



International President Jerry Wurf addresses an attentive delegation of retired public employees attending the second annual meeting of the Retired Public Employees Council.



New officers of the Retirees Council are: (front row, left to right) Mildred Cole, vice-president; Neville Crippen, president; Eileen Youngblood, secretary-treasurer; (back row, left to right) George Masten, field services supervisor (who administered the oath of office), and executive board members Gerald Burke, Al Thomas and Severn Kittelson.

Retirees Council acts on resolutions

While Council 28 delegates were taking action at the union's special one-day convention Sept. 8 in Tumwater 83 delegates, alternates and guests attending the second annual meeting of the Retired Public Employees Council were equally busy in a separate room of the Tyee Motor Inn.

The retirees, among other things:

- elected new officers (see accompanying photo);

- acted on proposed resolutions and amendments to the council's constitution and by-laws;

- heard reports by Council President Neville Crippen and each of the council chapters; and

- listened to an address by International Union President Jerry Wurf, who spoke earlier before a joint session of Council 28 and the retirees council.

Among the resolutions adopted by the council was one establishing a meeting at least once each six months (to be held on the east and west side of the Cascades), with one member of each council chapter in attendance. Purpose of these meetings is to resolve problems and improve communications among all chapters of the council.

A second resolution adopted by the council urges the Washington congressional delegation to "correct the social security laws to provide that social security be paid to include the month in which the beneficiary dies, and that the survivor be authorized to cash the final check." The resolution also urges that the social security law be further amended "so that the cost of living increase should be effective Jan. 1, 1974 instead of July 1, 1974, as the cost of living is continuing to increase."

A third resolution adopted by the retirees urges the Washington Federation of State Employees to work toward a post retirement increase for municipal employees who were retired prior to 1972 comparable to the post retirement increase established by the 1972 legislature for other retired public employees.

Two other resolutions were referred for further study to the Federation's Retirement System Legislation Committee, whose members include two representatives of the retirees Council. An additional resolution was tabled for the time being.

The generally technical amendments to the council's constitution and by-laws included one providing that

membership in the council "is open to all who have retired under the Washington Public Employees Retirement System and their spouses."

President Crippen, in his report to the council, reviewed his activities of the past year, noting that he had made a variety of trips to attend local chapter meetings and had met on several occasions with the Retirement System Legislation Committee to discuss and plan legislation affecting retirees.

Crippen said a major problem confronting the council is the lack of chapters in vital areas of the state and inadequate communication between the chapters that have been organized. He said he was hopeful, however, that communications would improve with the publication of a regular newspaper by Council 28, with space devoted to retirees' news, and that organization of new chapters could be stepped up as more attention is devoted to this concern by Council 28 locals throughout the state.

Crippen reported that the council's growth has doubled from June 1972 to August 1973 — "which is pretty good, but should be a thousand times better."