

President Reports to the OSEA 1948 General Council

By L. R. WHITE, President

At the close of the 1947 General Council meeting, it was very obvious that the chapter delegates had charged the newly elected board of directors with the responsibility of carrying out a program of securing (1) Equitable salaries and wages for all State employees, (parity pay with private industry, political subdivisions of the State, the employees of other Western States and the Federal Government); (2) Presenting to all chapters a definite program to increase the membership of the association. While there were many other problems discussed and resolutions adopted, your board realized the importance of these two subjects and approved a policy of directing most all activities of the executive staff and board members accordingly. I believe you will agree that the key to our success as an association is a strong membership. We should be in a position to freely say that a majority of full-time State employees are members of our association.

In accordance with Article V of the By-Laws of the Association I present the following report and summary of the accomplishments for the past year. In so doing I wish to commend the other members of our board of directors, chapter officers and all members of the Association for the fine cooperation given and the spirit with which all have participated in making 1948 a successful year. May I also especially mention our employed staff who gave so generously of their time after hours, particularly our Executive Secretary, Forrest V. Stewart, who accompanied me on many holidays and week-end meetings with chapters, and otherwise assisted in securing new members for the association.

MEMBERSHIP

Although the following figures do not represent our total membership, the records show that the paid-up membership as of December 31, 1947 was 1914, and as of September 30, 1948, 3100. For the nine-month period January 1 to September 30, 1948, new members totaled 1510. This included 189 charter and 12 veteran members. During the period eight new chapters were formed and charters approved. Although all chapters have worked hard, the outstanding record for new members was made by Corvallis No. 29 with Portland L. C. C. No. 17 a close second. Corvallis increased its membership during this period from 75 to 273—almost 400%—and No. 17, from 52 to 192, about the same percentage. While most all chapters have increased their membership, our goal should be at least 6,000 paid-up members at all times.

SALARIES AND WAGES

The Association was very fortunate in securing favorable comment in the Press all during the time the Board of Directors and Executive Staff were negotiating with State officials for a salary adjustment after the "Cost of Living Increase" resolution was presented to the State Board of Control on December 5, 1947. I am convinced that the five-months' delay in obtaining the \$20.00 a month increase will in the end be beneficial due to the favorable publicity that we received. Our Governor, Budget Director and Civil Service Commission stated publicly at the time that State employees were entitled to at least \$30.00 per month across the board, and I believe we would have received that amount had funds been available.

During the past six months the Civil Service Commission has made another survey of salaries and wages, and it will