

From The Mailbox



Call for Help

To the Editor:

A member of Webfoot Chapter 49 in Eugene and his family recently lost their home and all of their possessions in a fire. James Kelley, his wife and their three sons make up the family. He is an electrician at the University of Oregon physical plant.

Some of the townspeople in Lowell, a small town in which the family lived, and Mr. Kelley's co-workers in the physical plant are attempting to help the family get on its feet. Webfoot Chapter 49 also is trying to lend some assistance.

In addition, Mr. Kelley has had a number of offers from business people to help re-build his house. However, the family has immediate needs of money and clothing.

I thought readers of the OSEA News might like to help this OSEA family by donating either money or clothing. For those who want to send clothing, the following sizes would be most helpful: Mr. Kelley, slacks or jeans, 36 waist, 31 length; shirt, 15½. Mrs. Kelley, slacks or jeans, size 18; blouse, size 40. Mark, jeans, 31 waist, 30 length; shirt, 15½. Dennis, jeans, 33 waist, 29 length; shirt, 16. Brian, jeans, 30 waist, 30 length; shirt, boy's size 20.

It may be sent to my address: Mrs. Lois Madsen, 1313 Lincoln Street, No. 1005, Eugene, Oregon 97401. I'll see that it gets to Mr. Kelley and his family immediately. Any help would be deeply appreciated.

Lois Madsen
Secretary
Webfoot Chapter 49
Eugene

Political Muscle Needed

To the Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to the OSEA staff for the tremendous amount of work they have done in the Legislature this year on behalf of all OSEA members.

While our salary increase is not as large as we asked and needed, without OSEA fighting for us in the Legislature, we would have been lucky to receive any increase.

The problems encountered in gaining an increase this year point up the need for every member to support the recommendations of the new Political Action Committee. Unless OSEA develops more political muscle by following the committee's recommendations, we will be left "holding an empty bag" at the end of the next legislative year.

Marian Lahr
Secretary
Siskiyou Chapter 84
Ashland

Share Your Ideas

To the Editor:

I have a message for OSEA's membership: Share your ideas!

For instance, do you have an idea for conducting chapter meetings that will get more members to attend? Do you or your chapter have an idea for a resolution that will require support from delegates to the General Council? Do you have an idea about pay, fringe benefits or working conditions that you would like to share with others, and perhaps get their views in return?

If you do, then why not share your ideas and views with the entire membership through a letter to the editor of the OSEA News?

Many ideas that could make our Association stronger and more active at all levels die because they are not passed on. A membership that communicates with its officers and each other is a vital, active membership. One very effective way to direct the Association toward the goals you feel important is by letting your criticisms, your ideas and your wishes be known through a letter to the editor of this newspaper.

Don't wait to write about what's on your mind. Do it now.

James R. Dyer
Public Relations Director
Salem

Credit Unions Helped

To the Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Employees Federal Credit Union wishes to express their thanks to OSEA and Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright for carrying the ball on Senate Bill 125 for payroll deduction.

It is not necessary for me to tell you what this bill means to state employees and the credit unions. If it had not been for Tom Enright's efforts and constant vigil, it is very possible that the Legislature would have adjourned without any positive action in this regard.

This is another example of the many benefits that OSEA has secured for state employees, and we thank the Association and its executive secretary.

Elton Brutscher
President
OEFCU

Employees Fared Well

To the Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank OSEA for a job well done in the 1971 Legislature. With all of the headaches legislators had, I think state employees fared real well.

I've been an OSEA member over 15 years. Time after time I've seen the Legislature defeat bills providing for a medical-hospital contribution from the state. This session, thanks to OSEA, we got the fringe benefit. In addition, great improvements were made in our retirement system, and everyone will get a pay raise this July.

The members of UO Medical School Chapter 41 join me in thanking OSEA for a job well done!

Mary French
Treasurer
UO Medical School Chapter 41
Portland

A Realistic Picture

To the Editor:

The articles concerning our state safety program which appeared in the May issue of the OSEA News were excellent. Most important is the fact that the articles gives your entire membership a clear, honest and realistic picture of what we are trying to accomplish.

In the accident prevention field, there is often a tendency to emphasize the negative aspects by statistics and then point a finger and blame someone for using poor judgement in accident control. Your articles provided the type of positive approach we need to help employees realize that safety programs are specifically for their benefit.

George J. Wolnez
Coordinator
Safety and Fire Prevention
Salem

A Job Well Done

To the Editor:

May we at this time use the OSEA News to express our thanks to the Association's staff for the work they did at the 1971 Legislature.

We are aware from past experience of the overwhelming odds that the staff faces during a tight budget year; we thank them for their efforts.

We won't pretend to be totally pleased with the salary schedule, but coupled with the medical payment and the retirement increases, we are satisfied in this sense. For the career employee, the improved retirement benefits will be increasingly significant and the "break-through" at long last of getting a medical contribution is a milestone in itself.

Again, we offer our sincere thanks for a job well done by the OSEA staff.

Howard Walp
Linea Harmon
Helen Hilsenteger
Clifford J. Wolf
J.D. Sells
Executive Committee
Viking Chapter 81
Portland

Inquiring Photographer

As a State Employee, What is Your Opinion of The 1971 Session?

(Asked at the Motor Vehicles Division, Salem)

DOT WRIGHT
Clerk 3

I'm more happy with the fringe benefit bills that passed this session than I am with the pay increase. I think fringe benefits are more important than pay raises in the long run. For one thing, a fringe benefit is tax free. We would all take more money home if increases were given in the form of benefits rather than actual pay raises. All in all, I think state employees did pretty well.



JACK VAN
Field Examiner

It all boils down to this for me: I don't think we got what we should have got. Our pay lagged industry by 10 per cent in 1970 and the cost of living has raised since then. We will be a good 10 to 15 per cent behind going into this biennium, and we get 5 per cent this year and a possible 5 per cent next year. The fringe benefits we got, when compared to industry, are a drop in the bucket.



MARGE KURTH
Clerk 3

I was glad to see the Legislature pass the medical-hospital contribution bill and improve retirement benefits. But the amount of money appropriated for pay is not enough. I hated to see Gov. McCall's \$45 million salary proposal diverted for other purposes. For example, higher education's budget is much too high. I think it could have been cut without hurting the quality of education.



LEIGH SPRINGER
ADP Programmer 2

Overall, I think the 1971 Legislature did a pretty good job in terms of the money problems it faced last January. However, I think the Senate wasted a lot of time and money in getting organized, and I didn't like the rush in the final days. The state's business is important, and if it takes more time to get it done, then more time should be taken. State employees had a pretty good session.



DOROTHY MERRELL
Clerk 1

We all knew the state was facing a fiscal crisis last January. We had been warned by the news media and by OSEA's General Council last fall. In view of that, I think state employees did quite well. I'm particularly pleased with the medical-hospital contribution because it will be, in effect, a tax-free raise of \$10 a month. I'm also pleased with the improved retirement benefits we got.



BERNIECE ZEIGLER
Clerk 1

I think a lot of time was wasted by the Legislature in getting organized and in hearing certain bills. I'm satisfied with the amount of money appropriated for pay and fringe benefits. We could have done much worse considering Oregon's poor fiscal condition last January. I think we all ought to be thankful that OSEA has such excellent legislative representatives as Tom Enright and Ev Stiles.

