

The OSEA Sentinel

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"Welfare
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LINCOLN PFEIFFER - - - Director of Public Relations
V. G. O'NEIL, President - - - GERTRUDE CHAMBERLIN, Secretary

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Address communications to Oregon State Employees Association
311 Oregon Building, Salem, Oregon - Phone 4-3325

A GLIMPSE INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL OSEA PLANS FOR MEMBER BENEFITS

The question is often raised, "What does OSEA offer me; why join?" Much has been written to tell what past history proves; namely, that since OSEA began to work for State employees they have received (a) many salary increases (always faster than could have been obtained otherwise), (b) civil service protection in their jobs, (c) a retirement system better than possible by individual private purchase, (d) a voice in the legislature and to administrative heads without jeopardy of personal rights, and (e) recognition of employees as people and not merely cogs in a machine.

OSEA offers the only group life insurance protection available to most State employees, and a medical and hospital protective plan offering the greatest benefits available for the low price. OSEA is the most representative and most powerful single influence active in behalf of State employees!

Plans for the Future

We are now laying the groundwork for the creation of a welfare fund for aid to members and their families in times of dire need.

We have created a special permanent committee of institutions to study the special problems of the State's institutions and to bring them to OSEA attention for corrective measures.

We are improving our public relations and methods of publicity, presently with the service of a part-time press agent and in the near future through the full-time services of a public relations counselor.

Our local Chapters are expending the availability of purchase-discount privileges to their members at local levels.

We are committed to contract for group automobile insurance coverage for members at attractive rates in the near future.

We plan creation of an OSEA credit union to offer ready money on loan to members on terms and at rates most favorable to our members.

These favorable services and many, many more will become available as we grow in membership. In union there is strength. Who can tell what OSEA can do when it really sets its mind?

The crystal ball foretells the time when those not in the OSEA might well feel lonesome and out of step.

The OSEA is not yet doing all that could be done for the State and its employees. It can help YOU best when you lend a hand, through the Oregon State Employees Association, to help yourself!

LAWS AFFECTING STATE WORKERS

Several bills directly or indirectly affecting state employees have been discussed in Committees and as in past years, there is some thinking by the Legislators that while the benefits have merit, the bills should be delayed until the next session. OSEA is redoubling its efforts and this year we intend to fight to receive these benefits now. OSEA feels that its needs and requests are fair and reasonable. If we go down to defeat on any of them, OSEA members can be assured that no group has ever put up a better fight, spending hundreds of hours of time and thousands of dollars in the battle, right down to the last second of the session. Refer to February Sentinel for complete explanation of bills. Here is the box score to date:

HB (House Bill) 28, removing certain technical group of Forest Products from Civil Service, signed by the Governor.

HB 136, placing State Police under Civil Service. Tabled.

SB (Senate) 26, providing for revision of State Constitution, was defeated. OSEA now is studying the problem of introducing a bill to make Civil Service a part of State Constitution.

SB 36, payroll deductions for United Fund. Passed by Senate and sent to the House.

SB 47, Revision of Public Retirement System. OSEA fought for and received approval of options which should now meet with approval of all state employees. Two options for lower salaried brackets and four above. Employees can build for the future with varied plans to fit the pay check. Passed by Senate and House.

SB 270, permitting state agencies to make advancements to employees for travel expense. Received the approval of most agencies and its need is keenly understood by the Ways and Means Committee, but tabled with the thought it needs two years study to work out problems. OSEA feels otherwise. We will fight to solve the problems now.

SB 289, permits Attorney General to defend state employees. Passed by Senate and sent to House.

All other bills are still in Committees. Only new bill is HB 441, introduced at request of Civil Service. Divisional reemployment lists which contain only those names of employees laid off in good standing shall be used first in filling any vacant position. The order of priority of all other lists shall be owned by rules of the Civil Service Commission.

Every time you turn green with envy you are ripe for trouble.