

History and Purpose

THE National Education Association was organized in 1857 in Philadelphia by forty-three forward-looking leaders from state teachers associations. It now has more than 200,000 members drawn from all branches of the educational field—teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents, college and university presidents and professors. It is a democratic voluntary organization of those engaged in educational work and has become the national professional association for teachers, corresponding to the American Bar Association for lawyers and the American Medical Association for doctors. Its purpose as stated in the charter is:

To elevate the character and advance the interests of the profession of teaching and to promote the cause of education in the United States.

The Association Works Through

Individual Members—More than 200,000 who represent the Association in their local communities and carry forward its program of service in every section of the country.

Officers—For a list of these see pages 12-15.

Affiliated Units—48 state, 4 territorial, and 600 local teachers associations which cooperate in the work of the national Association and are represented by official delegates in the Representative Assembly.

A Representative Assembly—1,500 delegates from the affiliated associations. These are apportioned according to their membership in the national Association. (See page 6) The Assembly meets annually during the week beginning the last Sunday in June. The meetings are open