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The Office Employes Letter

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YOUR UNION—1941

What does 1941 hold in store for our union and for us as members? Two far-reaching and important steps were taken by the membership at the January meeting. The membership authorized the officers to proceed with the publishing of a regular monthly printed bulletin, and further approved of the renting of an office and the purchase of necessary office furniture.

Both of these steps have now been taken. The office, in the McGill Building, 908 G Street, N.W., has been rented and our name is on the door. Suitable furniture was obtained at a nominal cost. The various properties of the union are being moved to our office, which will henceforth serve as our headquarters. Of course, as all the officers are working, it will not be possible to maintain regular office hours, at least for the time being.

THE OFFICE EMPLOYES LETTER, of which this is the first issue, will be published each month and mailed directly to the home of every member. We will dispense with the mimeographed notice of meetings which previously have been distributed in most offices and mailed to other members. Meeting notices will be contained in THE LETTER each month.

Your officers will do all in their power to make THE LETTER interesting and educational. The cooperation of the membership is necessary to accomplish this. Members are urged to write up items which they believe would be of interest, including items of social interest, marriages, births, deaths, or interesting happenings in the various offices, and turn them in to their Shop Steward or mail them to the union office.

The January meeting also directed the

(Continued on Page 2)

DRAFTED MEMBERS EXEMPT FROM DUES PAYMENTS

At the January 7 regular meeting the membership acted favorably on a recommendation of the Executive Committee to exempt all members who are drafted for military training under the Conscription Act from the payment of dues during the period of their draft service. Drafted members will be carried on the local's books as members in good standing and their dues will be paid by the local. Drafted members will therefore not lose any sick or death benefits to which they would be entitled.

This action is in line with the action taken by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. in exempting draftees from the payment of the A. F. of L. per capita tax. Members who receive draft calls should report promptly to their Shop Steward or directly to the Financial Secretary.

DEATHS

It was with deepest regret that the local learned of the passing of two of its members during the past few weeks. Sister Gertrude Rushe, who was employed by the A. F. of L., passed away on December 16. Sister Minnie Hawkins, an employe of the I. A. of M., died suddenly on January 5. The profound sympathy of the local is extended to the families of these two departed members.

HAVE YOU COME TO MEETINGS LATELY?

Next Regular Meeting
February 4, 1941—8 P. M.
Hamilton Hotel

Do you want a Spring Dance?
Executive Committee report on Business Agent. Informal Party and Refreshments after meeting.

YOUR UNION—1940

The year 1940 was filled with activity and accomplishments for members of 11773. New agreements were negotiated, disputes settled, a glorious spring dance and a moonlight cruise down the Potomac were only a few of the many and varied types of activities which filled our year.

American Ice Agreement

In January 1940 a renewed agreement was signed with the Washington division of the American Ice Co. Negotiations on this agreement were conducted by President Hutchings, who was assisted by the shop committee headed by Shop Steward Ernest Hinkins. The most outstanding improvements in the new agreement are full seniority, payment for overtime hours (in place of compensatory time off), and a union hiring clause.

American Ice Co. is the only ice, coal and fuel oil company in the city operating under 100 per cent union conditions, including a full union shop agreement with No. 11773 in addition to agreements with other organizations including the Teamsters Union, Machinists Union and others. American Ice deserves the support and patronage of all trade unionists.

Honorary Membership Conferred on Brother Meany

Brother George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, attended our April meeting and gave us an inspiring talk. At the conclusion of his address, the local conferred honorary membership upon him.

Spring Dance a Huge Success

The grand ballroom of the Washington Hotel was the scene of our annual spring dance, held on April 12. Dance

(Continued on Page 2)

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
Helen H. Ellis	Financial Secretary
Rita Bennett	Recording Secretary
Esther G. Smith	Treasurer

YOUR UNION—1940

(Continued from Page 1)

Chairman Irene Boyce and her committee arranged a sparkling party which was well attended despite the rainy weather. In addition to the officers and members of the local, a number of officers of national and international unions, and of the American Federation of Labor were also present.

Moonlight Cruise

During July more than 125 members took advantage of the arrangements made with the Potomac River Line and cooled off on a moonlight cruise down the Potomac River, on the S.S. Potomac. A swing band provided music for dancing. A number of trade union officials participated in the cruise, including Secretary-Treasurer Meany of the A. F. of L. and President Haggerty of the Bookbinders Union.

Local Wins Classification Dispute

In September a completely satisfactory voluntary settlement was obtained from American Ice in the dispute arising because of the company's failure to pay Brothers Boone and Smith at the bookkeeper's rate as established by our agreement. Back pay totaling about \$370 was paid to these brothers.

Renewal of I. A. of M. Agreement

In July a renewal agreement was signed with the Grand Lodge, International Association of Machinists. Negotiations of this agreement were conducted by the shop committee under the leadership of Shop Chairman Mozelle Crozier. Outstanding improvements in the new agreement include a 35 hour work week of 5 days of seven hours each, union hiring clause, cumulative sick leave, and senior-

MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

1. Each office employing 12 or more members has a Shop Steward, who is supplied with dues stamps and who collects union dues on certain designated days each month. Kindly pay your dues to your Shop Steward, or to the Financial Secretary at the regular monthly meeting. Please do not come to the office in which the Financial Secretary is employed and expect her to take your dues during working hours. This is not fair to her or to her employer.

2. Members who have not yet paid their November or December, 1940, dues are urged to do so promptly so that our 1940 books can be closed, thus eliminating the necessity of the Financial Secretary having to post entries in two sets of books.

3. All members are urged to keep the local supplied with their correct residence address. By doing this you will make certain that your copy of THE LETTER and the A. F. of L. FEDERATIONIST reach you promptly. This copy of THE LETTER is addressed to your latest address of which the local has record. Please check to see if the address is correct and if your name is correctly spelled. If the address is wrong or if your name is misspelled or has been changed, drop a post card to the office so that the necessary corrections can be made. If any member does not receive a copy of THE LETTER it means that the local has no record of his or her address and such member is urged to supply this information promptly.

ity protection. The payment of time and one-half for daily overtime and double time for work performed on Saturday afternoon, Sundays, and all legal holidays, and paid vacations remain substantially the same as in the previous agreement.

We were represented by full-time delegates at both the Maryland State and D. C. Federation of Labor convention in Hagerstown in May, and the A. F. of L. convention in New Orleans during November.

Social Chairman Irene Boyce planned a number of informal social events which were held immediately following regular monthly meetings, giving the membership a chance to get acquainted with each other and to enjoy informal fun and refreshments.

YOUR UNION—1941

(Continued from Page 1)

Executive Committee to study and make a recommendation to the February meeting on the question of a business representative for our local. This question is now being considered by the committee members and a recommendation will be made to the February meeting.

These are all most significant steps, steps which will mean much to our local and to every member. Our local is growing, not only in number of members, but also in the interest shown by the members in their organization. This interest is vital to the growth and success of every labor organization. A union is a co-operative enterprise, a democratic group of workers, and its success is dependent upon the cooperation of its members.

During the past few years interest in our local has been growing and attendance at our meetings has been increasing. Step by step, progress has been made in improving working conditions in certain of our offices, and in building up respect for our local as a part of the recognized Labor Movement in the District of Columbia. If the interest and cooperation of the membership continue to grow in 1941 as they have in 1939 and 1940, we can confidently look toward this year as one full of promise. Continued growth, enlightened interest, and cooperative action in the further improvement of working conditions in our offices cannot fail to result in the carrying of the banner of our organization into many new offices in the District of Columbia area.

I. A. M. BOWLING TEAMS ACTIVE

The employes of the General Secretary-Treasurer's Office of the I. A. of M. this past fall organized several bowling teams which meet on Thursday evenings at Convention Hall.

The only competitive set rolled was with the International President's Office, also of the I. A. of M., the G.S.-T.'s Office being victorious.

At the end of the season a banquet will be held at which time prizes will be presented for high game, high set, high average, high spares and high strikes.

Any team interested in a challenge, contact Myrteen Miles, secretary of the Bowlerettes, Room 613, Machinists Building.