

Joint Presidents Council Of Districts 2 and 9

The regular monthly dinner meeting of the Presidents Council of OSEA Districts 2 and 9 was held at the China Cafe, on 2055 Fairgrounds Road at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 1957. It was a brief, interesting meeting with excellent attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Taggart. Mr. Taggart introduced Judge LeMaster, OSEA President, and Mrs. LeMaster.

The Judge gave a short talk, for the benefit of those Chapter Presidents who would be unable to attend the program scheduled to be held immediately following, at the Salem Women's Club. He approved the idea of our Joint Council, and said the Salem chapters enjoy an advantage, being able to work in close contact with Headquarters.

He said our concern over finances is praiseworthy. The chapters are responding well with advanced dues, and Headquarters will be able to carry through January with a slight margin. There is still urgent need for more funds. He said each Chapter President should have a regular report of the financial status quo. He brought up our problem concerning the League of Women Voters. It appears that we have, in the past, sponsored this group to the tune of \$50 yearly, and he advised that if possible, we do the same this year. This is a non-political faction which has done much for State Employees, including the spearheading of our Merit System. He said our insurance program is sound, and by the end of 1957, should be paying all costs.

Hal Lehman spoke briefly, suggesting that the membership committee-men from the various chapters might gain by exchanging ideas if they held regular meetings just like the Presidents do.

Ed Taggart issued a word of warning in regard to the union officials. They are on guard, watching closely, and any indication of a weakness in our organization will be an invitation for them to move in on a coveted field.

The meeting was adjourned early, in favor of the 8:00 meeting to which most of those present planned to go. (And were glad we did, as Judge LeMaster proved to be an excellent speaker, both interesting and positive.)

Marian Johnson,
Secretary.

'Stop, Look, Listen' Best Advice Offered

Drivers often do strange things, but one of the most unexplainable is the way they manage to drive into trains.

At least that's the way the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission summed it up when they noted that there were 295 train-car accidents in the state last year, killing 15 people and injuring another 121.

The train-car accident situation is even harder to understand when it is considered that at least 96% of all Oregon highway-rail crossing are either marked by a round-shaped advance warning sign or some other type signal, the Commission remarked.

In addition, trains are required to give audible warning of their approach and heavily-used crossing are generally protected by gates, flashing lights, bells, wig-wag signals or watchmen.

Despite all this, many drivers either fail to notice these warnings or deliberately ignore them and wind up "second best in an encounter with a train."

The old advice about grade crossings—stop, look and listen—is still the best, according to safety officials. And a final warning from the Commission to drivers who may use the same grade crossing day after day: "Don't let familiarity breed contempt; too many train-car accidents involve drivers who take it for granted a train won't be on the tracks simply because they haven't encountered one the last nine times." This mistake can make the tenth crossing the final one.

The Secretary's Calendar

The slogan of this month's calendar is write now or for two years hold your peace. The economy axe is being sharpened by the 49th legislative assembly and the aiming place could be the neck of the grossly underpaid state employee. A few letters from every state employee can avert the blow. Write your legislator or Senator, have your wife write, have your non-state employee neighbor write. State service must be maintained, or rather established at a level where career service is feasible.

House Bill 432 now in the ways and means committee provides that the state employee will be treated like a human being and paid the same wage for work as is enjoyed by the person doing the same work outside of state service. Be sure that you write your assemblymen, asking that you be allowed to join the economic human race, before you finish reading the Sentinel. The state for the sake of economy does not cut the quality of its brick and concrete, nor does it buy them under the market. The same rule should apply to its state employees. A letter from you can establish the fact that you are plagued with having to pay taxes, the same prices for groceries, rent and clothing as the non-state employee. Write in support of HB 432 today!

The Association appeared Thursday, February 28, in resistance to a move incorporated in HB 123 that posed a danger to Civil Service. It is hoped that the amendatory matter will be dropped in committee. The amended section of the bill provided for a mediation process for resolving salary disputes of public employees. This would have the effect of subjecting the merit system to pressure with the resultant effect of distorting the pay system in favor of a group making the most noise. The association is appearing to amend two other bills that fail to provide that the personnel under departments in the process of creation

shall be included under the merit system. Once let the dyke break and the flood comes!

The retirement bills of the Association are to be introduced by Representative Eddie Ahrens and should be reaching the floor of the house in the near future. A bill providing for state participation in health and accident insurance will be introduced by Representative Winton Hunt and will be reaching the floor of the house soon.

Members will be kept current on legislative happenings by chapter news later.

Seabees Note 15th Birthday

The Salem Naval Reserve Construction Battalion, (Seabees), are scheduled to hold open house the evening of March 15th, 8 p.m., in celebration of the Seabees' fifteenth birthday. The public is invited. Tours of local facilities are to be conducted and a large birthday cake will be served with the evening refreshments. Say the Salem leaders:

"May we particularly urge the young man who has a military obligation to serve, to come and acquaint himself with the Seabee program. If you are actively engaged in any of the many civilian skills, such as tractor and truck operation, logging or have other construction experience, you are eligible for an immediate assignment in an advanced rate.

"Veterans too can further advance and increase their skills. You are paid for time spent in learning, or teaching others. The whole family is invited to attend."

It is recalled that, early in 1942, a crucial time for America, the Navy formed its now famous Construction Battalions, popularly and officially designated as the Seabees.

Throughout World War II and the Korean action the Seabees worked night and day to provide roadways, air-strips and shore installations. Today the knowledge and ability of the Seabees still are being used for the protection of the American people. Back of those on full-time active duty is a strong and energetic Seabee Reserve of Construction men trained and ready for further service to the country.

For information on this branch of service, contact the Seabees any Friday evening at the Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Training Center, Airport road, Salem.

State Hospital Has Valentine Dance

So successful was the State Hospital's Valentine dance which was held February 15 at the Cottage Farm that a spring dance for some time in April is being planned.

As reported by Ruth Gill, vice-president of Evergreen Chapter 28, more than 200 crowded the Cottage Farm hall which was gaily decorated in traditional Valentine red and white. The spring affair is scheduled for the Mayflower auditorium.

The February dance was co-sponsored by the Mossbacks and Evergreen 28.

"The big trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent full of doubt."—Bertand Russell.

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OSEA-OPS Benefits Explained

New Rates Effective April 1, 1957

Our contract with OPS has been in effect since March 1, 1954, without any change in premium. Due to the increased cost of furnishing our service it is necessary to increase our rates effective April 1, 1957. Benefits have been expanded through efforts of your Insurance Committee and are presented below.

INCREASED BENEFITS AND NEW RATES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1957

The following revised deductible features were made effective April 1, 1957. These are "improved" benefits as compared to those in effect since March 1, 1954.

\$10.00 INITIAL DEDUCTIBLE ON PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

The physicians' services specified in the "Summary of Benefits" will be available to any member in any case after the member has paid or acknowledged personal responsibility for the initial \$10.00 of expense.

\$15.00 INITIAL DEDUCTIBLE ON HOSPITAL SERVICES

Either the in-patient or out-patient hospital services indicated below will be available to any member in any case after the member has paid or acknowledged personal responsibility for the initial \$15.00 of expense.

NOTE: The above "deductible" provisions replace the \$25.00 deductible provision on physicians' services in effect until April 1, 1957. This is better for you because:

1. You have less "out-of-pocket" expense.
2. OPS pays a greater portion of the physicians' charges.
3. On the average, you consult a physician many more times than you are admitted to a hospital.
4. The "deductible" has been reduced on the service (physicians) which you use more frequently.

MAXIMUM DEDUCTIBLES IN ANY YEAR

In order that the "deductible" will be realistic, you will not, as an employ, be required to pay more than a \$50.00 deductible, or as a family, more than a \$125.00 deductible in any certificate year. After the maximum deductible has been paid in any certificate year, OPS will thereafter pay the initial expense during that certificate year for all coverable services in each separate case—in other words, there will not be an additional deductible.

All physician or hospital charges for services coverable under the contract, which are paid by the member, are counted toward the maximum "deductible" stated above. Proof of payment for items counted toward the deductible must be furnished by the member.

MONTHLY DUES RATES

\$ 4.15 Male employee

4.75 Female employee

9.90 Employee and 1 family member

11.00 Employee and 2 or more family members.

YOUR OSEA CHAPTER PRESIDENT HAS A COPY OF THE CONTRACT—THIS IS ONLY A GENERAL EXPLANATION

Chapter Briefs

ASTORIA 8—At a business meeting held Feb. 7, 30 members attended. District Director Edward J. Hall explained OSEA Salary and Wages Survey. Resolution was passed approving chapter dues increase. Discussed grievance of draw bridge operators and the matter of ticket agents' salary survey, also conference at Headquarters with Jim Daniels and Dell Lamb. Leroy Boldt reports Daniels agreed to try to convince Civil Service that the ticket agents should be tied in with retail clerks, salary-wise.

Chapter president Fred S. Illum presided.

BEND CHAPTER 3—A potluck followed by entertainment by Wes Tuttle and his Tri-County Boys—a western band from Central Oregon. Time: Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Place: Rim Rock Riders Club. William McClay presiding, Belva L. Mayfield, chapter secretary, reported.

ALBANY CHAPTER 7—Meeting held Albany, Feb. 11. Twenty-four members and four guests attended. These included Clarence Ecklof, District Director, who discussed the Salary Survey. Bill Mann presided.

SALEM CHAPTER 1—Of a total chapter membership of 296, 27 attended. Warren Fanning, District Manager of Oregon Physicians Service, Salem, discussed OSEA-OPS contract. Meeting was held 12:00 noon, 418 State Highway Building, Feb. 13, Marion Moore, chapter secretary, reporting.

NORTHWEST OREGON FORESTRY 76—Meeting Feb. 13 at State Forestry Department, Forest Grove, (business and social). C. "Rusty" Riegel, vice-president, introduced Mel Cummings, State Game Commission, who spoke on Game and Bird Management. Items discussed, 1957-58 dues, reported Ronald E. Smith, secretary.

EUGENE 6—Meeting held Feb. 18, 8 p.m., at WOW Hall, President George Gould presided. Walter Poole discussed OSEA dues. Retirement also a topic of discussion. Fred Allen, secretary, reporting.

OR-GA-Co 51—Business and social meeting which 22 members and four guests attended, Feb. 28, 1634 S.W. Alder. Director of District 1, Al Kelley; OSEA Public Relations Director Ron Shay and Ross Newcomb, Game Commission Personnel Director, were in attendance. Al Kelley discussed the OSEA legislative program and the Portland "pops" concert. Occasion was the birthday celebration of OR-GA-Co Chapter. Congratulations, OR-GA-Co!

January meetings, reports of which did not reach The Sentinel in time for February report of chapter activities, include: VAFA 69, Jan. 8, Salem. Guests: Ed Chidsey and James Daniels, discussing OSEA building, dues increase, President Wakefield Walker presiding, secretary, Helen Smith, reporting. ASTORIA 8, Jan. 3. SALEM 1, Jan. 9 meeting, at which Jim Daniels spoke on membership and finances, President C. W. Head presiding, Marion Moore, chapter secretary, reporting. BEND 3, Jan. 11, President McClay presiding. Potluck with entertainment. CONSOLIDATED 61, Portland, Jan. 25, business and social meeting with guests Jim Daniels, Wylie J. Graham, Helen McClure from Headquarters, and Alfred Kelley, Director District 1. President Eloise Seaman presided. Eugene F. Schmidt presented to the chapter a bound booklet of the LeMaster history of OSEA. Deloras Warrick, chapter secretary, reported. FORESTRY 25, Salem, Jan. 15, during lunch hour. President Denver McComb read financial report from HQ. Committee appointments: Civil Service, Lou Amort; Law and Legislation, Denver McComb; Public Relations, Gene Manock; Retirement, Darryl Storm. Bill Hughes reported in the Chapter Bulletin that "... headquarters is back in a satisfactory financial condition ..."

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