

OREGON STATE

employee news

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EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



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From the . . .

Executive Secretary



High Quality Service

Editorials and individuals expressing concern about the appointment of Civil Service Commissioner John M. Fulton to the post of Finance Chairman of House Speaker Montgomery's campaign for the office of secretary of state did not do so on the basis of criticism of either man. Both are outstanding examples of the high caliber of people Oregon is fortunate enough to draw to its state service.

Although some news articles stated that the 1967 Legislative Assembly removed political activity restrictions on members of boards and commissions, apparently overlooked was Section 240.060, Oregon Revised Statutes. It provides that no person shall be appointed as a member of the Civil Service Commission who has held an elective public office or an appointive office of a political nature, or position in a political party, within six months immediately preceding his appointment.

Civil service merit system advocates throughout the country have historically been extra wary of any touch of politics in their administration. Although the Oregon statute quoted touches on the qualifications of commissioners and does not refer to their activity after taking office, it appears to be in the spirit of the law that the restrictions continue.

In accepting Mr. Fulton's resignation, Governor McCall praised his history of service to Oregon and expressed the hope that he will be able to serve again in the future. It was a credit to all concerned that nobody tried to make political capital of what was essentially only an honest difference of opinion. It is also well that it was settled at an early date and did not become an issue later in this political year.

New Retirement Law

Sponsors of the retirement improvement law have been concerned about potential adverse employee reaction when the increased contribution rates became effective January 1. So far complaints appear to be few and are satisfied with reasonable explanation of the increased benefits which will be received under the new plan.

Many employees appear to be aware that before benefit improvements were ever considered, the Legislative Fiscal Committee said it would recommend to the legislature that the options to make lower contributions be removed. Most of the personnel departments did effective work on preparing employees for the changes in the system.

If "bugs" appear in the new system, the next session of the legislature will be prepared to give them early consideration. Some minor weaknesses in the new law were allowed to stand temporarily to hold down the tremendous costs involved in the change, but these will be corrected in time for employees to realize their full benefits.

100% MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

OREGON STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

SECTION	DEPARTMENT
Hospital Planning.....	Board of Health
Personnel.....	Dammasch Hospital
Surgery.....	Dammasch Hospital
Transportation.....	Dammasch Hospital
Accounting.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Doctors.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Laundry.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Licensed Practical Nurses.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Maintenance.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Registered Nurses.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Social Services.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Steno Pool.....	Eastern Oregon Hospital
Daimler Paving Crew.....	Highway

Correspondence

To the Editor:

Last fall I had an employment problem during which I was suspended and dismissed from my job. Since I am a member of OSEA, I contacted the association and asked for help. Mr. Edward Wilson responded immediately to my plea and subsequently spent many hours representing me in this case and advising me of my rights under civil service rules.

The case was finally appealed to the Civil Service Commission, and consequently, I was reinstated to my position and received approximately \$1,000 in back salary. This would cover my OSEA dues for an entire lifetime of employment!

The diligent efforts of Ed Wilson and OSEA have reinforced my belief that every state employee should belong to OSEA.

Mrs. Marie Hutchens
Corvallis Chapter 29

To the Editor:

We at the State School for the Deaf were most pleased to receive the color television set from OSEA's Agriculture Chapter 26 on Dec. 21. The set will be used by a group of 35 children who are four, five and six years of age.

Immediately after our Christmas program, the set was taken to the pre-school dormitory and the children were thrilled with it. They were very enthusiastic about the color. I am sure the television set will add much to their information and knowledge.

Through the NEWS, we would like to publicly express our appreciation to call of the members of Agriculture Chapter 26. We know Mrs. Norman Merrick did a great deal of the work and we appreciate her every effort.

M. B. Clatterbuck
Superintendent

No Pay Raises Until June 30

The Civil Service Commission will approve salary range adjustments only in an emergency situation during the remainder of this fiscal year, according to Director Melvin Cleveland.

The state's fiscal year ends June 30, 1968.

Cleveland defined an emergency situation as one in which a "clear and present danger to life, health or property exists because of inability to maintain essential quantitative or qualitative staffing levels because of salary."

He said the policy was established at the request of the Director of Finance because of the reduction in general fund appropriations to agencies and because of a strong instruction from the Ways and Means Committee that personnel be treated the same, regardless of whether they are in general fund or dedicated fund agencies.

Cleveland said "limited salary range adjustments" can be made after July 1, 1968, with the mid-biennium salary adjustment fund appropriated to the Emergency Board by the 1967 Legislature.

