

Three OSEA leaders urge

Membership participation

By PAT O'CONNOR
District 3 Director

What is an OSEA member?

A person who is unselfish and willing to work for the benefit of public employes. Someone who will work for the betterment of all. They should be willing to give not just time, but effort to the equality of all public employes in the Association.

You ask yourselves "what is the Association?" The answer is simple. It's the membership. Without members we wouldn't have an Association. Representation has become part of the American way of life. We need it!

But it's a shame that so few of so many are active. Next question: What is active?

It's attending chapter meetings, writing resolutions, adding input and ideas, but most of all, it's seeing that your elected officers are representing you. Staff can't do it all and we don't always know what you want.

When your next chapter meeting rolls around, turn off the TV and attend. Who knows, you might just enjoy them.

By MARY LASKI
President
UOHSC Chapt. 41

As with the certainty of death and taxes . . . the time is drawing near for the elections of district directors, assistant district directors, chapter officers and delegates to General Council.

Once the elections are over, it is too late to ask:

- Will my district director vote for the membership or does he or she take the easy way out in order not to be unpopular with other Board members?

- Will he or she make up his or her own mind on important issues or be directly guided by others?

- Will he or she be conveniently unable to attend Board meetings when there is a likely prospect of controversy and would have to stand up and be counted?

- Will my assistant district director be available to fill in for the district director when legitimate circumstances prevent him or her from attending the Board meetings?

- Will my delegate to General Council go with an open and fair mind and give due consideration to all resolutions presented? Or will he or she let politics rear its ugly head and prevent him or her from voting with the interest of membership in mind?

DO YOU REALIZE THAT RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT GENERAL COUNCIL AFFECT ALL AREAS OF OUR UNION . . . DIRECTS THE CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, CHANGES IN ASSOCIATION PROCEDURES AND POLICIES AND GIVES DIRECT GUIDANCE IN OUR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS?

- Will my chapter officers attend Board meetings in order to be better informed and keep the membership informed? This is one of the most important functions of chapter officers.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE WHERE THE DECISIONS ARE MADE WHICH AFFECT EACH AND EVERY MEMBER.

The election of officers in all levels, state, district and chapter should be taken as a serious obligation of all members. We must insist that our elected officers are sensitive to the membership and the only place when we can show them our concerns is at the ballot boxes.

Now that I have asked all the above questions of others, I guess the most important question is yet to be asked . . . and that is the one that I, as a member, must ask myself. Will I as a member show enough concern for our Union to get involved. Membership needs to start taking an active part in our Union and not leave it in the hands of a few. Let's all give more than just our monthly dues.

By JANE MARTIN
Job Representative
SE Portland AFS

There are far too many state employes who are left on the outside looking in. This simply is because you fail to speak out.

Many of us are being taken for granted because we never say no. "I don't want to be branded a troublemaker and never get ahead." That old line is washed out. For years that one sentence has been like an axe over our heads. Only because we allowed it to happen.

How many times have you walked out of your supervisor's office about to scream or burst into tears because you've been assigned additional duties along with the overload you already have?

Being a member of OSEA or a fair share payer is not enough. Participation is what it takes. Why sit back and say you're satisfied when deep inside you know things won't get better. With your voice in action we can unite and be strong. Not troublemakers, just respected workers.

Attend district meetings, speak out, and stop pretending you're not involved. Support and be supported!

If you aren't effected yet, don't fool yourself. Your turn is coming sooner or later, so why not do something about it now? Protect yourself against abuse. Mental stress can be fatal.

OSEA has over 1,000 members in Chapter 31 alone, but what good are they without participation. Maybe 600 of those members don't even take time to read the monthly newspaper.

If I were a member of the rank and file, I'd laugh at you myself, because I know how easy it is for management to back you into a corner and dare you to move.

"United we stand and divided we fall." That's more realistic than we seem to be able to accept. Why worry about stepping on toes in administration when they're walking up and down your back every day? Be honest with yourself. You're the only one who's being fooled. Again, SUPPORT and be SUPPORTED.

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baby sitting guide

this page touches on only a few of the many important matters that a person has to know if he wants to take good care of children.

at the start of any baby sitting job, always ask the following information:

1. place, address and telephone number where parents can be reached.
2. location of the nearest fire alarm box.
3. names and ages of the children you are watching.
4. special instructions for the care of the children.

in case of emergencies:

1. telephone number of fire department _____
2. telephone number of police _____
3. name and number of family doctor _____
4. name and number of close neighbor _____

5. name and address and telephone number of close relative _____
6. our house address _____

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