

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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EMS Office Waivers Requirement

The Office of Emergency Medical Services of the N.C. Department of Human Resources is waiving a requirement that on or after January 1, 1976, every ambulance on an emergency mission be staffed by at least one certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) who has been trained in a program approved by the Office of EMS. The waiver, which was announced by OEMS Chief Jim Page, is subject to approval by the Medical Care Commission at its March meeting.

Page feels that the existence of the January 1, 1976, deadline has been a threat to volunteer services and has inspired an array of letter-writing campaigns among some of the volunteer groups.

The 1973 EMS Act calls for the upgrading of ambulance attendants to the level of EMT by taking at least 71 hours of instruction, plus 10 or more additional hours of emergency room training.

"I'm willing to bet that the volunteers will show their

concern for skill and patient care without the oppressive insult of a deadline hanging over their heads," said Page.

He continued by saying, "Forty-one percent of North Carolina's ambulance service is provided by unpaid members of volunteer rescue squads and ambulance services, and 57 percent of the ambulance attendants thus far trained in the program have been volunteers."

An alternative for educationally disadvantaged members is being considered, but it must be approved by the Medical Care Commission. "If approved," said Page, "these members may complete the 81-hour training program and be certified as ambulance attendants but not EMTs."

They may also take the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care course which entitles them to certification as ambulance attendants, but not as EMTs."



MOVE 'ER OUT — After a much longed for wait, construction has finally been completed on the new Hertford courthouse annex. Last week, workers moved out temporary housing, office headquarters and equipment.



NEW QUARTERS — Some county and town employees such as Mrs. Jimmy Godwin, right, have moved their offices to the recently completed courthouse annex facing Front St.

Citizens Question Proposed Amendment For Equal Rights

By KATHY NEWBERN
The North Carolina General Assembly is facing an issue which is controversial, emotional and to a large number of people confusing. The issue is the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. The amendment to the U.S. Constitution needs approval from 38 states to become law and at present 33 states have ratified it.

Many citizens throughout North Carolina are asking, "What is the Equal Rights Amendment?" It's wording is brief and sounds simple enough. It reads, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." But what area citizens want to know is what it really means.

People throughout North Carolina want to know the answers to some good questions. Will the ERA mean women must be drafted? What about alimony and child support? Will the right to privacy remain? How will the ERA affect homemakers? These are but a few of the areas of concern.

Concerning the draft, the ERA will mean equal responsibilities as well as

equal rights. Under the present volunteer system, all military enlistment standards would have to apply equally to men and women. Sex alone could not be a factor to determine a person's fitness to serve. All women would not be drafted any more than all men have ever been drafted and all women would not serve in combat. Almost nine out of ten service jobs are non-combat. Many of these jobs are similar to those working women now hold. The ERA will insure the same enlistment standards and military benefits for men and women. Volunteer standards at present are higher for women than men. Only female volunteers must have a high school diploma.

Some men will readily point out that the ERA would be advantageous for them. Presently, some states assume that the husband and father should automatically carry the entire burden of alimony and child support simply because he is a man. Under the ERA, alimony will be allowed but the income of each person will be considered. This is already the case in many states.

woman to take a job outside the home just as no law can require men and women to contribute equally to the family income.

The question of privacy is a heated one. But under the ERA, men and women would not be required to use the same public restrooms and public sleeping quarters. Equality does not mean sameness, and the ERA will not require men and women to be regarded as identical.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment is not new. It was first introduced into Congress in 1923. The effect of the amendment has been the subject of thorough investigation and much debate. If passed, the proposed ERA would take effect two years after it is ratified by the necessary 38 states.

After completing a brief telephone survey to homes in Perquimans County, it appears that the ERA is something that a majority of the local residents are not familiar with or uninterested in. Responses varied and it should be noted that this survey is not necessarily conclusive. The survey was made in the afternoon and the majority of the

responses were from women. Some responses to the question, "Are you in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment?" were:

"Off the top of my head, I would say yes, although I am really not familiar with the amendment."

"I wouldn't vote either way."

"I'm not familiar with it. We are for equal rights. I certainly hope the amendment will pass."

"Yes, as far as I know."

"I'm against it. If a woman has a husband working and she has children, her place is in the home. Not out working."

"Yes, I'm for it!"

"If women are going to be drafted to fight in combat zones, no I am not in favor of it. I believe God made man the stronger and woman the weaker. However, if a woman does a man's job, she deserves the same pay. But we already have laws to this effect."

"We agree with it."

"I am in favor."

"I can't say right now."

"I am definitely for it."

This newspaper welcomes comments from the public on the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. The should be in the form of a letter to the editor.

Special Benefits Are Made Available For Unemployed

Jobless workers not entitled to unemployment insurance benefits in North Carolina may now qualify for special payments under a bill signed December 31 by President Ford.

Manager Mrs. Alice W. Bond of the Employment Security Commission here announced January 13, 1975 that her office is now taking claims for unemployment payments under the Special Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974, part of emergency legislation enacted by Congress in late December to provide aid for the nation's unemployed.

Said Mrs. Bond: "A significant portion of our labor force is not covered by unemployment insurance and the new bill will provide funds for unemployed persons who do not qualify for State payments."

"In November there were approximately 166,800 jobless workers in North Carolina and over 105,000 of this number were not entitled to unemployment insurance."

Not covered by State law are domestics in private households, farm workers,

and State and municipal government workers, but they may now qualify for federal payments.

Persons applying for unemployment benefits under the new bill should file their claims at the Employment Security Commission office and should bring with them:

— their social security numbers
— information on the amount of wages and salaries they earned in the past 52 weeks, and
— the names and addresses of their employers during the past 52 weeks.

"We do not have the wage and employment records of persons not covered by unemployment insurance, so the claimant must bring us this information so we can take his claim," according to Mrs. Bond.

The amount and duration of payments will be regulated by State law. The minimum payment in North Carolina is \$15 a week and the maximum payment, \$90 a week. Generally, a worker earning \$565 during the year preceding his claim may

qualify for the \$15 minimum and benefits increase as the worker's salaries and wages increase. Unemployed workers may draw benefits from 13 to 26 weeks.

Workers who have exhausted their regular State unemployment insurance payments and have a benefit year in progress will not be entitled to additional payments under the Special

Unemployment Assistance Act.

However, extended benefits of 13 additional weeks will "trigger in" when insured unemployed exceeds four percent for 13 consecutive weeks. At the present rate of joblessness, the Federal government expects extended benefits to become available in February, reports the ESC Manager.

Important Topics Face EMS Council

The Region "R" Emergency Medical Services Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. on January 31, 1975 at the Washington County Hospital, Plymouth, North Carolina.

Several important items are to be discussed. Bill Griswold, Regional Coordinator from the Albemarle Human Resources Development System urged on January 7, 1975 that all members attend.

"One of the items to be discussed is the matter of squad training standards," Griswold stated. According to Griswold, the 81-hour State training standard has been misunderstood by many. The 81-hour training and certification requirement, Griswold said, pertains only to those members in the squad who ride in the back of the ambulance and actually attend the patient. Much of the training is aimed at ensuring that this individual can attend to basic life support needs, can accurately describe the victims condition by radio to a physician, and can follow a physician's instructions.

"What we hope to get at this meeting is a consensus from rescue squads," Griswold said, "We would like to know how much training they feel they need." "We would also like to know if they feel there is a better way to conduct the training."

In addition to the training matter, Griswold stated that the Council would receive recommendations from the Equipment, Budget and Finance, Evaluation and Executive Committees for allocation of funds for equipment, chiefly communication equipment. "We still have squads who cannot communicate with hospitals," Griswold said.

When asked whether there was any connection between equipment and training, Griswold stated that the two could never be separated if one thought of Emergency Medical Services as a "System." "A system," said Griswold, "is the whole rather than one of the parts." In other words, if one is working to upgrade a system there isn't much use to try to provide equipment if you don't have the people who know how to use it. Also if you don't have the equipment, the training is not going to be of value. "What we are working for," said Griswold, "is more and better services and we will help and work with those who are also interested in this."

"We have a lot of squad members who are working to upgrade their training," said Griswold. "About 235 are taking the 81-hour Course and in the next phase we will be training other individuals who want the training such as Police and Fire Department personnel."

National Jaycee Week:

Local Jaycees Plan Activities

During the week of January 19-25, Jaycees all across the United States will be participating in national "Jaycee Week." The Perquimans County Jaycees will be participating in several projects during this week to improve the community and better themselves as individuals. The help and support of all citizens of Perquimans County is encouraged and will be greatly appreciated during this week of Jaycee activities. Following is the schedule of Jaycee events for the week.

SUNDAY: The Jaycees begin their creed with the words, "we believe in God." To support this belief, they will begin Jaycee Week by participating in a service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19. This service will be followed by a Prayer Breakfast at Owens Restaurant at 9 a.m. Chairman for these projects is Phil Purser.

MONDAY: Jaycees believe that all citizens should be informed and interested in all phases of local government. The Jaycees attempt to keep themselves as informed as possible and one means of achieving this is to attend local government meetings. Monday, Jan. 20, the Perquimans County Jaycees will visit the Perquimans County Commissioners meeting. Jaycee chairman of this project is Milton Long.

Also, the Jaycees like to promote the county whenever possible. Therefore, on Monday, Jan. 20, the local Jaycees will operate the Edenton radio station, WCDJ for most of the day. This will give the Jaycees an excellent opportunity to promote the county and Jaycee projects.

TUESDAY: Jelly Sale — The North Carolina Jaycees have accepted the responsibility of building a Burn Center in Goldsboro, N.C. To support this

project, Jaycees all across North Carolina will sell grape jelly during this week. The local Jaycees will participate in this project Tuesday, Jan. 21. Local chairman is William (Butch) Ward.

WEDNESDAY: Visitation to Gates County Jaycees — One of the many opportunities the local Jaycees have is that of visiting Jaycees in other communities. Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Perquimans County Jaycees will take a delegation of its members to visit the Gates County Jaycees under the guidance of this project chairman, Ray Ward.

THURSDAY: Award Night. Thursday night of Jaycee Week will be highlighted by the Awards Night Banquet. The Jaycees will host their wives, former members, town and county officials, the chamber of commerce and various other guests. Guest speaker for this evening will be Gus Tulloss, president of the North Carolina Jaycees. Jaycee individual awards will be given plus an award for Outstanding Young Educator, Outstanding Young Farmer and the Distinguished Service Award. Banquet Chairman is Bobby Harrell; OYE chairman — Ben Berry; OYE chairman Lee Brabble; and DSA chairman — Jimmy Winslow.

FRIDAY: On Friday, Jan. 24, the Perquimans County Jaycees, Jaycettes, and county fire departments will kick off "Operation Red Ball." Red ball is a stick-on window symbol free to every home in Perquimans County and Hertford. The red ball is to identify children or invalids in a home so that firemen can quickly evacuate these rooms first in case of fire. As a result, those participating in the red ball alert feel that if it can save the life of one person, then the project will be a total success. This success, however, can only be achieved with the cooperation and support of everyone in the county. These organizations ask that citizens place the red ball decals in children or invalids' bedroom window on the left hand corner and also the upper left corner of the front door of the house. This Jaycee project chairman is Ed Nixon.

SATURDAY: The Jaycees, like any other organization or business must have money to operate and carry out different projects during the year. To raise money at this time, the Jaycees will hold an auction at Harris Shopping Center beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. Everyone is invited to attend. Jaycee chairman for this project is Lee Tunnell.

The Perquimans County Jaycees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people throughout the town and county for the tremendous help and support you have given us since our organization formed. We say, "Thank you to everyone."

Paper Drive Comes To Halt

The Perquimans County Marching Unit will not collect newspapers again until further notice due to the closed market for scrap paper. The unit would like to thank all those who have collected paper in the past, especially those who carried their papers to the storage house. The unit will collect again as soon as possible. Notice will be given at that time.

Landowners To Report

All landowners of ten or more acres are urged to cooperate with their County Officials by accurately reporting their 1974 crops and livestock in the 1975 Land Utilization Survey to be conducted in January. Landowners will make their reports directly to the township lists, or in counties where the survey is done by mail they will complete and return the questionnaires to the person responsible for collecting the data. The information reported by the landowner is confidential and is available to the landowner only. The law prohibits the use of such information for tax purposes.

"It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of accuracy in

the individual reports. The information is a yearly history of the activities, crops, livestock, etc., of the individual tracts. This information is invaluable in many ways to the individual landowner as in the instance of establishing future crop allotments, the possible allocation of fertilizer, gas, fuel oil and farm machinery and marketing quotas," advised Ed Wester of the Crop Reporting Service, N.C. Department of Agriculture. "It is also vitally important to government at local, state and national levels as a means of determining the needs for increases or decreases in production and in all areas of supply and marketing."