Interest Earned on Retirement Fund Called 'The Highest Ever'

Interest earnings on the Public Employes' Retirement System fund for 1972 were made public by PERS Dirctor James L. McGoffin in an interview with The OSEA News recently.

He said the earnings on the fund are the highest ever reported by the PERS.

McGoffin said the "fixed" portion of the fund, which is invested primarily in long-term bonds and mortgages, earned 7.46 per cent for the year.

The "variable annuity" portion of the fund, which is invested primarily in common stocks and short term notes, earned a whopping 13.87 per cent.

In 1971, the fixed account earned 6.27 and the variable account earned 9.47 per cent.

McGoffin said the PERS will soon send to all employers an individual statement for each member of the retirement system. The statements, which will be distributed to state employes by their agency, are self-explanatory and will enable each member to keep an accurate account of his money in the retirement fund.

Specific information regarding the funds may be obtained by writing the Public Employes' Retirement System, 1400 S.W. Fifth Ave., Portland, Oregon, 97201.

OSEA Says Personnel Division Memo on Night Pay Erroneous

OSEA says an interpretation issued recently by the Personnel Division regarding employe eligibility for night shift differential pay is in error.

In a memorandum to all state agencies, William G. Hughes, division administrator, said all employes paid in salary range 19 or above are not eligible for the night shift differential pay.

Everett B. Stiles, OSEA's assistant executive secretary, says that is not correct. He pointed out the fact that the contract between OSEA and the Executive Department which established night shift pay says all employes who are eligible for overtime pay qualify for shift differential pay.

Personnel Division rule 34-300 says some employes paid in salary range 19 or higher may be paid overtime. Those who are also qualify for night shift differential pay, Stiles said.

Bill Would Limit Employe Salaries

A bill prohibiting any state employe from being paid more than $20,000 a year has been introduced into the 1973 legislature by Sen. Edward Fadeley (D-Eugene).

It was sent to the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee by Senate President Jason Boe (D-Reedsport).

"No official or employe of the State of Oregon shall be paid an annual rate of $20,000 or more after June 30, 1973, without prior approval of the salary rate by a joint committee of four members of the House and three members of the Senate," the bill says.

It further states that "no job shall be created and no existing job shall be changed within the employment of the state without prior approval of the committee" outlined above.

There are approximately 335 classified employes who are paid $20,000 or more a year, and some 150 unclassified employes in that salary bracket.

OSEA Asks Welfare To Resume Talks

OSEA has offered to resume contract negotiations with the Public Welfare Division.

The offer was made by Field Representative Paul R. Ward at the conclusion of a hearing held by the Public Employe Relations Board on the Association's complaint that the agency failed to bargain in good faith.

Talks broke off in January when the agency *refused to continue negotiations until OSEA agreed to its proposed list of excluded positions.*

The offer to resume negotiations was made to the Public Welfare Division in writing on March 8. As of March 22 no reply had been received.

Still a Member? Better Make Sure

All OSEA members who have stopped receiving mail from the Association, including The OSEA News, have been asked by Director of Membership Beth Mason to examine their check stubs to make sure they are still members.

For the past two months, she said, a number of Association members have been dropped from membership rolls without their knowledge because their payroll clerk unexplainably dropped their payroll deduction of dues even though they did not resign from OSEA.

Many of them contacted by OSEA headquarters were surprised to learn they had been dropped from the Association's membership rolls. Agency payroll clerks and chapter officers have been alerted to the problem.

Mrs. Mason also suggested that members inspect their check stubs for other withholding items, such as federal and state taxes, social security and insurance payments. "Catching an error early could prevent a lot of problems later," she said.

Districts 1 and 8 Get New Officers

Two of OSEA's assistant district directors who recently resigned their positions have been replaced.

Chapter presidents in District One elected David D. Saunders, president of Beaver Chapter 31 in Portland, to the office vacated by Jackie Setti, president of Viking Chapter 81. Saunders is employed by the Children's Services Division.

In District Eight, Leroy Swartout, former president of Astoria Chapter 8, was elected by the chapter presidents to replace Ray Karpen as assistant director of the district. Swartout is employed by the Highway Division.

Bill Authorizes Ways and Means To OK Reclassification Actions

Personnel actions requesting reclassifications and creation of new positions which have been piling up since last December will be acted upon as soon as SB 248 is passed by the House of Representatives.

They have not been acted upon because of a policy adopted by the Ways and Means Committee during the last legislative session. That policy says all requests for reclassifications and new positions must be approved by the Emergency Board before they can be implemented. That body hasn't met since last December and won't meet again until the current session adjourns.

SB 248, introduced by the Ways and Means Committee, gives that powerful group of legislators authority to approve the requests. The bill contains an OSEA amendment to allow the personnel actions to be retroactive "to the date prescribed by the Personnel Division."

The bill has been passed by the Senate and is now before the House where quick action is expected.