

The President's Message

As I write this there remains but five months before the next legislature meets in January, 1945. Much work remains to be done in the interim.

Our first objective should be to continue our membership drive. At the present time, we have 18 chapters in our Association, two new chapters since my last message and several more in prospect. Our membership is increasing but we should have 5000 members by next January and we can have if every one, officers and members alike, puts forth every effort.

I am frequently asked, "What would you do with the dues from 5000 members?" Our present dues are set as they are to pay our way as we go. When the membership increases, the dues can be reduced. The more members we have the less it will cost per capita to maintain our Association budget. The dues are subject to revision by the delegates to the General Council at any time.

It is not generally understood that we are independent and have no affiliations. We are organized on a state level and can see no benefit in affiliation commensurate with the cost, either in money or in loss of independence of action or thought. We are an Oregon association for Oregonians, self-financed, self-officered and self-governed. We have no affiliation with the craft unions. Many of our members however carry membership in them and cooperation with them is our rule.



Primarily we are associated together to promote and protect the welfare of our members. An advance in the welfare of the employees will increase their efficiency and skill and result in benefit to the state through an improved public service. The merit system and a retirement plan are our immediate objectives. Many of the states already operate under the merit system and provide a retirement plan and it is only a matter of time until Oregon, too, will follow their example.

A. J. FORD

Marion Chapter No. 18

Congratulations, best wishes and a hearty welcome to our newest chapter.

Arthur W. Lamka was elected president; L. S. Covert, vice president, and Fred S. Bynon, secretary-treasurer. The members of the new chapter are employees of the State Engineers, the Corporation Commission, the Insurance Department, the Fire Marshal and the Tax

Commission, all of which departments have offices in the State Office Building in Salem. The name "Marion" was selected for the new chapter.

Forrest Stewart, Association Executive Secretary, and Floyd Query, Chairman of the Membership Committee, assisted the new chapter in its organization at a meeting held August 14, 1944, at the Salem Chamber of Commerce.