

OREGON STATE

employee

news

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Oregon State Employees Association

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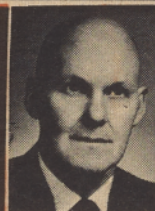
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From the . . .

Executive Secretary



The recent policy statement by the OSEA Board of Directors against strikes by public employees has drawn favorable editorial comment in a number of newspapers around the state. The TIGARD TIMES described it as "evidence of responsibility on the part of directors for the state classified workers."

OSEA is a member of the Assembly of Governmental Employees, a national association of independent public employee organizations which includes 26 state associations. At its last annual meeting, the Oregon delegates pressed for a comprehensive no-strike statement which will no doubt be adopted this year.

Some wonder why it is necessary for a public employee organization to adopt a no-strike policy, or, as in the case of OSEA, to include a prohibition against strikes in its constitution. "Isn't it already against the law for public employees to strike?" they ask.

Practically all states have laws against striking in public employment, but the problem is their enforcement. Oregon law makes public strikes unlawful but provides no penalties. As such it stands only as a statement of public policy and a possible ground for injunctive action against the strike. Some laws provide penalties such as the loss of job protection rights of employees who strike. As a practical matter, however, when the strike is over the employer needs experienced employees to carry on its work, so the power to penalize by not rehiring is not usable.

After the New York transit workers strike, a court strictly interpreting that state's law against public employee strikes held that the transit employees would have to be penalized by denial of pay increases for three years. It is doubtful the holding will stand. Even before this decision, Governor Rockefeller and other leaders had urged changing the law because it was unworkable and provided too great a penalty against the individual employee, when it is generally the union and its leadership who are responsible for the strike.

Most of the unions refuse to recognize a curtailment of their "right" to strike in public employment, except possibly in the case of police or firemen. The president of the AFL-CIO public employee union, AFSCME, recently refused to go along with Walter Reuther in a statement against public employee strikes, claiming they were necessary for effective union activity. The Government Employee Relations Report, a service to which we subscribe, shows constant use of threats of strikes or actual strikes by AFSCME and the American Federation of Teachers at the first sign of frustration of their demands upon public management.

It is not likely that a public employment strike will be seen in Oregon for some time. But as the unions continue their attempts to organize public employees in this state it is well to be reminded of their position on the strike matter. This is not only because of the showing it makes of irresponsibility on the part of some who seek to represent public employees, but also because it offers further proof of the apparent inability of the labor movement, rooted as it is in private industry, to adjust to the more intelligent attitudes and methods needed to do an effective job of representation in public employment.

Correspondence

Thomas C. Enright
Executive Secretary
Oregon State Employees Association
1515 State Street
Salem, Oregon

Dear Mr. Enright:

I wish to thank you and the Oregon State Employees Association for the honor recently accorded me in Salem.

Sincerely yours,
Frank L. Hruza

(Editor's Note: Hruza was one of the three public employees selected by the Oregon State Employees Association and the Oregon State Junior Chamber of Commerce as the Outstanding Young Public Employee for 1965. The other two were James G. Fisher, State Forestry Department, and Robert J. Prinslow, Woodburn Chief of Police.)



DARRYL E. STORM

Storm Seeks School Post

A two-term, past-president of the Oregon State Employees Association has announced his candidacy for a position on the Salem School Board.

Darryl E. Storm, who served as OSEA president in 1961-62, will be opposed for the position by Dr. Maynard Shiffer, a Salem physician.

Storm, 41, is employed by the State Forestry Department as finance director. He has worked for the department for the past 18 years.

He received a B.S. degree in forest management from Oregon State University in 1948. Storm and his wife, Ardyss, live at 117 Idylwood Dr. S.E., Salem. They have five children.

In addition to serving as association president, Storm has also served as vice-president, director of insurance, chapter president and long-time delegate to General Council.

He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Masonic Lodge and is currently secretary of the Oregon Association of State Fiscal and Administrative Officers.

Retired Chapter Charter Granted

OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright presented Oregon State Retired Persons Chapter 97 with an OSEA charter at ceremonies in Corvallis January 5.

Earl Litwiller, a candidate for chapter vice-president, presided at the meeting.

After the presentation ceremonies were completed, R. S. Besse gave a report on the progress being made by the Public Employees Retirement Conference sponsored by OSEA and OEA.



RETIREMENTS

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	LAST EMPLOYER
James I. Beeson (La Grande)	31	Highway
Marie M. Butler (Woodburn)	12	Higher Education
Donald E. Harlan (Salem)	17	Higher Education
Haskel C. Hart (California)	9	EOSH
Helen H. Hayes (Salem)	9	Hillcrest
Elmer A. Hinton (Ukiah)	28	Highway
Harry H. Johanss (Portland)	14	Liquor Commission
Darrell P. Jolley (Portland)	11	Liquor Commission
John A. Luie (Portland)	19	Secretary of State
Vernon R. Torgerson (Tigard)	14	Higher Education
Hazel H. Ward (Portland)	15	Labor Commission
Clifford A. Winings (Enterprise)	8	Highway