

# The Office Employes Letter

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## COUNCIL PRESIDENT HICKS ADDRESSES MEETING

The newly elected President of our International Council, J. Howard Hicks, was guest speaker at our regular August 4 meeting at the Hamilton Hotel. Our local thus became the first OEU local to be honored by having our council president address our membership. The occasion was also rare, as our local President Paul R. Hutchings, who was elected Secretary-Treasurer of our International Council, presided at our meeting.

Brother Hicks delivered an inspiring speech. He first remarked on the recent Chicago conference, which established our International Council. He outlined to our membership the activities of the Pacific Coast locals. We were told about some of the outstanding agreements which have been negotiated by various West Coast locals, especially the recently negotiated agreements with West Coast shipyards.

### Local Has Dues of \$1.50

President Hicks emphasized the need of a local to charge sufficient dues to allow it to get out and spend money in conducting organizing drives among office workers. His local, he said, has spent between six and seven thousand dollars in the past three and one-half years in its organizing campaigns.

The Portland local has had monthly dues of \$1.50 since 1937 and maintains a local office staff of two girls and a full time secretary-treasurer and business agent. Another business agent will doubtless be added to the staff of the local soon to handle its agreements with firms doing defense work. Brother Hicks emphasized the fact that a local union must charge dues which will allow it to maintain an adequate office and organizing staff to tackle the task of organizing the unorganized office workers. "You have got to take an active part in the life of your community, and even more active part in the labor movement of your locality, and what we say applies to every union, whether office employes or any other

## International Council of Office Employes Unions Established

### Constitution Adopted, Officers Elected

The Chicago OEU conference on July 28 and 29 took action of significance to all office workers. An active International Council of Office Employes Unions

was established. A constitution for the new council was drawn and adopted by the delegates, who then proceeded to nominate and elect from their own ranks the council officers for the ensuing year.

Brother J. Howard Hicks of OEU local 16821 at Portland, Oreg., was unanimously elected President and Brother Paul R. Hutchings, President of our Local 11773, was unanimously elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The delegates were addressed by President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, and Director of Organization Frank Fenton, of the American Federation of Labor.

Delegates from all over the country reported on the progress and problems of their locals. The conference adjourned on the evening of July 29 after adopting a constitution and electing its officers. In addition to President Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Hutchings, the conference elected nine vice presidents including: Mildred Erickson, of Seattle, Wash.; George P. Firth, of Tacoma, Wash.; Edward K. Flaherty, of New York City; E. B. Fritts, of Hiwassee Dam, N. C.; Lawrence L. Green, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mollie Levitas, of Chicago, Ill.; Carl F. Nelson, of Oakland, Calif.; L. C. Nygren, of Minneapolis, Minn., and Ethyl M. Williams, of Columbus, Ohio.

President Hicks has been appointed a full-time A. F. of L. organizer and will devote his entire efforts to organizing office workers and assisting the various OEU locals in all parts of the country. The International Council opened a headquarters office in the American Federation of Labor Building here in Washington, D. C.

It is anticipated that all OEU locals will act promptly in affiliating with the council and cooperate in building our council into a strong, functioning international organization.

President



HICKS

Secretary



HUTCHINGS

union in the U. S., because there are millions of people who need organization, who have not been contacted, and consequently are not organized. But they can be organized. So I say to you, regarding the matter of your dues, give due consideration, not to what it is going to cost, but particularly as to what can be accomplished by paying them."

At the conclusion of Brother Hicks's speech the ladies of our local Executive Committee presented Mrs. Hicks and Mrs. Hutchings with lovely corsages. Refreshments were served, and then Brother Hicks and his wife left to catch a night train out of the city.

President Hicks has been appointed to the field staff of the American Federation of Labor effective August 17. He will travel throughout the country among the OEU locals to promote the interests of our International Council and to assist in organization of office and clerical workers.

★ Buy War Bonds ★

# 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

NATIONAL 3870

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| PAUL R. HUTCHINGS..... | President           |
| W. R. PROBEY.....      | 1st Vice President  |
| AUGUST TERNEAK.....    | 2nd Vice President  |
| ERNEST H. HINKINS..... | 3rd Vice President  |
| HELEN H. ELLIS.....    | Financial Secretary |
| IRENE BRUNGART.....    | Recording Secretary |
| ESTHER G. SMITH.....   | Treasurer           |

## LET'S DO OUR PART

Our Interational Council of Office Employees Unions is now a reality. We have a functioning council officered by office workers elected by the delegates present at the Chicago conference. We are fortunate in having our President elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the council. The council headquarters office is being established in Washington, D. C.

It is up to our local to get squarely behind the council and by our every individual and collective act work toward promoting its growth and success. Affiliation with the International Council will cost us 10 cents per member each month, which indeed is a very small price to pay for the opportunity to play our part in the establishment of the strong, functioning international organization for which we have been striving.

Although our local union is one of the largest in the country, and although the standards which we have established for our members are among the best, we have the lowest monthly dues of any OEU local in the U. S. We cannot play our full part in the organization work among office workers without paying our own way. We can't do that with our present subnormal monthly dues. Every member should give serious consideration to this matter. Your local union has been paying you dividends. Every member who has received cost of living wage adjustments, every member who has been receiving overtime pay, every member who has enjoyed paid sick leave, every member who has received paid vacations, yea, and every member who has gone to work in a union shop, under union wage scales and working hours, has benefited many times over for the small fee and dues which he or she has paid into the local.

Your local is as good as you make it. Your working conditions depend on your local's ability to organize a substantial number of office workers in the city and

## MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

### Increase in Dues Proposed

A proposed amendment to our constitution to increase our monthly dues to \$1 was presented at the August meeting. The proposed amendment which was read to the meeting and submitted in writing to Secretary Brungart provides that section 2 of article VII of our constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. The dues shall be \$1 per month for each member, payable monthly in advance."

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution action on this proposed amendment will be taken at the next regular meeting on September 1, 1942.

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 June, 1942). 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. Applicants for membership who are initiated at the September meeting are not eligible to vote.

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

## NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

### 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 1, 1942. 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.

establish decent wage levels. They also depend on the strength of your local in bargaining with your employer. Think it over.

## ATTENTION!

### Bowlers and Would-Be Bowlers

The Ladies Federation Bowling League, which has been in hibernation during these hot summer days, came out long enough on July 14, 1942, to re-elect Edna Fenton as president of the league, Rita Pitts as secretary, and Anna May Wilkinson as treasurer, and dove right back into all the nice air-cooled spots to wait for the cooler (they hope) September bowling weather.

This season the ladies expect to have a bigger and better league than last year, and are hereby issuing a call to all sisters of Office Employees Local No. 11773, who either have bowled before or would like to bowl in the league, to drop a postcard in the mail immediately, giving their name, address, and 'phone number, to Mrs. Rita Pitts, secretary, 1657 Trinidad Ave., N. E., Apt. 2, Washington, D. C., and she will contact them and furnish further particulars about the league.

Come on, girls, let's go! It's lots of fun! (And think what it does for your waistline!)

EDNA FENTON,  
League President.

## MEETING CALENDAR—SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1, 7 P. M.—Applicants for membership, Chantilly Room, Hamilton Hotel (attendance of all applicants required).

Sept. 1, 8 P. M.—Regular monthly meeting, Chantilly Room, Hamilton Hotel.

Sept. 8, 8 P. M.—Shop stewards' monthly meeting, union office.

Sept. 15, 8 P. M.—Executive Committee meeting, union office.

## WINS JACKPOT

Sister Mary Thompson, employed in the I. B. E. W. office, was the lucky member whose name was drawn at the August meeting to receive the \$2 War Savings Stamp.

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1942

8:00 P. M.

Chantilly Room

HAMILTON HOTEL

Vote on Constitutional Amendment.

Nomination of Officers.

Affiliation with Int'l Council.

\$2 War Stamp Jackpot