

# The Office Employees Letter

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

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Vol. 1, . . . . No. 3

MARCH . . . . . 1941



Published Monthly by Office Employees Union No. 11773 • 219 McGill Building, Washington, D. C.

## MARCH MEETING ADOPTS ONE AMENDMENT, DEFEATS OTHER

At the regular meeting on March 4 the membership voted on two proposed amendments to our Constitution. The amendment to section 3 of Article VII for the automatic suspension of members who become three months in arrears was adopted by a ballot vote of 95 to 23.

The proposal to amend section 2 of Article VII to increase the monthly dues to \$1 was defeated by a vote of 69 for the amendment to 48 against. The vote on the dues increase failed by 9 votes of the needed two-thirds majority.

Another resolution to increase the monthly dues to \$1 was proposed and will be acted upon at the next regular meeting on April 1.

### 34 New Members Initiated

A class of 34 new initiates was obligated at the March meeting. The new initiates, all of whom were approved for membership by the local, are employed in international and local union offices, contractors' offices, in the office of a large printing establishment, and other D. C. offices.

**NEXT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, Apr. 1, 1941  
8:00 P. M.  
Chantilly Room  
HAMILTON HOTEL**

**Vote on Proposed Constitutional  
Amendment to Increase Monthly  
dues to \$1.00. (Complete text  
of proposal on page 2.)**

## And See What Happened!

"A certain union man recently went hunting in the woods. A terrible storm came up. He looked for shelter, but there was none. It began to rain in torrents, so he crawled into a hollow log. It fitted snugly. The rain lasted for hours and hours and the water soaked through the wood. The log began to contract. When the storm was over, he could not get out. The log held him tight. The union man knew that if he could not free himself he would die of starvation. His whole life flashed before him, especially his mistakes. Suddenly he recalled that he had not sent in his dues for the current quarter. This made him feel so small that he was able to crawl out of the log without difficulty."

### SPRING DANCE VOTED

At the March meeting the membership unanimously voted in favor of having a spring dance. By unanimous vote of the membership the social committee chairman, Sister Boyce, was named to head the dance committee.

Chairman Boyce and her committee have fixed Friday evening, April 18, as the time for the dance which is being called the *Red, White and Blue Ball*. The place is the ballroom of the Washington Hotel, which provides lots of room for dancing. We will have the use of the entire tenth floor, as we did last year.

Music will be furnished by Meyer Davis' number one orchestra. Tickets will sell for the usual price of \$1.10 per person, including tax. Get your tickets from Chairman Irene Boyce, from the members of the dance committee, or from your shop steward. Tickets may also be purchased at the April 1 meeting.

### IN "SWING" WITH THE TIMES

Senators make patriotic speeches; Army and Navy insignia decorate desks and stenos; uniforms are everywhere; radios blare marches "militaires"—Hear that cheer? It's "Hurrah, for the Red, White and Blue!"

And don't think your local is out of step. We're in there cheering along with the rest of 'em. With "Hip, Hip Hoorays" and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" we're swinging right down to the Washington Hotel and the Red, White and Blue Ball!

Once there, we'll keep on swingin' to Meyer Davis' number one orchestra—not forgetting, of course, the ever popular waltz. To keep us in the "spirit" of the thing refreshments will be a dip and a twirl from the dance floor. If the weather man can be convinced our cause is just, he'll send the temperature up and we can spend intermission on the roof garden.

April 18 is the big date! Ring it on your calendar—make it a star-spangled holiday for your crowd.

Admission is a dollar ten cents per pair of feet. Grab your partner, some stars and stripes and get in the Red, White and Blue.

Remember—April 18, at the Washington Hotel—"Come on, 'chillun, let's dance!"

### WELCOME

The entire office staff of the National Publishing Co. was accepted into membership. This union printing and publishing house is now 100 per cent union, including the office workers. For many years it has recognized the printing trades unions and used the Allied Printing Trades union label. Negotiations on a working agreement covering its office workers will commence soon.

**DANCE TO MEYER DAVIS' MUSIC AT OUR SPRING DANCE—WASHINGTON  
HOTEL—APRIL 18**

# THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER

Published Monthly by

OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNION

No. 11773

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

219 McGill Building  
Washington, D. C.

|                        |                     |
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## MEMBERS TAKE NOTE INCREASE IN DUES PROPOSED

A proposed amendment to our Constitution to increase our monthly dues to \$1 was presented at the March meeting, after the vote on a similar proposal failed by nine votes of the needed two-thirds majority.

The new proposal which was read to the meeting and submitted in writing to Secretary Bennett, would amend section 2 of Article VII by increasing the monthly dues to \$1.

In accordance with the Constitution, action on this amendment will be taken at the next regular meeting on April 1. The text of the proposal follows:

"Whereas, it has been clearly evidenced that dues of 75c per member per month are not sufficient to take care of even the running expenses of our Union, and

"Whereas, it is necessary that dues be raised in order to keep our Union solvent, be it

"Resolved: That section 2 of Article VII shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. The dues shall be \$1 per month for each member, payable monthly in advance, 20 cents of which shall be deposited in the sick benefit fund."

Voting on this proposed amendment will be by ballot. Members must present their dues books and must be in good standing before ballots will be issued (dues must be paid up at least through January 1941). Members who fail to bring their dues books must be cleared by the Financial Secretary as being good-standing members before ballots will be issued to them.

A two-thirds vote of the good-standing members present and voting is required for the adoption of this proposed amendment.

## Lease-Lend Your Support to Our Red, White and Blue Ball, April 18

### Automatic Suspension When Three Months in Arrears Adopted

At the March 4 meeting a Constitutional amendment was adopted requiring automatic suspension of any member who becomes three months in arrears for dues.

Section 3 of Article VII of our Constitution now reads as follows:

"Section 3. All dues, fines and assessments shall be paid to the Financial Secretary. Any member being three months in arrears for dues shall be automatically suspended from membership. In order to be reinstated members shall pay three months' back dues, and the current month's dues, together with a \$2 reinstatement fee. Suspended members shall not be privileged to admission into the meetings."

All members are therefore urged to bring themselves in good standing by March 31, 1941, and all shop stewards are advised not to accept delinquent dues after March 31, but to collect the reinstatement fee from any member who is three months or more in arrears on April 1 and thereafter.

### Requests for Sick Benefits Should Be Made to Shop Stewards

In order to expedite and simplify the handling of requests for sick benefits, members requesting sick benefits should file their written request accompanied by their doctor's certificate directly with their shop steward. The shop steward will promptly check the request and forward same to the Financial Secretary for handling. Members are urged to follow this procedure which will cut down the work of the Financial Secretary and simplify the handling of benefit requests. Members not employed in an office which has a shop steward will, of course, continue to file their requests directly with Financial Secretary Ellis.

### Dues Should Be Paid to Shop Steward

The Financial Secretary again requests that members pay their dues to the shop steward for their office, or at the Union meetings. Don't bring your dues to the Financial Secretary at her employer's office. It's not fair to her employer or to her.

## NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

Fort Edward, N. Y., Local 20422 advises that its membership is employed by the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers. Working conditions are ideal and its membership are the best paid office workers in that section of New York State.

In the March issue of *PENPUSHER'S NOTES*, the monthly bulletin of Milwaukee Local 16456, a number of recent victories of that local are reported.

The Wisconsin Employment Relations Board held an election on February 19 among all the employes of the Shadboldt & Boyd Co. of Milwaukee. Even though the election was held at the employers request and over the protests of the three A. F. of L. unions involved, nevertheless the unions piled up a majority vote and won exclusive bargaining rights. Office Workers' Union No. 16456, Truck Drivers' Local No. 20, and Retail Clerks' Local No. 1234 cooperated in winning this victory. The Milwaukee Office Workers' Union is now organizing the 50 employes who are eligible to membership in the local. An agreement has been drawn up for submission to the company.

Milwaukee Local 16456 announces the signing of an agreement with the Western Metal Specialty Co. of that city. Wage increases of about \$15 a month were obtained. The amount of paid vacation which the office employes of that firm receive was increased from one week to two weeks each. Overtime work must be paid for at the rate of time and one-half.

Minneapolis Local 17661 sends us its best wishes for the success of *THE LETTER* which it was pleased to receive.

In the March issue of *NOTES*, its monthly publication, Tacoma, Wash., Local 20360 advises that it is making a survey of living costs of its members. Questionnaire forms have been distributed to its membership to obtain information on how office employes distribute their income and to get the facts to show why wage increases are necessary. The local anticipates that the facts which it will obtain will be particularly valuable in submitting to arbitration proceedings.

APRIL 18—10 P. M.—RED, WHITE AND BLUE BALL—WASHINGTON HOTEL—  
\$1.10 PER PERSON, INCLUDING TAX