

Inquiring Photographer

Should OSEA Support or Oppose Candidates?

(Asked at OSEA's Political Education Workshop in Portland)

ROSADELLE SUMMERS
Clerk

Children's Services Division

I'm much more concerned with the issues and political structure than I am with the candidates. I think it's more important for OSEA to get candidates to speak about the issues and make their position known than to support or oppose specific candidates. Once their position is known, state employees can make up their own minds about who they are going to support with their vote.



MARY McENTIRE

Registered Nurse
UO Medical School

I think we should. I would like to see OSEA actively support political candidates for state offices who have favorable views toward state employees. I have worked for political candidates and I know they appreciate the support. Such support can help both the candidate and the group that supports him. And isn't that really what our political system is all about?

LANNY SWERDLOW
Informational Representative
Fish Commission

Other non-profit organizations give a stamp of approval to candidates who support issues favorable to their membership. I think OSEA should poll all candidates for their views concerning state employees and make those views known to the membership. It should then print a list of those candidates who have expressed views favorable to state employees and give them a stamp of approval.



ADELL HALL
Clerk

Employment Division

I think OSEA ought to support those candidates who would work to improve the employment relations and working conditions of state employees. The support could take different forms, such as financial support, physical help, or publicity. But if the Association is going to support candidates, it also should oppose candidates who are not favorable to state employees.

MET MOTT
Highway Maintenance
Highway Division

I think it's a good idea for state employees and their organization to get interested and involved in political activity. But supporting or opposing political candidates should be approached with caution. For instance, I don't think the Association should oppose any candidate. It should take the positive approach and actively support candidates who merit state employee support.



SHARON SMITH
Manpower Specialist
Employment Division

I definitely think it should. State employees—and all public employees for that matter—have been virtually disenfranchised. Much of it has been imposed upon them, but most of it is self-imposed because they just haven't involved themselves in the political process. I think that actively supporting or opposing candidates would be an excellent way of getting involved in our political system.

From The Mailbox



Where's the Petition?

To the Editor:

I have been following with great interest the series of articles in the OSEA News relative to the domestic worker classification and how employees working in that classification have been discriminated against because they are women.

Some time ago I signed a petition which asked the Personnel Division to reclassify domestic workers to custodial workers. Can you tell me how many employees signed the petition and where it is now?

Kathy Wallace
Corvallis Chapter 29
Corvallis

Editor's Note: A total of 100 employees classified as domestic workers signed the petition. They are employed by Oregon State University, Oregon College of Education, University of Oregon, Southern Oregon College, Oregon Technical Institute and Eastern Oregon College.

Staff member John M. Schoonover has turned the petition over to William G. Hughes, administrator of the Personnel Division, along with a letter requesting that the employees be reclassified from domestic worker to custodial worker. For a detailed account, see story elsewhere in this issue.

Members Thank Pat Gregory For 25 Years of OSEA Activity

The members of Roseburg Chapter 2 held a retirement party last month to thank a man who has been actively involved in OSEA on the chapter, district and state levels for the past 25 years.

More than 50 persons gathered in the American Legion hall in Roseburg to share dinner with Pat Gregory and his wife, Gladys. He recently ended a 30 year career with the Highway Division.

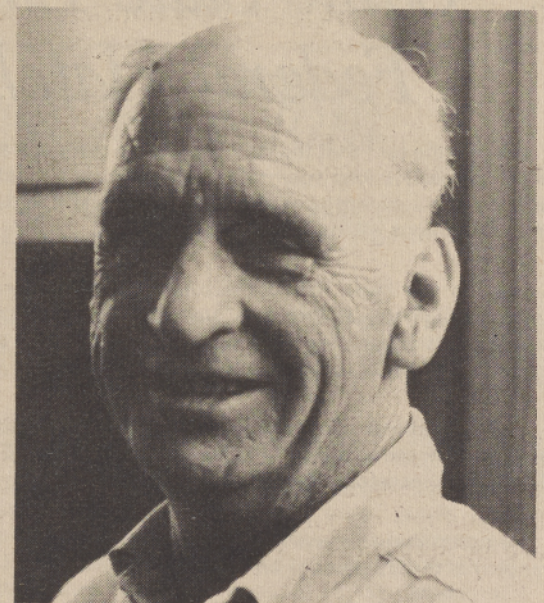
"I haven't the foggiest idea of how many times I've been president and vice-president of Chapter 2, but it's been a hell of a lot of times," he said as he reminisced about the past.

"I remember one time I missed a chapter meeting and at the next meeting learned I had been elected president again," he said, laughing as he told of the incident.

Gregory has served on OSEA's Board of Directors as director of District Three and as the last director of its Law and Legislation Committee. He has attended every General Council for the past 23 years as a delegate. To hear him talk is to hear a capsule history of the Association and its accomplishments over the years.

"There's no question about the improvement that has been made in our lobbying efforts over the years," he said. "More and more of our bills are being introduced and passed by the legislature."

"It used to be that our lobbyists would try to get bills introduced and legislators would ask how many state employees they represented. They don't do that anymore. OSEA is known and respected in the halls of the legislature."



PAT GREGORY

Gregory thinks the Association's new political action program will prove to be "a milestone."

"It could make OSEA a politically potent group. It also can be an excellent way to get more politicians to listen to us and support us when they get to the legislature," he said.

"But political action is like everything else attempted by OSEA over the years. It will only work if the membership gets behind it and supports it," he warned.