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# AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

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## AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

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#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

It has been strongly recommended by most experts that new employees be formally introduced to their new company with an orientation program. Such a program allows new employees to understand the mission and goals of the company and how they are expected to contribute to the accomplishment of those goals.

An orientation program may consist of many facets.

The first step is usually performed by the personnel department when the employee is hired. At that point some policies, salary procedures and benefits are explained.

Following completion of hiring procedures, a supervisor or manager may introduce new people to fellow workers, show them their work space and demonstrate the job to be done. The supervisor may also take them on a tour of the department or company. A mentor may be assigned as a further resource to answer questions and guide the newcomers through proper channels and acquaint them with the company.

The preceding activities are part of the informal structure for communication of information in a company. While these steps are necessary and helpful to new

employees, it is difficult to ensure that they all are getting the same message. The messages may be mixed with biases on the part of the mentor or supervisor. Another disadvantage is that there may be no way to give a consistent message to all new employees using an informal means of communication.

Many companies are beginning to use a combination of formal and informal approaches for new employee orientation. A formal presentation provides a consistent message regarding the mission, goals, policies and rewards that affect all the employees throughout the company. It also provides an opportunity for representatives of management to demonstrate support for both the message and the new employees.

The informal approach provides personal attention and a convenient source of help at the time and place it is needed, while the formal presentation delivers a consistent message to all employees regardless of their department, supervisor or co-worker biases. Both parts are necessary for a successful orientation process.

#### Statement Of The Problem

The problem which gave rise to this study was that the length of time for new employees at Oklahoma Natural Gas Company (ONG) to become integrated into the system and fully productive has been increasing. It was determined that new employees have not understood the goals of the

company and so have not been committed to the achievement of their goals.

ONG has had no formal orientation program. New employees have been given information regarding salary and benefits, the Conflict of Interest policy, and some other policies by a personnel department secretary. This has been done during the first morning of employment while filling out and signing employment and tax forms. The employees have also been given an <a href="Employee Handbook">Employee Handbook</a> and told to call either Payroll or Personnel or to ask their supervisor for answers to questions. In addition, a safety manual has been issued.

The hiring process has taken place in the district where the employees will be working and has been conducted by whomever has been available in that district. There has been no means to provide a consistent message and no attempt has been made to explain the mission statement or goals of the company. Employees have had to read the <a href="Employee">Employee</a> Handbook if they desired to know or understand the corporate mission or their role in achieving it.

#### Purpose Of The Study

The purpose of the study was to design a formal orientation program for new employees at ONG. The aim of the program was to give new employees the opportunity to receive clear, consistent messages regarding the mission and goals of the company, expectations about how employees

contribute to the mission and goals, and rewards and benefits for such contributions.

### Objectives Of The Study

The objectives of the study were:

- to design an instructor's manual which would make it possible for any presenter to conduct an orientation program with consistent messages for all new employees at ONG;
- to design slides to illustrate and highlight the orientation program messages;
- 3. to monitor the scripting process for accompanying videos to ensure that the messages were consistent with the goals of the program; and
- to develop expertise in program design.

Chapter I defines the purpose and objectives of the study and gives background information about the reasons for having such a study. Chapter II contains a review of the available literature regarding corporate orientation programs and methods of designing slide programs and videos. Chapter III summarizes the design process used for the study and details conclusions and recommendations for similar projects. The appendices contain a log of the intern's activities and the final product.

#### CHAPTER II

#### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This chapter is divided into three sections. The first section deals with why orientation programs for new employees are beneficial to corporations and what they should accomplish. The second part contains what should be included in the ideal orientation process. The third section deals with the technical aspects of producing slide and video programs.

The Need For Orientation For New Employees

According to Wehrenberg, the "real goal" of most companies is to make a competitive return on investment. A company wants consumers to select its products over that of a competitor. Therefore, the purpose of orienting new employees should be to show them exactly how they fit in with the plan and how they are expected to contribute to the goal (111).

Orientation should give an employee the "why," while training should give him the "what" and "how." By telling the employee the goal of the company and his role in its accomplishment, the person can find acceptable ways to adapt to the situation and sort out the relationships in

his new environment. Orientation should "develop a particular attitude about work and the worker's role. It defines the philosophy behind the rules and provides a framework for specific job-related tasks" (112).

Wehrenberg explained that employees can not learn all the rules for every situation. If they know the goals, the reasons for the rules, then they can choose an action which will contribute to the goals in an unfamiliar situation.

Attitudes can be changed by linking a series of actions, starting with the employee's task and ending with corporate success and happy customers. "I can do this. If I do, the results will be. . . . The customer will . . . . That will cause the company to . . . . That will mean. . . to me (112).

Citing increased motivation, commitment and productivity as well as reduced turnover and higher morale as results of orientation programs, Cooke wrote that the first messages and cues employees receive in an organization are the strongest and last longest (20). Therefore, it is important that new hires be presented with a positive message early. Without orientation, they might learn the corporate philosophy and their role on their own initiative, but one can not rely on that happening (21). Kliem also emphasized that the first impression is a lasting one. He stated that if they are not given a good first impression, they become frustrated and, within time,

will leave (14).

Echoing the need for early orientation of new employees, Ray stated that first impressions can be permanent and will probably determine how an employee performs later (34). Ray noted that there are two social structures in any company that govern communications and rules, the formal and the informal. "The informal social structure is a set of unwritten rules rigidly followed by most employees. It's the 90 percent of the iceberg under the water" (34). The formal structure is a very small part of the rules governing a company.

Since the informal rules are much stronger than the formal ones, problems which arise in the informal social structure may be solved using those rules (34). Therefore, it is imperative that management provide an early indoctrination process so that new employees can learn essential values and develop loyalty. It also gives a message to new employees that they are valued by the company if the company is willing to take valuable time to orient them (35).

The costs of ignoring new employees can be counted in error or reject rates, early frustration or premature termination. The best preventative is early and consistent indoctrination. If you do not have time to do the job correctly now, how will you find time to undo the damage later? (35)

Noting that poor or no orientation can result in low effectiveness rates as well as dissatisfaction and high turnover among new employees (34), Zemke reported that Texas Instruments (TI) changed its orientation from a two-hour program covering working hours, pay periods, parking, insurance and benefits to a seven-hour "socialization" program. The newer program included career management, company politics such as picking the right boss, and how to look for opportunities.

After offering the new program for two years, TI announced that the turnover rate for those who had undergone the new program was 40 percent lower than for employees who had gone through the old program. Production rates were also higher for the new program graduates and absenteeism and tardiness rates were lower (34).

Zemke also noted that Corning Glass Works reported that new employee turnover was 69 percent lower for those who had participated in their new orientation process (34). The common elements of these two programs were: setting goals for the programs, involvement of line management in the process, understanding new employee anxiety and how supervisors can help, alignment of employee expectations and actual job responsibilities ("reality sharing"), and involvement of senior management in the development of the orientation process and in the actual program wherever possible. Zemke felt that the last element is the most basic and the most often overlooked (35-37).

Brechlin and Rossett echoed Zemke's sentiments regarding the value of upper management commitment in their list of possible strategies for creating orientation programs. They advised that program planners "make certain that an upper-level manager is committed to this orientation effort, and is willing to express that commitment through public statements and the assignment of resources" (50).

Expanding on Zemke's idea that new employees feel anxiety during their initial time at a new company, Loraine described this period as extremely stressful. She described the new employee as "a stranger in a strange environment," (3) unfamiliar with policy, procedures or expectations.

She pointed out that the higher the degree of stress, the more impaired is the ability to learn and function (3). She recommended that information which is easily understood be given at first, adding more complex information as the person gains confidence.

While the supervisor is evaluating new employees, the new employees are also evaluating the company and deciding whether they want to tell others where they work or even if they want to work there. Loraine therefore recommended that all new employees be given an overview of the system so that they can understand what it is and where they fit (4).

In describing the differences in the culturally

diverse population now entering the workforce, Gordon,
DiTomaso and Farris emphasized the need for an orientation
program to aid the assimilation process. They stated that
in the past the workforce was comprised primarily of white
males. Now, however, it is includes growing proportions of
immigrants from foreign nations, women and minorities, each
group having its own background, behavioral patterns and
expectations.

They pointed out that these groups are not as attuned to the "rules" as has been the traditional workforce of white males (18). The "rules" include using their own initiative to ask for help when needed, defending their ideas to peers and management, writing and publishing their own work, and seeking experiences that would help them become more professional in their work.

Gordon et al. pointed out that these new groups are hesitant to ask questions, fearing that their competencies may be questioned. They are less likely to criticize ideas of others publicly or to claim credit for work in collaborative projects. Some are more accustomed to criticism than praise and are uncomfortable with praise or public reward. Some groups also have negative expectations about their abilities to perform. Orientation was viewed by the authors as a method to help these groups understand the cultural norms within a company, and so help them become more productive (22).

Kiechel summed up the general sentiment of most

authors when he stated that while orienting new hires is expensive, the investment is worth it in the increase in employee loyalty. He stated that if companies go to a lot of expense to hire what they feel is the right person to do a job, they do not want that person to leave (274).

Manter and Benjamin also emphasized that "today's graduates are people of choice, options and personal challenges" (44). If not oriented properly into the corporate culture, or if left to feel disappointed or frustrated, these people will leave the company and move elsewhere.

#### The Orientation Process

Warren stated that from the time that new employees are interviewed for their job through their first salary increase, they undergo "orientation." They become a part of the organization. Ideally, they adopt the company philosophy, or at least are exposed to it. It is hoped that they develop a commitment to the company and learn the formal and informal social structures (201).

Orientation, according to Warren, deals with attitudes rather than measurable skills and tasks. It is difficult both to define and to identify behaviors for measuring change. He pointed out that during this period new hires have a strong desire to succeed and are searching for the approved manner to do so.

They are already committed to the company as they

know it. They want to be successful and are far more likely than not to want to behave in a manner leading to some kind of payoff. If they know the organization as one in which employees must check their brains at the door, they will tend to pretend not to think. If orientation is successful, however, the new hire will not only be committed, but will also know the organization as management knows it (202).

Warren stated that the four missions of an orientation program should be:

- to maintain the motivation of new hires,
   their desire to succeed at a level the same as,
   or higher than, that at which they were inducted
   into the organization;
- 2. to develop a feeling of belonging together and a sense of satisfaction in being members of the organization;
- 3. to bring about the commitment of new hires to organization goals; and
- 4. to develop in new hires an acceptable conformity to the organization's formal and informal rules of behavior (204).

There was general agreement among authors that a formal orientation program should include information regarding the mission and goals of the company, policies, pay days, vacation and leave policies and benefits. Most

agreed also that the program would need to include far more to gain commitment on the part of employees to corporate missions and goals.

Echoing Warren's statement that orientation should affect attitudes, Brechlin and Rossett emphasized that an orientation program should reflect the "tone, feeling and spirit" of the company (48). They also stated that the common problems with orientation programs are too little information, too much information or conflicting information. They point out that many companies either send the new hires off on their own to find what they need or try to include everything they will ever need to know in a four-hour program. The authors advise keeping information accurate, however, as coworkers will tell new hires what is "really" happening (47).

When setting up an orientation program Brechlin and Rossett recommend using the following nine principles.

- Assess needs as a basis for orientation.
   Find what new hires want to know.
- 2. Establish an organizing framework. Noting that the mind uses mental structures and cognitive patterns to accept and store knowledge, they recommend that information be presented in ways to help the new person integrate it rapidly with previous knowledge in a meaningful way.
- 3. Provide learner control. Allow participants to progress at their own speed or ask questions

as needed.

- 4. Make it a process, not just an event. If the program is a single program, make sure participants know to whom they can go for further information or support.
- 5. Allow people and personalities to emerge.

  The authors recommend personalizing the program
  for both the presenter and students.
- 6. Reflect the organizational tone and priorities. Employees should understand the stated mission and values of their new company.
- 7. Be sensitive to the politics associated with orientations. Make sure an upper-level manager is committed to the project. They also suggest having a committee to guarantee that concerns of all departments are presented, to help gain approval and to resolve conflicts.
- 8. Include a system for revision and update.

  Noting that everything changes, the authors

  recommend that a method for timely revision

  should be built in.
- 9. Create a pleasing orientation experience.
  Use presenters who are enthusiastic and
  entertaining and ask them to highlight with
  personal anecdotes. Focus slides and videos on
  people who are working with each other and
  enjoying their jobs. Stimulate questions from

the audience so that they can join in the experience (47-51).

Kliem suggested including an welcome package with information which new employees need to conduct daily business. He emphasized that if a new hire must interrupt the work of a coworker to ask questions, the productivity of both is decreased. He suggested that the package include

- phone listing;
- mailstop listing;
- forms;
- equipment and facilities listings;
- 5. schedules;
- glossary;
- organization description;
- project descriptions;
- 9. benefit descriptions; and
- 10. procedures (14).

Kliem noted that the purpose of any orientation is to leave the new employee with a lasting, positive first impression. He also noted that new hires usually come with high hopes, even if they are sometimes unrealistic.

If those high hopes are dashed, he warned, and new employees receive negative impressions, they probably will become frustrated and disillusioned and leave (15).

While stating that orientation provides an opportunity to cement a positive partnership between new employees and

the hiring company, Markowich and Farber noted the orientation should also include information to help a company become competitive (70). The program could be used to promote commitment to organizational growth, to expand the marketing base for the company's products and to develop a positive problem-solving process.

They recommended that the program begin with a short statement of the financial and consumer pressures facing the company and that marketing be the theme around which the other orientation aspects revolve (71). Regardless of their position, new employees may see themselves as potential consumers and sales representatives. In this manner, employees are given the opportunity to view themselves as a source of revenue to the company as well as to themselves.

This is the time, according to Markowich and Farber, to stress the personal benefits of giving excellent customer service and of thinking of better ways to make the company run (72-73). This is when an employee should develop a commitment to the financial well-being of the company. This is where he should also learn when and how to present new ideas and how to resolve conflicts.

Orientation should integrate the employee into the mission of the company and its way of operating (101).

Manter and Benjamin stated that the complete orientation program should begin with the hiring process, and that before the hiring process is finalized the values

and mission of the company should be made clear. Following the hiring process, orientation should explain how each part of the organization contributes to the product. It should include sections on career planning, training and development and job rotation. It should also have mentoring built into the orientation process (46-48).

Production Techniques For Slides And Video

Two means of highlighting and illustrating a presentation are the use of slides and video tapes. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of using slides include having a speaker to present the script, allowing the presentation to be warm and personal. Slides can be used to illustrate points for visual impact. Since there is a presenter involved, time can be taken to answer questions and provide clarity for the listener. Slides are also comparatively inexpensive to produce. The major disadvantage is that unless an audio tape is made of the narrative, someone must be released from other duties to make the presentation (Podracky, 184-190).

Podracky proposed a four step process for producing a slide presentation. The steps included selecting the content and sequencing the script, drawing rough sketches for each slide frame, preparing the artwork (lettering, graphs, hand-produced artwork), and preparing pictorial images.

Podracky recommended writing the narrative as the first step in script writing. Slides should then be designed to illustrate and highlight the script (3). He emphasized that the designer should remember that prior knowledge of the viewer may not be the same as prior knowledge of the author (5). Care should be taken to ensure that the messages are clear and simple.

A slide should represent a single image. Since many sentences contain more than one image, Podracky warned that it may be necessary to design more than one slide per sentence to illustrate an idea (4).

The second step was storyboarding or drawing a rough sketch to represent each slide frame. During this step, Podracky emphasized that

- care should be taken to keep graphic
   material as simple and clear as possible (12);
- 2. using a split screen is a good way to demonstrate steps in a process (13);
- 3. when using a split screen, the sequence of scenes must follow the narrative and be clear (13); and
- 4. color or background can be used to organize sections or sequences or for emphasis (14).

The third step dealt with preparation of artwork.

Podracky emphasized that when using lettering the designer should always check for alignment of letters, type spacing (distance between letters) and type verticality (that all

letters are straight up and down or at the same angle). He suggested the first consideration when picking type style and size should be readability on the part of the viewer (30). He also suggested that it is best to keep the number of words to a minimum, sentences should be short and that large type should be used for clarity (35).

The fourth step involved pictorial images. The purpose of including pictures, according to Podracky, is usually to illustrate or decorate an image. He warned that "A picture, no matter how accurate or complete, still relies heavily on the viewer's imagination to be accepted, perceived and understood" (100). All forms and shapes should be as simple as possible.

Another form of visual presentation is the use of video tape. Norman Leaper lists four advantages of video:

- a consistent message for audiences in farflung locations or working different shifts, given in the same voice each time;
- 2. the sense of "being there" and sharing in an activity, especially important for employee groups away from the headquarters, who might otherwise feel left out;
- 3. timeliness of the message, since a videotape can be produced, edited, duplicated and distributed fairly quickly; and
- 4. action accompanied by color and sound that involves the viewer in what is happening or what

is being said (qtd. in Degen, p.  $\overline{x}$ ).

Taylor adds to the list of advantages that video is a moving medium which can be recorded and replayed to check it on the spot. Video programs can be tailored to exact needs. It allows the viewer to see actions as the designer wants them seen (14).

Taylor also listed several disadvantages of video and suggested that other presentation methods might be better under some circumstances. Video does not reproduce color exactly and it is difficult to get a full line of typewritten text on a television screen. Television without movement lacks pace to which viewers are accustomed so that lectures, speeches and still shots look "dead" and boring. Conferences, meetings and seminars are usually unsuitable for video recording unless careful planning is done before the event. It is difficult for a camera to focus on a speaker at the appropriate time if people are permitted to talk and interrupt at will. Also, sound equipment cannot screen out unwanted sounds (15).

Degen emphasized that video can be particularly useful in preparing orientation programs for new employees because video can communicate a strong, consistent message to all new employees while reducing the use of expensive management time. It clarifies, dramatizes and reinforces the organization in a manner which meets the legal criteria for the company each time it is presented.

Degen also pointed out two key aspects for the

designer of a video program to keep in mind if the program is to be effective. Programs should be relevant to the organization and strive to help it become more productive, efficient and profitable. It should also be tailored to the needs of the audience (59).

There should be seven stages to the video design process, according to Degen. The first involves a communication analysis. Consideration should always be given to other existing forms of corporate communication so that the role of the video can be precisely defined.

Setting objectives is the second stage. Clear objectives allow the effectiveness of a program to be measured.

Defining the audience is the third stage. The next step involves researching the audience to define it more clearly. This step supports assumptions or negates them and indicates corrections.

The fifth stage is analyzing the delivery system.

Questions about the presenters, their level of expertise,
and the kinds of training or support they might require
should be considered at the planning stage.

The penultimate stage is defining the message. During this step, the designer decides what informational content is necessary to meet the objectives for the audience that has been defined.

The last step is preparing a realistic budget for the project which can withstand a cost-benefit analysis. The

design phase is complete when management and content advisors agree that the proposal and budget meet the corporate needs (59-63).

When writing a script for a video production, Taylor reminded the writer to consider the differences between written and spoken language. The audience hears the words but does not read them (42).

She advised the writer to forget rules for written grammar and syntax and listen to the words as they are to be spoken instead. While written language is often passive and indirect, spoken language is usually direct and active (42).

Many spoken verb forms are contractions, and pronouns are direct and personal: "I," "you," "we". Taylor recommended choosing language to suit the audience and keeping it simple (43).

For the narrative content, Taylor recommended telling the audience what they would be seeing and hearing, then telling them what they are seeing and hearing, followed by telling them what they have seen and heard (43). The narrative, according to Taylor, should be used in order to

- explain information not obvious in the picture;
- explain details in the picture;
- 3. explain why something is done in a particular order or manner;
- point out difficulties and give solutions;

- 5. give structure or logic to a seemingly unrelated series of pictures;
- link ideas together;
- 7. prepare the viewer for what he is about to see;
- reinforce teaching points;
- 9. provide continuity from idea to idea and emphasize the theme;
- 10. provide continuity when compressing "real
  time" series of events; and
- 11. restate strategic points (42-45).

#### Summary

#### Advantages Of Orientation Programs

Companies should implement a formal program discussing corporate mission and goals, rewards, benefits, approved communication and problem-solving techniques as part of the orientation process. Zemke described studies in which it has been demonstrated that companies which explain to new employees the corporate mission, how employees are expected to contribute to it, and how they can benefit by doing so, have lowered absenteeism and turnover rates while raising production rates.

Cooke stated that first impressions of a company are strong and last longer than later impressions. It is, therefore, important that new employees learn to view the company as management wants the company to be seen before

they experience the informal social structure that is present in all companies.

Loraine pointed out that orientation can also help a new employee become productive more quickly by helping to alleviate the stress felt by a new person in a new situation. It can provide a way for a new employee to quickly become familiar and comfortable and more productive.

According to Zemke, some of the more successful orientation programs set specific goals for the program; involved line managers in the process of orienting new employees; recognized anxiety on the part of new employees and showed supervisors how to help; and involved senior management in program development and process whenever possible.

The orientation process is also considered a good way to assimilate a culturally diverse workforce, according to Gordon et al. It provides an opportunity to explain desired behaviors and how to succeed within the rules of the company.

Warren listed the four missions for an orientation program as maintaining the motivation to succeed which most new employees already have, developing a feeling of belonging and a sense of satisfaction in being part of the organization, developing a sense of commitment to the organizational goals, and developing a desire to conform to the company's formal and informal rules of behavior.

The ideal orientation program, according to Markowich and Farber, should introduce the new employee to the corporate mission and goals, and show how each part of the organization contributes to their accomplishment. It should explain policies, benefits, training and development opportunities, and career development opportunities. It should also point out the personal benefits of contributing to the financial well-being of the company.

#### Program Production Techniques

Podracky pointed out that the use of slides during a presentation provides a means to visually highlight and illustrate points. Slides are relatively inexpensive to produce and allow for visual impact to accompany the audio portion. The four basic steps to design a slide presentation are: writing a script, sketching each slide, artwork preparation and pictorial image preparation.

Leaper (qtd. in Degen, p.  $\overline{x}$ ) stated that using video for a presentation can provide a consistent message to all audiences as well as the sense that the audience is sharing in the experience. Video can present a timely message which can be produced, edited, duplicated and distributed fairly quickly. It allows viewers to see actions as the designer wants them seen. Video is, however, expensive to produce and some situations are not suitable for quality video production.

Degen listed the seven stages to the video design

process as follows: undertake a communication analysis, set objectives, define the audience, research the audience, analyze the delivery system, define the message, and prepare a realistic budget.

#### CHAPTER III

# REPORT OF INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is divided into three sections. The first describes the activities involved in the internship. The second section addresses conclusions and the last part lists recommendations for further studies.

#### Report Of Internship Activities

The purpose of the study was to design an orientation program for new employees at Oklahoma Natural Gas Company (ONG).

The steps followed to complete the study included drafting the aim and set of goals for the program, defining and researching the audience, choosing general content areas, choosing presentation methods, and choosing specific content and writing the manual, slides and video scripts. The final step was to train the presenters.

During the initial step of the study, it was decided that the aim of the program should be to encourage employees to feel that they belonged to the company "family" and to develop a commitment to achieving the ONG goals and objectives. This would be accomplished by

acquainting all new employees with the following information about ONG: why it existed, what it did, what services were available to employees, and what was expected from them in return.

The goals of the program were

- to acquaint employees with the mission statement and the part each employee played in accomplishing it;
- 2. to acquaint employees with what the company did, what its products were and how all employees contributed to the production;
- 3. to acquaint employees with the rewards of contributing to production at ONG (to include salary, benefits and promotion opportunities); 4. to encourage employees to feel that they were an integral part of the ONG family, sharing successes, failures, responsibilities and rewards; and
- 5. to encourage employees to feel a commitment to the company and a desire to contribute to its success.

The second stage of the study was to define the audience. This program was intended for delivery to all new employees regardless of age, job level, education or literacy level. This meant that particular attention would have to be given to keeping all message clear and simple, using simple language, and assuming no prior knowledge on

the part of the participants.

Next came the decisions regarding content. It was decided that this was to present an overview of the company and that content should be limited to general information. It was further decided that if participants had questions which did not pertain to the audience as a whole, that answering should be delayed until the end of the program. The areas of content were to include

- the mission statement and philosophy of the company which were to be reflected in all other content areas;
- 2. the departments and divisions of ONG, what they do and how they contribute to the accomplishment of the mission statement;
- 3. company policies, to include their definition and purpose for being;
- 4. career opportunities and pathways to accomplish career goals;
- 5. means of communication; and
- 6. benefits and rewards for commitment to the goals and objectives of ONG.

The fourth step involved deciding how the program would be presented. It was decided that most of the program should be designed in such a way that it could be presented at least quarterly in each of the five districts around the state. Presenters from each district would be given a manual and instructed in presentation techniques.

It was felt that this would keep the program local and personal for the participants. It would also allow participants to involve themselves in the program and to interject comments or questions as they felt inclined.

It was further decided that portions which required a consistent presentation, because of the complexity of the material or the legal considerations, should be video taped. A series of slides would be developed to accompany the rest of the presentation. It was felt that slides would both help the presenter remember the sequence of the material without having to memorize a lengthy program, and, at the same time, give a visual stimulus to the participants.

These methods were also chosen because ONG had inhouse production capabilities for both media. They also had auditoria with projection capabilities for both in all the district offices as well as the general office.

The fifth step was to carry out the program by selecting specific content to be included, design an instructor's manual and design the slides and videos. The contents of packets to be given to participants at the beginning of the program was also decided during this step. Small items such as t-shirts, key chains and pens were chosen to help new employees feel included in the ONG "family." Commonly used company forms, such as job posting forms and applications, were included to help them become familiar with procedures.

The final step was to demonstrate the program and train the presenters in how to present it.

The responsibilities of the intern included full participation in the decision-making process, content selection, and design of the manual and slides.

Development of a script for the video portion was the responsibility of the training coordinator at ONG, but the intern was responsible for reviewing scripts to ensure that they met the criteria for the program regarding both style and content.

#### Conclusions

The value of upper management support for a study of this type was demonstrated repeatedly. Most needed information was made available quickly and cheerfully. Support services were available as needed on a timely basis.

The steps used to prepare the study work well as a design procedure. Developing an aim and set of goals early sets the parameters so that each following step can be checked for consistency with the central message.

The use of slides with simple messages proves helpful when presenting the program. It works as a memory aid to the presenter and adds a visual reinforcing message for the audience.

Use of video portions works well for presenting messages which need to be done exactly the same way each

time. They also provide a break in the presentation for both the presenters and audience.

The video portions were scripted with the verbal script first. Then visual images and music were selected to highlight the words. This process is probably not the best way to script videos. The messages were accurate but the videos were bland.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that a more lengthy time frame be used for similar projects in the future, allowing more time to investigate areas thoroughly.

It is also recommended that sufficient time be given to researching the audience. In preparing a presentation for such a diverse audience, it would be helpful to know the lowest and highest level of education, variety of job levels and literacy levels. It might also be useful to know the average percentage of males and females, the ethnic and cultural backgrounds if available, and if this is the first job for most of the new hires or if they have previous employment experience.

It is recommended that video presentations be treated as a visual medium rather than a verbal one during the scripting process. It would probably be better to pick the areas of content, then choose the visual images best suited to communicate the content areas. Composing words to highlight and explain the visual images should be left

for the last step. This might allow for a stronger visual message.

It is strongly recommended that any new program be piloted to a select group before general presentation. The comments and recommendations by the pilot audience should be carefully considered for inclusion in the program.

It is also strongly recommended that an evaluation process be built into the program. The purposes of such evaluation would be to monitor how the audience received the message and how useful the information was to them later. The comments and recommendations should also be carefully considered for inclusion in the program.

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**APPENDICES** 

#### APPENDIX A

# INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL FOR ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

## **ORIENTATION**

**PROGRAM** 

**FOR** 

**NEW EMPLOYEES** 

PART ONE
BECOMING ACQUAINTED
WITH
ONEOK INC.
&
OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS
COMPANY

1991

# NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

This manual is designed to assist you in preparing for and conducting the ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES. The successful presentation of this program is dependent on the amount of preparation and enthusiasm you bring to it.

This program is designed to allow you to be flexible and personalize it each time you offer it in order to meet the needs of your audiences. In particular, this program is developed in an outline form to avoid constant updates to materials and visual aids. As the instructor, it is your responsibility to update your presentation as changes occur. If any topic or change is so complex that you think you are unable to explain it, you can always invite an in-house expert to address that area.

# PHILOSOPHY FOR OFFERING A SPECIFIC ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Orientation is an ongoing process for new employees; however, a specific program designed for orientation is an opportunity to promote our company, provide consistent information, and encourage new employees during their adaptation process

This is also an opportunity to state clearly what is expected of employees and what their rewards will be. Orientation should help them understand this from the beginning of their employment. The sooner new employees feel comfortable with the company, the quicker they will be productive on the job.

#### TRAINING METHODOLOGY

This program is instructor driven and should last about four hours. The primary visual aids are the slides which are designed to keep you on track and the four video segments which provide consistent messages as well as a break for you. Please also have available The ONG Handbook, The Employee Safety Manual, The Supervisor's Guide, a packet for each participant, and this manual.

Included in the manual is a check list of steps for you to use in preparing for your presentation. If possible, also try to have a benefits specialist available during that portion of the program in case questions arise involving situations you can't answer.

If this isn't convenient, make sure you can give the questioner the name and telephone extension of a person who can help. You will also want a speaker from customer service to underscore ONG's emphasis in that area.

#### ORIENTATION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this session participants should:

- \* Feel like they are part of the ONG family and have a sense of pride for what the company has been and still is today in the communities that we serve.
- \* Be acquainted with company goals, philosophies, management style, and services
- \* Want to develop positive attitudes (shown in on-the-job behaviors) toward their jobs and develop a desire to further their careers with ONG
- \* Recognize lines of communications available throughout the company
- \* Understand management's expectations of each employee on the ONG team and acknowledge management's recognition of the contribution made by each employee.
- \* Be acquainted with company policies, procedures, and benefits.
- \* Know where to look or who to ask for help when they have problems.

The aim of this program is to impart a feeling and not cold, hard facts. Try to keep the tone upbeat and let the whole presentation reflect why you like working here and why they have the opportunity to succeed here

#### THE NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION PROGRAM

#### PROGRAM PREPARATIONS:

#### SET MEETING DATE

- \*Avoid holidays and busy schedules
- \*Confirm meeting room

#### SECURE USE OF AUDITORIUM

#### REOUEST AVAILABILITY OF DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT

#### REQUEST AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCE PRESENTERS.

Customer Services Specialist Benefits Specialist

#### SECURE EQUIPMENT

- \*Slide projector
- \*Remote control
- \*Stand
- \*Tapes
- \*Extension cords
- \*Screen
- \*Video receiver

#### NOTIFY PARTICIPANTS/SUPERVISORS BY MEMO

NOTE. Memos should go out 3-4 weeks prior to session

- \*Include date, location, beginning and ending times
- \*Is a response needed? Include deadline for response
- \*Ask participants to bring their ONG Handbook
- \*Mention travel arrangements, if necessary

#### NOTIFY BUILDING SERVICES OF ROOM ARRANGEMENT AND SETUP

- \*Send diagram of room arrangement
- \*Request assistance for visual aids
- \*Request a sign for outside the main door
- \*Request that the room be set up a day in advance if possible
- \*Be there for the setup
- \*Check all your visuals

#### NOTIFY THE CAFETERIA/REFRESHMENT PEOPLE

- \*Coffee, decaf, tea, iced tea, soft drinks (include diet), water
- \*Rolls/donuts for a.m.; cookies, pretzels, popcorn, etc. for p.m.

#### CHECK PACKETS THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS

- \*Update materials
- \*Send to print shop, if necessary
- \*Assemble notebooks or packets

#### MAKE AND PROVIDE NAME TAGS/ SEATING TENTS

#### SECURE NOVELTY ITEMS FROM MARKETING

Suggested items for packet:

T-shirts

Combi-Pen/Highlighter

Suggested items for prizes.

- 3 Baseball caps
- 3 Tennis visors
- 6 Coffee mugs (black porcelain)
- 6 Thermal travel mugs
- 6 Sport squirts
- 15 Mini-light key rings

#### REVIEW YOUR MATERIALS/NOTES

#### HAVE A TRAINING REPORT FORM READY

#### BRING A STAMP FOR PARKING TICKETS, IF NECESSARY

#### SUGGESTED PACKET CONTENTS:

Marketing packet with brochures (to help them understand ONG products)

T-shirt

ONG pen/highlighter

Glossary of Terms

Keys for Success

Payroll Change form # 325

Time Report, Semi-monthly form # 221

Training Report form # 1740

Education Achievement form # 1293

Education Agreement application # 244

Job Posting Bulletin # 364

Internal Application form # 365

Job Family examples

Performance Review form # 1333

Benefit Summary

Service Awards Brochure

Flex Plus Benefit brochures

Evaluation

Ouiz

#### PROGRAM OUTLINE

#### I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1 SLIDE WELCOME TO ONEOK INC & OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY

Introduce yourself and welcome participants to the program. Introduce any management guest/allow time for opening remarks. State the objectives/explain reasons for program.

Introduction of participants.

Housekeeping details:

Ground Rules- breaks, refreshments, lunch, ending time, etc Format of the course- when to ask questions, use of the Handbook, quiz, prizes

Evaluation Sheet Parking Tickets Lunch

#### II. PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

2 SLIDE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

VIDEO I "MISSION-- WHO WE WERE, WHO WE ARE, & WHERE WE ARE GOING"

Refer participants to THE ONG HANDBOOK

"A Message From Management" pg.1

"Your Company" pgs. 2-4

"The Story of ONEOK Inc."

"Our Early History"

"Oklahoma Natural Gas Company Division"

"ONG Transmission Company Division"

"Energy Companies of ONEOK Division"

"Organization Chart - ONEOK, Inc" - pg. 11

Briefly go over the above using the Handbook. Remember to focus on the main concept that all the subsidiaries function together to make ONEOK, INC. a complete energy supply company.

3 SLIDE GENERAL OFFICE DEPARTMENTS & THEIR MAIN FUNCTIONS

#### 4 SLIDE MANAGEMENT - COACHES

Mention a few of these (don't try to memorize them all)

Set policy and guidelines which allow the company to provide a high quality product at a reasonable cost

Provide growth for the company.

Provide good working conditions and a sense of purpose for employees.

Provide highest public confidence in ONG.

Maintain good relations with business & industry associates

Support state and community growth.

5 SLIDE SHAREHOLDERS - FANS

Stockholders

Employees (largest group of shareholders)

6 SLIDE REGULATORY AGENCIES - REFEREES

Set out guidelines and regulations

State, federal, local

Protect consumers and the industry

OCC, FERC, SEC, IRS, etc.

7 SLIDE Testimony Being Taken During OCC Rate Hearing

8 SLIDE GAS SUPPLY - SCOUTS

Find & buy the gas supply

Buy right of way Supervise well testing

Obtain leases

Gas transportation agreements

9 SLIDE Illustration of Right of Way

10 SLIDE CUSTOMER SERVICES - OFFENSIVE TEAM

Visible - They are the company to most of the public

Customer contact
Turn service off & on

Meter reading

Customer payment processing

11 SLIDE Meter Reader Speaking With Customer - Customer Service

12 SLIDE Customer Service Representative Helping Customer Solve A Problem

13 SLIDE OPERATING - DEFENSIVE TEAM

Equipment managers - without these folks, nothing moves anywhere

construct transmission & distribution lines operation & maintenance of lines and equipment gas quality control engineering pipeline design feasibility studies

14 SLIDE Pasture Over Buried Transmission Line

15 SLIDE Distribution Pipe

16 SLIDE Transmission Line

17 SLIDE SPECIALTY TEAMS.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND SERVICES

FINANCIAL

CORPORATE SECRETARY - INSURANCE & CLAIMS

SECURITY

Corporate Responsibility & Services:

Handle all those services we need to have, but don't fit in other departments

List a few of these:

Consumer roundtables

Consumer legislation & ombudsman

Service awards

Corporate concerns survey, contributions and volunteerism

Affirmative action program

Career path counseling

Chemical dependency treatment program

Personal & work-related counseling program

Financial - Investor services

Corporate Secretary - Insurance & Claims

Handles insurance claims, workers compensation, property damage, and automobile liability claims.

Security - Safety

18 SLIDE A United Way Activity Coordinated By Corporate Responsibility

19 SLIDE TREASURY & ACCOUNTING - SCOREKEEPERS

They tell us where we stand - are we making \$\$?

Financial & property accounting

**Budgets** 

Cash management

20 SLIDE Kelvin Jones (Accountant) Examines A Printout

21 SLIDE AUDITING - INSTANT REPLAY

Look over all the numbers

Make sure we're doing it right

22 SLIDE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - STATISTICIANS

Computer processing

billing

accounts payable

Batch processing

Data control

23 SLIDE Mainframe Computer

24 SLIDE PERSONNEL - RECRUITERS & TRAINERS

Recruitment

Job placement

Training

Job posting

Compensation & job evaluation Payroll & benefits administration Counseling & performance reviews

25 SLIDE Kay Beeby, Alında Griswold, Donna Scott (all of Personnel) confer

26 SLIDE MARKETING - CHEERLEADERS

Get out there & spread the word about all our products & services

Advertising & market research

Commercial marketing - business customers

Industrial marketing Residential marketing

27 SLIDE Promotional Material Available Through Marketing

28 SLIDE TV Spot For ONG - Marketing

29 SLIDE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS - PRESS AND ANNOUNCERS

Media relations

<u>Flametips</u>

Speech writing

Gasette

Internal Communications

Video & audiovisual production

30 SLIDE TV News Interview With A Corporate Communications Representative

Regarding Service To Customers In Bad Weather

31 SLIDE THE ONG TEAM

Everyone's position contributes to a strong team effort.

32 SLIDE The ONG Team Players

33 SLIDE MAP WITH THE FIVE DISTRICTS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA CITY, SHAWNEE, MUSKOGEE, ENID

34 SLIDE TULSA DISTRICT

35 SLIDE OKLAHOMA CITY DISTRICT

36 SLIDE ENID DISTRICT

37 SLIDE SHAWNEE DISTRICT

38 SLIDE MUSKOGEE DISTRICT

\*\*\*\*\*PICK OUT A FEW SLIDES OF DISTRICT PEOPLE AND PLACES YOU KNOW AND INSERT THEM WITH THE DISTRICT SLIDES TO PERSONALIZE THIS PART FOR THE AUDIENCE.

Discuss the common departments that exist in the districts (Customer services, operating, & marketing). Services provided by people who live there, for people who live there. Supervised by people who live there

General office departments are to set company-wide policy and guidelines and act as support services for all those folks on the front lives.

Discuss the reasons for the existence of district personnel departments in OKC and Tulsa.

To be as close as possible to help & still operate efficiently.

Discuss the reasons for corporate communications department in OKC, as well as governmental relations.

#### 39 SLIDE **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

"OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY WILL BE OKLAHOMA'S PREFERRED ENERGY SUPPLIER BY PROVIDING EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE, PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ENHANCING SHAREHOLDER VALUE."

Please have it memorized - it will also be in the participants packets.

All of us working together, as a team, can accomplish this mission.

#### Roger Mitchell discusses Corporate Responsibility (2 - 3 min) VIDEO II

Discuss the importance of each of these groups:

Customers Stockholders Communities we serve

**Employees** 

The Corporate Responsibility is to meet the needs and interests of customers, employees, stockholders, communities we serve, and general public:

#### 40 SLIDE INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CUSTOMER SERVICE: WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

External customers - customers from outside the company. Internal customers - other employees we serve.

We should provide excellent customer service to ALL our customers.

\*\*\*\*\*\*Use a resource speaker from customer service to underscore company emphasis on customer service and why it is being emphasized (Limit speaker to 15 minutes).

\*\*\*\*\*You then underscore emphasis on internal customer service.

#### 41 SLIDE GAINSHARING PROGRAM

Employees share in the profits when the gain in revenues is above a predetermined goal.

#### III. COMPANY POLICIES

#### 42 SLIDE POLICY STATEMENTS

Discuss what policy statements are and why we have them.

(When discussing the policies, please stick to the concepts and don't get bogged down in too much detail. Refer them to the <u>Handbook</u> for details

#### 43 SLIDE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Important to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of one.

This is spelled out in the Employee Handbook under "You & Your Job."
If they have questions, they should discuss them with their supervisor.

#### 44 SLIDE NONUNION STATUS

Not anti-union

Success of ONG is based on skills & efforts by

ALL employees.

We have good communications between employees and management.

This works best for customers & employees, and will continue to do so.

#### 45 SLIDE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Will provide equal opportunity for qualified persons regardless of:

race

age

religion color veteran status

handicap

sex

national origin

will apply to all aspects of:

recruitment

training

hiring

all conditions of work

promotion

#### 46 SLIDE HARASSMENT

Committed to equal employment opportunity. Prohibits harassment on basis of.

race

age

religion

sex

color

national origin

handicap

#### 47 SLIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

To provide <u>safe</u> work environment for employees & safe, reliable service to customers.

No sale or use or possession of narcotics, drugs or controlled substances while on the job or company property.

No impairment on the job because of use or consumption of alcohol and/or nonmedically-authorized drugs or controlled substances.

Drug/alcohol testing for all ONEOK employees.

#### VIDEO III Substance Abuse Testing Program

#### 48 SLIDE DISCIPLINE

Employee's responsibility to maintain regular attendance, acceptable job performance & follow rules made known to you.

Reminder counseling
Disciplinary counseling
Decision-Making Leave
Termination

(These are not ordered steps What happens depends on the level of infraction.)

#### 49 SLIDE SMOKING/NONSMOKING

Courtesy & consideration for preferences and allergies of others

No smoking in common areas (halls, stairs, lobbies, etc).

Each employee can designate his own work area as smoking or

non-smoking

Use courtesy & cooperation PLEASE

#### 50 SLIDE SAFETY

Top management supported - to maintain a <u>safe</u> work environment <u>for all employees and customers</u>

Refer them to the Employee Safety Manual.

Training is provided at company expense as each job demands

#### **BREAK**

#### IV YOU ARE THE FUTURE!

# 51 SLIDE CAREER DEVELOPMENT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH FROM WITHIN

We want to attract high-quality employees. Then we want to retain and motivate them.

Emphasize that employees create their own success by their attitude and actions. The success of ONG rests on employees. We expect them to want success for themselves as well as for ONG.

Refer to "Keys for Success" in packet.

### 52 SLIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

JOB PROGRESSION
JOB POSTING

Introduce the main methods to progress and success in our company

#### 53 SLIDE NONEXEMPT AND EXEMPT

These are legal categories (as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act)

#### Exempt:

Salaried

80% of work must be executive, professional or administrative, related to managements policies or general business operations

#### Nonexempt:

Hourly wages
Overtime for over 40 hours/week
Holiday premium pay = 1 1/2 times regular hourly rate
Shift premium pay
Sunday premium pay
Call-out pay

Refer to Payroll Change form in packet.

Refer to Time Report form in packet.

# VIDEO IV COMPENSATION Phyllis Worley, Manager - Compensation Be ready to answer questions - this is a complex area.

#### Job Evaluation Process and Review Processes:

Determines the worth of a job (NOT the person doing it) in relation to other jobs in the company

Done by Job Evaluation Committee

Evaluated based on factors. For example:

decisions required knowledge required physical effort required

Job grades based on points awarded during evaluation process

Reviewed at least every 3 years for accuracy

Employ participates in procedure Done by Job Evaluation Committee

#### Internal and External Equity:

The job evaluation process is to assure job equity within the company. It is also to assure job equity between ONG and other companies

#### 54 SLIDE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Responsibility of T & D is to offer the training you need.

Responsibility of the student:

To ask for training when you need it.

To learn.

Refer to Education Achievement form in packet.

Refer to Training Report form in packet.

#### 55 SLIDE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING/ CROSS TRAINING

On-the-job training - Training and practice while working with supervision Cross/rotational training - Training for other jobs at the same level within a job family.

## 56 SLIDE CLASSROOM TRAINING: IN-HOUSE AND AT OUTSIDE

INSTITUTIONS

ONG pays tuition and expenses for approved outside training.

#### 57 SLIDE In-House Customer Service Training

#### 58 SLIDE SELF-STUDY ADMINISTRATION

Distribution & transmission technical programs - apply through your supervisor.

Grammar

You do the work on your own and send it in. We will evaluate it and return it to you.

#### 59 SLIDE TYPES OF TRAINING

#### **GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT**

Safety training Hazardous Materials training Effects of drug abuse

Required by OSHA and other regulatory agencies.

(Continued on next page)

#### TECHNICAL TRAINING

Trains specific skills for specific jobsdata processing accounting welding procedures.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL TRAINING

People skills:

Communication skills Management skills Supervisory skills.

60 SLIDE Government Required Training - Fire Safety

60A SLIDE Technical Training - In-House Computer Class

60B SLIDE Developmental Training - In-House Class On Interpersonal Relations

61 SLIDE EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT PLAN

Interest-free loan program for approved participants. Pays all tuition fees, entrance exam fees, and 1/2 textbook costs.

One third (1/3) of the loan is excused each year for 3 years if you continue employment at ONG.

Refer to application in packet.

62 SLIDE JOB POSTING

Refer to Job Posting Bulletin in packet. Refer to Internal Application form in packet.

Purpose: to encourage employees with necessary qualifications (ability, specific skills & interest) to apply for jobs within the company.

Get application from supervisor.

Posted jobs are not open to outside applicants until the posting period expires.

63 SLIDE NONEXEMPT GRADES 12-14

Jobs posted for 7 calendar days. Posted within the district.

64 SLIDE NONEXEMPT GRADES 15 - 17

**EXEMPT GRADES 30-33** 

Jobs posted for 10 calendar days

Posted company-wide.

65 SLIDE JOB FAMILIES

Related jobs all using the same basic skills

Refer to examples of job families in the packets.

66 SLIDE ENTRY LEVEL JOBS - GRADES 10 & 11

Inside applicants considered first.

67 SLIDE TRAINEE POSITIONS

Accounting & Engineering

68 SLIDE EVERYBODY HAS A SUPERVISOR

A supervisor directs, but also serves as a resource when we need help

Even J. D. Scott reports to the Board of Directors (which serves as his

supervisor).

69 SLIDE WHO INTERVIEWS AND WHERE?

PANEL PROCEDURE

Screening interview.

Panel procedure:

Hiring Supervisor

Personnel interviewer

Panel.

Held at location of the job opening.

Try to hold panel procedure and make decision in one day.

All applicants notified of acceptance or rejection.

#### 70 SLIDE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REVIEW

Refer to form in packet.

This is a tool of communication between supervisor and employee.

To make sure you both agree on what you are doing & what you should be doing.

To help you with career planning.

#### BREAK CHANGE SLIDE TRAYS

#### V. METHODS OF COMMUNICATION & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

71 SLIDE TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION

72 SLIDE IDEAS FOR PROGRESS

To encourage creative ideas and effort on the part of the employees to improve the company's business operations.

73 SLIDE OPEN DOOR AND LET'S TALK PROGRAM

Open Door - Employees may talk directly with any supervisor or member of management. Make arrangements through supervisor

Let's Talk - Allows individuals or groups (up to 4 people) to meet with J. D. Scott (Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ONEOK) to discuss company-related issues and concerns.

74 SLIDE EMPLOYEES' QUESTION AND ANSWER MEETINGS

Yearly meeting

Questions must be submitted in writing before meeting.

75 SLIDE ANNUAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

All employees receive an annual accounting of their personal benefits program.

76 SLIDE LETTERS FROM MANAGEMENT

Sent as often as necessary to keep employees informed about company-related matters.

#### 77 SLIDE FALL SERVICE RECOGNITION MEETINGS

Employees and spouse/guest are invited to attend.

To honor employees for length of service and give information on current company conditions.

Refer to Service Award Brochure in packet.

#### 78 SLIDE MAJOR EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

Refer to the Benefit Summary in packet.

To protect you and your family from severe financial hardship due to illness or injury.

To ensure a comfortable retirement.

To help your life today.

\*\*\*\*\*Have a benefits specialist available to explain any areas you aren't sure of and to answer any question participants may have.

#### 79 SLIDE

BENEFITS REQUIRED BY LAW SOCIAL SECURITY

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Social Security

Retirement, disability, medical benefits.

Unemployment Compensation

Weekly income payments while looking for a job.

Workers Compensation - temporary disability coverage for injury while performing job-related duties.

#### Benefits Not Required By Law:

80 SLIDE WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

EMPLOYEES & SPOUSE RETIREES & SPOUSE

CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES-

Elegibility varies with each benefit. Read the Employee's Handbook carefully.

(<u>Definition of Children</u> on next page)

Definition of "Children" (this definition applies to any benefit which covers children)

Natural children

Adopted children (if you are responsible for their medical expenses)

Stepchildren (who live with you).

Age restrictions for eligibility of children vary with benefits - be sure to look up in Employee Handbook.

#### 81 SLIDE TERM LIFE INSURANCE

Term insurance (available while employed or retired) - has no accrued value.

#### 82 SLIDE ONEOK HEALTH PLAN

\$150 deductible per person per year. Plan pays 80% of all eligible expenses after deductible. Plan pays 100% of all eligible expenses after first \$1000. There is NO lifetime maximum.

#### HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Available where there is an HMO serving the area. Currently, in Tulsa, OKC and Shawnee.

#### 83 SLIDE DENTAL PLAN

Currently NO charge to employee. Eligible: Employees, spouse and children.

#### 84 SLIDE LONG-TERM DISABILITY PLAN

To protect your income if you cannot work for a long period of time due to accident or sickness.

Protects 60% of your income.

#### 85 SLIDE EMPLOYEE SPENDING ACCOUNTS/FLEX PLUS

Refer to brochures in packet.

- \*\*\*\*\*\*Use benefits specialist to explain this area since it is new and not widely understood.
- \* Ask the specialist to answer only questions of general interest. Questions regarding individual circumstances should be held until the end of the program. Arrange for the specialist to be available then

#### 86 SLIDE RETIREMENT PLAN

Vested after 5 years.

Vesting - ownership of the company's contribution is given to the employee.

#### Interesting info:

Started in 1941

Added surviving spouse option in 1955.

Ended employee contributions in 1970.

Changed vesting period from 10 years to 5 years in 1989

#### 87 SLIDE THRIFT PLAN

To provide employees with a systematic savings plan.

Participants may save as much or as little as they want.

Company will match employee contributions up to 6% of the employee's

All company funds fully vested at time of deposit

#### 88 SLIDE TRAVEL ACCIDENT INSURANCE PLAN

Additional insurance for employees during authorized travel for company business purposes.

Covered from the time you begin the trip until the time you return to your home or office.

#### 89 SLIDE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For children of employees.

To attend college, university, or technical institute.

6 scholarships/year to 4-year colleges or universities.

2 scholarships/year to technical institutes or 2-year associate degree programs.

#### 90 SLIDE PAID VACATION

After August 31:

1st Year 1 day (8 hours) per month worked as of August 31 (up

to 10 days)

2nd year 2 weeks
After 7 yrs 3 weeks
After 14 yrs 4 weeks
After 25 yrs 5 weeks

#### 91 SLIDE TEN PAID HOLIDAYS

Labor Day Presidents' Day
Thanksgiving Day Good Friday
Fri. after Thanksgiving Memorial Day
Christmas Day Independence Day
New Year's Day Employee's Birthday

#### 92 SLIDE PAID TIME OFF

Time off with pay for illness, injury, family illness, personal business.

#### 93 SLIDE SICKNESS BENEFITS

Full basic salary up to a maximum of 12 months (depending on length of service.

#### 94 SLIDE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Counseling services available to an employee or family member. To help resolve problems (crises) that affect personal lives, job performance, or mental or emotional well-being.

#### \*\* Strictly confidential.

#### 95 SLIDE OTHER BENEFITS

#### TOOL ALLOWANCE

annual allowance for maintenance and replacement tools mechanics and machinists are required to furnish.

### UNIFORMS

For employees required to wear uniforms. 1/2 cost for purchase and alterations.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT FOR PARKING

For Tulsa and OKC employees because they must pay for

parking

**FLU SHOTS** 

Free to employees and spouse, and retirees and spouse CHRISTMAS GIFT

Each employee receives a ham at Christmas.

PRERETIREMENT SEMINARS

For all employees at age 50.

To discuss financial options, legal arrangements, and life styles

Spouses encouraged to attend.

MEMBERSHIP IN PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTERS

1/2 membership fee in nonprofit fitness centers.

EMPLOYEE RELOCATION PLAN

Home buyout plan

Temporary equity loan.

Moving expenses.

Relocation allowance.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

MILITARY LEAVE

JURY DUTY PAY

COMPANY RECREATION

Company barbecue

Family picnic

Soft Ball

96 SLIDE ONECU

Employees Credit Union - provides financial services. Any employee and members of their families can join.

Share accounts, checking accounts, IRAs, loans, savings certificates, etc.

97 SLIDE ONECU Teller and Counters

98 SLIDE ONECU Offices and Lobby

99 SLIDE ONEA

Nonprofit organization operated by employees to promote:

Cooperation among employees.

Fellowship.

100 SLIDE ONEA Picnic

#### WRAP-UP

101 SLIDE MISSION STATEMENT

Mention.

Long, stable history of customer service

Policies evolved to protect employees, customers and company

Benefits - rewards for a job well done

102 SLIDE BLUE FLAME - Let this stay on the screen while you do the guiz and

evaluation forms

QUIZ T

This is a group project. Keep it upbeat and fun

Anyone who can call out the right answer gets a prize!

Anyone who can recite the mission statement gets a BIG prize!

**EVALUATION FORMS** 

Collect them now - nobody leaves without turning one in

Make sure everyone signs the Training Roster.

Thank presenters for their help.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SAFE TRIP HOME.

Turn off any equipment.

Return any equipment for which you are responsible.

Notify necessary building personnel that you have finished.

#### APPENDIX B

MATERIALS INCLUDED IN PACKET FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

TO ACCOMPANY ORIENTATION PROGRAM

#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

#### Benefits and Employment Terms

- EEO/AA Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action
- Eligibility Who qualifies for a particular benefit
- Exempt Employees A legal category of employment describing any salaried positions classified as executive, professional, or administrative
- External Customers Customers of ONG
- HMO Health Maintenance Organization
- Internal Customer Employees of ONG whom you serve are your customers
- Nonexempt Employees A legal category of employment describing any position which is paid for work by the hour. This position would pay overtime for more than 40 hours of work per week. It would also receive other pay benefits such as holiday premium pay, shift premium pay, Sunday premium pay and call-out pay
- Vesting Giving ownership to the employee of the company's contribution to a retirement or thrift plan Once vested, the contribution belongs to the employee

#### Gas Industry terms

- AGA American Gas Association.
- BTU A comparative measure of heat produced The quantity of heat needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree (from 58 5 to 59.5 degrees Fahrenheit).
- CNG Compressed natural gas
- Cubic Foot A measure of volume A container 1 foot long, 1 foot wide, 1 foot high
- Daily mean temperature The high and low temperatures for a day, added together and divided by 2
- Degree day (heating) A measure of coldness; taken when the daily mean temperature falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit For example, if the mean temperature is 35, there are 30 degree days that day
- Distribution Delivering gas from the city gate or plant to the consumers
- FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- MCf 1,000 cubic feet
- OCC Oklahoma Corporation Commission
- OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Act A Federal law that sets standards for safety and health for people at work
- SGA Southern Gas Association
- Take-or-Pay A contract that requires you pay for a specific quantity whether or not you take delivery

#### KEYS TO SUCCESS

- POSITIVE ATTITUDE Identify with the goals and objectives of ONG Demonstrate team spirit, cooperation is the name of the game
- ENTHUSIASM Show a high degree of interest in carrying out job functions
- SELF CONTROL Be steady under pressure, try not to spread tension of the job to coworkers and subordinates, be consistent and fair
- DEPENDABILITY Be thorough and accurate on assignments, do your best to meet deadlines
- CREATIVENESS Have an inquiring mind, show imagination and originality, produce ideas
- INITIATIVE Be a self-starter in all areas of your job, work hard to achieve goals, be realistically ambitious and strive for excellence
- CRITICAL THINKING AND ALERTNESS Be able to grasp new ideas and adapt to change
- DECISION MAKING Analyze problems and develop appropriate actions to solve them
- CAPACITY TO WORK Demonstrate ability to work for sustained periods of time to produce results, learn to work with pressure
- LOYALTY Support company policies and management decisions
- SUCCESS IS AN ATTITUDE KNOW THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING AND THEN MAKE IT HAPPEN

PAYROLL CHANGE FORM 325 (1-91)

Complete with typewriter or print with pen. See reverse side for detailed instructions. Send in original and two copies to General Payroll Department. Originating office retain a copy if desired. A General Office approved copy will be returned to the originating office.

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## TRAINING REPORT

### OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY

COURSE/ SUBJECT		BEGINNING DATE	<b>.</b>	COMPLETION DATE		
SCHOOL OR SPONSOR		TIME	TIME	NO OF		
INSTRUCTOR						
TUITION OR FEE \$  GRADE (IF ANY)	E ONLY SEMINARICO NOT PREVIO	OURSE DESCRIPT DUSLY CODED	ION IF			
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NAME		SOCIAL SECURITY NO	• DEF	PARTMENT	TOTAL TIME	
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\*NONCOMPANY PERSONNEL SHOW NAME OF COMPANY OR AGENCY UNDER DEPARTMENT (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE)

### (Instructions Reverse Side)

M 1293	DATE
	DATE
NAME	SS #
DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT	EMPLOYMENT DATE
	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
COLLEGE, BUSINESS, TECHNICAL, OR TRADE SCHOOL	Yr
Highest Level	
Degree received or working toward	
(PhD M	S BS BA certificate etc.)
Major field of study	counting, fine arts computer science etc.)
	counting, time and company science etc.
Professional Registration (P E , CPA registered surv	eyor, etc.)
Year graduated	
If did not graduate last year attended	
Name of school	Location
Hours accumulated or years attended	
Number of hours needed to complete degree	
	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Ivext Highest Level	
Degree or certificate received	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
(BS BA AA etc)	
Major field of study(business administration, adjucation, ac	counting fine arts computer science etc.)
Year graduated	
Name of school	Location
HIGH SCHOOL	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Year graduated	
f did not graduate, last grade completed	Yr
Last year attended	<del></del>
f other than general or college preparatory education, show vocational or college	nmercial concentration
(commercial mechanical drawin	g welding etc)
Name of school	Location
Additional information on the reverse side	
Employee	Cupequeor

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TUITION LOAN	□ ADV	ANCE							
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(SEE CONDITIONS ON BACK)

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TO BE CONSIDERED	FOR THIS JOB OP	ENING-					
1 Complete an Interna	l Job Application, Form	n 365					
2 Submit the original supervisor BY THE C		n Form (page	1) to your immediate				
3 Send the copy (page	2) of the Internal Job	Application F	orm to the Employmen	t Specialist			
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EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

MAIL DELIVERY LOCATION

JOB CLOSING DATE

5 pm

For additional job information, employees may contact the employment specialist or the hiring supervisor

Attachments

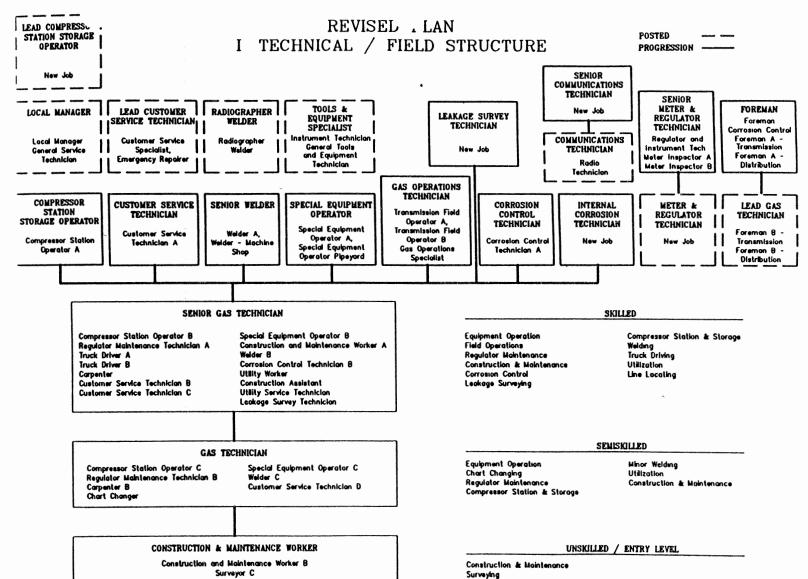
Job Description
Selection Criteria Guideline

INTERNAL JOB APPLICATION

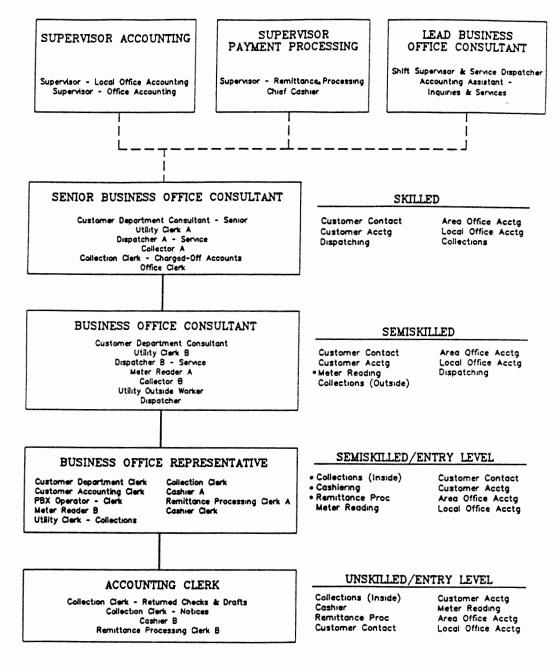
EMPLOYEE
Comparies Sections 1 and 2 in init
Give original to supervisor by the closing date
Send relieve copy to employment specialist immed alety—
must be received by the closing date

Complete Section 3.
Review with employee
Route through your organizational structure to vice presider
VICE PRESIDENT

1 JOB POSTING	NFORMATION						
JOB APPLYING FOR			LOCATIO			JOB CLC	SING DATE
EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST			MAIL LO				5 P M
YES 00 YOU HAVE AN	E APPLICATION FOR ANOTHER POST SIDERATION AT THIS TIME?	ED SIGNATURE OF EN	MPLOYEE REQUES	TING CO	MSIDERATION	· ····	DATE
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# II CUSTOMER / CLERICAL STRUCTURE



• Final progression step

# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FORM 1333

-	MO DAYNA		MO /DAY/YR
		TO	

PERFORMANC	E EVALUATION INSTRUCTIONS
<ul> <li>a) Review and record performance results</li> <li>b) Complete Task / Goal sections for next 1</li> </ul>	rit review date supervisor will meet with employee to for the past 12 months on current form and 12 months on a blank form he signed by supervisor and employee and routed to appropriate
NAME	DISTRICT
PRESENT JOB TITLE	LOCATION
DATE ASSIGNED PRESENT JOB	EMPLOYMENT DATE
Supervisor and employee have jointly reviewed and dis items listed below are the major tasks / goals and desii with the most important TASKS / GOALS—DESIRED RESULTS—RESULTS OB'	scussed the job duties and responsibilities and have concluded that the red results for this position. In listing the employee's tasks / goals begin
Desired results	
Results obtained / Comments	
2 Task / Goal	
Desired results	
Results obtained / Comments	
Task/Goal	
Desired results	
Results obtained / Comments	

Hours of overtime reported past 12 months		
Is employee willing to work other than regular hours as needed to meet the needs of the rork group?	Yes	□ N
Comments		
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY		
Indicate areas / actions in which the employee needs to improve. State specific actions the employee job performance.	can take to	ımprove
Indicate areas / actions in which employee performs well		
		···
		<del></del>
Additional training or education needed by the employee to perform this job		
OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATING (Check one)		
Outstanding		
☐ Exceeds Expectations ☐ Meets Expectations		
Below Expectations Unsatisfactory		
Explain		
f amployee a work parformance is upgettefactory, but the discussions and as account.		
f employee's work performance is unsatisfactory, has the disciplinary policy and for appropriate locumentation been started for this employee?	Yes	□ No
Explain		

# ONEOK Inc. Benefits

### Some of the benefits are:

- Group Life and Health Benefit Plan (paid for by the Company)—Employee Coverage
- Retirement Plan (paid for by the Company)
- Long Term Disability Plan (paid for by the Company)
- Thrift Plan (Matched \$ for \$ up to 6% after one year of employment)
- Travel Accident Insurance Plan (paid for by the Company)
- Educational Agreement Plan
- · Ten Holidays are granted annually as follows:

Labor Day Thanksgiving Day Friday after Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day New Year's Day President's Day Good Friday Memorial Day Independence Day Employee's Birthday\*

\*Employee may select any national holiday as a substitute, i.e., Martin Luther King's Birthday The employee's birthday holiday is taken during the week in which his/her birthday occurs if the employee chooses to take his/her birthday holiday, two weeks prior notice should be given to the supervisor

The supervisor must be notified in August when an employee wishes to observe another holiday in place of the Birthday Holiday for the following fiscal year

- ONEOK Inc Scholarship Plan For regular full-time employees of ONEOK Inc and subsidiaries The applicant must be a son or daughter (including a stepson or stepdaughter or legally adopted son or daughter) of a regular full-time employee Applications will be accepted if a parent on the probationary payroll will become a regular employee before the applicant graduates from high school
- ONEA is a nonprofit organization operated by the employees of the Company to promote genuine cooperation among employees and to foster fellowship. Any full-time employee who has completed one month's continuous service is eligible for membership in the association.
- ONECU (employees credit union)



EVALUATION - ORIEN1 1 FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

í	<u> </u>	portance			T	Coverage		<b>!</b>
	Very	Not Very	Not		Adequate	Need More	Not	
	Important	Important	Sure			Information	Sure	Comments
Goals & Objectives of ONG - "Where We Were, Where We Are Where We Are Going"								
Departmental Overview - Structure & Functions								
Corporate Responsibility								
Customer Service - Internal & External								
Policy Statements								
Career Development Opportunities - Training, Education, Job Posting								-
Compensation								
Tools of Communication						-		
Benefits								
	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effec	tive	Comments			
Facilitator Effectiveness							٤.	
	Comfortabl	e Inadequate	Comme	nts				
Facilities								
Comments								

QUIZ

- 1 Name the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
- 2 How many districts are there?

Name them

- 3 What state agency regulates ONG Utility Company as a public utility?
- 4 What are the stakeholders groups?
- 5 How many customers do we serve?
- 6 What is an internal customer?
- 7 What is our mission statement?
- 8 Who can participate in the Education Agreement Plan?
- 9 The company will match your contribution to your thrift plan dollar for dollar What percentage of your salary is the maximum it will match?
- 10 If you have a problem or need information, who should you turn to first?
- How long do you need to be employed at ONG before you can submit a job posting application?
- 12 What do the initials O N E A stand for?
- How many days (hours) of vacation does an employee get as of Sept 1, 1f they started work on May 10?
  - As of Sept 1 the next year, how many days (hours) of vacation does that same employee get?
- When does the fiscal year begin and end? (please emphasize fiscal NOT physical
- 15 What does Mcf mean?
- 16 When do pay days occur?
- 17 What are the 3 benefits required by law?
- 18 Who is eligible for training?
- 19 Gas is the \_\_\_\_\_ choice
- What is your instructor's name and position? (You might even mention what a great job he/she did!!!)



the new employee benefits program at ONEOK that begins July 1, 1991 With FlexPlus, you will have the opportunity to make choices in several benefit areas

Before you make your new benefit elections, you will also receive an "Enrollment Kit," which will provide a more detailed summary

about each benefit plan, as well as some personalized information about your coverage choices and the cost for each benefit option

In April and May, meetings
will be held to discuss the
FlexPlus program to make
sure you have a good
understanding about your
choices before your elections
are made.



We strongly encourage you to read all the information you il receive about FlexPlus and attend an enrollment meeting so you can learn about the program. If you're marned, we also recommend you share these materials with your spouse and discuss the different alternatives to be sure you make the benefit elections that are best for you

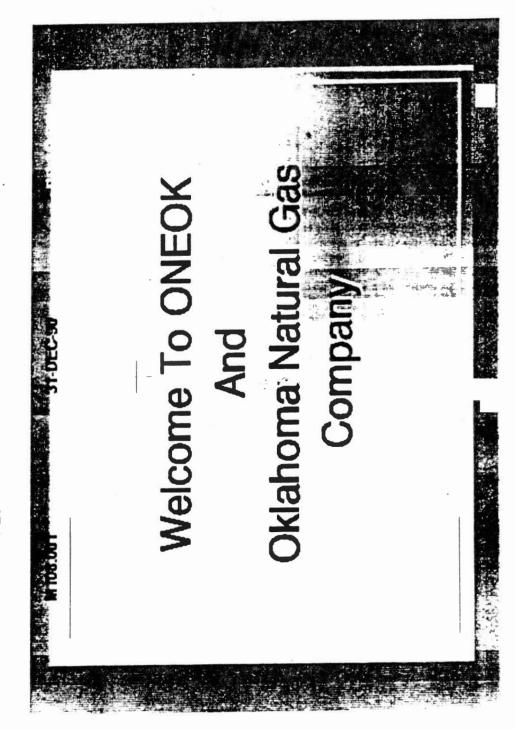
### APPENDIX C

SAMPLES OF SLIDES USED TO PRESENT ORIENTATION

PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

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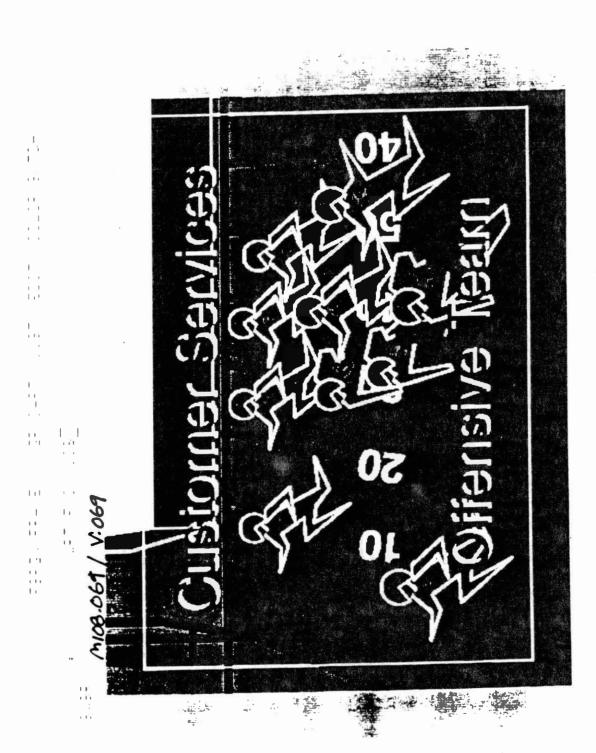
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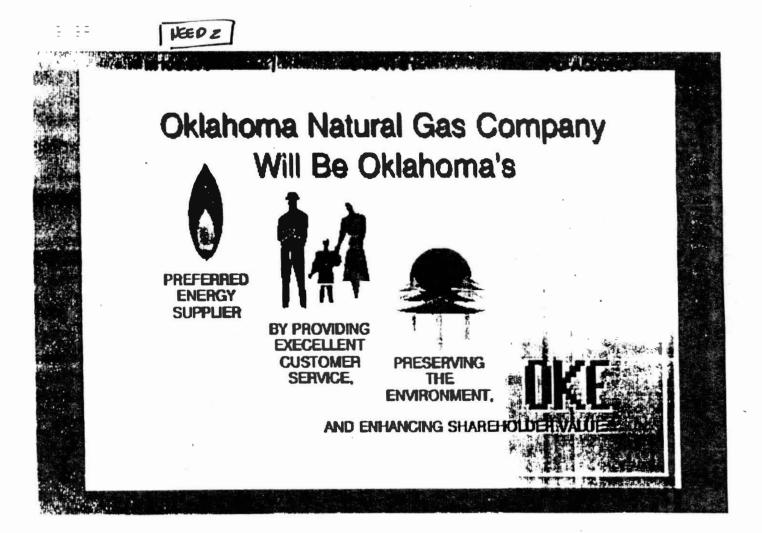
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PD-AG/BBK

- Ideas For Progress
- Open Door & Let's Talk
- ◆ Employees' Q & A
- Annual Benefits Statement
- Letters From Management
- Fall Service Recognition Meetings

ONEOK Health Plan Health Maintenance Organization

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# Accident Insurance





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### APPENDIX D

LOG OF INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES

### 28 February 1991

I met with Alinda Griswold to discuss general expectations of the project. She introduced me to several employees I would need to know and invited me to participate in upcoming Management Communications Workshop. She felt that this would both acquaint me with the facilities at ONG and personnel available to help me, and that the information presented would be of interest to me.

The project itself is to design an orientation program for new employees. It should last in the neighborhood of four hours and be designed in such a way that it can be presented to any new employees recently hired - regardless of educational background, age, or position hired to perform. I will have access to whatever information or resources I may need, including video production or corporation communication for help scripting.

Alinda seems to be very friendly, helpful, organized, open. Everyone she introduced was friendly and offered help in any way I might need. "Just call." (2 hours)

### 19 February 1991

Went to UCT library to see what is available on corporate employee orientation. I discovered that either they don't carry much in this area or that very little is written. There is nothing in ERIC. A few journal articles offer some very general statements about the purpose of orientation programs being primarily to convey a feeling or

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emotion to participants, but they don't offer any helpful suggestions about how to do this.

Then I spent the afternoon at the TU library trying to find more information about setting up orientation programs for new employees. The results of the search were similar to that at UCT. I am beginning to believe that nobody spends much time on this area of corporate training. (4 1/2 hours)

20 February 1991

The results of searching the business section of the Downtown Tulsa library brought no new information. I am beginning to feel like a pioneer. (1 1/2 hours) 20 February to 22 February 1991

I have spend three fantastic days in ONG's
Management Communications Workshop. This workshop is well
presented by Ed Wheeler (head of Corporate Communications),
Stafford Davis (also in Corporate Communications) and
Alinda. The handouts for participants to take home and
review are excellent. It is a good experiential learning
process. Included were two video taping sessions for each
participant to practice and observe his own style and
mannerisms.

There is obvious upper management commitment to training. The facilities are excellent and needed employees are helpfully at your service. A senior vice-president stopped by and was asked to make a repeat of his board presentation to serve as an example - he did so

cheerfully. Several upper management folks stopped in to briefly observe and offer an encouraging word.

Met with Alinda. She introduced me to more employees and gave me a tour of other parts of the building. She gave me a room and desk to use and a stack of materials regarding company policies, including the <a href="Employee Handbook">Employee Handbook</a>. She also gave me a tape to view about the history of the company and an orientation tape from her files (to serve as a bad example!). The orientation tape was poorly organized, badly produced and boring beyond belief. (3 hours)

# 26 February 1991

25 February 1991

Spent the day reading background materials about natural gas - ONG's product. Reviewed instructional tapes produced by the Massey Group. These explain generational differences and how varying background experiences affect decisions made today. Should be helpful in trying to design a program for all ages and economic backgrounds.

Began fleshing out a purpose and objectives for the project. (7 1/2 hours)

At home I put together a tentative outline for the program. Alinda said she had an outline done and that I could alter it as I felt necessary. After looking at it, I discovered that it is a list of slides available and topics for discussion in no particular order. After thinking about it, I decided to leave the list of slides

available for later and do a new outline.

I think the purposes would be best accomplished by writing an outline of topics to be presented and then just adding details to the outline. In the end I would like to see a manual designed so that anyone can present the program. The portions which deal with sensitive policies that needed to be presented in the exact same words each time can be video taped. This will provide a format that is consistent regardless of the presenter.

For the rest, I would like to see a simple outline that each presenter can adapt to his or her own presentation style. I am afraid that if they have too much text available, they may try to memorize it and give a very "canned" performance. Having watched some of the participants in the Management Communications Workshop, I think this is a very real possibility. Worse yet, some of them would just stand behind a podium and read the whole thing. (3 1/2 hours)

# 27 February 1991

Discussed my proposed purposes and objectives with Alinda. She approved. Then we went into the outline. She likes the idea of keeping it in outline form. She agrees that many of the future presenters would very probably read or at least try to memorize the whole thing.

We would both like to keep it general, without very much detail. The policies and benefits should have been explained in some detail when the participants were

hired. This should serve as a reminder of what they heard and let them know who they can ask for more information or to discuss their personal situation. I need to go through a payroll process.

Also asked Alinda about the budget for this project so that I can start making initial decisions about ideas as they come to mind. (She had mentioned the possibility of video, but these can be very expensive to produce.) She said it's not firm, but around \$10,000 - maybe more if we can justify it! I thought I had died and gone to heaven! Word processing services are also to be available to me.

Read about the origins of gas. I think this would best be used in the second part of the orientation, to be developed later. It will deal with the gas production and how all the ONG subsidiaries play a part in exploration, production and marketing. I think we'll just mention that these exist and save the boring details for later.

Spent the rest of the day reviewing life and health insurance plans and trying to boil it down to a short outline form. I need to be sure to find a short way to emphasize the main points without leaving the company liable because not enough information is given. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 1 March 1991

Asked the director of Corporate Communications

for permission to view the new top secret tape on a new benefits package which will come on-line in September of this year. I want to know how it compares with the current one so that I can make this easily adaptable when the time comes. He said yes without hesitation and told me where to find it. I really get the feeling that people here appreciate what I'm doing and want to help. (6 1/2 hours)

4 March 1991

Worked some more on reviewing the benefits program. I am trying to put each benefit into a brief outline and then trying to shrink it to a usable form. Met with Alinda to review what I have done and make sure we are both heading in the same direction. She agrees we need to keep it loose as benefits change so often these days. It must be adaptable later on. Later read the 1989-1990 annual reports.

Began scripting the introduction which will be presented on video. So far it's only a bare outline. I think it is important that this introduction reflect the purpose of the whole program. Alinda will do most of the actual writing and I am concerned that she will get caught up in the history of the company (they already have volumes written on this subject) and forget that the whole concept will revolve around the Mission Statement. Since all activities of the company should reflect the Mission Statement, it is my belief that this orientation should also reflect it. After all, the purpose of an orientation

is to instruct a new employee in what is expected of him and what his rewards will be if he does it. (7 1/2 hours)
5 March 1991

Worked on scripting the intro and mission statement segment with Alinda. She sees where I am heading and agrees with me. Later, began investigating history of the company. Past histories, while being interesting reading material, have emphasized state and national history. ONG accomplishments seem almost incidental to what else is happening. I hope to focus more on changes within ONG rather than the events being reacted to. I hope to show how the past and present reflect the Mission Statement. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 6 March to 8 March

Attended the Advanced Supervisory Skills
Workshop. Interesting workshop for supervisors. Good mix
of communication skills, team building exercises and
discussions, and policy explanations.

# 11 March 1991

Back to investigating history of company.

Browsing through past issues of <u>Gasette</u> (employee magazine)

- amazing how journalistic styles change over the years.

The older issues (1940's) were folksy, kitchen-gossip type writing. Today's issues are still employee oriented, but much more reserved and slick magazine styled. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 12 March 1991

Kay Beeby took me through the new employee enrollment and form-filling-out process - known here as "payrolling." I wanted to find out just how much a new-hire is told and how thoroughly policies are explained.

Kay also gave me the names of recently hired employees to talk to about their experiences.

More history - am trying to think of a new way to combine company history and development without landing too far in folksy history or corporate development.

Called some new employees and alerted them that I would be calling them tomorrow to interview them about their orientation process and any thoughts they had about whether or not it was helpful to them.

Reviewed more benefits and continued trying to fit it into an outline format. This whole part should probably be presented with slides and handouts so that it can be adapted as necessary. Benefits tend to change fairly often in most companies these days. I am a little concerned that we are not to mention the new benefits package which will come on-line in either July or September. It's one of those things where everyone knows about it through the grapevine, but no official word has come as yet. I think we should at least mention that it is a future possibility. (7 hours)

#### 13 March 1991

Met with Alinda all day to review and hash out

the outline of the project. We also prepared a tentative proposal to present to Jim Dillinger (head of production studio). He wants a preliminary script of the video production before he will put it on his calendar. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 14 March 1991

Alinda and I met with Jim and pitched our proposal. He wants an exact script. We want a loose script at this stage so that we can work the style to fit the person who will be speaking. Our outline gave him the gist of what would be said and the visual concept we want for all three video segments. Tentatively, he gave his approval and willingness to produce it. (8 hours)

15 March 1991

Interviewed new-hires at service center. I was surprised with their contentment with their orientation. They had no suggestions for change or unanswered questions. Also talked with two new-hires in the districts (most of the districts only hire 2 or 3 people a year so recent ones to interview are hard to find). Also, because of a computer conversion, there is no central place to find out who was recently hired. I have to depend on Kay remembering who she payrolled recently. This is really limiting.

Began reviewing policy statements and putting them into outline form. (8 hours)

#### 18 March 1991

Reviewed more policy statements in the <u>Employees</u>

<u>Handbook</u> and began coordinating them with procedures for carrying them out given in the <u>Supervisor's Manual</u>. Also worked on storyboards for slides for "corporate structure" segment. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 19 March 1991

Talked to a benefits specialist about the new "flex benefits" policy that will come on-line in August or September. We can't use this plan yet, or even refer to it. But, I need to keep it in mind while I work on the presentation for the plan, so that it can be easily adapted later.

Was given my own copy of the <u>Supervisor's</u>

<u>Handbook</u>. It outlines exact procedures for almost any
situation. In my on-going debate regarding how much detail
to include in this presentation, I often end by writing "if
they have questions, refer them to their supervisor." At
ONG, the supervisors are well-informed, and seem to be the
major buffer between employees and problems. The
supervisors really are a major resource to employees here.

# (8 hours)

### 20 March 1991

Interviewed manager of safety. Cleared up the ambiguity of heavy emphasis on safety and safety personnel, but no specific safety policy (they have official policies on everything else). I discovered that every employee has

a safety manual that is minutely detailed. There is heavy training that just isn't visible to me because most of it occurs in the districts and I'm in the general office.

Also, an official safety policy will likely be in the next edition of the <a href="Employee's Handbook">Employee's Handbook</a>.

More research on <u>Supervisor's Manual</u> to understand EEO/AA practices. (7 1/2 hours)
21 March 1991

Spent the day entering most of my notes into the computer. Trying to edit as I go. I'm beginning to feel like it is finally taking shape. It's beginning to look like a program rather than isolated bits and pieces. (6 hours)

#### 22 March 1991

Worked on the Glossary of Terms. Picked out the terms I think should be included and then wrote what I hope are simple, easy to understand definitions. I had Kay and Sherry read the definitions and rewrote them until everyone knew what I was saying. Haven't discussed this idea with Alinda yet.

Alinda and I worked on the quiz to come at the end. We want to use it as a tool to sum up the main points we went over during the program. The trick is to keep it upbeat so that it doesn't turn into a "dreaded test" situation. That's why there will be prizes for correct answers. I would like to see the presenter ask questions of the group and participants can just call out answers.

Correct answerers should be handed a prize at the time. (8 hours)

#### 25 March 1991

Spent the morning with Belinda Kitchens storyboarding slides. I showed her my rough drawings and discussed her ideas for revision. She has a creative mind and some great ideas.

The video scripts have all been drafted and are being passed out to others to help with refinement.

Florence Reed is especially helpful at this. She can use a minimum number of words and convey a mental picture at the same time. The concept for the introduction has changed and is much better. It emphasizes the mission statement and hardly mentions history. Alinda did a good job.

These are much tighter scripts than I would like but they will probably work better if care is taken to avoid "reciting." I had originally envisioned that the intro and mission statement segment would be done by various employees explaining in their own words what parts of the statement meant to them. I think this would be a personal approach and backup the concept of a cohesive team effort at ONG. But I think that time constraints are going to force us to go with a tight script read by a professional in a "voice over" format. (7 hours)

Spent the morning editing the first draft of the manual. It's beginning to come together now and resemble a

program - this is exciting! I can picture the completed
project now.

Requested a list of new-hires for the past year. I have already mentioned the problem with the computer conversion. It appears that we have to use a list from the Thrift Plan which contains confidential information about each employee's contribution to the Plan. We can put in a request for a new computer run format, but it will have to go through a committee for approval and then be set up. There's no way to get it in time. Alinda will have to file such a request at some point, however, if they are ever to be able to call up this information to know who to include in future classes.

Alinda, Florence Reed, Derald Clow (Manager of Human Resources) and I met to discuss the revisions of two of the three videos and sent them to Jim Dillinger for estimates of production time and a completion date. He is procrastinating. I'm not sure what is going on here. I may not get to observe the production of this if they do it in June, which is what he is predicting now. (8 hours)

27 March 1991

Alinda and I discussed including a Glossary of
Terms which I would like to include in the packet to be
given to each attendee. Alinda agreed that it should be
included. I would like it to be general terminology - most
of the really technical terms they will learn if they need
it for their particular jobs. But I would like it to

include things which I had to look up when I started here, because some technical terms seem to be used universally. For this part, I am relying fairly heavily on my own experience. (7 hours)

# 28 March 1991

Spent the day doing input on the computer.

Finished entering segments which hadn't been finished and editing some others. (7 1/2 hours)

### 1 April 1991

Reviewed and proofed slides that Belinda had finished. The rest should be finished by Wednesday or Thursday. They are turning out well. When Alinda first suggested depicting the different departments as parts of a football team I argued for almost any other image. I think the whole sports image is overused and I'm personally tired of it. She finally agreed if I could think of anything else that would show a team spirit and accommodate all the departments in the image. Hate to admit it, but in this particular instance, I think a football team analogy may be the easiest way to project the image of a whole team being the sum of its parts, with each part being dependent on all the other parts.

We scheduled the auditorium for 22 April 1991 for the run-through for those people who will be presenting the program in the future. I was told there would be no opportunity to pilot it (a fond dream of mine that I have been trying to push as a necessity). Spent the rest of the day refining the manual. (7 1/2 hours)

#### 2 April 1991

Put revisions in the computer and distributed copies to Derald, Florence, Ed Wheeler (Corporate Communications), the two people who will be future presenters, and others with a request for comments and suggestions. (4 hours)

#### 3 April 1991

Began collecting the sample forms which will be included in the packets for participants. Alinda and I went through the marketing catalog of gift items to be included in the packets and to be used for prizes for right answers to quiz questions at the end of the program. We would like to see each new employee have a t-shirt with the company logo. We then picked out mugs, travel cups and sports caps (all with the ONG logo) for the prizes. Derald approved the purchase of these items which should total around \$600.00. This should be enough shirts and prizes for approximately one year. (8 hours)

### 4 April 1991

Derald gave his copy back with comments and spent quite a while explaining what he liked and making two suggestions. The first suggestion was for a benefits specialist to be present during the presentation to answer questions new employees might have. I had suggested this before and am glad to see it included. I know we want to

keep the presentation simple, but I think people may have questions regarding their individual circumstances and will want to ask them. Now we can do that. He also wants the new FlexPlus package explained. Seems it will come on-line in July and employees will begin receiving explanations in their mail next week. That part needs to be added to the manual.

His second suggestion was that someone from Customer Service be available to underscore the emphasis ONG is putting on that area. It is a major part of the Mission Statement and he is right. It should be emphasized. I should have thought of that earlier.

Talked to Belinda about adding two new slides to accommodate the FlexPlus portion. She said she will try to get them done quickly.

Alinda and I began working out details for the presentation on 22 April. Rather than a straight presentation, this will most probably be a working session to explain the purpose of orientation and why certain parts are the way they are. Also, we'll listen to their comments so we can adapt parts as needed. (8 hours)

5 April 1991

Edited and refined the manual some more. Began writing a handout called "Keys to Success" which Derald would like to have given to participants. It is a list of positive attitudes and how they can help one get ahead. (7 hours)

#### 8 April 1991

Screened new hires from the computer printout of Thrift Plan members. Alinda and I located the department and division for each person and made our own computer list so that they can be invited to attend the first round of orientation sessions. (5 hours)

#### 10 April 1991

Ordered master slides for the master set. Edited the manual. (8 hours)

# 12 April 1991

Entered changes into the computer. (4 hours)
15 April 1991

Worked on the evaluation form with Alinda. This is a problem area for me because it is to be filled out by participants at the end of the presentation. This is standard ONG procedure. They do not want a follow-up evaluation. I would like to see a later thorough evaluation done (at least for the first few groups) so that it can be determined if there are any lingering problems or suggestions that new hires have. (8 hours)

16 April 1991

We decided that there should be more picture slides depicting situations so I went back to the archives to find more examples. Found another whole cache of slides about which nobody had told me. There are some fairly good shots taken during training sessions which will be usable.

Redrew some of the word slides which had come

back with errors and requested new copies. Then took the ones which were available and tested them in the projector to see how it is going to flow. (8 hours)

17 April 1991

Alinda and I found a vacant projection room and did a trial run. Spent the rest of the day rearranging slides and editing the manual. (8 hours)

18 April 1991

More computer input to set the type for the editing done in the last few days. Sent the copy to the print shop for the presentation on April 22. (8 hours)
19 April 1991

Spent the morning with Alinda rehearsing in the small projection room. We assembled the manuals and then spent the afternoon in the auditorium rehearsing and getting the tables arranged. Made final arrangements with the cafeteria management to have refreshments available during the presentation. (8 hours)

### 22 April 1991

Presentation day!!! Started at 7:30 a.m. to check out the auditorium and make sure the table and chair arrangements were still correct. Reconfirmed with cafeteria maintenance about food arrangements. Tested the projector and slides to make sure everything worked and that slides didn't hang up in the carousel (one does quite often because they are numbered with little paper dots and the heat from the projector tends to loosen them from the

frame).

Attendees were the Personnel Manager and four personnel specialists who will do the presenting in the future. Our purpose was to explain the purpose of the orientation, what we wanted new employees to get out of it, how we thought this could best be accomplished, and to do a run-through of the program to serve as an example. We took time out as we went to answer questions and had a general discussion period at the end for comments and suggestions. Only one suggestion for change was offered and it was a valid point. It was suggested that in the benefits section, that we move the order of "government required benefits" to the beginning of the section to achieve better contrast between what is required and what is offered.

The Personnel Manager expressed his pleasure and appreciation with the work we had done and all but one presenter was pleased. She, unfortunately, didn't like the outline format of the manual and wanted written text instead. The others felt that the outline format allowed room for personalization of the program and preferred it that way. (9 hours)

# 23 April 1991

Made the necessary revisions to the order of the slides and the manual. We managed to have one slide with a misspelled word despite the number of times we viewed the slides and rehearsed. Another good reason for piloting any program before presenting it. Sent that slide back to be

reworked. (6 hours)

24 April 1991

Renumbered the remaining slides and entered the changes in the manual into the computer. This was not particularly time-consuming, but I had to wait my turn for the computer and wait during several interruptions.

Discussed the internship program in general with the Director of Human Resources. They are thinking of allowing more interns to come to ONG for projects. (4 1/2 hours)

25 April 1991

Checked the hard copy for all the slides to make sure they were accurate. The manual is to include a copy of all the slides so that a new presenter can familiarize himself (herself) with them before presenting. This also eliminates the need for finding a viewing room as these are not always available in the districts. Also checked the order of slides in the carousels one more time.

Sent all the slides out for reproduction and sent the manual to the print shop for reproduction. (2 hours)

30 April 1991

The slides were ready but there were not enough carousels to arrange all the sets. I prepared three sets and checked the back order for more carousels. (2 hours) 3 May 1991

Set up the remaining four sets of slides and compiled the manuals which were finally in from the print

shop. Distributed manuals and slide sets to the Personnel Manager and all the presenters. The videos will be produced sometime during May and Alinda will distribute them. (3 hours)

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this project was to design an orientation program for all new employees for a statewide company. It was intended to welcome new employees to the company, to stress their importance in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the organization, and to invite them to become a part of the team.

To accomplish this, it was decided to have the whole program reflect the mission statement of the organization. The mission statement and how it functions would be presented early in the program and repeated several times throughout. The separate aspects of the program were to show how departments, policies, communication patterns, rewards and benefits work to accomplish and reflect the mission statement.

This was a complete learning experience for me.

I needed to remember constantly that it was being prepared for use with men and women of all ages, backgrounds, educational levels and job positions. I had to remember that this was to give new employees an overview of the company. While it required enough detail to be understood, there were too many topics included to expect participants

to learn it all. They were to come away knowing what resources and services were available and how to find them. They were also to see how their part of the team interrelated with the other parts, and the expectations, rewards and benefits of cooperation. Balancing all these considerations required constant attention to the purpose and many revisions.

Due to the shortness of time available to complete this project, it seemed necessary to begin work quickly. While I did begin by drafting a purpose and objectives, many areas were drastically revised as time went by. If I could do it again, I would spend more initial time in research and talking with experts.

As it was, I had several experienced professionals willing to help as needed and everyone there was very supportive and helpful. Belinda Kitchens in Corporate Communications department was a major resource about makeup of slides so that pictures and words can both be used to maximum effect. Jim Dillinger in the video production studio was probably correct in requiring a tight script initially. It forced us to put the concept in the final form, while minor changes could be made later as needed.

Working with Alinda Griswold was a learning experience in itself. She has a good perspective on how something will come across when presented and could keep me on target when I was getting too detailed or off-line. She

also has a good understanding of what it takes to make a conference or training session successful and how to arrange things so that participants are comfortable and at ease enough to learn.

Everyone I worked with was very supportive and willing to point out what they felt was good as well as make helpful suggestions. As a result of the experience, I feel that I am able to design similar programs. I am more aware of my strengths and weaknesses in this area, and more aware of how to use resources.

The value of input from experts not involved in the project was impressed on me many times. They made sure that I stayed within the necessary framework and that what I said was accurate. The value of advice from those who are not experts was also impressed on me. They helped me verify whether or not I was saying what I thought I was saying. This was particularly evident when I was trying to write the glossary of terms.

Since I was not able to pilot the program or do a thorough evaluation of it, I tried to safeguard the effectiveness as much as possible by having several people review it at different stages. I hope this was sufficient.

VITA

#### Nancy M. Weston

# Candidate for the Degree of

### Master of Science

Thesis: AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

Major Field: Occupational and Adult Education

### Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1945, the daughter of Paul W. and Margaret L. Musselman.

Education: Graduated from Carlisle Senior High School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in June, 1963; received Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from University of Tulsa in December, 1971; completed requirements for Master of Science Degree at Oklahoma State University in July, 1991.

Professional Experience: Teacher, Saint Anne's School, 1972 to 1973.

Teacher, Homebound Instruction Department, Tulsa Public Schools, 1973 to 1975.

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