

Membership director "Communicates"



Oregon State Employees Association

AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF OSEA

From: Ralph Wheeler, Director of Membership
Subject: A Crisis in Our Communications

A letter was recently received at Headquarters which has added to our concern for an apparent breakdown in our communications system for members and other State employees.

This member wrote to tell us his associates in his work area failed to receive our Legislative News Bulletins during the recent legislative sessions.

We regret, exceedingly, the failure of this group and some others to be constantly apprised of our legislative activities and other fields of endeavor. Some people have stated they did not feel OSEA "had secured enough" during the legislative convention.

It is quite evident they either failed to read and study our bulletins, or, they just failed to receive or find them posted. In either case, we assure you the Association did squeeze some blood from the turnip, so to speak, notwithstanding the primary obstacle which was lack of available funds.

Perhaps the feeling voiced by this member is a good lesson for all of us. Whether or not our communications are filtering down to all areas of State services, due in part to summertime chapter inactivity, one thing is certain . . . our Group Representative system is not being utilized to the fullest extent. Not only should these representatives post the bulletins they receive, but they should circulate and discuss them with everyone in their immediate work area. Also, it is a responsibility of every chapter president to carefully study his organization to be certain an adequate number of reliable people have been appointed to handle this important assignment, as well as being strategically located in all work areas of the chapter's jurisdiction. In addition, representatives should be thoroughly familiar with their responsibilities as defined in our Manual of Policies and Procedures.

In order that we may get "on top" of this situation, I am personally asking that each of you give this matter some thought and consult with your chapter officers as to suggesting possible improvements. If our Headquarters Staff or I can help you, please get word to us immediately. Some very important actions have recently been taken by our Board which will soon be released. They will have a very definite affect on every State employee and should be widely publicized. With General Council in the not too far distance and matters already coming up for its attention, we would like to feel everyone will be apprised of these things as they happen. We should have a strong chain of communications upon which to rely.

Thank you for giving this your wholehearted cooperation!

R. W.