

The Office Employees Letter

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APRIL MEETING ELECTS CONVENTION DELEGATE

At the regular meeting on April 1 the membership voted to elect and to pay the expenses of one delegate to represent the Union at the Maryland State and D. C. Federation of Labor Convention to be held in Hagerstown commencing May 19.

Probey Elected

Brother Bob Probey, Second Vice President and Business Representative, was elected delegate to the Convention. The membership authorized the President to appoint up to two additional delegates in the event other members desired to attend at their own expense.

Dues Increase Defeated

The membership voted down a second proposal to increase the monthly dues to \$1. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 74 for the amendment to 38 against. The vote for the proposal lacked one vote of having the necessary two-thirds majority.

26 New Members Initiated

A class of 26 new initiates were obligated at the April meeting. The new initiates came from contractors' offices, union offices, and other D. C. offices. All were approved for membership by the local and were obligated by President Hutchings.

MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

Any member who is unemployed or who becomes unemployed should immediately report to the local so that their names may be placed on the employment list. Members who retire from office work should make application for honorable withdrawal cards. Members who leave the city but who intend to work at our trade in another city should apply for a traveling card, which should be deposited with the local in the city in which they locate.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE BALL HELD

The spring dance, the Red, White and Blue Ball, was held Friday evening, April 18, at the Washington Hotel.

Chairman Irene Boyce and her Committee arranged a delightful affair.

The entire tenth floor of the hotel was at our disposal, including in addition to the ball room, the dining room where refreshments were served, and the terrace.

Meyer Davis' number one orchestra furnished scintillating music for dancing and a number of Paul Jones helped members to become better acquainted. All persons attending were given a red or white carnation tied with a small red, white and blue ribbon. The carnations were the kind gift of Daly and Rogers Florists and lent a colorful touch to the party.

Tickets and posters, done in red, white and blue, were supplied with the compliments of the National Publishing Company.

A balmy spring evening added to the enjoyment of all who attended and it was only too bad that more members did not take advantage of the good time which was had by all who were present.

POST OFFICE CLERKS BOWL DOWN MACHINISTS

The first in the series of a new Bowling League was held Monday, March 31, at the Fort Davis Bowling Alleys. The two teams competing were the office employees of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and the Grand Lodge of the International Association of Machinists. The Post Office Employees were the winners of the three games. Sister Myrtle Hart had high set for the winning team with 302 and Sister Myrteen Miles was high with a 310 for the losers.

The success of this match was added to due to the fact that a large audience attended. Among the notables there were President George of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, also Mr. Wilkinson, who is a superintendent in the Washington Post Office.

This is the beginning of a Federation League to be organized in the near future. All those interested in bowling who are employed by Union Offices in Washington, and are members of Office Employees Union No. 11773, are requested to get in touch with Sister Rita Pitts by calling National 4135 or Franklin 8542.

GUEST SPEAKER AT MAY MEETING

Miss Eunice E. Broyles, the Executive Secretary of the D. C. Minimum Wage Board, will speak at the next regular meeting on May 6. Miss Broyles will tell us of some of the work of the Wage Board especially as it relates to the administration of the \$17.00 weekly minimum for women office workers.

Our Local took an active part in getting a D. C. minimum wage for office workers established several years ago. It will, therefore, be most interesting to hear from the Executive Secretary of the Wage Board on the administration of this minimum.

**NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 6, 1941**

8:00 P. M.

Chantilly Room

HAMILTON HOTEL

Guest Speaker

MISS EUNICE BROYLES

Executive Secretary

D. C. Minimum Wage Board

THIS IS YOUR PAPER—SEND IN NEWS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM YOUR OFFICE AND WE WILL BE GLAD TO PRINT IT FOR OUR MEMBERS TO READ

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.

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS.....	President
IRENE BOYCE.....	1st Vice President
W. R. PROBEY.....	2nd Vice President
KATHERINE ROGERS.....	3rd Vice President
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WHY DO OFFICE WORKERS NEED UNIONS?

This question is sometimes raised and its answer should be clear to all of us who are proud of our union membership and of our affiliation with the millions of our fellow workers through the American Federation of Labor.

Office work really is work. It requires a high degree of mental concentration and a considerable amount of skillfully directed physical effort. Office work has its own type of monotony, which often equals in intensity the various monotonous operations performed by workers in large factories. During the past two decades, large business offices have become mechanized. There is a marked parallel between industrial mechanization and the present trend toward mechanization of the modern business office. In large business offices the present demand is for efficient office machine operators—specialists—rather than for individuals capable of handling the various varieties of former office tasks. While, in the past, office workers worked side by side with their employers, they now often find themselves as far removed from their employer as is their fellow factory worker from his employer, and they feel the same need for collective action in bargaining for better working conditions.

Today there are almost 100 A. F. of L. Federal Locals of office workers established throughout the United States and Canada. Office employes are awakening to the fact that the only way in which office workers can better their working conditions is through collective action by joining the A. F. of L. office employes union in their community. Stenographers, typists, bookkeepers, office machine operators, and other types of office workers, are daily becoming

more aware of the fact that they are workers. They are coming to recognize that they differ from the workers who toil in the building trades, the printing trades, and in manufacturing and other industries, only in the type of work which they perform.

Our object is set forth in our local Constitution as follows

"It shall be the object of this Union to endeavor to establish a seven-hour day, five days of each week, and to discourage the practice of overtime work; to endeavor to promote unity of sentiment and action among our members; to discuss ways and means for bettering the conditions and advancing the interests of those connected with this body; to encourage the individual membership to a higher standard of proficiency; to secure and retain employment for its members; and to extend assistance to membership during periods of illness and death."

The vast majority of our membership today is enjoying far better working conditions than exist in unorganized offices in the District of Columbia area. This in itself indicates the value of organization. Also, the increasing interest shown in our local and our steady growth shows that more and more office workers are awakening to the fact that they are workers and that they can work jointly to a solution of their mutual problems through their A. F. of L. local unions.

NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

Boston, Mass., Local 14965 advises of the successful conclusion of its 18-month fight for a state minimum wage for office workers. More than 150,000 office workers throughout Massachusetts will be affected by the law which provides a minimum wage of \$16.00 per week. Local 14965 learned during its investigations that many office workers were working for the huge sums of \$6, \$8, \$10 or \$12 per week.

This decision of the Minimum Wage Board is a great victory for the A. F. of L. and its affiliates, especially for Local 14965 which petitioned for a minimum wage for office workers. Many A. F. of L. organizations in the state took an active part in the campaign to bring about this victory.

Milwaukee Local 16456 is on strike

at the Shadbolt & Boyd Company of that city. Office workers, clerks, truck drivers, and warehouse workers began marching together in a joint picket line on April 2. The strike was called by Office Workers' Union 16456, Retail Clerks' 1284, and Truck Drivers 200 after the company had refused to meet the demands of the three unions. The unions are demanding wage increases, two weeks vacation with pay, sick leave, a 40-hour week, seniority, and an all-union agreement. The strike was sanctioned by A. F. of L. President William Green and by the Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee.

Minneapolis Local Wins Strike

On March 17, Office Workers Local 17661 won its strike against the Grennan Bakeries of Minneapolis, obtaining improvements in working conditions for the office force of the Grennan plant. The strike lasted for two weeks and completely tied up the plant of the company due to the cooperation of Bakers Union 222 and Bakery Drivers Union 289 whose members refused to go through the Office Workers' picket line.

The settlement agreement provides a \$2 per week wage increase, union representation, handling of grievances through the Union, and time and one-half for overtime work. A 40-hour work week is also established and the agreement protects union members against discrimination or discharge.

Tacoma Local Contributes for Labor Temple

At its regular meeting on March 17, Tacoma, Washington, Local 20360 concurred in the recommendation of its executive board and voted unanimously to contribute an amount equal to one day's pay per member to the fund being raised to purchase a new Labor Temple for Tacoma. The Central Labor Union of that city plans to purchase a hotel and remodel it into headquarters for Tacoma unions. The members of the Office Workers Union voted to assess themselves an amount equal to one day's pay per member as their contribution to this new home for Tacoma unions.

San Francisco Local Hires Organizer

Local 21230 in San Francisco has employed a full-time organizer, according to an announcement in its April publication OFFICE MEMO.

Remember Your Obligation To "whenever and wherever possible purchase only strictly UNION MADE goods" and to "use your best endeavors to influence others to do the same."