

LOCAL 301 SPONSORS
VACATION GIVEAWAY
FOR KIDS XMAS FUND

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Step right up and get your tickets now for a free vacation on the white sands of Bermuda. Or, if you're a fellow who likes the simple things in life, you can take CASH.

This is it. Local 301's VACATION GIVEAWAY. It's the annual raffle to raise funds for the union's annual children's Christmas Party.

Tickets are three for fifty cents and may be purchased beginning April 28 from your shop steward. Here are the prizes:

1ST Prize -- A round-trip to Bermuda, cash value \$600.

2ND Prize -- A two-week vacation for the family, cash value \$250.

3RD Prize -- A one-week vacation for the family, cash value \$150.

The lucky winners will have their choice of either taking the vacation trip or the CASH.

The big drawing will be held at the regular monthly membership, Monday, June 15, Local 301 Auditorium. Executive Board members will get the ticket books at the board meeting April 27 and in turn will pass them along to the shop stewards. At the start, each steward will receive one book of 60 tickets but there will be plenty more as they are needed.

So get in on the Giant VACATION GIVEAWAY now.

LOCAL 301 ADDS NEWSMAN;
NEW PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Larry Gonder, Washington, D.C. newsman, has joined the staff of Local 301 as Director of Publicity and Public Relations. Gonder, 33, is a native of Oakland, Md. He has had broad experience in all news media, including press service, radio and television reporting.

He was a Washington correspondent for United Press for seven years, specializing in the coverage of labor-management news, and has done reportorial work for Labor Press Association, the National Broadcasting Co. and Dumont Television. In addition, he has done special writing and public relations work for several labor organizations, including the Switchmen's Union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Enginemen and the AFL Political League.

MEMBERSHIP GIVES "GO-AHEAD"
ON BUILDING

Tony Villano, reporting for the Bldg. Committee at the Stewards-Membership meeting last Monday, said that the committee had three contractors that were in an area of being the lowest bidders for a new Union Office Bldg. on which, it is hoped, construction will begin in the immediate future.

Villano explained briefly the general plans for the new building at both the afternoon and evening meetings. Questions were answered concerning the cost, type of construction and location of the building on the property. Both 2nd shift and 1st and 3rd shifts meetings voted to authorize the Bldg. Committee to proceed with the new construction.

The Bldg. Committee is composed of Tony Villano, Roy Schaffer, John DeGraff and Frank Masterson.

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS
MEET WITH GE ON OUTLOOK

As this issue of the bulletin went to press, officers and executive board members were scheduled to meet with GE Vice-President William Ginn for a top level discussion of the job future and the general business outlook. The meeting was set for Thursday afternoon, April 23, in the conference room of Bldg. 40. Leo Jandreau, Business Agent for Local 301, said the conference would touch on all phases of GE's current and future activities in the Schenectady area. The membership will receive a full report of the meeting.

ARBITRATION FOR RETROACTIVE PAY

The International Union has recently won an arbitration award forcing GE to pay time and one-half premium on working schedules that require a worker to report to work on a change of work shift when the starting time of the new shift is within his 24-hr. period of rest on his scheduled day off. A similar case is being processed for Local 301 employees whose working schedules may also entitle them to retroactive payment because of working on scheduled day of rest.

The arbitrator on the original case decided that the men involved in the case in question were to be paid retroactive from Aug. 15, 1955. The Company has offered the employees of Local 301 retroactive payment from Feb. 11, 1959. We feel that the arbitrator's decision on the case established the fact very clearly that there was a violation of the national contract and that employees should be paid from the time the violation occurred.

LOCAL 301 NEWS

IUE AFL-CIO

Vol. 4 — No. 48

The Voice of GE Workers, Local 301, Schenectady, N. Y.

May 1, 1959

122 MORE LAYOFFS MAKE 799 TOTAL FOR YEAR; OVER 4,500 IN TWO YEARS

Unemployment continued to mount during April in Schenectady and at least 122 more workers were laid off at General Electric.

This brought total layoffs so far this year to 799 and means a reduction in G. E. employment of more than 4,500 workers during the last two years.

And G. E. general manager W. E. Saupe held out little hope for an improvement in job prospects in the immediate future. In fact, he indicated it is the company's feeling that things will get worse before they get better.

In announcing new orders for large steam turbine-generators, Saupe said orders now on the books will not appreciably change employment levels.

Here is the employment picture in brief: In March, 1957 Local 301's bargaining unit was 15,073. In 1958 it had dropped to 13,114 and last month it was down to 10,502.

January layoffs were 65; February totaled 434; March, 178 and the first three weeks of April, 122.

Meanwhile, G. E. has taken additional steps to bring new business to the Schenectady plant and, thus, stave off further cuts in employment.

Officers and Executive Board members of Local 301 met for two hours Thursday, April 23, with G. E. Vice President William Ginn for a full and frank discussion of mutual company-union problems. The talks touched on employment, sales and company pricing policies.

Ginn told the union officials the company has set up a special marketing group, composed of top sales personnel, which will begin immediate intensive tours of the entire United States scouting new orders for Schenectady.

The newly-formed sales team will be under the direct supervision of A. C. Stevens, G. E. Director of Community and Public Relations.

The new business being sought will not necessarily involve the same products being produced here. On the contrary, let was understood the traveling market specialists have been instructed to seek contracts for any type of work that can be produced by present existing equipment and skills.

It was said, too, that the word has gone out the salesmen are to be aggressive in bidding for con-

Novak Campaign Ends; Election Is Predicted

The hot school board campaign entered its final few days with the election chances of Leon Novak, Local 301 attorney, rated as excellent.

Novak scheduled a series of last-minute radio and television programs in the windup of his campaign for election to the school board in the Tuesday, May 5 polling.

He will appear on WRGB television Sunday, May 3 at 6:30 P. M.; and WSNY radio Saturday, May 2 at 6:45 P. M. and WGY radio Sunday, May 3 at 10 P. M.

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UE Starts New Lies Campaign

UE tries to misrepresent trend of elections in leaflet as result of Elmira Foundry election.

The UE won an election in the Elmira Foundry last week by 26 votes, with the Elmira Foundry workers split down the middle in a vote of 182 to 208. "Divide and Conquer", the slogan of UE, finds itself the victor in a plant after weakening the Union in the Elmira Foundry, giving advantage to the Company to introduce speed-up and wage cuts with the Union too weak to protect itself. This is the policy of UE.

(Continued on Page 4)

NOTICE!!!

9th Ward 9th Ward
Mont Pleasant
MASS MEETING
P.N.A. Hall — Crane St.
Monday, May 4, 7:30 P. M.

Speaker: Leon Novak, Candidate for Board of Education.

REFRESHMENTS

IUE-CIO LOCAL 301 NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF LOCAL 301,
REPRESENTING SCHENECTADY
GE WORKERS

Published by the Editorial Committee
President John H. Shambo
Vice President William J. Kelly
Treasurer Pat J. Donato
Recording Secretary Roy V. Schaffer
Ass't Recording Secretary David Gunn
Chief Shop Steward Joseph Manqino
Business Agent Leo Jandreau
121 Erie Blvd. Schenectady 5, N. Y.

We Have New Look

Starting with this issue, the Local 301 News has a new look!

As you can see we're smaller in size. But we'll try to make up for this in content. And, we're going to press more often.

From here on, we will publish the first and third Friday of every month. This means two issues a month instead of the previous single issue.

Of course, we will continue to publish the mimeograph supplement of the Bulletin as the news warrants.

The changes in the News format and publishing schedules was dictated by a re-appraisal of our needs and budget made by the Editorial Committee. It was found that by going to the smaller size edition, the News could publish twice a month and give you more complete coverage of the happenings that affect you and your job.

We hope you will like the change.

Aid for Paperworkers

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 301 have authorized a plant collection to support members of Local 678, United Papermakers and Paperworkers on strike since January 20 against the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of Mechanicville.

As this issue went to press, more than \$780 had been collected by our Shop Stewards.

Mastriani Attends Stockholders' Meeting

Mr. Cordiner's decision to move the stockholders' Meeting from Schenectady to Cleveland did not keep Billy Mastriani from attending.

For years Billy, who is a former Chief Shop Steward and presently an Executive Board Member, has attended the annual Stockholders' Meeting. Brother Mastriani took the floor and reminded Mr. Cordiner of what his program has done to Schenectady. He further pointed out that the people in Schenectady are afraid that if the present policy of G.E. is continued, Schenectady may well become a "Ghost Town".

The Officers and Executive Board of Local 301 gave Brother Mastriani a unanimous vote of confidence for taking the time to attend the meeting and for informing the shareowners of our concern about the future of Schenectady.

The strike involves 940 production workers. As it entered its fourth month there was no progress in negotiations and union officials frankly described the settlement outlook as "black".

The Union accepted the decision of an impartial State Arbitration but the company killed this by insisting on the firing of 22 workers who were accused of "misbehaving" on the picket line. In addition, the company demanded the right to discipline other employees whose actions it did not approve.

THE LEGAL CORNER

Workers who are injured on the job often may reach retirement or lay-off before the effects of their injuries have fully disappeared. Sometimes, too, a worker seemingly may have recovered from an injury at the plant but then begin to have trouble after retirement or lay-off.

Such workers have a right to pursue their claims for medical treatment, lost time from work or lowered wages even though they no longer are working for the company.

The claim made by the injured worker will be against the company where he was injured, if the injury was less than seven years ago, and against a substitute organization set up by the State of New York, and called the Special Fund, if the accident was more than seven years old.

Of course, as in all instances of claims for compensation, whether the case is new or an old one being reopened, the injured worker must show through a doctor's report that his problem or his disability is connected with the original accident.

Now, suppose the injured worker who no longer is working for General Electric now is employed elsewhere. If he is in need of medical treatments as a result of his injury his doctor will take the necessary steps to make them available by filing a report called a "C-27", showing why the worker's condition has made treatments necessary.

If the worker is working at lower wages due to his injury, he will have the opportunity at a compensation hearing to make this claim for relief. Here, the worker will be entitled to be reimbursed two-thirds of his losses to a maximum anywhere from \$25 to \$45 per week, depending on the year in which the accident took place.

A worker who is not working after having left the employ of the Company also can reopen his case. If he is in need of medical treatment his doctor must file a report. If he is partially unable to do his regular work due to his disability he may be entitled to compensation benefits while not working. But his rate of compensation will be fixed in accordance with the percentage of his disability.



MASTRIANI

Jandreau Calls For Shorter Workweek; Productivity Hike Boosts Jobless

Leo Jandreau, Business Agent for Local 301 I. U. E. served notice this week that a major demand in the Union's contract talks with General Electric next year will be a shorter workweek.

Jandreau pointed to increasing layoffs reported elsewhere in this issue and said that the "obvious answer must inevitably be a reduction in the workweek."

"No one will argue that a shorter workweek is the final solution to mass unemployment," Jandreau said. "But it is a sound economic device for assuring a more fair distribution of employment and alleviating the threat to our economy caused by some 5 million people out of work."

Meanwhile, the Commerce and Labor Departments reported that higher production and not a reduction in sales was bringing about increased unemployment.

These Departments said that output in February, 1959 was just about the same as February, 1957 but almost a million and a quarter fewer factory workers were required to do the job.

These fewer factory workers turned out just about the same volume of goods in a workweek almost half an hour shorter than it was two years ago.

Rail freight shipments are running significantly higher than a year ago. Yet, in February of this year, rail employment was down to 839,000 against 888,000 in the depths of the recession a year ago.

Over-all joblessness at 4.7 million in February was 1.5 million above the same 1957 month. Everywhere, fewer workers were being required as the nation's output of goods and services rose to new high levels.

"As of today, there are more than 200,000 members of this union who are still unemployed despite this production boom. There is a good chance that many may never be called back because technological advances have eliminated their jobs, or so reduced crew sizes that there is no place for them," Pres. David J. McDonald of the Steelworkers declared recently.

This is the paradox of today's so-called recovery. New machines have made it possible for fewer men to turn out an increasing amount of product and services. Even where there have been only minor technological changes, improved methods have produced similar results.

G. E. Conference Prices... Board Meeting

The General Electric Conference Board, IUE-AFL-CIO, will meet in New York City on Friday, May 22nd. Delegates from all G.E. Locals have been requested to report on the employment-unemployment status of each plant. The Conference Board will discuss plans that will result in more employment security for G.E. workers.

The Unions that are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, which represents the vast majority of organized labor in our country, have on the Collective Bargaining Agenda this year and next year some basic issues that must be resolved in the face of five million people out of work.

The work week must be reduced to offset the continuing productivity increase per man hour. There are many approaches to this question; as a matter of fact, a combination of several propositions is necessary to meet the needs of creating more job opportunity, such as:

1. Shorter work week.
2. Lower age to qualify for full and more adequate pensions.
3. Longer vacation allowance.
4. More paid holidays.
5. Higher unemployment benefits.

Washington—The cost of living didn't change in March, even the food prices went down slightly.

The U. S. Department of Labor said the consumer paid more for transportation, housing, clothes, medical care and recreation. Food prices dropped about a half of one percent between February and March, due mainly to lower prices for pork, eggs and fresh vegetables.

The Department estimated that prices were about 24 percent above the average between 1947-49 and 0.3 percent higher than March a year ago.

All of these must be considered on the basis of not decreasing the present purchasing power which is absolutely needed to buy the surplus of commodities that presently exist, as well as the productivity that is constantly increasing.

An increase in wages will be necessary if we are to have stability in our Economic System. One of the problems we face is Under Consumption, not because the American consumer does not want or need many of the commodities we produce—on the contrary, the average consumer, if he had the money and job security, would replace many of his worn-out personal assets and he would add to them with articles that he needs.

VACATION GIVEAWAY ON!!

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LOCAL 301, I. U. E. STARTS NEW

RADIO SHOW

Local 301 begins a new radio show Saturday, May 2 over WSNY. The time is 6:45 to 7 P. M. Tune in for the late news and commentary.