

# The Office Employees Letter

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Vol. 1, . . . . . No. 9  
September . . . . . 1941

Published by Office Employees' Union No. 11773 • 208 National Union Building, Washington, D. C.

## A. F. of L. Office Employee Locals Now Number More Than 100

Locals Established in 32 States,  
D. C., P. R. and Canada

According to the most recent directory of A. F. of L. Federal Labor Unions and supplemental reports carried in the Federationist in the past few months there now are more than 100 office employe locals located in 32 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada.

White collar workers are rapidly awakening to the realization that they too can improve their employment conditions through organization under the A. F. of L. banner.

Office employe locals now have been established in the following places:

*Alabama:* Sheffield, Birmingham, Holt.

*Arizona:* Tucson.

*California:* Alameda, San Francisco (2), Westwood, Modesto, Sacramento, Stockton (2), San Diego, Los Angeles.

*Colorado:* Denver.

*Connecticut:* New Haven (2), Naugatuck.

*District of Columbia:* Washington.

*Florida:* Miami, Tampa (2).

*Georgia:* Atlanta (2), Macon.

*Illinois:* Chicago (2), Marseilles, E. St. Louis (2), Peoria.

*Indiana:* Indianapolis, Lafayette.

*Iowa:* Clinton, Des Moines.

*Kansas:* Wichita.

*Kentucky:* Louisville, Gilbertsville.

*Maryland:* Baltimore.

*Massachusetts:* Boston.

*Michigan:* Detroit (4), Kalamazoo.

*Minnesota:* St. Paul, Duluth, Minneapolis.

*Mississippi:* Meridian.

*Missouri:* Kansas City (2), St. Louis.

*Nebraska:* Omaha.

*New Jersey:* Newark (2), Canada.

*New York:* New York City, Buffalo, Massena, Fort Edward, Rochester, Oswego.

*Ohio:* Cincinnati, Barberton, Euclid, Columbus, Toledo (3) Akron, Cleveland.

*Oklahoma:* Oklahoma City, Tulsa.

### OUR CONVENTION DELEGATE



BROTHER W. R. (BOB) PROBEY

### U. T. W. GRANTS \$5.00

#### BLANKET INCREASE

During the past month the officials of the United Textile Workers, A. F. of L., agreed to a general \$5 per week increase for all of our members employed in their headquarters office.

*Oregon:* Portland.

*Pennsylvania:* Pittsburgh (2), Philadelphia, Harrisburg.

*Rhode Island:* Providence.

*Tennessee:* Memphis, Nashville, Lenoir City, Cherokee Dam.

*Texas:* San Antonio, Laredo Dallas, Houston.

*Utah:* Salt Lake City.

*Virginia:* Richmond.

*Washington:* Seattle (3), Bellingham, Bremerton, Lambertson, Tacoma.

*Wisconsin:* Madison, Milwaukee (2), LaCrosse, Superior, Oshkosh.

*Canada:* Vancouver, B. C.

*Puerto Rico:* San Juan.

### PROBEY NAMED DELEGATE TO A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

Our Business Representative and Second Vice President W. R. (Bob) Probey has been selected as our delegate to the A. F. of L. convention at Seattle next month. The membership at our September meeting authorized the Executive Committee to designate a delegate to be sent with expenses paid. The Executive Committee meeting of September 9 voted to send Brother Probey as our delegate.

Brother Probey will stop at the Olympic hotel while in Seattle. He plans to arrive Saturday, October 4, two days prior to the convention opening. The annual convention always presents a welcomed opportunity for delegates from the many office employe locals to discuss their mutual problems, and Brother Probey is anxious to meet other office employe delegates so that he can give us a full report on the progress and problems of our sister locals.

### HEURICH BREWERY NEGOTIATIONS STALLED

Since June, 1941, we have been attempting to negotiate with the Christian Heurich Brewery. A substantial majority of the office force are members of our local, and a proposed agreement was drafted and presented to the company last June. The Heurich Brewery and its attorney have seized every opportunity to stall our negotiations. The latest stall takes the form of a request from the company that we submit to it a complete list of all our agreements with figures on number of workers covered and the salary which each member is receiving. The company was promptly advised that we had no intention of complying with such a request and we have called upon the Bureau of Conciliation of the U. S. Labor Department to assist us in getting this employer to bargain in good faith with our organization.

Ask for the union label, shop card, and service button when spending your money.

# THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER

Published Monthly by

OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNION NO. 11773

Chartered Oct. 3, 1904, by the A. F. of L.

208 National Union Building

Washington, D. C.

W. R. Probey.....Business Representative

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS.....President  
IRENE BOYCE.....1st Vice President  
W. R. PROBEY.....2nd Vice President  
KATHERINE ROGERS.....3rd Vice President  
HELEN H. ELLIS.....Financial Secretary  
RITA BENNETT.....Recording Secretary  
ESTHER G. SMITH.....Treasurer

## IMPROVED CONDITIONS WON IN TWO AGREEMENTS

During the past month negotiations have been completed on two new agreements, both marking advances for our members involved. The new agreement with the Zionist Organization of America, covering about 25 members, establishes a classified minimum wage scale: Bookkeepers, \$35; secretary, \$30; stenographers, \$25; typists, \$22.50; addressograph machine operator and switchboard operator, \$22.50; and clerks, \$21. The previous agreement, which was negotiated in New York last year by Local 20940 and which was applied to the Washington office, provided only for a minimum rate of \$21 for experienced workers.

In addition to winning increases for several employes who have been receiving less than the classified scales established, all other employes received a flat \$2 per week increase.

An unusual feature in the Zionist agreement is the proviso that the Zionists will meet with our committee to work out a retirement plan for their employes giving credit for past years of service with that organization. This was desired by our members as the Zionist Organization is not covered under the old age benefit provisions of the Social Security Act.

The agreement also contains a maternity leave clause allowing a total of 6 months leave without pay but protecting the employe's rights during such absence.

A renewal agreement was negotiated with the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders reducing the weekly hours of our members employed in their International Office from 37½ to 35 per week and incorporating other improvements.

Kingan & Co., meat packers, Richmond, Va., have signed with Local 22055, according to G. L. Russ, AFL organizer.

## MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

### October Meeting to Elect Officers

Candidates for all offices of our local and delegates to the Central Labor Union and Union Label League were nominated at the regular meeting on September 2. President Hutchings was the unopposed nominee for President for the ensuing year.

All other offices except Second Vice President were uncontested. Financial Secretary Ellis and Treasurer Smith were renominated for their respective positions. Brother Probey who has served a term as Second Vice President, was nominated without opposition for First Vice President.

### Contest for Second Vice President

The only contest for office is for the second vice presidency. Brother August Terneak and Brother Andrew Myrup were both nominated for that office. Six candidates were nominated for Union Label League delegates from which five will be elected.

The entire list of candidates is as follows:

President: Paul R. Hutchings.

1st Vice Pres.: W. R. Probey.

2nd Vice Pres.: August Terneak, Andrew Myrup.

3rd Vice Pres.: Ernest H. Hinkins.

Recording Sec'y: Irene Brungart.

Financial Sec'y: Helen H. Ellis.

Treasurer: Esther G. Smith.

Guide: Bruce Robertson.

Guardian: Belle Tooley.

Central Labor Union (5 delegates): Harold Boone, Paul R. Hutchings, Albert N. Dennis, W. R. Probey, August Terneak.

Union Label League (5 delegates): Albert N. Dennis, W. R. Probey, Ernest H. Hinkins, William Parks, Andrew Myrup, Katherine Rogers.

The election of officers and delegates will take place at the next regular meeting on October 7. Members must present their dues books and must be in good standing before ballots will be issued (dues must be paid at least through July, 1941). Members who fail to bring their dues books must be cleared by the Financial Secretary as being in good standing before ballots will be issued to them. Applicants for membership who are initiated at the October meeting are not eligible to vote.

## NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

### Detroit Local Wins Labor Board Case

On September 4 the National Labor Relations Board ordered the Hygrade Food Products Corp. of Detroit (meat packers) to cease discouraging membership in Office Workers Local 22410. The company was also ordered to reimburse one union member for loss of pay suffered by reason of the company's discrimination.

The board found that the company had also violated the Labor Relations Act by questioning office employes concerning their union activity, seeking to discourage union membership by threats of discharge, by surveillance of union meetings, bribing union members to refrain from further activities, and by making statements derogatory to union membership, interests and activities of its office employes.

The company is a New York corporation engaged in meat packing and slaughtering. Its principal office and place of business is in New York City. The company maintains plants, warehouses and sales offices at Buffalo, Syracuse and Utica, N. Y.; Cleveland and Fostoria, Ohio; Wheeling, W. Va., and Detroit, Mich.

### 23 APPLICATIONS APPROVED

The September meeting approved 23 applicants for membership in our Local. Fifteen of the applicants were obligated that same evening.

### \$2.00 Jack Pot for October Meeting

The September meeting voted to establish a \$2 jackpot for each meeting, subject to rules to be drawn by the Executive Committee. The rules will be announced by the Executive Committee at the October meeting, but you must be paid up and present at the meeting when the lucky name is drawn. You may win \$2.

**NEXT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1941  
8:00 P. M.  
Chantilly Room  
HAMILTON HOTEL  
Election of Officers**

**Oct. 3, 1941, is Our 37th Birthday---Charter Issued Oct. 3, 1904**