

From The Mailbox



PERS Substantially Improved

To the Editor:

On behalf of the community college employees I should like to express our appreciation for the fine work and effectiveness of the OSEA staff and participants in the Retirement Conference in the legislative session just adjourned.

Changes brought about in the Public Employees' Retirement System, chiefly through activities of the major groups represented in the Retirement Conference, are far reaching indeed and represent very substantial improvements in the retirement system for all public employees.

My congratulations to Tom Enright and the OSEA staff for a job well done.

John W. Hakanson
President
Clackamas Community College
Oregon City

New Attitude Refreshing

To the Editor:

I would like to use the OSEA News to publicly compliment Jim McGoffin, director of the Public Employees' Retirement System, for his attitude towards retirement for public employees. It is a refreshing development after the years of employer bias in the PERS and ultraconservatism in investment.

It is a shame that we had to wait so long for logical steps that cost the employer actually very little and yet have such great social as well as economic impact.

My compliments to Jim McGoffin on his effective leadership and thanks on behalf of my colleagues who may not realize how much improved their condition will be in retirement.

Paul E. Bernier
OSU Faculty Chapter 72
Corvallis

Editor's Note: Dr. Bernier, a member of OSEA's Retirement Committee and former director of District Six, has long been interested and active in improving retirement benefits under the PERS.

Key Deposit Ends For SOC Employees

Employees at Southern Oregon College in Ashland will no longer be required to pay a deposit for keys they must have in order to gain access to their working areas.

The new policy was brought about as the result of a grievance filed on behalf of 10 employees by staff member John M. Schoonover.

In the past employees were required to pay a deposit of 50-cents for every key they were issued. Many employees, primarily those in maintenance and custodial worker classifications, need keys in order to get to their jobs.

Schoonover claimed that issuance of a key to enable an employee to get to his job is an employer convenience, rather than the other way around.

"Other employees are issued equipment in order that they might perform their job assignments and are not required to make a deposit on such equipment," he argued.

As examples, he mentioned typewriters for secretaries, lawnmowers for grounds crews and calculators for accountants.

SOC President James K. Sours agreed. He said employees who are assigned duties which require them to have keys will no longer be charged a deposit.

"Fees will continue to be charged in cases where key possession is merely a convenience and not a job requirement," he said. "Also, a charge will be made for lost keys or keys not returned when the job requirement ceases to exist."

Committee's Work Vital

To the Editor:

Time and time again the Oregon State Employees Association does such an outstanding job that it borders on the miraculous. When that occurs, credit is given to members of the board and staff.

However, behind the scenes there are standing committees continually in operation that do much of the "leg work." The untold hours that the members of those committees donate to OSEA is really the basis for much of our accomplishments.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express my thanks to OSEA Retirement Director Art Krichevsky and his Retirement Committee for the tremendous job they accomplished in the 1971 legislative session. There is no doubt that his testimony was a major factor in keeping one unified retirement system. The passage of House Bill 1397 can also be largely attributed to his committee's factual presentations when testifying before the Ways and Means Committee.

Although I mention the Retirement Committee by name, the same applies to all standing and special committees. I am sure that I speak for all state employees when I say to them, "thank you."

Jerry Liebertz
Past President
Portland

Editor's Note: Besides Krichevsky, OSEA's Retirement Committee is composed of Mary Foster, Capitol Chapter 19, Salem; Philip Oakley, Salem Chapter 1; Dr. Paul Bernier, OSU Faculty Chapter 72, Corvallis; and Howard Walp, Viking Chapter 81, Portland. Advisory members are Kenneth Thomas, Fairview Chapter 57, Salem; and Donna McKenzie, UO Faculty Chapter 77, Eugene.

Thanks for Scholarship

To the Editor:

I wish to thank the Oregon State Employees Association for the scholarship I was recently given. I feel it is an honor to be chosen as a recipient and I appreciate it very much.

As I begin my college education next year, I am sure that the money will be very beneficial. By helping students to meet the rising costs of education, the Association has encouraged me and many others to continue to strive for our educational goals.

Again, my thanks to the OSEA.

Elaine Belleque
Woodburn

Candidates Get Newspaper Space

As in past years, the OSEA News will again provide space to all candidates seeking election to state offices in the Association this fall.

Purpose of the action is to enable chapters to indicate preferences among candidates to their delegates before General Council convenes October 14.

A deadline of September 1 has been set for receiving campaign material at headquarters.

The material should include the candidate's personal information, state employment history, experience in OSEA and a brief statement by the candidate or his supporters as to why the candidacy should be supported. Total material should not exceed 200 words.

In addition, each candidate should submit a 3" x 4" head and shoulders glossy photograph.

Offices for which candidacies may be announced are president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and the directors of the following state committees: academic and unclassified services, employee representation, institutions, insurance, membership, public relations, and retirement.

Inquiring Photographer

What Would You Tell OSEA's Board About Mental Health Staffing?

(Asked at Fairview Hospital and Training Center, Salem)

ROSETTA BRINLEE, Psychiatric Aide
Meier Cottage, Fairview Hospital

I can't speak for the entire institution, but Meier Cottage is understaffed. There just aren't enough aides. On day shift this coming Sunday there will be five aides on duty for 84 hyper-active, mentally retarded patients, and one of them is the charge aide with responsibility for the whole cottage. That leaves four aides to care for 84 patients, or 21 apiece, and that's far too many.



FRANCINE DAVIS, Psychiatric Aide
Snell Cottage, Fairview Hospital

I would tell the Board of Directors we are understaffed on Snell. For instance, there are six aides including the charge aide on swing shift. We have 90 small children, and that's a total of 15 per aide. We cannot teach them skills or how to get along with other children. About all we can do is keep them clean, comfortable and safe. We simply haven't got the time to do anything else.



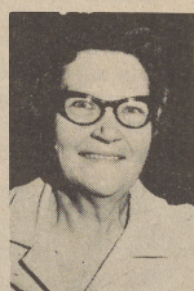
JOANNE EKSTRAND, Psychiatric Aide
Benson Cottage, Fairview Hospital

We are understaffed at Benson Cottage in terms of the care we would like to provide. Lack of adequate staff means we can't teach the children even basic self-help skills. We could, if we had more help. We could also provide personal care such as helping patients answer their mail, set their hair and so forth. There are so many little things we could do to make their lives more pleasant.



IDA WIMBERLY, Psychiatric Aide
Byrd Cottage, Fairview Hospital

I can only speak for Byrd Cottage, but I would tell the board we don't have enough help. We really can't provide the care we should give these kids because we just don't have the time to spend with them individually or in small groups. We barely get the necessary jobs done, and sometimes not even that. It's too bad, too, because they deserve more on account of their physical and mental handicaps.



MILDRED MARTIN, Psychiatric Aide
Kay Cottage, Fairview Hospital

I would tell them we have far too few aides on Kay Cottage at certain times. We have approximately 70 patients, and we should have at least five aides. But sometimes we have only three aides and a charge aide. If we had more staff we could break the children into smaller groups and teach them basic skills. It's next to impossible to teach a group of 17 or 18 mentally retarded children.



MARTHA LaFRANCE, Psychiatric Aide
Withycombe Cottage, Fairview Hospital

I would say that we don't have enough aides to care for the type of children we have on this cottage. We aren't able to do anything for the children except provide custodial care, yet we are expected to carry out special programs and teach them certain skills such as brushing their teeth and dressing themselves. It can't be done when we're responsible for watching a group as large as 24 mentally retarded children.

