

CIO Council Elects Officers, Seats New UE Delegation



Part of the Local 301 delegation to the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO. Front row, left to right, Fred Roy, and John Saccoci. Rear, R. J. Hruby, Rudie Ellis, Joseph Krone, Anthony Lolik, John Polak and Dewey Brashear.

Local 301 Member Heads CIO Council

William Mastriani, chief shop steward of Local 301, has been elected president of the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO. He was chosen unanimously to succeed Frank T. Murphy, of Albany, UAW, who was not a candidate for reelection.

Other officers elected are: first vice-president, Janet Scott, Albany, Tri-City Newspaper Guild; second vice-president, John Capodiferro, Amsterdam, Textile Workers; secretary-treasurer, Robert Northrop, Schenectady, Local 2054, USA; trustees, Eugene McCabe, Schenectady, Transport Workers, and Al Davis, Local 301; sergeant-at-arms, Patrick Hughes, Troy, UAW, and assistant sergeant-at-arms, the former president, Murphy.

The Council voted to increase per capita to a cent and a half in order to make a more active and effective program possible. In line with this move it also voted to have a full-time representative.

The increased per capita will be effective as of July 1. The June meeting will select the full-time representative. Several delegates recommended that the new secretary-treasurer be named to the job. This question will be voted on next

William Mastriani, left, Local 301, newly elected president of the CIO Council, gets a hearty handshake from the retiring president, Frank T. Murphy, right, of Albany, UAW.



month, along with details of salary and duties.

Both Roy Lash, Local 301, retiring secretary-treasurer, and Murphy urged the increased per capita and the employment of a full-time executive officer to make the Council the force it should be in the state.

Money for Strikers

Local 301 took the opportunity of saying "Thank you" for assistance received during the GE strike by voting a \$300 contribution to Local 410, Fur and Leather Workers, who have been on strike for weeks at Ballston Spa.

New Delegation For CIO Council

The new delegation of Local 301 to the Capitol District Industrial Union Council, CIO includes:

Paul Canders, Sam De Cesare, John Polak, Emmett Brennan, John Saccocio, John Brauneisen, Morris Martin, Horace Perryman, Dewey Brashear, William Mastriani, Homer Roy, James Kelly, Al Davis, Joseph Dominelli, Marie Sweeney, Fred Pacelli and Rudy Ellis.

Alternates are Joseph Krone, Louis Pannone, Ralph J. Hruby, Anthony Esposito and Larry Gebro.

Electrical Union News

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO
Vol. III—No. 20 SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

June 6, 1946

Postcards Urge Case Bill Veto

Thousands of postcards were mailed this week to President Truman by Schenectady GE workers urging that he veto the anti-labor Case bill. (The President had taken no action on the bill when the EU News went to press this week).

Shop committeemen passed out the cards as part of Local 301's political action program.—Action like this on the part of CIO unions all over the country backed the strong personal plea of Philip Murray, national CIO president, to President Truman.

"We are on the brink of a vast anti-labor crusade," Murray said, "of which HR 4908 (the Case Bill) is but a forerunner."

The Case bill went to the White House last week after the House of Representatives accepted a few minor changes made by the Senate. U. S. Senators James M. Mead and Robert Wagner of New York voted against the bill. So did Representative William T. Byrne of Albany County.

Bernard W. Kearney, who represents Schenectady in the House of Representatives, wasn't listed in this final, vital roll-call. He was reported as away from Washington at the time.

Labor's big job right now is to con-

(Continued on Page 2)

CIO Union Group Talks With Ewing

Andrew Peterson, William Mastriani and Milo Lathrop of Local 301 and Robert Northrop, Local 2054, USA, attended the dinner in Schoharie recently in honor of U. S. Senator, James M. Mead.

Because the emergency session of Congress prevented Senator Mead from being present at the dinner, the CIO delegation missed the expected chance of talking with him about the anti-labor drive in Congress.

Instead, they seized the chance to speak to Oscar Ewing, vice-chairman of the national Democratic committee, on alarming developments in national and international policy.

Union Calendar

Monday, June 10—Activities Committee.

Monday, June 17—Activities Committee.

Tuesday, June 18—Regular monthly membership meeting.

Grievance Adjusted; Vet Gets Vacation

A returned serviceman is vacationing at the summer camp he hired for two weeks, thanks to speedy action by the Local 301 business office.

The former GI leased the camp after his foreman said he could have the first two weeks in June for vacation. Then came the payday before vacation and the bad news. No vacation pay because he hadn't been back at work six months.

Management told union representatives the foreman had no right to okay the arrangement.

The union pointed out that the foreman was a management representative and that the veteran would suffer inconvenience and money loss if the company went back on the foreman's promise.

The union also objected to excluding the strike period in figuring up the veteran's six months.

Management agreed to let the vacation arrangement stand.

Ask Bus Service To Central Park

Residents of the Seventh and Thirteenth Wards passed a resolution at a recent PAC meeting of the combined wards asking the City Council to provide bus transportation to Central Park for the neighborhood children.

The group decided to make a survey of the wards to see what improvements in schools, play facilities and service the people want.

After hearing a talk by William Turnbull, first president of Local 301, the group discussed neighborhood problems.

Members Okay Dues Increase

The proposal to increase dues to \$1.50 a month has been approved by the majority of the members of Local 301, the Executive Board has announced.

Trustees of the union checked and counted the names on the petitions circulated in the shops through May 31 and reported to this week's Board meeting. The trustees are Al Davis, James Kelly and Jack Mele.

The Board voted that the increase of 50 cents should be effective as of July 1, to be included in the July check-off.

This recommendation was to go before a meeting of shop stewards Tuesday (after the EU News went to press).

Stewards Favor Raise
The shop committeemen at several meetings voted overwhelmingly in favor of the dues increase. The general membership meeting of Local 301 in May voted that the dues be raised if a majority of the members of the local had signed the petitions authorizing proxy votes in favor of the dues increase by June 1.

It was pointed out by several speakers at this membership meeting that under the constitution the meeting itself had full power to pass the increase and put it into immediate effect.

Take Shop Vote
However, the meeting agreed that in order to get the fullest kind of democratic vote on the issue a canvass would be made of the shops.

Both the Executive Board and the Constitution Committee recommended the dues raise as absolutely necessary for the union to meet its responsibilities. There had been no increase in dues since the union was founded 10 years ago.

Contract Negotiations Continue in New York

After a 10 day intermission, the contract negotiations between the General Electric Co. and UE were under way again this week.

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, went by plane to New York City late Monday for the conferences.

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UE Leaders in Thick Of Rochester Strike

Members of the UE took leading parts in the recent successful general strike in Rochester.

Kate Hull, international field organizer, and Hugh Harley, international representative, were active in the picket lines, at mass meetings and in planning the united AFL-CIO strategy. Supporting them were thousands of UE rank and file members and their local officers.

More than 30,000 workers in the city of Rochester went on strike the first day, crippling transportation, newspaper, trucking, amusements and many other services. There was no doubt that at least 10,000 more would have gone out the next day, if the city officials had not made a quick settlement.

The strike was called in protest against the city abolishing 489 jobs in the Department of Public Works as a reprisal for the AFL starting an organizing drive in the department.

The AFL and CIO immediately set up picket lines and organized a Joint Strategy Committee. In three days city police arrested over 200 pickets. Fines of \$100 each were imposed.

The strike ended in an overwhelming victory. First, the city had to recognize the right of its employees to be represented by a union. Second, all dismissed workers were given back their jobs, and third, the charges against the pickets were dropped.

Absentees Are Out

The Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO, has started its new year's program with an effort to get the attendance record as near 100 per cent as possible.

Delegates voted that the Council secretary-treasurer shall notify any local if one of its delegates misses two meetings without sending an alternate. The Council will ask the local to replace such absentee delegates.

CIO, AFL, Railroad, Farm Leaders Join in Attack on Truman Bill

Speakers from AFL, CIO and railway unions and a representative of the National Farmers Union joined in a radio round-table attack on President Truman's anti-strike bill last week. The program, which was broadcast over WGY, was arranged through Local 301.

Postcards Urge Case Bill Veto

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Since the President he should veto the Case bill. Wednesday, June 12 is the deadline. If the President lets that date slip by without vetoing it, the bill will automatically become law.

If President Truman vetoes the bill, the next struggle will be to prevent Congress from over-riding the veto by a two-thirds vote. There is danger that some of the Congressmen who didn't vote last time will rush in to support the Case bill next time.

Labor representatives have warned that it won't be enough just to hope certain absentees don't show up. It is necessary to line up new votes against the Case bill. That's the only sure way of upholding the President's veto, if there is a veto.

Did you mail your post card yet? How about the man at the next machine?

Peterson Honored

Andrew Peterson, president of Local 301, will take a leading part again this year in activities of the Schenectady Citizens' Unity Committee.

He has been elected a trustee and will serve on the executive committee, Alexander Diamond has been chosen chairman to succeed Burgess Johnson, retired Union College professor.



The labor leaders taking part were: Frank Purcell, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen on the Delaware and Hudson; Herbert Merrill, secretary of the Schenectady Federation of Labor, AFL; Lewis Benedict, president of Local 159, Transport Workers Union; Robert Northrop, secretary-treasurer, Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO; Leo Jandreau, business agent, Local 301, UE; Charles Schirmer, business agent, Local 669, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, and Louis Slocum, of the Northeastern Division, National Farmers Union. William Turnbull, first president of Local 301, was moderator.

Purcell, who had seen the strike of his own union broken by the U. S. government a few days before, said:

"Most employers seem to like the idea that they will be able to make their employees go back to work or go to jail.

"On the basis of their experience in the railroad disputes, they look forward to having the government take over the business and then making management representatives the strong right arm of the government. What employer wouldn't like that?"

"When the government took over the railroads during the war Mr. Buford, a former vice-president of the National Association of Railways, was put in charge, with power to ask for troops if he needed them."

Schirmer called the bill the "first step toward fascism."

"Hitler and Mussolini used the same tactics to organize their labor battalions," he said.

"In Germany the Nazis started by outlawing the right to strike. Their next step was to break up the unions and take over their treasuries and their headquarters and to put their storm troopers in charge. . . .

"The U. S. War Department has defined Fascism as a coalition of government, big business and the military, in a combination to suppress the civil rights of the people. This law provides the framework and the beginning for such a coalition. —The work of the nation cannot be done with bayonets."

Union Prepares to Analyze New Pension Plan of GE

The UE is prepared to make a thorough analysis of the proposed new General Electric Co. pension plan as soon as the company gives the union a copy and full details. Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, said management has promised to give requested information to the union. No date was set, however, for the material to be turned over.

"Until we know what the formula is and how it will be applied, we can't make any comment on the plan," Jandreau said.

"It's one thing to read newspaper publicity and quite a different thing to sit down and study the plan itself."

Both Schenectady papers have carried long articles on the proposals which will be voted on at a GE stockholders' meeting July 9.

According to the newspaper accounts, the plan will provide for all employees of the company.

"The union has wanted to broaden the coverage of GE pensions," Jandreau said. "Under the present system people hired after 1936 were barred. 1936 was the year the Social Security Law went into effect."

Jandreau said he was glad to read that under the new proposal men would get pensions at the age of 65 and women at 60.

The UE contract proposals submitted this spring to GE asked that the pension formula be applied at the age of 65 for men, instead of 70 and that it be applied at 60 for women.

Several other changes to improve the pension system were included in the union contract proposals. The GE management has for many years taken the position that its pension plan should not be a subject for union negotiations but is entirely a question of company policy.

As UE officials have pointed out, many union contracts contain pension provisions.

Guild Head Addresses Schenectady Engineers

John T. McManus, president of the Newspaper Guild of New York, CIO, and movie critic on PM, was a speaker recently at a meeting of the Schenectady General Electric Engineers Association.

Urging the importance of white collar and professional workers organizing labor unions, McManus pointed out experiences of newspaper workers. He described pay raises and improved con-

Jandreau Reports On UE in Canada

Employees in GE plants at Toronto and Peterborough, Canada, are working for 60 to 90 cents an hour although the cost-of-living is as high as in Schenectady, Leo Jandreau reported on returning from a Canadian trip.

"One girl told me she works a six-day, 48 hour week and takes home a total of six dollars for the week's work."

The Toronto plant workers, recently organized by UE, are now negotiating with management which has offered a 10 per cent raise. The Peterborough plant is now being organized.

Jandreau told the Canadian groups about the improvements the union has made in pay and working conditions in the UE plants in the United States.

For the protection of the GE workers in Schenectady and elsewhere in this country it is vital to raise the standards of the Canadian workers, Jandreau pointed out on his return.

"The big corporations are flocking there. I found them all,—Westinghouse, RCA and the rest of the lot, as well as GE."

First 301 President Helps Organize PAC

William Turnbull, first president of Local 301, retired from his GE job several years ago but he'll never retire from his interest in the union and in political activity.

What's more natural, then, than to find him in the thick of PAC work now that he has returned from California to Schenectady? He has started helping Milo Lathrop, Local 301 PAC director, set up ward clubs and headquarters.

"Bill has a wealth of practical knowledge about this thing," Lathrop said. "He used to be an alderman himself and knows Schenectady politics inside-out."



Wm. Turnbull

GE Delays Action On Reinstatements

The General Electric Co. apparently hasn't made up its mind yet exactly what the United States Supreme Court decision against veterans' superseniority means.

The Schenectady GE management is still waiting word from national GE attorneys and directors about the company policy in regard to reinstating employees who were laid-off or demoted in violation of the UE contract provisions.

Until the Supreme Court decision was handed down, the company insisted that any returned veteran had seniority over a non-veteran, regardless of years of employment. This was the stand that the Selective Service head, Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey took.

The Supreme Court decided, in a test case, that a veteran is entitled only to the seniority he would have had if he hadn't entered military service.

The Schenectady management has notified Local 301 that policy on reinstatements will be decided on a national GE basis. Individual cases will be taken up later locally. Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, has informed management the union expects speedy reinstatements.

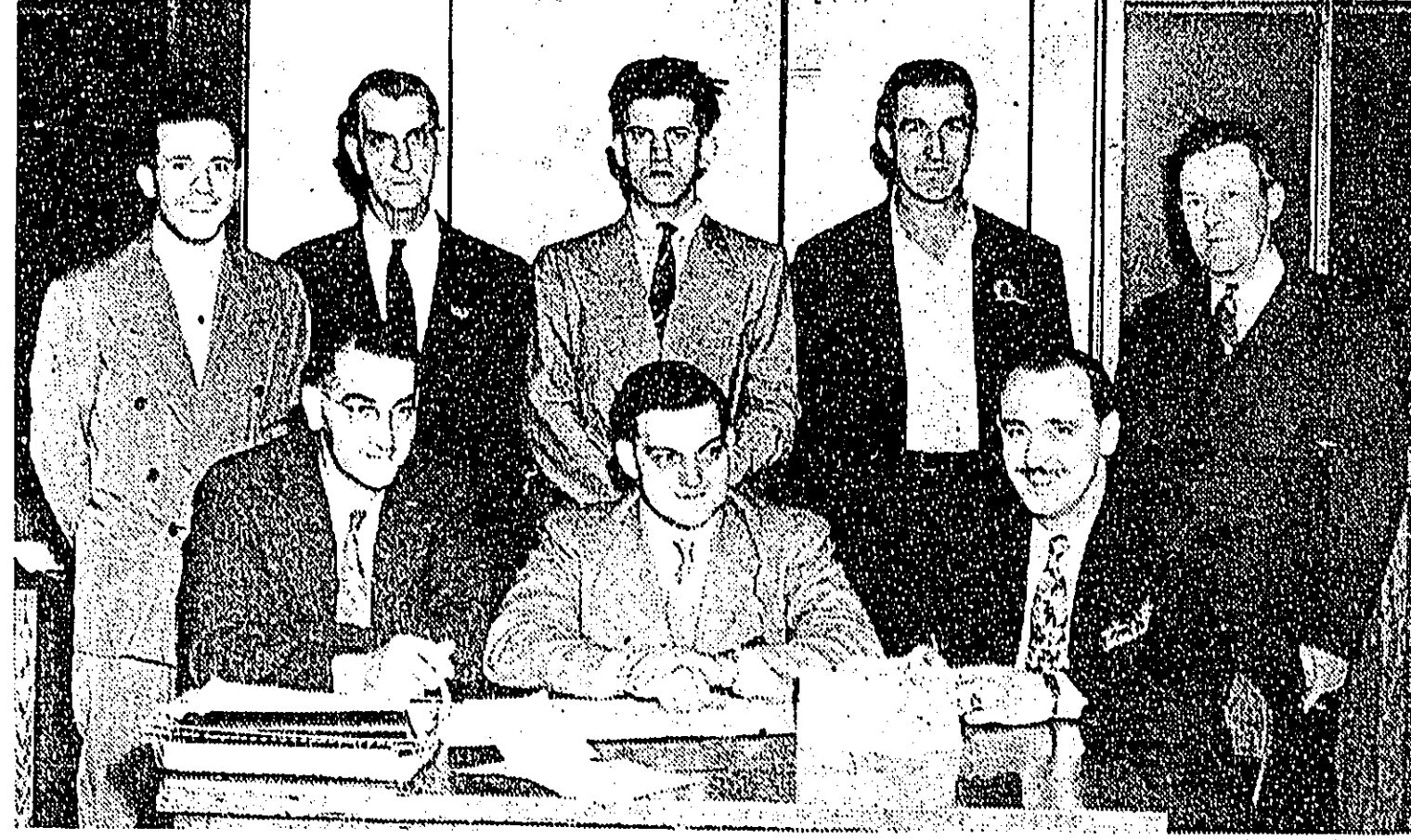


Leo Jandreau

'Best Field Day Yet' — That's The Promise of the Activities Committee

These three members of the Activities Committee, busy on plans for the annual Local 301 Field Day, June 30, at Pete and Sally's Grove, are, left to right: Audna Pitcher, Lucy Swatling, secretary of the committee, and Betty Roberts.

In picture below are shown other members of Committee. Front row, left to right: Harold Claus, treasurer of the Committee; Foster Campbell, chairman, and Al Colandra. Standing, Roy Canice, James Maney, Gino Guizio, Louis Durrer and Walter Mohyć. Other members of the committee, not shown in these pictures include Edward La Bambard, Virginia Bazan, Marie Fredericks, Lillian Bliss, Nancy Madonna, Teresa Castiglione, John Schlansker, Charles Cartwright, Joseph Scardino, Salvador Alberts and Larry Gebro.



Set Up County PAC Committee

A Schenectady County CIO-PAC Advisory Committee has been set up. It consists of three representatives from five CIO locals, Local 432, Laundry Workers, Locals 2054 and 3180, USA; Local 301, UE and Local 159, Transport Workers.

Representatives from Local 301, named by the Executive Board this week, are Andrew Peterson, Leo Jandreau and William Mastriani, with John Polak as alternate.

The committee will advise locals on political action and make recommendations on candidates. It will collect nec-

Chosen to Speak

The Office Workers Organizing Committee has chosen Dr. Robert Green to represent the group at the June meeting of the Capital District Council, CIO. Dr. Green will report to the Council on the progress of the drive and ask cooperation of all CIO unions in the vicinity in helping organize the GE office workers.

essary information, working material and maps. It will obtain legal advice.

Activities of various CIO political action committees in the county will be coordinated by this county advisory committee. Other duties will be contacting other unions and civic groups and handling publicity.

See You June 30 At 301 Field Day

Mark that date on your calendar now.

June 30, at Pete and Sally's Grove—the annual Field Day of Local 301. The Activities Committee, headed by Foster Campbell, says it will be the best ever.

Here are a few reasons.

Grand Prize, a 1947 Studebaker, the first to appear in Schenectady this year. Other prizes include five table radios.

One of the big features of the day will take place at 4 p.m. when the queen is crowned. The queen will be chosen on the basis of the number of tickets sold in her name. She'll get a \$100 bond. The runner-up will get a \$50 bond and the next four girls in line will get \$25 bonds. Any girl employed by GE in Schenectady can enter the contest.

The Field Day outing starts at 11 a.m. and lasts till midnight. There's plenty of picnic space and equipment. Games, athletics, dancing and a few surprises will be on the program.

Rotation Hint

The business office has told committeemen to be watchful in shops where there are rotations due to lack of work or shortages of material. Rotations should be based on the calendar week, not the payroll week. Otherwise workers can lose out on their unemployment insurance.

Local 301

ANNUAL FIELD DAY

SPONSORED BY THE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1947 Studebaker Given Away

PLUS 5 ADDITIONAL PRIZES OF TABLE RADIOS
Winner does not have to be present to win a prize.

QUEEN CONTEST PRIZES

First Prize--\$100. Bond

Second Prize--\$50. Bond and 4 Prizes of \$25. Bonds

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1946

10 A. M. to 12 Midnight

PETE & SALLY'S GROVE

ALBANY STREET

FREE DANCING 8 — 12

Picnic Tables, Beer and Refreshments Available

Donation 50c

Children Admitted Free
with Adults

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