



Nevada Training Program Includes Visit to OSEA

Doris Sitterson, a new field representative for the State of Nevada Employees Association, visited Assistant Executive Secretary Everett B. Stiles and other members of the OSEA headquarters staff recently as part of a six-week training program she will complete before starting her new job. She spent three days in Salem observing OSEA's operations and being briefed by various members of its staff. Mrs. Sitterson recently moved to Nevada from North Carolina, where she was an 11-year state employee and active in the North Carolina State Employees Association. After completing her training, she will represent state workers in the southern half of Nevada.

OSEA Opposes Higher Ed Closures If Employees Lose Pay or Benefits

OSEA will oppose any plan to close higher education institutions over the Christmas holidays which would cause employees to lose pay or benefits.

That decision was made by the Association's Board of Directors at its meeting in Salem December 15.

Earlier this month OSEA was notified by the chancellor's office that several schools planned to shut down on the Mondays before Christmas and New Year's day because of the energy shortage.

Employees would be paid for one day in accordance with Gov. Tom McCall's directive that agencies and institutions give employees a day off with pay either before Christmas or New Year's day.

The Association was told employees would have to use accrued vacation leave or compensatory time to cover themselves for the other day. Those who did not have vacation leave of comp time on the books would be docked a day's pay.

Apparently the proposed closure would not apply to all higher education institutions. The decision of whether or not to shut down both days was left up to the president of each school.

OSEA received a number of complaints from

employees who do not have any accrued vacation leave or compensatory time on the books expressing outrage at being forced to lose a day's pay.

Other employees said they didn't think they should be forced to use vacation leave or comp time, and some complained that the proposal discriminated against classified employees because faculty and top administrators would not suffer a loss of pay or a reduction of their fringe benefits.

"OSEA recognizes and supports the stated objectives of the higher education institutions to conserve energy, but it is our position that no employee who normally would work on December 31 should be required to, in effect, underwrite the institution's program by suffering loss of pay or benefits on account of a campus closure," OSEA's Board of Directors said in a motion outlining its position on the matter.

"The staff is directed to advise the administration of each institution of this position, and to further advise those institutions that intend to go ahead with the proposed closure that OSEA intends to take legal action in any case where an employee is forced to suffer loss of pay or benefits on account of the institution's action."

Portland, Salem Commuter Service Study Underway

Gov. Tom McCall has directed a feasibility study of beginning a commuter bus service to transport state employees who commute to work between Salem and Portland.

He sent surveys to all agency heads asking them to poll employees who live in one city and work in the other.

Buses would pick up employees in Portland and Salem at strategic points, transport them to or near their places of work by 8:00 a.m., and depart for the original pickup points after 5:00 p.m.

Cost of the service would be paid by user fees. Estimates are that a round trip would cost between \$2 and \$3 per rider.

The Mass Transit Division will evaluate the surveys to see if the service is feasible as a fuel saving measure.

A study done two years ago estimated there are more than 150 state employees who commute daily between the two cities.

UO Music School Records 100% OSEA Membership for 2nd Year

For the second consecutive year, all resident faculty members and administrators of the School of Music at the University of Oregon are members of OSEA.

In addition, one teaching assistant working toward a doctor's degree and two retired faculty members have joined the Association. "The teaching assistant joined on her own before we had a chance to ask her because she believes employees should belong to a labor organization," Robert Nye, OSEA's former director of academic and unclassified services, said.

All are members of UO Faculty Chapter 77.

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From The Mailbox



Question and Answer

To the Editor:

I would like OSEA's Inquiring Photographer to ask some state employees the question, "Do you think husband and wife should work for the same state agency?"

My answer to the question is "no, especially when both are supervisors. That situation is not in the best interest of employees."

Polly M. Skeie
Coos Bay Chapter 65
Langlois

Editor's Note: Please see the Inquiring Photographer column on page 11.

Thanks for the Help

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jack Schoonover, our OSEA staff representative, for his efforts in helping us obtain our back call-in pay.

We appreciate the way in which Jack and his associates at headquarters handled the situation and his sympathy for our cause.

Ed Holtgrave
Harold Johnson
George Knox
Ray Martin
Lou Morgan
Dick Osborn
Al Wolber
Siskiyou Chapter 84
Ashland

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