

The Office Employes Letter

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Vol. 1, No. 8
August 1941



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

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE APPOINTED

In accordance with the action taken at the regular meeting of November, 1940, President Hutchings has announced the appointment of a Constitution Revision Committee consisting of Brothers Harold Boone, I. H. Bleiberg, Sisters Tilla Hyams, Esther Smith and Helen Ellis. Members of the Executive Committee are ex officio members of the committee.

Secretary Rita Bennett has written to other locals requesting copies of their constitutions and by-laws which will be studied by the committee, and a number of locals have cooperated by supplying us with their constitutions and by-laws. The committee expects to be able to report the results of its work to the regular November or December meeting.

1941—LABOR DAY'S 49TH BIRTHDAY

On May 8, 1882, Peter J. McGuire, a delegate to the newly formed Central Labor Union of New York City, proposed that one day of the year should be designated as a general holiday for all workers. He suggested that this day should be fixed as the first Monday in September and should be known as Labor Day.

The New York City Central Labor Union adopted his suggestion, and the first celebration of Labor Day took place in New York City on September 5, 1882. The following year trades unions from Brooklyn, Jersey City and other nearby towns joined in a mammoth parade in New York.

The A. F. of L. convention meeting in Chicago in October of 1884 adopted a resolution "That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS TO TAKE PLACE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

In accordance with Article III of our Constitution and By-Laws, nominations for all offices of the union will take place at the regular meeting at the Hamilton Hotel on September 2. Nominations of candidates for president, three vice presidents, recording secretary, financial secretary, treasurer, guide, guardian, five delegates to the Washington Central Labor Union, and five delegates to the Washington Union Label League will be made.

Members who nominate candidates for any office should make certain that their candidate (1) has been a member in good standing for at least one year, (2) is ready and willing to accept the office if elected, and (3) that he or she is qualified for the office and willing to devote the time and effort necessary to the proper handling of the duties connected with the office.

workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

Organized labor during the following 10 years succeeded in getting 23 states to recognize the first Monday in September as labor's holiday. On June 28 President Grover Cleveland signed a bill which had passed the Congress establishing Labor Day as a legal holiday throughout the nation.

**NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1941
8:00 P. M.
Chantilly Room
HAMILTON HOTEL
Nomination of Officers**

MARY ANDERSON WILL SPEAK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Labor Department, will be our guest speaker at the regular meeting on November 4. Miss Anderson was to have spoken at the September meeting but found it impossible to be in the city on that night. All members are urged to plan now on attending the November meeting to hear Miss Anderson's interesting message.

MOONLIGHT CRUISE ENJOYED

On July 23 a moonlight cruise on the steamship *Potomac* was sponsored by our local. About 100 members enjoyed the cool Potomac River breezes. Both dance floors were well patronized during the 3-hour cruise. A number of trade union officials honored us with their presence, including Brother George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor. A financial report on the cruise will be presented at the September meeting by Sister Irene Boyce, our social chairman. Sister Boyce handled the arrangements for the cruise.

WITHDRAWAL CARDS ISSUED DURING 1941

Honorable withdrawal cards have been issued so far this year to the following members: January—Gene Anderson (deposited May 1), Robert Carnahan, Maxine Lockley; February—Muriel H. Gunter; March—Barbara Candland; May—C. D. Perkins, Virginia B. King, Pauline Ellerbee, M. C. Bell, Margaret Lathan; June—Annette Bernstein, H. M. Roach, Juanita Hanna, Rita Barron, Glendora Jones; July—Ruth Sevier; August—Ada M. Simpson, Mary Ellis, Olive Massey and Dorothy Carper.

Demand Union Products and Services

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

LABOR DAY—

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

It is very easy during these busy days of defense preparations to overlook the significance of Labor Day and to accept it as "just another holiday which rolls around opportunely as summer draws to its close."

As we watch the spreading blackout of freedom in the Old World and the destruction of free trade unions and the enslavement of free labor, we must stop and give thanks for our own economic freedom which is preserved by our vigilant, militant and fearless trade union movement. Labor Day should be dedicated in part to this purpose. In addition, let it be a day to reaffirm our unshaken belief in the principles of trade unionism. The mere payment of union dues, although necessary, is not sufficient to preserve our collective freedom. Every trade unionist should take inventory on Labor Day of his or her contributions toward the strengthening and growth of our trade union movement. We can "boil this down" to two simple points. First, a constructive, unselfish, and dependable interest in our own local union, and second, careful and rigid observance of the Central Labor Union unfair list and an insistence on buying only A. F. of L. union-made goods or services.

Both of these are essential. Some members apparently feel that their obligation to their union is satisfied when they pay their dues. Nothing is further from the truth. You cannot buy a "tailor-made" union. Dues only serve in providing us with some of the tools to use in building our local. Labor is needed in building our local, constructive criticism, original thinking, willing cooperation, a genuine interest in the develop-

ment of effective collective bargaining, and regular attendance at and participation in union meetings. The growth and effectiveness of our union is directly proportioned to the assumption by each and every member of his or her full share of responsibility in all our endeavors.

The second point is so simple it is hard to understand the failure of any member to cooperate completely. It is a simple matter to look for and insist on A. F. of L. union labels and union shop cards when buying goods or services. To fail to do so is a violation of the solemn promise each member gives when initiated into membership. It is even a simpler task to refrain from purchasing from firms on the unfair list of our Central Labor Union. The July issue of THE LETTER listed the complete unfair list. Every member has a copy and should take note of all firms listed and refrain absolutely from spending good union earned money with firms that are working against the interests of our labor movement.

On Labor Day each member should rededicate himself or herself to adherence to the principles of trade unionism. Each member should be proud of his or her union card and strive continuously to cooperate in furthering the principles of the American Federation of Labor through active participation in our local and through rigid observance of the unfair list and insistence on buying union-made goods and services.

On this Labor Day, let's pledge ourselves to maintain our Labor Day in America and what it stands for—our economic freedom through our trade unions—by conducting ourselves as true trade unionists.

TYPISTS' WORK IS HARD

It may sound fantastic, but a Cleveland lawyer recently figured out that typing takes more energy than ditch digging! It is estimated that each time a typist hits a letter she exerts a pound of force. The average girl typist in the U. S. types 1311 lines of 50 letters each during a 7½-hour day. This amounts to a total of 65,500 daily strokes. Each girl, therefore, applies about 65,000 pounds of force to her work each day. That, he contends, is more than the ditch digger does!

NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

Philadelphia Local Notes Many Gains

Philadelphia Local 19049 recently renewed its agreement with American Ice Co. and obtained a blanket increase of \$2 per week for all 26 of the company's office workers. Several additional adjustments of \$5 per week, two weeks paid vacation, the closed shop and other union conditions were also established.

The Philadelphia local also has obtained several blanket increases for its 90 members employed by the Lanston Monotype Machine Co. A 10 per cent increase was negotiated in January, together with a closed shop agreement, establishing union conditions. In June another flat increase of \$1 per week was negotiated for this large office force.

Other agreements are reported by Philadelphia Local 18049 with a credit furniture company where 17 members obtained retroactive increases of \$2 and \$3 per week; and another agreement with a trucking concern, which resulted in an increase of \$7.50 per week for clerical workers. Both of these agreements also provide for the closed shop, paid vacations, and other union conditions. Increases of from \$2 to \$5 per week are also reported for office workers employed by 4 local unions and the Building Trades Council. Organizing drives are reported under way at several large department stores, shipyards, and steel companies according to Business Representative Edward Springman.

Omaha Local in N. L. R. B. Election

On August 1 the National Labor Relations Board announced that it would conduct an election among the office and clerical employees at the Omaha, Neb., plant of American Smelting and Refining Co. These employees will vote by secret ballot as to whether or not they desire to be represented by Office Employees Union 22507 of the A. F. of L.

NEW OFFICE EMPLOYEES LOCALS ORGANIZED

The A. F. of L. has announced through the AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST that 7 new locals of office workers have been chartered within the past 3 months.

We are growing. There are now well over 100 locals of office employees chartered by the A. F. of L.

Nomination of Officers--September Meeting