

The Office Employees Letter

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OFFICE WORKERS

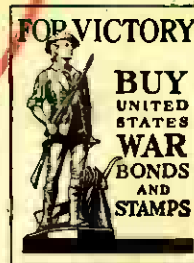
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November, 1943

ORGANIZATION BOOM AMONG OFFICE WORKERS IN SOUTHEAST

A glowing report of accomplishment by unions of our craft in Florida was given by Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings, of the International Council of Office Employees Unions at the November meeting of our union. The membership in the locals having jurisdiction over office workers in shipyards is growing by leaps and bounds.



HUTCHINGS

Brother Hutchings gave an account of the swift steps taken to have Office Workers Union No. 22222 of Tampa certified as the bargaining agency in the McCloskey Co. Shipyard at Tampa, and he said that due to the cooperation of the Regional NLRB, the certification came through in six days, a record time. We can assume that Brother Hutchings' familiarity with this field was largely responsible for the prompt and efficient action taken.

The change which is taking place in the attitudes of our fellow-craftsmen in the Southeast was stressed by Secretary-Treasurer Hutchings. He pointed out that a few years ago office workers in this region were either poorly organized or not organized at all, and he believes that this experience will have a lasting effect on office workers in this region not only during the war, but after, because these workers are experiencing the benefits of organization for the first time.

The Jacksonville Local 23133 is presently engaged in negotiations with the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co. on a contract that will cover more than 1,000 office workers employed in this yard. Bro. Hutchings assisted and worked with Regional Director Googe and Sister Lorraine Rhodes, president of 23133, in connection with these negotiations.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES ALLIANCE ORGANIZED

Bob Greenwood, chairman of the Organization Committee, with Business Agent Probey, have besides their work and interest in the Embassy Dairy case, approached the local representatives of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance and the Cooks, Pastry Workers and Kitchen Employees relative to covering office workers under an agreement.

The applications for membership in 11773 from the workers employed with the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance have been returned to Financial Secretary Ellis together with their initiation fee and dues for November 1943. After their initiation at the December meeting negotiations covering these members will be started by the Business Agent.

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

The Education Committee climaxed a busy year with some entertainment just prior to the adjournment of the last regular meeting.

Marge Schroebel, member of the committee, passed among the membership copies of a union parody on "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" and "All for One and One for All." Ann Marie Burke was the soloist.

The members were pleased with the novel idea and Frances O'Donnell, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, added to the enjoyment of all by having refreshments served.

**NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1943**

8:00 P. M.

Chantilly Room

HAMILTON HOTEL

Bring Your Dues Book

Refreshments

CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD FOLLOWING DECEMBER MEETING

The scent of holly and mistletoe and the dashing Christmas red and green will greet our members at the December meeting. For after this meeting the Entertainment Committee is planning a Christmas party full of surprises. First-hand reports are that there will be a program that will instill the Christmas spirit in all of our busy war-jumbled hearts and minds and refreshments typically a la Xmas.

The meeting is to be a short one, and it is hoped that all of the members will endeavor to attend and by their presence help make the party a success. While the program is still tentative the committee reports that Irving Bucklin will act as M.C., and Margaret Schroebel and Anne Marie Burke have agreed to arrange the caroling.

So mark December 7 on your calendar to go to the Hamilton Hotel Chantilly Room and get in tune for the old, yet well-loved, Christmas carols.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving, 1943, brings us much to be thankful for. In this second year of war we realize that we are grateful for the things which we are fighting to preserve. Labor can be proud of its contribution of men and women in the armed services, of the implements of war it is forging in unsurpassed speed and quantity, and of the billions of dollars in earnings it has invested in War Bonds. If these things we are fighting for are strong enough and important enough to demand our all, they are the most important things we have to be thankful for. In thanking God for the blessings of a free land, we pay solemn tribute to our fellow Americans—our fellow workers—who have paid the highest price that we might live in freedom. We look forward to a peaceful world in which all men may enjoy the privileges we have always had.

**To be a good Trades Unionist, a worker must be a good citizen.
To be a good citizen, a worker must be a good Trades Unionist.**

W. R. Probey.....	President
E. W. Zeigermann.....	1st Vice President
Ernest H. Hinkins.....	2d Vice President
Robert Greenwood.....	3d Vice President
Helen H. Ellis.....	Financial Secretary
Elizabeth McNulla.....	Recording Secretary
Esther G. Smith.....	Treasurer
Carol Beauchamp.....	Guide
Frances O'Donnell.....	Guardian
W. R. Probey.....	Business Representative

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THE JOB AHEAD

By **BORIS SHISHKIN**

Our Office Workers' Unions have come of age. They are about to form a full-fledged self-governing international union chartered by the American Federation of Labor.



SHISHKIN

We have earned our international charter. The growth of our office workers' organizations has been rapid yet stable. These new and growing unions have

demonstrated, not on paper, but in concrete achievement the value of self-organization to thousands of men and women working in offices, to whom union membership is a new experience. Our newly-inducted members have discovered that their union helps establish an equity in their job; that their union enables them to win just promotions, vacations with pay, and tangible improvements in their salaries and working conditions. These services are rendered not only through the mutual action of the members concerned, but also through the concerted backing of the entire mighty membership of the American Federation of Labor.

But our record in peace and war is but a preface to the future. The future of our union is what we make it. If we as members, as individuals, decide to make it a great future, we must realize that for each of us there is a big job to do.

This job is, first, to help our organization grow and to help it serve its membership most effectively. Equally important is the whole range of new responsibilities we shall have as members of an international union. Through our international we shall take part in the shaping of policies and share in the duties of our entire movement. That is a responsibility not only to ourselves, not only to all labor, but also to the community and to the nation.

Let us, each of us, help make sure that

AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Business Agent Probey reported at the November meeting that contracts were being negotiated with Local 101 of the Columbia Typographical Union and the International Association of Fire Fighters. These negotiations have been completed and the contracts will be submitted to the December membership for ratification.

The Typographical Union contract provides a 35-hour workweek, a drop of 5 hours from a 40-hour workweek with an adjustment in wages for one member of \$2.50 per week. There is also included an overtime provision for work in excess of the regular time.

The document establishes for the first time in the local's office an administrative position with a minimum salary for that category of \$45 per week.

The Fire Fighters' proposal was verbally concluded at an informal meeting at the Statler hotel, Boston, during the second week of the A. F. of L. convention by President Baer of the Fire Fighters and President Probey. Both were delegates to the convention.

The agreement guarantees to the members benefits which they have, in a measure, previously enjoyed and provides overtime payment in excess of the regular workweek.

"QUIET ZONE"

The sick committee reports that Vice President Zeigermann is very ill and has been instructed by his doctor to remain home for several months. Brother Zeigermann has been one of our most active members and also a regularly attending delegate to the Washington Central Labor Union for the past two years.

Elizabeth Heintze of the International Association of Fire Fighters, has also been out some time, due to illness. Her friends join in wishing her a speedy recovery and return to work.

Florence Groves, of Labor News, is improving and may now have visitors. She is a patient at Doctor's hospital.

JACKPOT WINNER

Sister Florence Carter, employed at Labor News, was the lucky winner of the \$2 in War Savings Stamps at the November meeting.

our own International Union grows up to the full stature of a great labor organization, able to serve its membership and able to serve in safeguarding and enriching the future of American democracy.

1943-4 CHAIRMEN AND COMMITTEES

At the last regular meeting, the President, besides appointing chairmen for the existing committees, created two new and important ones, namely, a "Wage Analysis," and a "Postwar Planning." The former "Social Committee" has been revived under the new title of "Entertainment." To these committees were appointed as chairmen: Paul Hutchings, Postwar Planning; Mozelle Crozier, Wage Analysis; and Frances O'Donnell, Entertainment.

Those heading the existing committees are Martin Joynt, Auditing; Bob Greenwood, Organization; Belle Burrows, Sisk; and Elizabeth McAlinden, Membership.

Margaret Scattergood, former chairman of the Education Committee, asked to be relieved of her responsibility, after having completed a most successful year in establishing our Committee on Education. Her successor will be appointed at the December meeting.

These chairmen are given a free hand in the appointment of their committees and are to make a written report to the Executive Committee by the Tuesday following the regular monthly meeting.

DO NOT READ THIS

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link: your organization is no stronger nor effective than its most disinterested member. If you want to cut a wide figure in the world of unionism stop being just a member and become an active member; but on the other hand, if you want to kill your organization here are 11 ways to do it:

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
3. Take no part in the organization affairs.
4. Never have anything to say at the meetings; wait until you get home.
5. Be sure to sit in the back so you can talk it over with others.
6. Get all you can from the organization, but don't give it anything.
7. Be slow to pay your dues, then complain about it.
8. The next day find fault with the officers and your fellow members.
9. Talk cooperation, but don't cooperate.
10. If asked to help always say you are too busy.
11. Never read anything about the organization; you may learn something.

BUY MORE BONDS