

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The General Assembly of Virginia has reduced the number of holidays for state employees from 13 to 9. Eliminated were Thomas Jefferson's birthday, April 13; Jefferson Davis' birthday, June 3; Columbus day and Armistice day.

* * *

President Eisenhower has asked Congress to adopt a proposed group life insurance plan for federal civilian employees. Main features are: (1) Employees would pay \$13.60 per year and the government \$6.50 per year (total \$20.10) per \$1000 of insurance (OSEA plan provides group life at the rate of \$8.40 per year per \$1000 at age 35 or \$10.20 per \$1000 at age 45); (2) Employees could buy total of \$1000 above annual salary; (3) Coverage would be automatic unless an employee elected against it; (4) Insurance would be reduced beginning at age 65; (5) Conversion privileges would be available at standard rates.

* * *

Approximate number covered under the OSEA group medical program during the initial enrollment period was 1600. Of this number 470 transferred from other programs and 290 had no previous coverage, an excellent showing. Coverage is not available to some 1500 members in the highway department. Neither have all of the chapters in schools of higher education nor those at some of the institutions as yet arranged for presentations of the program to members. The program will be re-opened in September.

* * *

An analysis of dues records at Headquarters reveals that 55 percent of the members are paying dues on a yearly basis, 44 percent on the half-year and 1 percent at odd times. Dues dates are March 1 and September 1.

* * *

Coos Bay Chapter just qualified for group life insurance. Many chapter presidents are now making plans to re-open the life insurance program in their chapter and to make this coverage again available without medical examination or proof of insurability.

* * *

Civil Service Director Terry met with the Roseburg Chapter at its July meeting. Ashby and Mefert of the staff attended the meeting. They reported excellent attendance and much enthusiasm.

* * *

Since the fall enrolling period (September 1) to the end of June, 39 chapters made a net gain of 800 new members but 11 chapters on the capitol mall reported a combined loss of 196. The remaining chapters mostly held their own or indicated small gains. Upstate chapters usually maintain about 75 to 90 percent membership in their area.

* * *

Two representatives of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (A. F. of L.) recently visited OSEA headquarters. They report four union organizers are now at work in the state organizing locals among employees of the several state agencies.

* * *

Astoria Chapter has had excellent results from a chapter membership contest. A cash prize is offered to the person bringing in the most new members.



BASEBALL FESTIVAL

Leanne French, an employee of the state Forestry department and a member of the Forestry Chapter, was on Tuesday night, July 6, voted queen of the State Employees Baseball Festival. She was selected by the players of the Salem Senators baseball club during a ceremony in Willson park at the west entrance of the Capitol. Pictured at left is Queen Leanne being crowned by Governor Paul Patterson. Man at the rear is Carl Bellotti, Salem Senator short-stop.

Contestants for queen of the festival besides Queen Leanne included Beryl Mason, tax commission; Maxine Booze, accident commission; Celeste Bartruff, vets affairs; Beatrice

Kleen, public utilities; Astrid Severin, secretary of state; Zo Krueger, bureau of labor; Elaine Schmidt, tax commission; Doris Jean Shafer, secretary of state; and Betty Beebe, vets affairs.

The festival is an annual event sponsored by chapters in District No. 2 in support of the Salem ball club.

ANOTHER RESOLUTION SATISFIED

Of the 21 resolutions presented and passed by the 1953 General Council relative to civil service, working conditions and salaries and wages, ten have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. WC-14, presented by Shop & Field No. 38, Salem, requested adjustment of pay differential for like jobs in state departments.

A result of this OSEA request, all Highway mechanics and related classifications on July 1 received a one-step salary increase to bring them to parity with the same classifications in other departments. They will retain their original eligibility date for future increases.

In effect this means that Highway is getting the same pay for a 44-hour week as other departments are getting for a 40-hour week. Prior to this adjustment highway mechanics were getting one step less than mechanics in other departments even though they worked four hours longer each week.

This makes the tenth of 21 resolutions satisfied. Of the other nine still under consideration, some will be resolved before General Council; others will necessitate legislative action.

Several salary matters are being referred to the survey being conducted by Barrington Associates.