Local 12 and Local 16 merge in Twin Cities

Declar ing their goal as "even greater expansion of organizing the unorganized, and upgrading of all office and professional em ployees in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas," the two OPEIU Locals in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, have united.

Approximately, Labor Day marked the official date when Local 12 and 16 united into Twin City Local 12. The original charters issued by the American Federation of Labor are dated 1923 for Local 12, in St. Paul, and 1933 for Local 16, Minneapolis. Both joined the OPEIU in 1945, when it was chartered.

Local 12's Executive Board has been expanded by the election of Edna Schwartz and Cheryl Pull as members. They will serve until the next regular election in May, 1971.

The Twin City Local 12 officers are: John Trailen, president; Rose Beecher, vice president; Ed Eiland, Secretary-Treasurer; at-arms Business Manager R. R. Markussen and Organizer James Honex will continue to serve.

Local 3 berths pact at Bakke Steamship

Across-the-board wage gains of 1.13% in fringe benefits, were negotiated by Local 3 in San Stearnship Co., Business Manager Phyllis Mitchell reports.

Wages go up 9% in the first year, and 6% in the second year of the pact which runs until September 1, 1971. The probationary period for new employees is reduced to 45 days. Other gains are a $3 meal allowance for Saturday work; a clause calling for 2½ hours pay for holiday work; severance pay of $100 a year, or $10 per week for six months. The agreement was ratified by a 10-to-1 margin.

A marathon weekend session, following a strike vote, produced the agreement. OPEIU Director of Organization Art Lewandowski flew from New York to the West Coast for the negotiation and helped bring about the settlement.

Other gains were a Dental Plan; a $15 an hour differential for the swing shift and 20¢ for the graveyard shift, and a birth day holiday for all employees who become eligible after 90 days.

Additional benefits are five weeks vacation after 20 years; cumulative vacation after 90 days; a 2½% raise after 90 days; and a 2½% raise at the end of the second year.

In addition, a temporary differential, bringing this to 20¢ an hour, three weeks vacation after three years, and five after 15; plus inclusion of dependent children—cost free—in the existing health-welfare-dental plan.

The pact was a first inadequate offer and voting to strike, the largest. General Hospital workers were accepted.

What she did, others can do

OPEIU members may not realize how important they are in organizing the unorganized. But illustrating what can be done, Local 29 in Oakland cites the example of a member on withdrawal who organized her new place of employment: Western Grocery in San Jose, Calif.

Assured that Local 29 would go to bat if sufficient interest was shown, the union member told fellow-employees about the many advantages of an OPEIU contract. They were so impressed they began signing up designation cards. In short order, a majority had signed.

Local 29 petitioned for a Labor Board election which was won handsly. A first contract is now being negotiated. Says Senator Bus. Rep. Joe Neschitz: "This shows the best organizers are our own dedicated members."

The vast field awaiting white-collar unionism is revealed in a current U.S. Labor Department study that finds employment of secretaries, stenographers and typists is expected to increase by 60% between 1960 and 1975. In 1960, there were 2.4 million employed in these job categories, or 3.5% of the labor force. By 1975, the total will be 3.9 million, or 4.5% of the future 88.7 million labor force, the study forecasts.

The white-collar union movement can grow by leaps and bounds if all our 80,000 individual members are as dedicated in new organizing efforts as the Oakland member.

Four contract triumphs spur hospital organizing

New organizing of clerical workers and medical technologists in the nation's hospitals, a growing area of OPEIU activity, gets a strong push from four fat contracts recently organized in California by Oakland's Local 29. The agreements brought major wage gains and fringe benefits to some 1,200 employees.

Wage gains totaling 18½% in a two-year contract were won at Kaiser Hospitals for 900 employees, an 11½% average in the first year and 7½% in the second. The agreement was ratified by a 10-to-1 margin.

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A $25 a month night shift differential was agreed upon, with sick leave cumulative to 45 days. Other gains are extension of the existing hospital pension plan to Local 29 members, retroactive to July 1, and a Dental Plan covering dependent children to take effect June 1, 1970.
Two locals rate salutes

How can our OPEIU Locals create favorable publicity and good public relations programs to interest the unorganized in white-collar unionism?

The answer is simple—by doing something newsworthy in their own communities and following a few basic ideas. It only requires a little planning, initiative and enthusiasm. It can be a lot of exciting fun also. Since the OPEIU Philadelphia Convention emphasized public relations last year, Locals are beginning to do a bang-up job.

The news columns report two notable examples. One is the picture, with story, which appeared in the Bogalusa, La., daily newspaper when Local 89 President Silas A. Mayor had the city’s mayor sign a proclamation urging unionism in the Bogalusa area, the city’s daily newspaper, which printed the mayor’s full editorial story and two large pictures. Local 13 is affiliated with both sponsoring labor groups.

The three-mile-long parade was led by Madlin Shows, a Local 13 member elected as Union Label Queen, accompanied by her court. Behind them came the colorful OPEIU float, followed by other unionized white-collar workers on foot or in cars.

"By the time evening came," reports Local 13 President De- lors Lysakowski, "our Local was well known to the people on the Illinois side of our union’s jurisdiction. Because of this widespread parade publicity, we feel all our efforts were richly rewarded."

Miss Shows, employed at the East St. Louis Interurban Water Company, was elected Queen for the Labor Day festivities on the basis of the number of $1 tickets sold by the Local, each ticket rating five votes. OPEIU members sold 1,347 tickets for 5,735 votes, topping all other entries combined.

The Queen was officially crowned by Belleville’s Mayor Charles E. Nichols at a Labor Day dinner-dance attended by a large turnout of OPEIU members, among other labor union officials. Those present included OPEIU Vice-President Frank Morton, President Lyons- kowski; Business Representative George O’Brien and Mrs. O’Bri- en, and Recording Secretary Doris Masiu, a Parade Committee member.

OPEIU on parade: Local 13 scores

A gaily decorated float carrying a huge OPEIU sign as a backdrop for four winsome young misses from Local 13 in St. Louis, Mo., captured the spotlight in the annual Labor Day Parade sponsored jointly across the Illinois River by the Belleville, Ill. Trades and Labor Assembly and the Union Label Council.

The Missouri Local’s participation in the Illinois parade resulted in Page 1 publicity in the Belleville News Democrat, the city’s daily newspaper, which played up the OPEIU story with a lengthy story and two large pictures. Local 13 is affiliated with both sponsoring labor groups.

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LOCALS STUDY CHARTER FLIGHTS

Charter flights or group travel for OPEIU members, aimed at providing low-cost trips or vacations, are arouses keen interest among Locals these days. San Francisco’s Local 3 members discussed a plan for citywide joint recent meetings.

Business Manager: H. R. Markuson of Twin City (Minneapolis-St. Paul) reports that a committee is studying costs, options and variable dates for a projected low-cost trip to Las Vegas this coming winter. If sufficient members sign up, it proposes to charter a plane and schedule an all-expense winter mini-vacation at the Nevada resort.

Group travel gives added value to union membership because it reduces travel costs for members, among other benefits.

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Local 277 wins $2,000 deal at General Dynamics

MILLION DOLLAR SMILES: Local 277 negotiators sign new General Dynamics contract in Fort Worth, Texas. Seated from left: Dick Craig, Manager of Employee Relations; Fred Chambers, Director of Labor Relations; Local 277 President J. B. Moss, and OPEIU Vice-President Frank E. Morton. Standing from left are Lee Riker, Milt Myers and Bert Lambert, General Dynamics representatives; Local 277 Vice-President Ronnie Jones; Marie Moore, Negotiating Committee Member; Local 277 Business Representative Jack Houston, and Secretary-Treasurer Norms Martin.

More than 2,200 technical, office and clerical employees in OPEIU's unit at General Dynamics' defense plant in Fort Worth, Texas—which developed the F-111 fighter plane—will slice up a $1 million wage pie in the first year of a newly negotiated 37-month contract.

Wage gains and fringe benefits per individual will average above $2,000, or more than $61 on hourly life of the pact, raising the company's payroll in the first year from about $4,756 million to $4,766 million, according to Local 277 President J. B. Moss. The new agreement was ratified by over 4,780 union members.

Across-the-board wage boosts, ranging from 20c to 60c an hour, took immediate effect with a further 3c raise set for next August, and a similar boost in August, 1971. The existing 18c cost of living allowance was frozen into the basic wage scale, and another 6c added.

The second shift differential was increased to 18c an hour from the previous 12t rate.

Fringe benefits include a three-day personal leave in addition to five days sick leave per year, cumulative to 25 days, with employees to receive wages for any unused sick leave above the 25 days.

Substantial pension improvements were won, with vesting after 10 years of service and no age requirements. Health benefits were also vastly improved, the company agreeing to pay full costs for employee dependent coverage starting in 1970. Next year this program will provide maternity coverage exclusively for all the office employees and their families.

The new contract doubles the payment for hospital room accommodation to $38 a day from the previous $19 rate.

Two new social service units pluck first fruits of unionism

Substantial wage gains and fringe benefits were won in initial contracts for two new professional social service units recently organized in OPEIU's expanding drive to unionize white-collar workers.

Orders at: 305 and 606. The first was for the 200 employees of Local 277 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Raising range from $500 to $700, plus inclusion in Health-Welfare and Dental Plans, were won by Local 30 for a new unit at Mexican-American Social Service in Los Angeles. The firm aids Mexican nationals to acquire residency and citizenship in the U.S. All its employees are fluent in Spanish.

Employees also gained two additional holidays and an improved vacation schedule of two weeks after one year, three after four, and four after ten.

The employer agreed to a first anniversary reopening to reconsider wages, fringe benefits, and initiation of Local 30’s Retirement Plan.

Wage boosts ranging from $420 to $510 for social service professionals and from $240 to $450 for maintenance employees, were won by Local 9, for its new unit in a first contract at the Jewish Community Center in Milwaukee. It brings top classified professionals into the five-figure annual salary bracket.

Top classifications include the directors of the young adult and cultural arts programs, assistant physical education directors, children and pre-school program directors, and the assistant maintenance supervisor.

According to Business Representative Ed Kubicki of Local 9, professionals won eight paid holidays per year, maintenance employees ten. Professionals also gained one month’s annual vacation, while maintenance employees get two weeks in the first year and three in the second; two and three days in the third and fourth; three weeks from five to nine; and four weeks annually thereafter.

Other gains were differential jury pay; severance pay running from two weeks after one year, to 12 after 11 years’ service; a successors and assigns clause; arbitration procedures; group insurance, and a retirement plan.

The employer agreed to pay full costs for Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage and tuition fees for any course employees may take to improve their education, subject to the Executive Director’s approval.

Union Label offers free book covers

The AFL-CIO's Union Label and Service Trades Department announces the availability of Union Label schoolbook covers, obtainable free of charge, by distribution to unions to school children in their area.

Requests should be addressed to the Department at: Room 402, AFL-CIO Building, 815 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20006. Orders will be filled on a "first come-first served" basis.
Settlement with Chicago Tool brings 26 1/2% wage increase

Nearly 200 office employees at the Chicago Pneumatic Tool units in Utica, N.Y., won a 26 1/2% wage boost in two years, together with whopping fringe benefits, in a three-year pactnegotiated by Local 281. A $10 across-the-board weekly raise takes effect in the first year, with two 6% boosts in each of the following two years, plus a special cost-of-living bonus. The second shift premium was raised to 20¢ from 14¢, and a special review system accelerated.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield comprehensive coverage was greatly expanded, a $15,000 major medical plan was won; life insurance, including double indemnity, was raised to $6,000 from $5,000. The employer agreed to pay for prescription drugs. Family Insurance was increased to $75 a week for 26 weeks.

An improved vacation plan gives employees 12 days’ vacation after seven years. A 50% increase in retirement benefits was gained through the Pension Plan, which will be funded also for past service. A rider provides for a survival burial benefit of $750. The Pension Plan is vested after 10 years, even for employees discharged with just cause.

The negotiating committee also gained improved and clarifying contract language. The committee was headed by Local 281 President Mary Myers and Chief Steward Dorothy St. Peter. Included were Mary Carnone, Gertrude Corby, Jane Kasmider, Joyce Nelson and John Wood.

OPEIU Representative Justin Manning assisted the unit’s negotiations.

Local 32, Musicians harmonize

Wage boosts ranging from a 15% minimum to a 35% maximum over a two-year period, are called for in a new contract negotiated by Local 32 in New- art, N.J., for office employees of American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO. An immediate 10% minimum increase took effect in August, with an additional minimum 5% set for August, 1970.

The New Jersey State Board of Mediation was called in by the two unions after weeks of extended negotiations failed to produce an agreement.

The deadlock was broken after an all-day session with Richard W. Kosten, President of Mu-sicians, Local 32, and Jack Huston, Secretary-Treasurer, at the board’s Newark office.

The pact establishes for all new employees a two-year, fourstep salary schedule; improves funeral leave and severance pay, and provides for expanded full family Blue Cross/Blue Shield hospital-surgical coverage, including diagnostic services in a doctor’s office or in a hospital.

Reservist training pay in Local 277 contract

International Paper Company of Waco, Texas, agreed to pay OPEIU members in military reserve full wages for active duty days in a two-year contract negotiated by Local 277, Fort Worth. The agreement also calls for across-the-board wage increases ranging from 164 to 222 an hour, plus improved vacations and insurance fringe benefits.

The two-week period for holidays and vacations was cut to 30 days from 90, and a new vacation schedule provides for two weeks after one year’s employment and three weeks after eight years.

The pact also increases disability payments to 578 a week from $53. It was negotiated by Local 277 Business Representative Jack Huston and Chief Steward Travis Watson.

U.S. Price Index

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Local 6 gains 18% in pact

Across-the-board wage boosts totaling 18% in a three-year contract renewal were won for the 24-member unit at Raytheon Employers Credit Union, Waltham, Mass., by Local 6, Boston.

During the pact, the lowest job category will reach $100 a week, with the top grade hitting $150. Fringe benefits include an additional holiday; pension and welfare improvements; stronger union security language, and a provision that three days of sick leave may be used as paid time.

The unit negotiating committee included Steward Marjorie Myers, A. Shell and Alternate Steward Esther Sperandio. They were assisted by Local 6 Business Manager C. Nelson Armitage.