

Illinois Adams County Retired Teachers' Association will celebrate 50 years as a chapter. It began on October 9, 1958 with 23 members and has now reached a membership of about 300 retirees.

The first president was Miss Ruth Hope Bywater who died on November 2, 1990. A charter was granted on August 6, 1971 giving Adams County Affiliation Membership in the National Retired Teachers Association. It then received a Certificate of Affiliation in a division of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in recognition of mutual goals: (March, 1984)

To enhance the quality of life for older persons.

To promote independence, dignity and purpose for older persons.

To lead in determining the role and place of older persons in society

To improve the image of aging.

Early meetings were held in the office of County Superintendent of Schools. Now 5 luncheon meetings are held at various churches in the County. They meet during the months of March, May, July, September and November.

To further the education of young children, retirees initiated a One Room School Project. It began with a fundraiser and a committee which quickly zeroed in on finding and moving a school to the Adams County Fairgrounds. The successful project was open to the public in July of 2006. It will continue to be an on-going project to equip and maintain the building for future children to view education of long ago. It is an important part of history in Adams County.

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