

Here's GE Reward for 24 Years of Continuous Service - \$1.98 Check

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY AGENT FOR GENERAL ELECTRIC PENSION TRUST | | P 81392 |
| PAY \$1 AND 98 CENTS | | SCHENECTADY, N. Y., JUNE 28, 1946 |
| TO THE ORDER OF | ROBERT H. CUNNINGHAM 404 MILLARD ST. SCHENECTADY 5, N. Y. | GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY <i>J. W. Howell</i> TREASURER |
| To GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK 1-23 NEW YORK, N. Y. | | |

If GE, Westinghouse and other corporations ever stage a contest to see which has paid out the smallest pension check, GE could probably win with this June, 1946 check sent to Robert Cunningham, 402 (Not 404) Millard St., Schenectady.

'Generous Electric' Gives \$1.98 Check As Retirement Pay

The first pension check which Robert Cunningham, 73, of 402 Millard St., Schenectady, received from the General Electric Co. when he was retired after 24 continuous years of service was for \$1.98. He was retired last May 31 and the check was dated June 28.

"My maximum pension a month from GE is \$4.38," he told the EU News.

His September, October and November checks were for \$4.38 each, he reported, but July and August were only \$3.18 each because of insurance deductions. He hasn't been able to figure out yet what book-keeping method GE employed to arrive at the \$1.98 figure for June.

Long Service Record

Mr. Cunningham was a mail carrier his last years at GE, but was a machinist there earlier and held several other jobs. He worked at GE from 1899 to 1907, then went to Australia. Reentering the GE Works in September, 1919, he continued there until last May 31, except for two years when he was laid-off. When he reached the age of 70, during the war, he received a letter from management asking him to continue at his job, he said.

In August Mr. Cunningham sent Charles E. Wilson, GE president, a photostat of the \$1.98 check and reminded him that W. W. Trench, in Works News,

AER Grievance Case In Hands of Howell

Local 301's grievance action to raise the AER's on low-rated piece work jobs was sent on to Works Manager J. M. Howell this week by the special committee of representatives of groups on these jobs. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, had refused to recognize the production workers' hourly plant minimum as applying to piece workers.

The committee at its meeting Friday also surveyed the situation among the various women's piece work groups, and found many complaints of piece work day work rates being paid below even the rates which Stevens had said were payable. Individual grievances will be filed by the committeemen.

said "we pay pensions to suit the requirements of the pensioners."

GE Officials Silent

Receiving no answer from Mr. Wilson, he wrote to Phillip M. Reed, chairman of the GE board of directors. The registered letter came back marked "unclaimed", according to Mr. Cunningham, so he sent him another, plain first class mail. To date there has been no answer from Mr. Reed.

Post-script—Mr. Cunningham took a job this week as a maintenance man at a church.

UE Members Cleared In Philadelphia Trial

It took a Philadelphia jury only an hour and a half to decide on a "not guilty" verdict in the recent trial of 14 UE members accused of "inciting to riot" when they were beaten and arrested by police for taking part in a peaceful parade during last winter's GE strike.

Their "crime" was protesting against the sweeping injunction which GE obtained in its futile effort to break the UE-CIO strike.

Newspapers gave columns of space to the "riot" during the strike and to charges against the union members. The short items which these same papers ran about the acquittal of the UE members were buried in back pages, for the most part. Just another example of the treatment unions get from the commercial press.

Local 301 will help pay the costs of defending the Philadelphia UE members. The membership and committee's meeting Dec. 3 authorized the Executive Board to make "an appropriate contribution."

It's Edmund C. Tanski

EU News by mistake printed the name of the newly elected trustee of Local 301 as Edward Tanski, instead of Edmund C. Tanski. We're sorry and we hope the error didn't create too much confusion.

Electrical Union News

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

Vol. III—No. 36

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

December 19, 1946

Clergymen's Group Meets With Union

A group of 25 clergymen of all denominations met with Local 301 representatives Tuesday at the union hall to discuss wages, prices, production and other questions concerning the union.

The meeting was arranged at the request of several of the clergymen who recently were guests at a GE conference and turkey dinner at the plant and who expressed the desire to hear the union's side of problems discussed at the GE session.

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301, Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent; Jerry Steinberg, UE organizer in charge of the office workers' organizing drive, and Milo Lathrop of UE District 3 represented the union Tuesday.

The session was planned to last an hour, but continued for three hours. A number of the group stayed to see the UE movie, "Deadline for Action."

There wasn't any turkey dinner, not even corned beef and cabbage.

Complete Program For Children's Party

Plans have been completed by the Activities Committee for the first children's Christmas party, which Local 301 has staged since the war started.

Santa Claus will distribute candy and oranges at the affair, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at 301 Hall. The program will also feature dancing, singing and other entertainment, ice cream and cookies. Miss Belle Baxter is entertainment chairman.

Lanson Cole, chairman of the Activities Committee, was assisted by Mrs. Cole, E. J. La Bombard, Harold Claus, Audna Pitcher, Lucy Swatling, George Judway, Gordon Belgrave and Miss Baxter in planning the party.

Children of all 301 members are invited.

Tune In

The Local 301 radio broadcast is every Monday night at 7:15 o'clock over WSNY.

Pay Increases and Other Gains Won for Building Trades Groups

A substantially improved company offer was accepted by the building trades members in a special meeting Monday night, ending the negotiations which started in September.

The offer was obtained in negotiations in New York City in which Local 301 was represented by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and international representatives of the UE-CIO. It provides:

A one-step raise for all building trades mechanics (five cents for most and four cents for a few), except the electricians and steamfitters who won theirs in 1945 through the union's War Labor Board case. This is retroactive to July 1, 1946. It includes the machine tool fitters, pipe coverers, and glaziers, who had been excluded from previous offers.

Brush painters will receive a four cent raise retroactive to July 1 and an additional five cent raise retroactive to Oct. 14.

Raise for Helpers

A one-step (four cents) increase for all helpers, including the masons' and roofers' helpers whom the management had classed as laborers. This is retroactive to October 14, 1946. It will bring the job rate for most helpers, the A group, to \$1.14½.

Tinsmiths' helpers who have been doing some mechanics' work, and whom the company wanted to rate in a new Class C, will go to the bottom of Class B and their wages will be raised accordingly.

A written supplement will be worked out, covering two points: that qualified helpers will be upgraded before new mechanics are hired; and setting up definite machinery for discussion with the union before outside contracts are let.

Deadlock Broken

Until last week's offer, the negotiations were deadlocked, with the management indicating it would refuse to arbitrate the dispute. The negotiations were marked by several deadlocked meetings between management and the committee here in Bldg. 41, and several meetings of the building trades members. The building trades groups at these meetings repeated their insistence on a decent settlement of the issues.

(Continued on Page 4)

Blood Donors Needed For Two Little Girls

Local 301 committeemen in Bldg. 46 have started a drive to provide a steady supply of blood donors for the two little girls of their fellow-member, Albert Renzi, assembler in the Spare Parts department of Searchlight and Ordnance.

The girls, seven and ten years old, suffer from a rare blood disease which requires that they be given transfusions about every three weeks. The two children are at Brother Renzi's home in Mont Pleasant.

Several volunteers in Bldg. 46 have given blood in response to appeals from Willard Kushel, Frank Emspak and Jack Mele. They hope to get donors from all over the plant. You can call Brother Renzi at 3-8982 or Brother Mele at 3-4502.

Legislative Group Elected for 1947

Members of the 1947 legislative committee, elected this month, are as follows:

Martin Burgess, Bldg. 52; John Kasitch, Bldg. 53; Larry Gebo, Bldg. 89; Martin Scharbach, Bldg. 269; William Templeton, Bldg. 11; Fred Pacelli, Bldg. 101; George Walker, Bldg. 73; Albert DeLucia, Bldg. 77; Joseph Krone, Bldg. 46; D. MacDonald, Bldg. 40; Kenneth Sheehan, Bldg. 17; William Weber, Bldg. 6; Vincent Iovinella, Bldg. 10; Walter Plummer, Bldg. 60, and Frank Civitella, Bldg. 85.

Prepare Proposals For 1947 Contract

Proposals for the 1947 General Electric contract will be submitted to the National GE Locals Conference Board Jan. 4 and 5 in New York City. Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, is chairman of the Conference Board.

From all parts of the country has come the demand that the new contract provide for a union shop, instead of the present maintenance of membership clause.

Other principal suggestions are:

Eliminate continuous operations clause.

Guarantee full eight hours work or pay for employees who report in and have not been told in advance that no work is available.

Eight holidays paid when not worked.

The common labor rate shall be the minimum job rate for all employees.

Guaranteed hourly rate for piece workers.

Equal pay for equal work, with no discrimination in job opportunity or conditions of employment based on sex.

Increased vacations.

Protection for veterans on such subjects as accumulation of seniority while in armed services, protection of full vacation allowances on return and other rights.

Sick leave, pension plan and group insurance.

Local 301 representatives will recommend a change in grievance procedure, to increase the opportunities for settlement on a local level and to cut out submitting any local grievance to New York.

The present procedure is to take a case to the immediate foreman, then to the local management and then to New York.

Local 301 proposes going from the immediate foreman to the general foreman, to the section superintendent, to the local plant manager, and then to local arbitration.

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Unemployment Insurance Question Box

Recent temporary lay-offs caused many questions to be asked of the union office about unemployment insurance machinery. Here are a few answers.

1. Does it make any difference whether you take a "rotation" lay-off within one week or two weeks?

Yes. A lay-off of a full week at a time protects your unemployment insurance rights. Three unemployed days in any Monday-to-Sunday week are charged against you as "qualifying" before you get any "effective" days (days which count in figuring unemployment insurance payments) credited to you. So if you work your regular five days in one week and are off the whole next week, you are credited with four full effective days during the second week. That is, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the second week are counted as qualifying days and Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday as effective days. But if you spread the five days work over the two weeks,—for instance working three days the first week and two days the next, you are credited with one effective day the first week and two the second week,—or a total of only three days for unemployment insurance purposes. Furthermore, if in one week you earn more than \$24, all unemployment credit in that week is wiped out.

2. Do single days of lay-off count?

Yes, but—only past the third day of unemployment in one week. Thus, if you work Monday and Tuesday, then Wednesday to Friday are qualifying days, and you are credited with two effective days. Effective days are accumulated and paid for in blocks of four effective days.

3. When does unemployment insurance start?

After you have accumulated four effective days in one "benefit" year (June 3, 1946 to June 1, 1947). Thereafter effective days are paid for in blocks of four. No unemployment insurance is paid on the first block of four effective days, called the waiting period.

4. Does a day on which you were laid-off without work but paid two hours call-in pay under the contract count against your unemployment insurance credit?

The State Unemployment Insurance Department has ruled that way, but Local 301 contends this is a wrong application of the laws, and will fight to get the day credited. Individual workers should appeal the ruling and tell the union.

301 Office Is Busy On Financial Report

Adam Boss, in charge of Local 301 books, and his staff are concentrating on the annual financial report now, on making out state and federal tax reports and closing the books for the year.

Meanwhile they have temporarily stopped work on the list-making and checking in connection with the Local 301 membership drive. The membership drive is expected to get underway again about the middle of January.

At CIO Meeting

Delegates of Local 301 attending the Nov. 25 meeting of the Capital District CIO Council at 301 Hall were: William Mastriani, Council president; Dewey Brashear, J. P. Braumosen, Albert E. Davis, Rudy Ellis, James B. Kelly, Joseph Krone, and Fred Facelli.

Another meeting of the Council was scheduled for Wednesday of this week.

CIO 'Big Three' Confer on Wages

Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, was at Pittsburgh Tuesday, when this week's issue of EU News went to press, attending a meeting of the UE General Executive Board on wage policy.

Leaders of the other unions in the CIO "Big Three," the Auto Workers and the Steelworkers, were in Pittsburgh at the same time, and discussed basic CIO wage increase campaigns with the UE officials.

December 31 Deadline

The deadline for veterans and persons still in military service to take advantage of simplified naturalization requirements is Dec. 31. Usual waiting periods and fees are not required of those who apply for United States citizenship before then.

They're Planning Children's Christmas Party at 301 Hall Sunday



Four of the members of the Local 301 Activities Committee at the union hall. Left to right, Audna M. Pitcher, Chairman discussing the program of the Christmas party for children Lanson Cole, Mrs. Cole and E. J. LaBombard. It will be of 301 members, scheduled for 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, the first children's party since pre-war days.

Union Meets with Company On Toolmakers, Machinists

Local 301's demand for a general wage increase and automatic progression for toolmakers and other tool room employees was discussed with Louis Male, GE general superintendent, last week. The union proposal had been rejected previously at the lower level.

The whole toolmakers' committee was present. The committee will meet shortly to consider developments.

The parallel case taken up on behalf of the machinists came up for the first discussion last week with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent. The company spokesmen resisted the union's proposals, but indicated they would not take a definite stand until the toolmakers' case was disposed of.

GE Lay-offs

As this week's issue of EU News went to press, the GE management told the union there were still 500 persons laid-off because of shortage of materials but that nobody was still out of work as a result of the recent industrial gas ban. The New York Power and Light Corporation canceled the gas restrictions last week, but GE did not at once resume 100 per cent operations.

Labor Faces Worst Legislative Fight in 1947; Nixon Warns of Attack on Trade Union Rights

The toughest legislative fight in labor's history is about to begin, Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, has warned all UE locals.

"Reaction is planning now to take away the workers' right to join unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively,—a right guaranteed them by the Wagner National Labor Relations Act," he said in a recent article.

"Reaction plans to replace the Wagner Act with new laws tying the hands of labor."

"The logic of this offensive against the Wagner Act by Big Business is simple: throttle labor unions, weaken them economically and politically and proceed to tie up the country for reaction in 1948."

Brother Nixon pointed out that the Wagner Act has already been weakened by inadequate appropriations for enforcement and by rulings by the National Labor Relations Board which hurt the worker and please the boss. Now the bosses want laws which will let them interfere with internal union affairs and will limit the rights of unions,—1947 versions of the Case Bill and the Truman anti-strike bills.

"The Republicans, led by Senators Taft and Ball, are all set for the kill. They stooge for the National Association of Manufacturers as always."

"The Southern Democrats, by and large, are set to lead the drive against labor, just as Congressmen Smith and Rankin, Senator Tom Connally and their cohorts have done in the past."

Vigorous protests by the CIO, AFL and railroad unions can stop this reactionary drive in 1947, according to Brother Nixon, because political bosses of both parties are concerned over the 1948 presidential election.

301 Grievance Group Meets Every Friday

The Local 301 grievance subcommittee, set up by the Executive Board in September on recommendation of Business Agent Leo Jandreau, meets at 301 Hall at 4 p.m. every Friday to hear appeals of any union member dissatisfied with the handling of a grievance.

The committee will meet at 1 p.m. to hear any case involving second shift members.