

# The Office Employees Letter

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## ZIONISTS SIGN AGREEMENT

Last fall the Zionist Organization of America moved its national office from New York City to Washington. That organization had entered into a union shop agreement with New York Local 20940 last July. Last month an agreement was signed between the Zionist Organization and our local under the terms of which our local is recognized for its Washington office and all the terms of the New York agreement are placed in effect in its Washington office. The Zionist's Washington headquarters employs from 25 to 30 office workers, all of whom are now members of 11773. Sister Julia Kirtz is the shop steward.

## CARNAHAN ENLISTS IN ARMY AIR CORPS

An honorable withdrawal card was issued last month to Brother Robert G. Carnahan. Bob, who has been employed in the bookkeeping department of the Machinists and who was a member of the shop committee at the Machinists office, enlisted and was accepted by the Army Air Corps. He is training at Randolph Field, Texas.

Brother Harold Smith, who has been employed in the office of the American Ice Co., was inducted into service early this month and has been sent to Fort Benning, Ga., for training.

## 24 NEW MEMBERS INITIATED

The Chantilly Room of the Hamilton Hotel was practically filled at the February 4 meeting when President Hutchings obligated a class of 24 office workers into membership. The new initiates, all of whom had been approved for membership by the local, are employed in international and local union offices and in other D. C. offices.

## Probey Elected Business Agent

The February meeting acted to elect a part-time Business Representative. Brother W. R. (Bob) Probey was nominated and elected to this position. Brother Probey is already "on the job" handling several assignments and meeting with several groups which have evidenced an interest in improving their working conditions by joining our local.

## TWO MEMBERS IN FIRE FIGHTERS' OFFICE MARRIED RECENTLY

Cupid evidently has been doing a little overtime work, having selected as recent targets two members employed in the office of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Sister Elizabeth Willett was married on September 28 to Fritz Heintze, and Sister Barbara Cole, the newest member of the Fire Fighters staff, was married on January 17 to Charles Harrington.

**NEXT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, Mar. 4, 1941  
8:00 P. M.  
Chantilly Room  
HAMILTON HOTEL**

### Vote on Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1. Increase monthly dues to \$1.00.
2. Automatically suspend members more than 3 months in arrears. (Complete text of proposals on page 2.)

## D. C. 8-HOUR LAW CHANGES ENDORSED

At the last meeting the local endorsed the bill (HR. 1048) introduced by Congressman Randolph on January 3 to amend the present 8-hour law for women employed in the District of Columbia. Brother Fred Walker, the labor member of the D. C. Minimum Wage Board, the agency charged with the enforcement of the 8-hour law, spoke to the meeting and pointed out the improvements of the present law which would be accomplished by this bill.

The present law was approved February 24, 1914. It has proved practically unenforceable by reason of its inadequate enforcement provisions. The proposed law would correct this difficulty and also increase the penalties for violations.

The present 8-hour law applies only to women employed in laundries, hotels, restaurants, express or transportation companies, telegraph and telephone establishments and offices, and manufacturing, mechanical and mercantile establishments.

The new bill would apply to all women employed in the District except at guaranteed weekly wage of \$35 or more, in agriculture, in private homes, as graduate nurses, resident manager in an apartment house, with respect to the daily hours of work in law offices and in banks, trust companies and building and loan associations during government pay days and bank examinations.

Office employees are not covered under the present law but would be covered by the Randolph proposal and they could not be worked more than 8 hours per day on a posted schedule of hours.

In accordance with the action taken by the local, the Washington Central Labor Union has been requested to endorse HR. 1048 and to do everything possible to secure its enactment.

**When Buying Always Look For the Union Label**

# 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 JOYCE.....	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

## YOUR UNION AND YOU

Any member of a union who thinks his union is a slot machine where you stick in your dues and hope for a payoff in better working conditions is all wet.

Neither is a union a shop where a member buys shorter hours and higher wages.

Nor is it a business, for it does not sell anything to anybody.

A union is a co-operative enterprise—a democratic body of workers, in which each member does his share of work and takes his share of responsibility. Its measure of success is the measure of cooperation of its members.

A member's responsibilities for the welfare of his union—and himself—only start with the payment of his dues. That is but a small item. He must go much further. He must help build his union's strength by getting new members. He must talk union wherever and whenever he has opportunity—correct false impressions, state facts.

He must always be aware of what the officers and representatives are doing and must feel free to make constructive suggestions and helpful criticism.

He must attend meetings, read his official journal and keep posted and up-to-the minute on union affairs.

He must be intelligently informed on why his union was formed—the necessity that inspired it, what are its aims and how it is working to attain those aims.

He must know how and why it is fighting for closed shops, collective bargaining, decent and livable working conditions and economic security for its members.

In short, he must feel that his union is his own organization; that he is a vital unit in a cooperative effort to improve his industry and all who are connected with it.—Reprinted from Organized Labor, publication of the State and Local Build-

## MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

### Increase in Dues Proposed

A proposed amendment to our Constitution to increase our monthly dues to \$1.00 was presented at the February meeting. The proposed amendment which was read to the meeting and submitted in writing to Secretary Bennett would amend Sections 2 and 3 of Article VII increasing the monthly dues to \$1.00 and calling for automatic suspension of members who become 3 months in arrears.

In accordance with the Constitution, action on these amendments will be taken at the next regular meeting on March 4. The text of the proposals follow:

"WHEREAS, the history of the American labor movement is replete with struggles for acceptance of the right of wage earners to organize in unions of their own choosing for purposes of collective bargaining; and

"WHEREAS, the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act was in effect the attainment of the goal for which the American Federation of Labor had aimed throughout the years of its existence in that it guaranteed to workers the right to bargain with their employers through representatives of their own choosing, and in support thereof the Federal government established an agency for the administration of that law; and

"WHEREAS, the American Federation of Labor has recognized the vital importance of definitely maintaining the American Federation of Labor as the spokesman for the wage earners of America by vastly augmented organizing facilities and personnel charged with the task of bringing the unorganized into membership within the A. F. of L.; and

"WHEREAS, to meet the added expense of organizing activities the constitution of the A. F. of L. was amended at the 1940 convention so as to double the per capita tax to be paid by all affiliated national and international unions; and

"WHEREAS, Section 12 of Article 13 of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor provides that unions which shall be eligible to participate in the defense fund of directly affiliated local trade and federal labor unions must charge at least \$1 per month dues; and

"WHEREAS, the number of members of Office Employees Union 11773 who would be benefited by eligibility to participation in such fund now exceeds four to one the

ing and Construction Trades Councils of California, Labor Day edition, Aug. 31, 1940.

number who possibly would not participate in such defense fund; and

"WHEREAS, Office Employees Union 11773 must have assured an adequate income to meet expenses incident to activities toward a strengthening of our organization in line with the example set by the American Federation of Labor; and

"WHEREAS, the strategic importance of full participation in the benefits of the American Federation of Labor is obvious in any organization drive among office employes in this locality; therefore 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." And be it further

"RESOLVED that the second sentence in Section 3 of Article VII be amended to read as follows: "Any member being three months in arrears for dues shall automatically stand suspended from membership."

Voting on these proposed amendments 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 December 1940). 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 each of these proposed amendments.

## NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

On February 3 the Tacoma, Wash., Local 20360 published the first edition of NOTES which will be published each month as the regular bulletin of that local. The first issue contained numerous items of interest. We extend our congratulations and sincere best wishes for the success of this publication.

The Tacoma local has a Federal Credit Union which on January 27 declared a 4½ per cent dividend on 1940 share holdings. This is an increase of 1 per cent over 1939.

Atlanta, Ga., Local 19903 extends its congratulations to our local on the first issue of THE LETTER.

Rochester, N. Y., Local 21142 was pleased to receive the first issue of THE LETTER and to be placed on our mailing list for subsequent issues.

**In Filing Federal Income Tax Returns Remember Union Dues Are Acceptable Deductions in Schedule A, Form 1040A.**