

The Office Employees Letter

Sec. 562 P. L. & R.

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Vol. 2 No. 9
September . . . 1942



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

SISTER LYNE FIRST MEMBER TO JOIN WAVES

The announcement, at our September meeting, that Sister Mary C. ("Mike") Lyne, a secretary in the office of the American Federation of Labor, had that day been sworn into the WAVES, was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

"Mike," as she is known to all her friends and co-workers, will enter the WAVES as an apprentice seaman, and began her training at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., October 1.

Sister Lyne conducted the first-aid class held for employes in the American Federation of Labor Building last winter, and won many additional friends at that time. She was placed in full charge of first-aid in the A. F. of L. building, and her services in that capacity were of inestimable value to the A. F. of L. building warden.

A group of 50 members in the A. F. of L. building surprised "Mike" with a farewell party on September 14, when they gathered at a downtown hotel for a dinner in her honor. Brother Irvin Bucklin, who acted as m. c., did the honors with the smoothness and aplomb of an "old master."

A feature of the evening was group singing of popular songs, many of them paraphrased to do honor to "Mike." The singing was led by Sister Mary Erb, who, without any advance notice that she would be asked to lead, rose to the occasion superbly, in spite of the fact that she is still recovering from a throat operation.

Sister Ethel Weinstein, with the aid of nothing more than a messenger's cap perched on her head at a saucy angle, contributed to the fun of the party by slipping out at frequent intervals and returning with a "Telegram for Apprentice Seaman Lyne", or a "Telegram for Ensign Lyne", and so on, until by the end of the evening it had become a "Telegram for Vice-Admiral Lyne."

At the end of the dinner Sister Lyne was presented with a pen and pencil set, and her response to the presentation indicated that her ability to find words to fit any occasion has not left her.

APPROVES AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Votes to Pay August Per Capita Tax

At the regular meeting on September 1 the membership unanimously voted to affiliate with the International Council of Office Employees Unions, to pay the \$5 affiliation fee and to start paying the 10 cents per member per capita tax beginning with the month of August, 1942.

In taking this action, the local adopted the unanimous recommendation of its Executive Committee.

PROBEY ELECTED CONVENTION DELEGATE

Business Representative W. R. Probey was unanimously elected to attend the American Federation of Labor convention at Toronto, Canada, as delegate for 11773. This action was taken at the September meeting, which also acted to pay the delegate's expenses.

The convention opens at Toronto on Monday, October 5, 1942. Brother Probey will arrive in Toronto on October 4, and will stop at the Royal York Hotel, convention headquarters.

TACOMA WINS WAGE INCREASES

Local 20360 at Tacoma, Wash., reports the negotiation of new agreements with the retail stores of that city. Under the new agreements, office workers will obtain an average wage increase of 18 per cent and some favorable changes in working conditions. The new wage scales are retroactive to June 1, 1942.

★ Buy War Bonds ★

Sister Lyne leaves with the sincere good wishes of all who have had the pleasure of knowing her. Good luck, "Mike"! We know your service with the Navy will bring honor not only to you but to your family, your friends, and the Union of which you are a member.

PRESIDENT HUTCHINGS DECLINES RENOMINATION

After serving for four terms as president of our local, President Paul R. Hutchings, declined renomination at the September meeting. In requesting the withdrawal of his nomination, President Hutchings thanked the membership for renominating him but pointed out that due to his work as Secretary-Treasurer of the International Council he did not feel that he could continue as president of 11773. He said that the demands of his new office with the International Council would not allow him to devote the time to the local presidency which that office requires.

Brother Bob Probey's name was then placed in nomination, and there being no further nominees, the nominations were closed. Brother Probey is at present the First Vice President and Business Agent of our local.

Treasurer Esther G. Smith, Financial Secretary Helen H. Ellis, and Recording Secretary Irene Brungart were each renominated without opposition. Brother August Terneak, Second Vice President, was nominated unopposed for First Vice President. Other unopposed candidates include Sister Thelma Dawson, Guide; Sister Frances O'Donnell, Guard; and five nominees to serve as delegates to the Washington Union Label League. The complete list of candidates for all offices is given on page 2. Elections will be held at the regular October meeting.

NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1942
8:00 P. M.
Chantilly Room
HAMILTON HOTEL
Election of Officers.
\$2 War Stamp Jackpot

THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTI

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with the provisions of our Constitution, the regular meeting on October 6 will elect officers and delegates for the local for the ensuing year. The complete list of candidates nominated at the September meeting follows:

President: W. R. Probey.

First Vice President: August Terneak.

Second Vice President: Ernest Hinkins, Tilla Hyams.

Third Vice President: William Zeigerman, Margaret Scattergood.

Recording Secretary: Irene Brungart.

Financial Secretary: Helen Ellis.

Treasurer: Esther Smith.

Guide: Thelma Dawson.

Guard: Frances O'Donnell.

Five Delegates to Central Labor Union: Lillian Loeb, William Zeigerman, Tilla Hyams, W. R. Probey, Harold Boone, August Terneak, Margaret Schobel.

Five Delegates to Union Label League: Ernest Hinkins, W. R. Probey, William Zeigerman, Harold Boone, Marian Craine.

The election on October 6 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 at least through July, 1942). Members who fail to bring their dues books must be cleared by the Financial Secretary as being in good standing before ballots will be issued to them. Applicants for membership who are initiated at the October meeting are not eligible to vote.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSED FOR SISTER KELLY

At the September meeting it was proposed that the local confer honorary membership upon Sister Josephine Kelly, a charter member of our local who has recently retired after serving for 46 years in the office of the American Federation of Labor. In accordance with Article II, Section 5 of our Constitution this proposition will be voted on at the October meeting and a unanimous vote is required to confer such honorary membership.

COST OF LIVING AND PRICE

CEILINGS IN WASHINGTON

Before price ceilings, office workers in Washington, D. C., were facing a serious problem in the rising cost of living which threatened to race far ahead of their salaries. From January, 1941 to May 1942, Washington living costs rose at the rate of almost 1 per cent a month.

The latest figures from the U. S. Department of Labor show that cost of living in Washington has increased 17.3 per cent from January 1, 1941 through August 15, 1942. To Washington's great army of office employes, who comprise the majority group of the city's workers, that means that every dollar they now receive will buy only 83 cents worth of goods compared to what it bought in January of last year.

Since price ceilings, the rise in living costs has been slowed to one-half the previous rate. It would probably have been stopped entirely if farm prices had also been placed under ceilings, but the law allowed farm prices to escape, and, therefore, foods in Washington continued their upward trend. The exemption of certain farm products from price regulation has been recognized by the President as a serious danger in our war against inflation. If food prices continue to soar at the rate of 1½ per cent a month in Washington, living standards will decline. Washington office workers are hopeful that Congress will carry out the President's mandate and pass legislation providing for farm price stabilization before October 1. This is particularly important because wage stabilization is being obtained through the application by the War Labor Board of its so-called "Little Steel formula." If wages are to be stabilized then the ceiling on prices must be complete or our living standards will be undermined.

Clothing prices in Washington had increased almost as much as food prices before price ceilings were imposed. Compare the price of your Easter suit this year with that of last year! If perhaps the price has not increased, then the quality of goods and workmanship may have decreased. You will have to spend \$1.27 now for every \$1 you spent in January, 1941, to buy clothing of the same quality, according to Labor Department figures. But now the price increase has been stopped by ceilings. In fact, with the imposition of ceilings in May, clothing prices declined 1 per cent (to August).

Rent ceilings came much earlier and, therefore, rents in Washington have not

increased. Rent control, which became effective in January, 1942, has accomplished results and rents are no higher today than they were last January, according to the Labor Department.

The 15 per cent wage increase from January, 1941, to May, 1942, recommended by the War Labor Board in its recent decision in the "Little Steel" case has provided the framework for wage stabilization, which will probably apply to office workers as well as industrial workers. This figure was chosen because living costs in general have risen 15 per cent since January, 1941. But in Washington living costs are 17 per cent higher. In the light of this, the salaries of office workers in Washington will lag behind the cost of living unless flexibility is allowed for inequalities in the relation of the rise of wages to the rise in cost of living.

While salaries for office workers in Washington are among the highest paid in the field, cost of living is without exception the highest for any city in the country. Men and women from all parts of the United States who come to work in Washington at rates of pay which are considered high in their own sections of the country, are disappointed when they see how much of their income must be spent to provide themselves with the same necessities they had at home.

MEMBERS TAKE NOTE

Dues Increased To \$1

The regular September meeting, by a vote of 83 to 11, adopted the constitutional amendment presented at the August meeting to increase the monthly dues to \$1. Section 2 of Article VII of our constitution as amended, now reads as follows:

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

Dues for October are therefore \$1 and any members who may have paid their dues for October or later months at the old rate are instructed to pay the difference to their Shop Stewards or to Financial Secretary Ellis at the next union meeting.

JACKPOT WINNER

Sister Freda Goldberg was the winner of the \$2 War Stamp jackpot at the September meeting. The membership voted at the September meeting that applicants for membership were eligible to participate in the jackpot drawing on the night of their initiation.