ANNUAL Commencement Day meeting of the executive board of the University of Oklahoma Association was held May 7, nearly a month earlier than usual because of the University's new accelerated schedule of three full semesters per year.

Tom R. Benedum, '28law, Norman attorney, was unanimously elected president of the Association for the next year, succeeding Elmer L. Fraker, '20ba, '38ma, of Mangum. Other officers elected, also by unanimous action, are: George D. Hann, '36med, Ardmore school superintendent, first vice president; C. H. Fawks, '19ba, Oklahoma City, secretary of the State School Land Department, second vice president; and Roscoe Cate, '26ba, re-elected acting secretary.

T. M. Beaird, '21ba, executive secretary who went on leave of absence last August to become a captain in the Army Air Corps, continues on leave of absence.

Mr. Benedum is active in Norman civic affairs, is past president of the Norman Rotary Club, and has been serving as member-at-large on the alumni executive board since 1942.

Five new board members elected for three-year terms in the annual mail ballot were installed as follows: Vernon Cook, '26law, attorney, Oklahoma City, and Earle S. Porter, '11ba, '12ba, vice president of the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, Tulsa, both members-at-large; Dr. Roscoe Walker, '09ba, Pawhuska physician, representative from District One; Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, Norman newspaper publisher, District Five; and H. Merle Woods, '17ba, El Reno publisher, District Nine.

Two matters expected to have far-reaching effects on the alumni program were discussed at the meeting. One is the amendment of the association constitution to provide for allocating 20 percent of the $60.00 received for a life membership to the current operating fund, and 80 percent to the permanent O. U. Life Membership Trust Fund.

Vote on the amendment, which was conducted by mail ballot in late April in accordance with procedure prescribed in the association constitution, was very light but the margin in favor of the amendment was decisive. The vote was reported at the executive board meeting as follows: Yes, 53; No, 2. Although small in number, the ballots provided a cross-section of alumni opinion as they came in from association members in 10 different states.

Principal purposes of the change in the life member plan, as was explained in detail in the bulletin containing the ballot on the amendment which went to all Association members, are as follows: (1) to provide funds to pay the cost of sending Sooner Magazine to a new life member during the time that the installment payments are being received and until the investment in the permanent trust fund is earning interest to pay this cost; (2) to provide funds to make possible the employment of a full time field representative, whose duties would include, among other things, the securing of additional new life memberships by personal contacts.

The executive board, after general discussion, authorized a committee consisting of the outgoing president, the new president and the executive secretary to work out details of employing a field representative and putting the new plan into effect.

The other major change in the alumni program was the approval by the executive board of a recommendation by President Fraker for setting up a charter club plan for organization of local alumni clubs on a standard basis in various centers of alumni population.

The general plan is to issue an official charter for a club, either city or county-wide, upon petition from 12 or more members in good standing of the general Alumni Association. Detailed plans will be worked out in the near future and will be announced through Sooner Magazine.

The charter club plan is not intended to replace the county advisory council organization, but would supplement it, President Fraker explained.

Before the business meeting began, Joseph A. Brandt, '21ba, president of the University, spoke briefly about University affairs of special interest to alumni. He described the efforts being made by the University administration to encourage better organization of undergraduate classes with the view of building class spirit and making better alumni. Discussing the college war training program, he told the alumni board that the Oklahoma Medical School would be the first in the country to have its student body completely activated as a military unit. He also explained reasons for the delay in the establishment of training units on the University campus. President Brandt said he was in agreement with alumni leaders on the importance and necessity of changing the Teacher Placement Bureau to a general placement service for alumni in the near future so that the University will be prepared to answer the demands for placement service which seem certain to develop immediately after the war.

Joe W. McBride, '28bus, president of the
Board of Regents, also spoke briefly, expressing appreciation for services of the alumni to the University. Members of the Board of Regents welcome advice and suggestions from alumni because they know the alumni are sincerely interested in the welfare of the University.

The alumni executive board approved installation of Miss Sue Starr, who had previously been nominated by the senior class, to serve as representative of the Class of '43 on the Advisory Council from Recent Classes. The board also adopted a resolution providing that the members of this council be elected for five-year terms, and that each class at its first five-year reunion elect a successor to the person who had been serving.

The board nominated six alumni for the three positions as alumni representative on the University Athletic Council, the final appointments to be made by the president of the University. The board also nominated Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23, of Oklahoma City, to serve another three-year term as alumni member of the board of directors of the Lew Wentz Foundation.

Budget estimate for the association for the 1943-44 fiscal year, continuing the program on approximately the same basis as at present, was approved.

The board members present at the meeting were Elmer L. Fraker, T. R. Benedum, C. H. Fawks, Earle S. Porter, Harry Simmons, Fred E. Tarman, O. F. Muldrow and Kenneth Harris, '39.

President Fraker's annual report on association activities is as follows:

It has become traditional that the president of the University of Oklahoma Association make an appearance at the spring meeting of the Executive Board. In following that established policy, I shall herewith endeavor to enumerate the major activities of the association during the past year. Of necessity, much of the information I shall submit to you has been compiled by our acting executive secretary.

Near the beginning of the administrative year, our executive secretary, Mr. T. M. Beaird, entered the Armed Services of the United States as a captain in the Air Forces. A few days prior to the time Mr. Beaird assumed his military duties, the previously appointed "Emergency Committee," met and granted Mr. Beaird a leave of absence from the office of executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association for such time as he should be a member of the Armed Forces. At this same meeting, Mr. Beaird was appointed acting executive secretary of the association and has been serving in that capacity since that time.

The difficulties of travel imposed by war conditions has curtailed some of the association activities for this year and has forced others to be carried on by telephone and mail correspondence. One of the activities that was eliminated in this year's program was the usual five-year class reunion. However, members of the reunion classes were invited to write letters to the Sooner Magazine for publication in the June issue as a "Reunion by Mail" feature.

Another event that was considerably modified because of war restrictions was the annual Homecoming program. Instead of the usual alumni banquet in the Oklahoma Memorial Building, a box lunch was served in the Field House. Nevertheless, the regular Executive Board meeting was held on Homecoming Day, and a rather elaborate radio program was broadcast from the Field House concerning the Homecoming activities.

Expanding activities and duties of the association necessitate greater space for efficient handling of these undertakings. Our acting executive secretary has already been endeavoring to get more room. He has recently contacted the Board of Managers of the Union concerning the possibility of securing more space for the Association Office, the Alumni Records Office, the Teacher Placement Bureau, Sooner Magazine Office, and the Addressing Office. The managers expressed interest in the plan and advanced the belief that sufficient space could be provided to fit the needs of our expanded association activities.

During the past year, the Sooner Magazine has probably established itself as a more popular medium than ever before. This has come largely be-
ships to outstanding high school graduates in the community, providing such graduates intend to pursue higher education in courses in which the University of Oklahoma has adequate equipment and instruction.

7. Each local chapter should adopt a constitution and by-laws in conformity to the foregoing provisions and in conformity to the constitution of the University of Oklahoma Association.

8. The president of each chapter should, because of such office, become a member of the Advisory Council of the Association.

On our agenda today I would like to submit the foregoing plan for the establishment of alumni chapters to the Executive Board and ask that the board adopt it and also provide the procedure for putting it into operation.

Class of '08 Takes Lead

In observance of the 35th anniversary of the Class of 1908, Frank M. Long, '08ba, '09ma, now of Dublin, Virginia, conducted a one-man campaign to put his class at the top of the ranking in percentage of life members.

New life memberships for Mr. Long and for G. B. (Dean) Parker, '08ba, executive officer of Scripps-Howard Newspapers at Washington, D.C., raised the percentage of the class to 15.09 and put it in top place, ahead of the Class of '04 which has held the leadership for a long time.

Several other life memberships are in prospect for '08 graduates, wrote Mr. Long, who hoped to put his class so far ahead that it will hold the top position for a long time.

A total of 13 new life members has been recorded since the last announcement in Sooner Magazine. In addition to Mr. Long and Mr. Parker, they are:

- Mrs. G. B. Parker (Adelaide Loomis, '06ba, '10ma), Washington, D.C.
- C. G. Lalicker, '30geo1, '32ms, until recently a member of the University geology faculty and now on the staff of an oil company at Houston, Texas.
- Mrs. Lalicker (Anne Elizabeth Lewis, '3132, '3839).
- Dr. J. S. Gonzalez, '23bs, '27med, Nogales, Arizona.
- Ira Eppler, '38fa, now in government service at Seattle, Washington.
- Edith Walker, '41ba, managing editor of Sooner Magazine.
- Neal J. Mosely, '43eng, Alliance, Ohio, Army Air Corps.
- Mrs. Marjorie D. Mosely, '43.

Total number of living life members of the association is now 636.

St. Louis Club

E. J. Merritt, '33law, has been elected president of the O. U. Alumni Club of St. Louis, Missouri. Other new officers are Cecil Hunt, '26law, vice president, and Helen Ruth Holbrook, secretary-treasurer.

The club's principal annual social event, a boat ride on the Mississippi River, has been scheduled for June 9. Alumni in communities near St. Louis are all invited.

Watch for Announcement of the Complete 1943 Sooner Football Schedule

With government sanction of the continuance of college sports in wartime if at all possible, University athletic officials have already made considerable progress in preparing the Sooner football schedule for 1943.

Four home games are booked, some of which may be played in Oklahoma City. Here is the present 1943 home slate:

- Oct. 2 Oklahoma Aggies.
- Oct. 16 Tulsa University.
- Oct. 30 Iowa State.
- Nov. 6 Kansas.

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June, 1943