

A Brief History of The Trust

Believe it or not, The Trust is more than just pins and fundraisers. Read on for a brief history of IAAP's own 501(c)3 charitable foundation!

At a meeting of the Memphis chapter of Secretaries International, Della Herring asked why secretaries didn't have a retirement home. She proposed establishing just such a center, and contributed the first dollar to a fund toward that end. The project continued, and in 1951, when the National Secretaries Association merged with Secretaries International, the project was continued. At approximately the same time, it was decided that the project warranted its own organization, and the National Secretaries Home Association was formed.

In 1958, the NSA membership took perhaps the most important step in the RTF's history: the National Secretaries Association and the National Secretaries Home Association boards were directed to execute a Declaration of Trust. This Trust gave the NSHA the authority to independently manage the fund.

The NSHA continued to take donations and look for possible sites on which to build their retirement center, and in 1967, approximately 6.7 acres of land were acquired in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Soon after, the NSA Retirement Center became the official name of the world's first retirement center for secretaries.

December 1970 saw a flurry of activity. The NSHA signed a contract with a construction company, an FHA-insured loan was signed, and construction began on the new retirement center. Less than one year later, the first residents, Jess and Arthur Wignal, moved into their new home. In 1971, the name of the retirement center was changed to what we know it as today: Vista Grande.

In 1983, the trust was renamed to Professional Secretaries International Retirement Centers Trust, abbreviated to RCT.

In 2001, the International Convention delegates of IAAP approved dissolving the RCT and created the Retirement Trust Foundation. The Internal Revenue Service approved operation as a 501 (c) 3 charitable foundation one year later.

Today, the RTF's mission statement is forthright: *The mission of the IAAP Retirement Trust Foundation is to assist needy, elderly administrative professionals.* The RTF now has programs in addition to Vista Grande, including a financial assistance program for retired IAAP members, RTF *ReVisions*, a quarterly newsletter, and a monthly e-newsletter *ReVisions 2.0*. Our programs benefit everyone, retirees and future retirees.