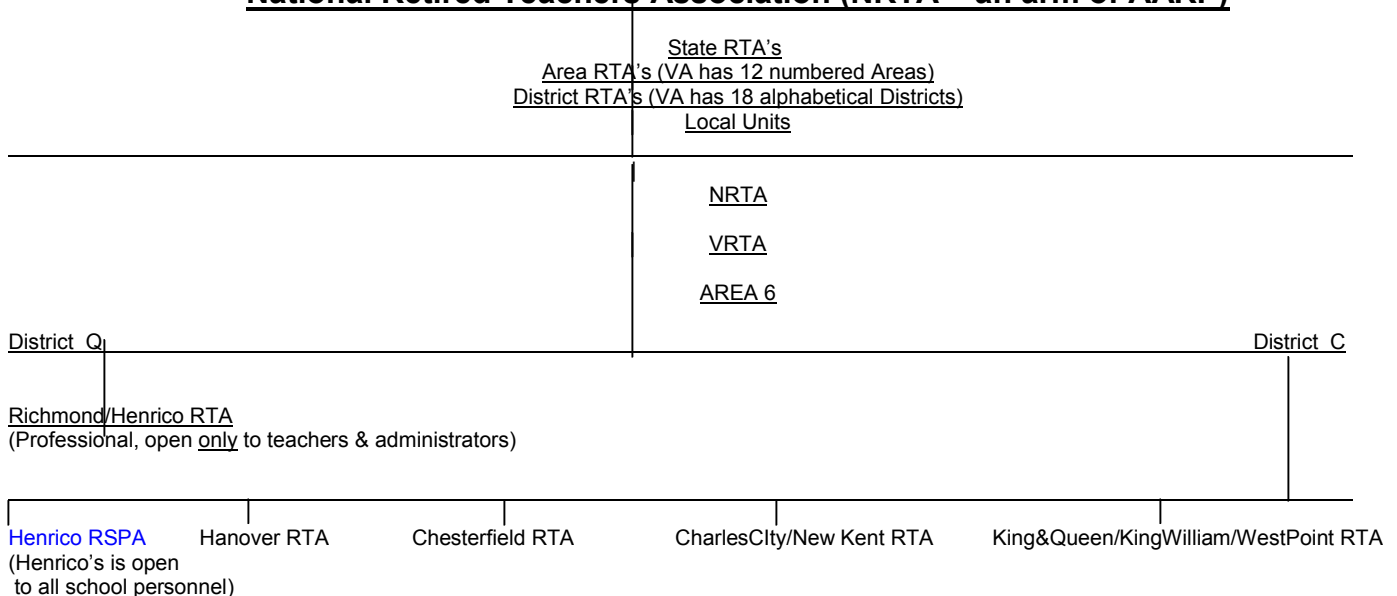
Other Board Members

Former Chairs/Officers
 Audrey Batchelder, A.P. Hall, Joann McCabe, Barbara Porter

Former Long-Term Board Members

Joseph Sellers, Margaret Sadler, Liz Browning, Dodie Corpening, Marion Yobs (Charter Member), Elsie Pelfrey (Charter Member)

National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA – an arm of AARP)



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/Henrico RTA and Henrico RSPA because one may have worked in one school district and reside in another.