

Chapter News

(Continued from page 13)

OREGON CHAPTER 22 FACES ATTENDANCE PROBLEM

Like most chapters we had the problem of how to get the membership to come to the meetings. We didn't want to fine people for not attending. We wanted them to come because they wanted to be there. This became the theme of our board discussions.

Our previous procedure was to have the meetings immediately after work and the attendance was terrible, at most 10 to 20 members present, even when there were important subjects to be discussed. Somebody had to build a better mouse trap!

So our meeting plans were formulated. Our meetings are now held in the evenings and are a combination of business and social activities. Members were urged to come and to bring along husbands, wives, and guests. The responsibility for each meeting was shared by a section of the agency on a rotating basis. In this way it was hoped that we would get more interest and a wider variety of ideas. As an example, our last meeting was run by the business management section and the next one, by the benefits section. It is the duty of the designated section to plan and organize the social part of the evening which has developed into sort of a pattern: after the business meeting perhaps a movie, donated by a local business; always refreshments; then some games. The bingo game has developed into quite a pastime, for those not interested in bingo, other games are planned. At our last meeting one of the members volunteered to teach canasta to an interested group.

As an added incentive, it was decided by the membership to have a cash door prize from the general fund, the amount to be five dollars. Originally it was drawn for by taking two names only. If neither person was present, the money was added to the following month's prize. This meant however, that the amount became too large at times, so it was decided that if neither person was there to continue drawing names for half of the five dollars until

a winner was found. The remaining \$2.50 was then added to next months prize.

We have tried to keep the necessary business meetings brief and to encourage participation in the meetings by all. The officers of the chapter plan to have a speaker at each meeting to bring the members current information on problems affecting state employees.

We feel that our efforts have gone a long way towards improving attendance records. Last year before this change, the average number of members at a meeting was 10 to 20. Immediately after changing the program it jumped 50% and at the last meeting, we had 70 people present.

We do not feel that the problem is solved by any means and it will continue to be a job requiring constant effort. We'd like to know how other OSEA chapters have met this problem?

—Clarence Baker

WOODBURN CHAPTER No. 45

Woodburn Chapter No. 45, put on a very gay White Elephant party at the new Woodburn Legion club and wound up their 1949 social calendar in true fashion. Square dancing was very much in order and the dancing lessons that have been given on Wednesday evenings, readily showed who had been attending the classes. The party was officiated by President Don Tabler and Secretary Bill Nuckols, with the capable assistance of their wives. The guests included Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, superintendent of Woodburn School for Boys, Forrest V. Stewart, OSEA Executive Secretary and his Assistant Eugene Schmidt. Everyone appeared to be in fine spirits and with the large turnout it will only lead to bigger and better parties from the Woodburn Chapter, I'm afraid.

Keep on plugging, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I have never heard of anyone stumbling on anything sitting down.—Charles F. Kettering.