

GM Workers Set Record For Ideas

General Motors employees in the United States and Canada broke all records in 1965 for the Corporation's Suggestion Plan. Louis G. Seaton, vice president in charge of the Personnel Staff, announced.

Records were established in 1965 for the amounts of money paid for employee suggestions, the number of award winning suggestions and the number of maximum awards.

Employees were awarded \$9,216,977 for 182,873 suggestions which were adopted. This contrasts with the previous record year of 1964 when \$7,883,184 was awarded for 172,239 winning suggestions.

Attending to the quality of suggestions in 1965 is the fact that 85 maximum awards of \$5,000 each were made while another 847 awards were of \$1,000 or more. Both are records for the Suggestion Plan, Seaton said.

Since its establishment in 1942 GM employees have received awards in excess of \$72,200,000 for more than 1,500,000 suggestions adopted by the Corporation.

"This record-breaking performance is a good indication of the fundamental value of the suggestion system, rewarding as it does the employee who is willing to do fully his talents and energy and to think about his job," Seaton said.

The suggestions deal with nearly all phases of GM's operations and result in safety improvement, better quality, improved manufacturing and handling methods and in material savings.

Urgé State Retirees Sign For Medicare

Medicare amounts to a federal subsidy of health care costs, state employees and retirees 65 and over were told by mail in a letter from the Michigan Department of Civil Service urging their enrollment before the March 31 deadline.

State Personnel Director Franklin K. DeWald said the Civil Service sponsored health plan benefits would be revised for persons 65 and older July 1, 1966, to no longer provide benefits for expenses which are covered under either the hospital or medical parts of Medicare for persons eligible for them. The plan is underwritten by the Aetna Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn.

Rates to persons 65 and over for the State-sponsored plan will be reduced by at most 50 per cent, he said.

The State program provides 365 days of semi-private hospital care in full, similar to Blue Cross-Blue Shield, plus major medical benefits for outpatient costs such as doctors' visits, drugs, and home nursing.

Monthly retiree rates will be adjusted as follows: Retiree only—from \$11.52 to \$3.96; retiree and spouse—from \$24.98 to \$12.72; and full family—from \$31.95 to \$17.88. Active employees 65 and over receive a State contribution toward premium. The employee's costs will be reduced by more than 50 per cent.

Persons 65 and over will get the hospital portion of Medicare without charge, but will pay \$3 per month to the federal government for the medical coverage.

"You can see that even though enrollment in Medicare will cost you money, the overall cost of your health coverage will be substantially reduced," the letter said.

"This is due to an overall reduction in rates in the Civil Service sponsored health plan effective next July as well as the fact that Medicare amounts to a federal subsidy to your health care costs."

Livonia Man Wears 2 Hats

If this were a normal work week for Elmer Dunkak of Livonia, he would be sitting in an office here in Michigan fighting out more efficient methods and systems for a major automobile manufacturer.

But this isn't a normal work week for this methods and systems analyst in the Central Office of Ford Motor Company's Assembly Division at Dearborn. Instead, Dunkak is wearing his "other hat" as lieutenant commander of the Naval Air Reserve.

He is spending his annual two-week training duty period at the huge Naval Air Station in Alameda, Calif., as a member of Transport Squadron 732 attached to the Naval Air Station at Grose Ile.

He and his wife reside at 17882 Bell Creek Lane with their three children: Joelym D., 7; Meredith G., 5; and Paul B., 1.



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