

Association Progress

HICKS EPTON, '32law, Wewoka attorney, was elected president of the University of Oklahoma Association at the annual Commencement meeting of the Executive Board June 5 and took office as successor to Charles B. Memminger, '14, '33law.

Mr. Epton was elected to the Executive Board a year ago, as representative from District Four. He has headed the board's membership committee during the last year, and is a Life Member of the association. Mrs. Epton is the former Thelma Pate, '32.

Other new officers of the association elected by the board are Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23, Oklahoma City, advanced from second vice president to first vice president; W. L. Eagleton, '14, '19law, Tulsa attorney, elected second vice president; J. C. Karcher, '16, Dallas, Texas, re-elected honorary vice president for Texas, and Elaine Boylan, '19, Dallas, honorary secretary for Texas.

Ted Beaird, '21, was re-elected executive secretary of the association. Roscoe Cate, '26, continues as editor-manager of *Sooner Magazine*.

Report of the election committee on results of the annual mail ballot for choice of five new Executive Board members to serve three-year terms was accepted and the new members were seated.

The new board members are:

Members-at-large: Cy Ellinger, '26, Purcell banker; and Elmer Fraker, '20, '38ma, senior high school principal at Chickasha. Both are chairmen of the County Advisory Councils in their counties.

District Three—O. Fisher Muldrow, '22 ex, assistant to the division manager of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, Ardmore, and chairman of the Carter County Advisory Council.

District Six—Dr. John B. Miles, '26, '27 med, physician at Anadarko and chairman of the Caddo County Advisory Council.

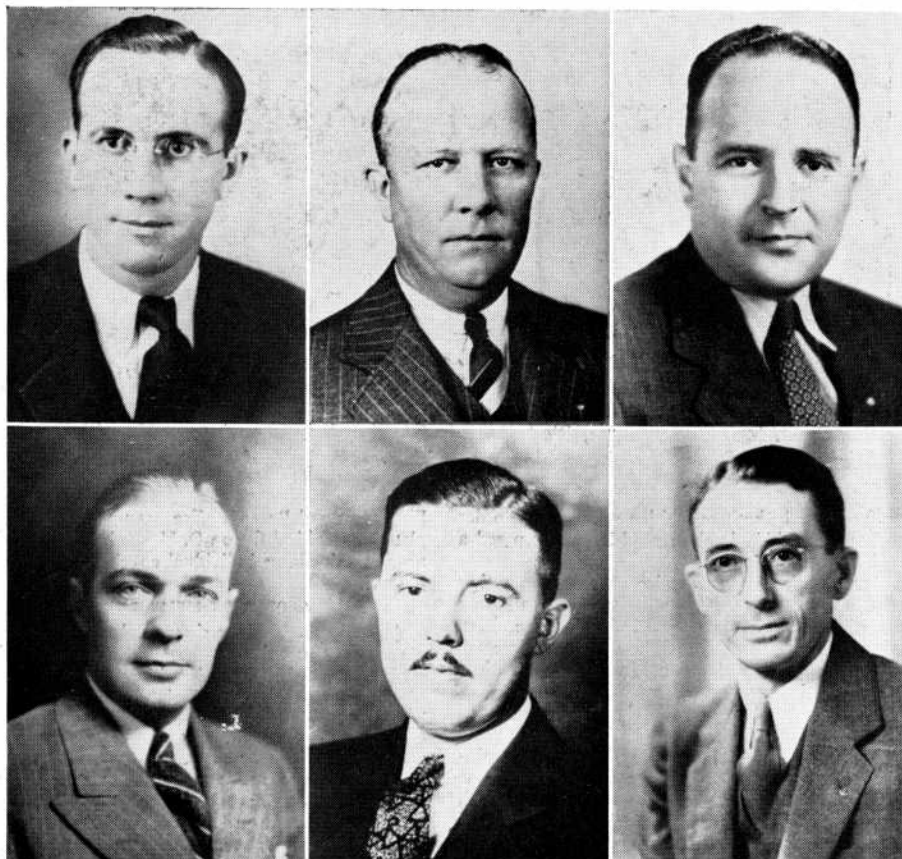
District Eight—Carl S. Ford, '19, geologist at Enid.

The two new members-at-large of the board succeed Mrs. Florence Monnet McKown, '22, Oklahoma City, and Mr. Eagleton.

In District Three, Mr. Muldrow succeeds Freeman Galt, '17ex, Oklahoma City; and in District Six Dr. Miles succeeds H. Merle Woods, '17, El Reno. In District Eight, Mr. Ford fills a position that was held by State Senator Charles B. Duffy, '22law, of Ponca City until his resignation before the last session of the Legislature.

Board members are elected for three-year terms and are not eligible to succeed themselves.

Tentative budget of the association for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1939,



The new alumni president and five new members of the Executive Board. Top row, left to right: Hicks Epton, alumni president; Fisher Muldrow and Cy Ellinger, members-at-large of the Executive Board. Lower row: Carl Ford, Dr. John B. Miles and Elmer Fraker, district representatives on the board.

was presented to the board by the executive secretary and approved. Mr. Beaird explained that the association's budget had been completely separated from the budget of the Graduate Placement and Records Bureau which is a division of the University and is state supported.

The two units work together, but have separate budgets and separate personnel.

In connection with the budget, the board authorized application of current earnings of the Life Membership Trust Fund to association expenses for the present year. This now amounts to approximately \$700 a year, and is a regular item in the budget.

The board appointed a committee to work out final details for co-operation in a project for manufacture of a commemorative University of Oklahoma dinner plate by an English company which has done similar work for a large number of colleges and universities. The plate, containing an original etching of the University Administration Building and part of the Oval in the center, probably will be ready for display by the 1939 Homecoming.

The board also approved a plan for encouraging senior students in the University to take out Life Memberships in the association before graduation.

Six nominees were chosen for the three alumni representative positions on the University Athletic Council. The names were submitted to the president of the University, who makes the appointments.

Board members and association officers present were Charles B. Memminger, Atoka; Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, Oklahoma City; Fisher Muldrow, Ardmore; Norman Brillhart, Madill; W. L. Eagleton, Tulsa; Dr. John B. Miles, Anadarko; Elmer Fraker, Chickasha; Hicks Epton, Wewoka; Cy Ellinger, Purcell, and W. Max Chambers, Okmulgee.

President Memminger submitted the following annual report on activities of the association during the last year:

To the members of the Executive Board, University of Oklahoma Association:

You elected me as president of your association one year ago and were kind enough not to require any statement or promise as to what would or could be done, or even attempted. Perhaps you would



The Executive Board meeting on Commencement day. Left to right: Elmer Fraker, Buff Burtis, Cy Ellinger, W. Max Chambers, Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, Mrs. Florence Monnet McKown, Ted Beaird, Charles B. Memminger, Harold Reedy, Hicks Epton, Fisher Muldrow, Norman Brillhart, W. L. Eagleton, Dr. John B. Miles.

prefer not to be bothered with a report but in order to have something in the record I have prepared a review of the past year.

Our association is a service organization rather than one to dictate. Through the county advisory councils, our office force and individual members, all working because of a sincere unselfish interest, we develop increased interest in higher education, as well as in our particular Alma Mater. We encourage outstanding high school graduates to attend their own state university. Our office keeps alumni records up to date. It helps the University to maintain a Teachers Placement Bureau. We are the one official organization to keep alumni in contact with the University and its new services. We act as a clearing house for alumni communication. We sponsor alumni gatherings such as reunions, homecoming and local meetings, as well as O. U. banquets at many conventions. We maintain headquarters where returning alumni are always welcome. We assist in the general University publicity program and in presenting University needs to the individual members of the Legislature and to the general public.

THE SOONER MAGAZINE

Without our official publication, *The Sooner Magazine*, we could not maintain interest in our association. It is the real contact we each have with the other alumni. We are fortunate in having Roscoe Cate as editor of our *Sooner Magazine*. This magazine, now in its tenth year, publishes about twice as many pages per year as the average alumni magazine. During the past year, with authority of this board, it became a full twelve month publication. Last year Roscoe won national recognition among alumni magazines and will most likely repeat this year when announcements are made. The magazine is averaging over two hundred fifty personal items each month. A very popular new feature was started last summer. The August issue contained a well worked out Law Alumni Directory. Many extra individual copies were sold and that issue resulted in many new association memberships. It is planned to make each August issue a directory issue, a different school being used each summer. This August it will be for the Medical School and possibly include the nurses. Roscoe, with helpful suggestions from board members, has improved the magazine each year, and also keeps a careful eye on the financial side of it. The gross advertising revenue probably will fall slightly this fiscal year, due to lack of political advertising, but the loss was offset by mailing without enclosing the magazine in an envelope. During the past year the magazine office, in co-operation with the graduate

Placement and Records office, set up the first complete biographical file on O. U. graduates. This file now contains large individual envelopes for 15,700 alumni.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Annual memberships show a nice increase over a year ago and the number of life memberships increased probably more than in any year since Life Memberships were established. The number of paying Life Memberships increased from two hundred twenty-eight to two hundred seventy-one and counting husbands and wives we now have three hundred fifty-six Life Members. Our goal should be for not less than a fifty increase each year. These memberships are establishing an endowment fund and since only the income is available for expenses, we will some day have a truly independent association.

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ELECTION

During the past year the members of the Association Executive Board have given splendid co-operation. The terms of Mrs. Florence Monnet McKown, W. L. Eagleton, Freeman Galt, H. Merle Woods and Charles B. Duffy expire at this time. Each of these loyal Sooners was elected to the Board three years ago and they have been valuable members. Under our constitution they cannot succeed themselves. Senator Duffy resigned from the Board last December when he was assured the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the vacancy was not filled.

Complying with the constitution, on March 10 I appointed a nominating committee by selecting fifteen alumni representing a wide range of classes and schools of the University. This committee met and nominated those whose names appeared on the ballots. As instructed by the board, the official ballot was printed in the April and May issues of *Sooner Magazine* and in the Quarterly Alumni News Issue of the University of Oklahoma Bulletin which went to more than 17,000 graduates, and the ballot was not mailed to the individual members as in prior years. The ballots returned were about the usual number, which is not as many as we should have. Mrs. Naomi Howard, secretary to Dean Reaves and Dean Meacham, who has been the official tabulator for ten or more years was again appointed to count the ballots. Her report is ready for this meeting.

While several years ago standing committees became out of style in our organization I felt with the three-year term of membership on the board more individual interest and better results could now be obtained by having certain committees. With your permission I appointed several standing committees. I recommend the continuance of these committees. There is very little for some of them to do but much

for others and some of them were very active this past year. They give some board members, who have the desire and time to work, a better opportunity to assist in broadening our work.

Our organization has a peculiar position to fill. It has neither the responsibility, the authority, power nor desire to dictate directly or indirectly the operation of either the state government or the University and its many related functions, departments and adjuncts. Yet, as individuals those eligible to belong to our association are exercising more control and influence in our state than do the members of any other group and none are more interested in the present and future operation and development of the University than are the active members of our association.

Our organization should be slow to engage in a fight but should be loaded and prepared to open up and make anyone regret having invited a fight if it becomes necessary to enter into one. Our group is powerful and for that reason should be cautious about starting anything. At one time during the past year it began to look as though the time had come for our organization to take the lead in an open fight and when the call was issued for this board to meet I wasn't sure but that the meeting would be one which would declare war. At the same time, knowing the Governor and the University administration we felt there must have been some misunderstandings which could be cleared up. Those of us who attended the conferences were convinced a fight was not necessary and would be a mistake and damaging to all concerned. We found the lines of direct communication between the state and legislative leaders and the University had become crossed and some short circuits were making a lot of noise. A committee from your board with the fullest co-operation of the University administration and a friendly reception at the State Capitol was able to clear the line and re-establish the direct contact, which has since become more congenial. When that was done we stepped aside but remained available and ready, if and when needed.

Some have been kind enough to pass complimentary remarks about the way the situation was handled. I want it clearly understood that the situation was not handled by one person. This board gave one hundred per cent support and co-operation, your special committee functioned wonderfully and without the careful attention, sincere interest, and long hours of extra work on the part of our secretary, Ted Beaird, the job could not have been taken care of successfully. Likewise, without the willingness of the University officials and the governor to accept our assistance no good could have been accomplished.

And I especially want to add a word for those who had become convinced the situation had developed to a point where it seemed necessary for our Association to engage in an open fight. When this board decided on a different course those who had been more outspoken in favor of starting a fight came to me with their assurance that their guns and ammunition would be kept silent until I told them to open up. We should all appreciate that action because when one has become convinced it is time to start fireworks one's human nature makes it difficult to keep quiet. We all had the opportunity to make the headlines but this was a situation where keeping quiet accomplished the most good. The fact that our organization made no attempt to take charge of nor dictate to any one but merely assisted has, from reports from over the state, placed our association favorably before the public.

We have always had a board of level-headed, unselfish members who have prevented our association from being used politically or otherwise for selfish interests. Our association is a service organization and has been of real value to our state and our University in the past and will continue to serve well in the future.

I appreciate having been given the opportunity and the honor of serving the association as its president during the past year, but regret that I was not able to give to it as much time as the job deserved. It took an efficient secretary on the job to make possible a claim for a good year. We have had such a secretary.