The President's Page

O ver a period of 365 days, an amazing amount of grist comes to the mill of the National Guard Association headquarters in Washington, D.C. Not only does the Association handle its own problems or considerations involving general policy, appropriations, legislation, membership, circulation and finance. Seemingly, there is never a moment that some matter does not deserve discussion or consideration. So far as is humanly possible, the membership is advised of developments through The National Guardman—the official publication of the Association. Our ability to do this is due in large part to the number of pages of The National Guardman. Published by the Board of Directors of The National Guardman Publishing Company, becomes a necessity if its goals are to be achieved. The Guardman’s mission is not only to inform, entertain, but to educate and stimulate the reader, who is the backbone of any association.

But days of fiscal 1949 remaining, it is natural to reflect on those matters which have arisen in this fiscal year, and to see what we have been able to accomplish in the way of service in fiscal 1949. Not to do so would be to fail the membership. Through this publication, the individual member in the field, the Guard unit in each State and in foreign countries, can see and hear about the Association. The Guardman’s mission is not only to inform, entertain, but to educate and stimulate the reader, who is the backbone of any association.

With the commencement of the field training period, it would be well for the National Guard to give more than passing thought to the membership of the Association and circulation of The National Guardman. The first ten months of the current fiscal year witnessed a vast improvement in both fields. During fiscal 1948, membership was a difficult matter owing to the fact that the names of officers and warrant officers were not registered. As a result, the officers were not notified of the Association’s activities or the need for increased membership. The situation which prevailed in fiscal 1948 prevailed in fiscal 1949, for the number of Federalized officers and warrant officers increased from 24,874 to 28,675 and continues to increase daily. It will, no doubt, do so until the end of this current fiscal year.

In connection with The National Guardman, the first ten months of the current fiscal year saw even greater progress than was made in membership. On 30 June 1948, the circulation of the publication stood at 30,053. This was considered exceptional in view of the fact that the publication had been in existence only ten months. By 30 April 1949, the circulation had risen to 65,226, an increase of 27,173. Should the rate of increase be maintained, it may be possible to pass the 70,000 mark by the time this issue reaches you. For a publication that has been in existence for only 22 months, this is quite an accomplishment.

While there may be a tendency to pat ourselves on the back for rather significant accomplishments in the fields of legislation, public relations, organization, membership, circulation and finance, nevertheless sober reflection does not reveal a situation that a better job could be done and that our achievements in these fields during fiscal 1950 should be on a par with those of fiscal 1949. It is during the field training period that the membership of the Association and circulation can be conserved most effectively and we urge that the Adjutant General, Commanding Generals and Commanding Officers take advantage of this period to enroll in the Association every Federally recognized officer and warrant officer and for every unit of the National Guard to enter its subscription for at least 15 copies of The National Guardman.