

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**HISTORICAL NOTES -- 2006-2007**

In 1947, a retired teacher named Ethel Percy Andrus founded the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), as a means to provide retired teachers a national voice on legislative and social issues affecting retired teachers. In 1958, she founded a second organization, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Indiana Retired Teachers (IRTA) was founded in 1950 by retired teachers from Allen Co. Bartholomew Co. Retired Teachers (BARTA) was organized in 1966.

The TRF (Teacher's Retirement Fund) was first created in 1915 with an annual retirement benefit of \$700 for teachers with 40 years of service, and a disability benefit for teachers with at least 25 years of service. The benefit was funded by assessments on teachers' pay based on years of service, as well as a portion of school tuition tax determined by the TRF Board of Trustees.

The constitution of BARTA has changed little from the original one adopted in 1966. Originally there were only three regular meetings each year, now four. Dues back then were \$1.50, now \$5.00 per year. Originally there was only one office: Secretary-Treasurer, but in 1968 this was amended to elect two individuals for the office.

BARTA members have contributed to many Community Service projects through the years. These volunteer hours are reported to IRTA, and in turn used to point out to our state legislature how retired teachers are still contributing to the state's economy. Last year retired educators donated over 1.1 million volunteer hours to the citizens of Indiana, with the monetary value of these hours well over \$19 million dollars!