

REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY OF APPALACHIAN MARY- LAND (RESA)

Chairperson: Donald Alexander, Allegany Community College (FY 1978-1979)

Secretary-Treasurer/Executive Director: George E. Allen, RESA

Board of Directors: William H. Buser, *Board of Education for Garrett County;* Nelson P. Guild, *Frostburg State College;* W. Ardell Haines, *Allegany Community College;* Wayne W. Hill, *Board of Education for Allegany County;* R. Lee Hornbake, *University of Maryland;* Dr. Donald L. Ruhl, *Garrett Community College;* Atlee C. Kepler, *Hagerstown Jr. College;* Claud E. Kitchens, *Board of Education for Washington County;* Stephen Kocsis, *Executive Director of Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, ex officio.*

Honorary Member: The Honorable J. Millard Tawes, former Governor of Maryland

13202 6th Avenue
Cresaptown 21502

Telephone: 729-1604

This Agency was created pursuant to Article 77, paragraph 56A, of the Annotated Code of Maryland for the purpose of raising the educational level of all people in Appalachian Maryland (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties) to better enable them to develop socially, culturally, and economically. This consortium of public education institutions had its beginnings in 1967 with the creation of a committee to examine the needs of education in the three counties and what might be done to meet these needs on a cooperative basis. One result was the creation of the Regional Education Project Office in 1970 to plan for a regional education service agency, an organizational concept recommended by the Appalachian Regional Commission. In 1971 the office was organized as a service agency under its present name, and in 1973 it became a separate administrative entity of government according to State law.

An advisory council of professionals from educational institutions, regional organizations, and State agencies concerned with human development meets the fourth Thursday of every month in joint session with the Board of Directors. This provides a forum and advisory body for the Board of Directors who can then take direct and immediate action.

The Agency is specifically organized and is operated for educational purposes, including but not

limited to the following: To foster cooperation among all educational institutions and organizations concerned with the needs of the people in the region; to establish goals, policies, and procedures for regional education projects; to plan, coordinate, and conduct regional educational projects; to promote the improvement of educational, scientific, and literary facilities and programs at and among participating institutions; and to organize and support an operational office to be governed by a Board of Directors responsible to public authorities.

One of the responsibilities of this Agency is to recommend to the State those plans, programs, and activities directed toward education's role in the development of the region according to the Appalachian Regional Development Act. These recommendations are the basis for funding operational and construction programs for education by the Appalachian Regional Commission through the State.

RESA is a voluntary cooperative in that member institutions determine the need and extent of regional programs and services. It is not an intermediate level of authority, and therefore no institution is required by vote or otherwise to participate in a particular program or service; however, member institutions have joined together in support of the purposes of RESA. Program development policies are generally directed toward projects that serve the needs of two or more counties, two or more institutions, or that may serve as a demonstration to others.

The Agency provides a basic staff to assist member institutions in identifying needs that might be met through regional programs or services. Based on Board policy the staff provides direct support and leadership for interagency/institutional liaison, project development and implementation, and project review and evaluation. In addition to the basic staff, regional staff from the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (University of Maryland) are housed in RESA, and on occasion temporary staff may be added to implement programs.

The operations of the Agency are partially funded through budget allocations of the signatory members. Supplemental funding for operations and programs come from federal and State sources, which includes the Appalachian Regional Development Act.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD

Members of the Board From Maryland:

Harry Hughes, *Governor*