

HISTORY OF THE West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees

The organizational meeting of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees was held in the West Virginia Education Association Building, Charleston, on February 6, 1957. Nine individuals from four counties attended, namely:

Blanche H. Dodrill, Cabell
Nell Howes, Cabell
Bertha Rider, Cabell
Harry K. Curry, Mingo
Martha G. Johnston, Logan

Grover Legg, Logan
J. A. Vickers, Logan
Goldie Bostick, Raleigh
Alfred McKinney, Raleigh

The officers elected were: Nell Howes, Cabell, President; Harry K. Curry, Mingo, Vice President; and Blanche H. Dodrill, Cabell, Secretary/Treasurer.

In addition to electing officers, the group discussed legislative problems with the aim to get a better, fairer deal for the retired school employees.

On February 19, 1957, Nell Howes, Blanche H. Dodrill, and Harry K. Curry, officers and other members appeared before the State Legislature and requested a \$5.00 increase per month for each year of service. This was the first organized legislative activity of the Association. The fifty-third Legislature in 1957 approved a 50 cent per month increase per service year to a maximum of \$192.00.

The formation of the state organization was an outgrowth of two meetings held by a Cabell County group of thirteen members on September 8, 1956, and in December 1956 when E. W. Taylor was elected president of the Cabell County Association of Retired School Employees.

The first state meeting of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees was held on October 5, 1957, in the West Virginia Education Building, Charleston. Nell Howes, President, presided. Forty-three members from 14 counties attended.

Dues were \$1.00 per year and the treasury showed a balance of \$439.20.

From: Chronological History of the West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees - 1957 - 1974. Compiled by W. H. Wayman, Treasurer.