

Commission on the Aging

DR. W.W. MORRIS, Iowa City, Chairman.
 ROBERT D. BLUE, Eagle Grove, Vice Chairman.
 SEN. LEONARD C. ANDERSEN, Sioux City; term expires 1977.
 REP. GREGORY D. CUSACK, Davenport; term expires 1979.
 SEN. LOUIS CULVER, Dunlap; term expires 1979.
 REP. INGWER L. HANSEN, Hartley; term expires 1977.
 HARRY I. PRUGH, Des Moines; term expires 1977.
 LOUISE M. ROSENFELD, Ames; term expires 1977.
 COLLEEN SHAW, Corning; term expires 1977.
 LEONA I. PETERSON, Executive Director.

The Commission on the Aging was created by the 61st General Assembly to investigate problems of the aging in Iowa, to make recommendations to appropriate state agencies, and to cooperate with private and governmental agencies at all levels in programs and services needed by the aging. The commission selects its own officers for two year terms, meets at least six times each year, and is served by a fulltime executive director and staff selected by the commission.

The basic concerns of the commission are income, health, housing, educational opportunities, employment, transportation, nutrition, volunteer opportunities, recreational activities, spiritual well-being, and community involvement in the problems of older Iowans.

Commission for the Blind

Main Office, Rehabilitation Center and Library located at
 Fourth and Keosauqua, Des Moines

732 Higley Building, Cedar Rapids

620 Black Building, Waterloo

Commission members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms and confirmed by the Iowa Senate.

KENNETH JERNIGAN, Des Moines, Director.
 MRS. WAYNE BONNELL, Fort Dodge; term expires June 30, 1978.
 MRS. DAN FRUDDEN, Charles City; term expires June 30, 1977.
 ELWYN HEMKEN, Blairsburg; term expires June 30, 1976.

The Commission for the Blind, created in 1926, offers services to the blind in Iowa in order that they may receive the necessary training and opportunity to become independent, competitive citizens. There are several departments of the commission through which such help is given.

At the rehabilitation center in Des Moines blind adults are given instruction in the skills of blindness. Courses for students include Braille, travel, home management (cooking, cleaning, shopping and sewing), shop work with regular industrial machinery, typing and personal grooming. There are also other courses in attitudes and techniques that bring to the student a true understanding of blindness — that it need not mean helplessness and is, in fact, no more than a physical nuisance if training and opportunity are available. It is important to the blind person (especially the newly blind) to learn that blind persons are actually working as full time, regular electricians, machinists, farmers, lawyers, scientists, teachers, salesmen, etc. For those who are unable to attend the center, the home teaching department gives such instruction.

When a blind person has acquired proficiency in the skills of blindness, the Commission for the Blind helps him obtain specific training in a vocational skill. The blind person is then helped in finding and obtaining employment.

The library for the blind distributes, as does a public library, reading material to the blind of the state. This material is in the form of Braille books and magazines, recorded