

# LOCAL 301 NEWS

## IUE AFL-CIO

Vol. 9, No. 14 The Voice of G.E. Workers, Local 301 April 6, 1962.

### SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE UNDER WAY

Local 301's 1962 Scholarship Fund Drive is presently under way.

This will be the fourth annual drive in which Shop Stewards will solicit our members for contributions.

The three previous fund raising campaigns proved very successful. This was due wholly to the generosity and cooperation of our members.

The three young men who have or are presently receiving financial benefits as a result are: Paul Graziade, John Whitehouse and Robert Wilock.

Scholarship Chairman Frank Masterson points out that the Scholarship Committee receives a periodic progress report from the colleges attended by the recipients of our scholarships. He reports that all three students are progressing very satisfactorily in their studies.

Students are selected for the Scholarship on the basis of their scholastic standings and financial need.

Once again the Scholarship Committee solicits your financial support in an effort to make this year's fund drive a successful one.

### NOTICE

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Officers will meet at 6 p.m.

Union Headquarters-121 Erie Blvd.

#### STRIKE IN FITCHBURG CONTINUES

On March 23, 1962, Local 301 News reported that President Shambo had received a letter from Norman J. Santerre, President of Local 286 IUE-AFL-CIO, notifying us that his Local was on strike.

Over 600 members are involved. Six grievances, unsatisfactorily settled at the New York Level (third step) of the grievance procedure were responsible for the walkout.

The strike is now in its 5th week. It began on Feb. 27, 1962.

President Santerre has appealed to Local 301 for financial assistance on behalf of the members of Local 286.

Next week, Executive Board Members will distribute to their Shop Stewards petitions requesting a contribution from members of our Local which will help to ease the burdens and hardships of our union brothers in the G.E. Plant in Fitchburg, Mass.

#### BOARD MEMBERS TO DISTRIBUTE NEW RATE SHEETS

At the meeting of the Executive Board which will be held on April 9, 1962, Board Members will receive copies of the new rate sheets covering day work and piece work rates, which went into effect on April 2, 1962, as provided for under the 1960 IUE-GE Contract.

Piece work conversion sheets will also be distributed.

Shop Stewards will be contacted by their respective Board Members next week and copies of the above information will be given to them.

CAPITAL DISTRICT LABOR REPORT

The New York State Dept. of Labor, Division of Employment, reported in its March 1962 issue of "Labor Market Letter" that the Albany-Schenectady-Troy Area had a manufacturing employment of approximately 63,100 in February, indicating no change from January; however, it was 1,700 higher than February 1961. This gain over 1961 was due to increased employment in stone, clay and glass, primary metals, electrical machinery and garment firms.

Non-Manufacturing employment in February was about 157,000, down 1,800 from January but 1,500 over February of last year.

Unemployment in February held about even with January at approximately 15,500, a drop of 4,000 compared to February 1961 figure.

The unemployment rate held stable at 5.9. This indicates a decided drop from 7.4 level in February of last year.

The decline of the average weekly earnings of production workers which was evidenced in December continued into January. The January figure was \$103.23 compared with \$107.20 in December 1961 and \$109.51 in November. The earnings, however, are still above last January's figure of \$97.06.

The loss currently being experienced is due primarily to a cutback in hours worked per week. The average dropping from 41.6 to 40.5 hours.

A labor force summary of the Albany Labor Market Area shows the following:

Item	Feb. 1962 (p)	Jan. 1962 (p)	Feb. 1961 (r)
Civilian Work Force /1	263,000	264,600	263,900
Employed /2	247,500	248,900	244,300
Unemployed	15,500	15,700	19,600
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.9	7.4

- /1 Includes persons involved in labor-management disputes, not shown separately.
- /2 Includes about 10,000 commuters living outside the labor market area, and an unknown number of dual job-holders.
- (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised

SURVEY ON DOWNGRADED MEMBERS

The Survey made recently by the Union shows, according to the reports received at the Union Office, that approximately 175 members of IUE Local 301 are presently working on lower rated jobs and are requesting upgrades when the opportunity presents itself.

The skills on which the downgraded workers claim to be qualified include:

TOOLMAKERS, ERECTORS, INSPECTION, WELDING, BORING MILL, MILLING MACHINE, STEELWORKER, MILLWRIGHT, ELECTRICIAN, STOCKKEEPER, ASSEMBLER SHEET METAL, TRACTOR OPERATOR, CHIPPER AND MANY OTHER SPECIALIZED OCCUPATIONS.

Many of the longer service employees who are among the downgraded have physical limitations or will only work on the day shift; however, the majority of those downgraded have no physical or shift limitations.

N.Y. STATE WELFARE REPORT

In January, 555,500 persons received supplementary or full support through the five public assistance programs in N.Y. State, amounting to \$27.8 million. Recipients and expenditures both increased 3.2% from December, as the monthly average grant per person was almost unchanged at \$50.11.

The increase in recipients followed a seasonal pattern which is usually less marked in New York City than Upstate. In New York City, the number of recipients increased by 1.3% over the previous month; Upstate, the increase was 6.4%. A year ago the comparable increases were 2.2% for New York City and 7.2% Upstate.

Medical Assistance for the Aged paid out \$8.9 million this month for care of 29,915 persons, compared to \$8.2 million for 28,841 persons in Dec. In its 10 months of operation so far, MAA has paid medical bills amounting to \$63.2 million, providing total of about 300,000 months' care to ill and needy aged of the State.