

New Procedure Speeds Up Bargaining Contracts

OSEA and the Board of Control have adopted a procedure which should speed up processing of collective bargaining contracts and supplemental agreements negotiated by the association with the state's institutions.

The new procedure was worked out during a recent meeting among OSEA staff members Thomas C. Enright and Donald A. Beninger and Carl A. Haugerud, secretary to the Board of Control.

The problem arose because of the delay encountered in having both Haugerud and the division administrator review and counter-sign all contracts and agreements negotiated between OSEA and the institutions.

There are two divisions within the Board of Control: corrections and mental health.

The Corrections Division has authority over the Penitentiary, Correctional Institution, Hillcrest School for Girls and MacLaren School for Boys.

The Mental Health Division has authority over Dammasch and Oregon State Hospitals and Columbia Park, Eastern Oregon and Fairview Hospital and Training Centers.

In their talk with Haugerud, Enright and Beninger voiced two primary objections:

(1) "When agreements have been submitted for review and questions have been raised somewhere along the line, no notice has been given to the contracting parties either of the fact that there was a question, or what the question was, for unreasonable amounts of time. In most instances, the parties have not been given any information until they have become impatient waiting for the agreement to be ratified and have had to track down where the delay is occurring;" and

(2) "When it has finally been ascertained that a question exists, great difficulty has been encountered in getting it resolved, and in some cases no solution has yet been reached."

At the time of the meeting, the OSEA staff members complained that four agreements negotiated in recent months were still not ratified. They said two were being held up by the Board of Control and two were being delayed by the Mental Health Division.

The procedure outlines six steps to be followed in processing agreements within the Board of Control:

(1) Agreements shall be processed within seven days of receipt by the division administrator or secretary of the board.

(2) If a question arises which keeps the division administrator or secretary of the board from signing an agreement, he shall notify the contracting parties with an explanation regarding the subject questioned.

(3) If a division administrator questions an agreement, he shall forward a copy of the

agreement to the secretary of the board along with a copy of the notice sent to the contracting parties.

(4) The contracting parties shall be given an opportunity within seven days after receipt of such notice to discuss the matter with the secretary of the board or the division administrator.

(5) If no solution is found that

mutually satisfies the parties concerned, the subject in question may be referred by the division administrator or secretary of the board to some other body of government for review and comment.

(6) If a questioned agreement contains more than one subject, those subjects that are not found objectionable shall be put into effect.

No Restrictions During Insurance Open-Period

Regardless of health, age or physical condition, OSEA members may obtain medical-hospital group insurance during the annual open-enrollment period without providing evidence of insurability.

The open-period began September 1 and will end October 6, according to Floyd Baxter, director of OSEA's Insurance Committee.

He said applicants must be members of the association and full-time state employees in order to enroll for the insurance.

OSEA's medical - hospital group plan is offered through Blue Cross of Oregon.

Among the plan's benefits, Baxter said, is one which provides 120 days of hospital care at \$30 per day.

In addition, the insurance covers five days in an intensive care unit at \$60 per day.

The medical-hospital group plan provides 100 per cent of hospital extras, ambulance service up to \$25, surgical schedule up to \$400 and an anesthesiologist fee, Baxter noted.

He said there is no waiting period for any pre-existing condition except maternity.

According to Baxter, Blue Cross offers two separate plans-- A and B. The difference between the two, he said, is that Plan A pays for doctor home and office visits while Plan B does not.

All other benefits are the same under both plans.

Baxter said there will be no increase in premiums. He listed the following monthly rates for the insurance (Plan A listed first, Plan B second): Single male, \$8.65 and \$6.95; single female, \$10.30 and \$8.35; two persons, \$19.30 and \$15.50; family, \$22.90 and \$19.00.

Insurance coverage for persons enrolling during the open period will become effective November 1.

Staff Secretary Wed in August

Miss Karen Louise Berg, OSEA staff secretary since September, 1966, became Mrs. Dennis J. Willett August 31.

The couple said their vows in Grace Lutheran Church, Salem. They left immediately for Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Mrs. Willett expects to leave OSEA in about two months to join her husband in Iran.

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