

Electrical Union News

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

VOL. III—No. 34

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

December 5, 1946

Peterson, Jandreau Reelected



Andrew Peterson



Leo Jandreau

Statement to Members By Reelected Officers

This statement to the membership of Local 301 was made by Andrew Peterson, president, and Leo Jandreau, business agent, upon their reelection:

"The program of this union, restated only last month by the Local 301 Executive Board, has been under ceaseless attack by Big Business and its agents in politics, the press, and radio.

"The vote of the membership in the election just held was a vote for the program of the union, and a flat rejection of the employer attacks.

"To carry out the union program, we shall need complete unity of the membership. We believe that the overwhelming majority of the membership supports the union program.

"The election fight is over. Now is the time for all to unite to carry out the work of this union, the betterment of the living standards and working conditions of all GE workers."

Building Trades Dispute Reaches National Level

National management representatives were scheduled to meet yesterday with the Local 301 building trades committee, in the deadlocked dispute over wages and other conditions, after a series of meetings of building trades workers had voted to insist on a 10-cent raise and other proposals in the union program for the building trades.

Works Manager J. M. Howell, who has refused to meet the union with a government conciliator present, last week told Business Agent Leo Jandreau that to meet with him would be meaningless anyway, because he would only repeat the position taken by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent.

Meetings of building trades workers Monday and Tuesday of last week followed up the position taken by the tin-smiths in their meeting the previous week, by voting to insist on the full program of a wage increase for those who did not receive it through the War Labor Board, an apprenticeship system, and regulation of outside contracting.

301 on Radio

Remember that Local 301 goes on the air at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over Station WSNY.

Elected Secretary

Helen Quirini, who has been elected recording secretary of Local 301. No picture of the newly elected assistant recording secretary, Lillian Bliss, was available for this issue of EU News.

Gloversville Election

About 200 employees of the General Dry Batteries Co. at Gloversville are to choose Dec. 12 between UE and the Adirondack Independent Union in a National Labor Relations Board election.

Mastriani Wins; Two Women Named Officers

Andrew Peterson was elected president of Local 301 for the second time and Leo Jandreau was elected business agent for his eleventh term in the annual union balloting for general officers Monday.

Total votes cast amounted to 7812, the largest number in the local's history. Peterson defeated Chris Herbeck by a vote of 4202 to 3413. Jandreau led the administration ticket with a vote of 4676 over his opponent, Kenneth Sheehan.

The entire slate running with Peterson and Jandreau was victorious, except for Joseph Dominelli who lost to William Hodges.

Hodges polled 3845 and Dominelli 3675 for vice-president.

William Mastriani was reelected chief shop steward over Foster Campbell by 3849 to 3654.

Marshall White ran up 4131 votes for reelection in his contest with Larry Fagnon who polled 3186 for treasurer.

The year 1947 will see Local 301 with two women officers, Helen Quirini, recording secretary and Lillian Bliss, assistant recording secretary.

(Continued on Page 8)

Sample Ballot

<input type="checkbox"/>	PRESIDENT	Andrew Peterson
<input type="checkbox"/>	VICE PRESIDENT	Joseph Dominelli
<input type="checkbox"/>	TREASURER	Marshall White
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDING SECRETARY	Helen Quirini
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASST. RECORDING SEC'Y	Lillian Bliss
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIEF SHOP STEWARD	William Mastriani
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUSINESS AGENT	Leo Jandreau
<input type="checkbox"/>	SERGEANT AT ARMS	Harmon Cartwright
<input type="checkbox"/>	GUIDE	George Walker

OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT

U.E.R.M.W. of A. - Local 301
FOR GENERAL OFFICERS - 1947

Place an X in box before the name of candidate you choose

Sample Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) A vote for more than one officer where only one is to be elected voids the ballot for that office, but the remaining designations, if correct, shall stand.
- (2) A tear, erasure, or mark other than the X voids the entire ballot.
- (3) A mutilated ballot can be exchanged for another ballot.
- (4) Place an X in the square at the left of the candidate's name for whom you vote.
- (5) Blank spaces are provided for write in's under every office for those wishing to vote for others than candidates appearing on ballot.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

<input type="checkbox"/>	TREASURERS (Vote for Three)	Albert Davis
<input type="checkbox"/>		James Kelly
<input type="checkbox"/>		Edward Tanski
<input type="checkbox"/>		J. A. Meale
<input type="checkbox"/>		John Dunn
<input type="checkbox"/>		Henry Fritch

<input type="checkbox"/>	PRESIDENT	Chris Herbeck
<input type="checkbox"/>	VICE PRESIDENT	William Hodges
<input type="checkbox"/>	TREASURER	Larry Fagnon
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDING SECRETARY	James W. Kennedy
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASST. RECORDING SEC'Y	David Fisher
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIEF SHOP STEWARD	Foster T. Campbell
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUSINESS AGENT	Kenneth Sheehan
<input type="checkbox"/>	SERGEANT AT ARMS	Frank D. Cavello
<input type="checkbox"/>	GUIDE	Stephen James

It's Never the Right Time for a Pay Raise According to the Boss, See 1933-46 Record

"The boss always has an argument against wage increases," Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, says in a column for UE news sheets. "That's true if it's a case of changing a single rate in the shop or if it's a question of an overall wage increase for workers in America."

The Chamber of Commerce, the NAM, the press, radio commentators, rigged-up forums, and slanted statistics all tell the boss's story of why no wage increase, Brother Nixon points out.

"In the depth of the depression, 1933-36, the bosses throughout the country claimed they could not advance wages because of the depression. Things were tough. Profits were low. Prices were low. Therefore, no wage increase.

"In 1937, there was a pretty important pick-up of business, a start on recovery. The argument in this phase of the business cycle was that you could not give a wage increase because if you did, it would cause increased costs and would discourage the recovery of business and plunge the economy back to depression. Therefore, no wage increases.

"At the peak of the 1937 recovery when profit rates for American big business were high, there was also an argument against giving wage increases. It was said that if wage increases were given at this time, it would kill the goose that laid the golden egg, that the recovery would die.

"A little later on the downward swing of business started all over again. The argument against wage increases was that to give wage increases when the general trend was downward would accelerate the depression, drive the crash faster and deeper into aggravated unemployment.

"Eventually during the War, when real recovery began and full employment began to be approached, there was a new slick argument against wage increases. Wage increases in 1941, it was argued, would create inflation, drive up prices, destroy the stability of the economy. That one held good by and large from 1941 through 1945. In the reconversion period, the old argument

Election Winners



George Walker, left, who has been elected guide of Local 301, and Harmon Cartwright, right, elected sergeant-at-arms.

of inflation was still used, together with the charge that wage increases would discourage business so that it would not reconvert, would not produce, would lead to unemployment.

"Today, in the height of the boom, the top of the business cycle, with profits soaring, the same propagandists have, as ever, an argument against wage increases.

"This time the bosses' argument runs: to increase wages would cause inflation and a recession. Result: no wage increase.

"In practically every magazine, constantly in the press, you see the planted articles designed to undermine the workers' case for wage increases. Attempts are made by devious ways to hide the true profits of industry which are now at a rate of about \$25 billion before taxes for all corporations.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
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WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
Dewey Brashear Ray Flanigan
William Mastriani
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. - Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Speakers From Local 301 Address Office Workers

Miss Helen Quirini and William Stewart, both of Local 301, spoke recently at a meeting of the Office Workers Organizing Committee at the Normandy Club. With Henry Bussa, who was unable to be present, they have been named by the 301 Executive Board as a committee to cooperate with the organizing drive.

Union-Star Admits Strike Story Error

After Local 301 protested against an untrue statement smearing UE, the Schenectady Union-Star recently printed an admission that an article it ran by Burton Heath, Scripps-Howard feature writer, contained an "erroneous statement" about last winter's Westinghouse strike settlement.

Heath originally said the union settled the strike for an 18 cent raise, "but the company had agreed to 17 1/2 cents of this before the strike began."

The Union-Star said the Heath story "inadvertently included" a factually "incorrect" statement that the union had received the offer of "a substantial raise before the strike.

In his retraction Heath admitted the company made no offer of any increase until two months after the strike began. He also said that neither his own notes nor a check with outside sources gave him any clue as to where he picked up the phony 17 1/2 cents misinformation. Quite a mystery.

Maybe you didn't see the retraction. It was headed simply "Correction Made on Statement", without giving any hint in the title that an anti-union smear was involved.

Moreover, Heath issued corrections only in cities where UE locals complained. The lie still stands as far as other cities go.

Here Are Facts On Mine Strike

The U. S. government is operating the mines for the benefit of the mine owners. It is simply using its power to protect the owners and to prevent genuine collective bargaining by the workers.

The issue is that mine workers have to work 54 hours a week and are paid \$1.185 for a highly hazardous, unhealthy occupation.

The rising cost of living has been particularly hard on mine workers. Instead of granting justified wage increases, the government, under pressure from the victorious Republicans and poll-tax Democrats, is using its power to block collective bargaining and to violate the miners' rights under the federal anti-injunction law.

Instead of building up the fiction of a "strike" against the government, the government should be settling the strike through genuine collective bargaining.

Joe Dominelli Says 'Good Luck—I'll Help'

Joseph Dominelli, who was defeated in the election for vice-president of Local 301 by William Hodges by the close margin of 160 votes, congratulated Brother Hodges as soon as election results were reported and pledged his continued and active support in achieving the 1947 program of Local 301, as drawn up by the present officers and endorsed by the Executive Board.

"Local 301 faces tremendous problems and responsibilities during the coming year," Dominelli said.

"I have the utmost confidence that under the leaders elected today we will be able to win substantial wage increases and improvements in working conditions, despite the reactionary trend of Congress and of the federal and state administrations.

"As a World War II veteran and a union member I pledge to work actively for the progressive program of UE and our local. Only the force of the labor movement can see that our country keeps the pledges made to our veterans."

Peterson, Jandreau Relected

(Continued from Page 1)

Sister Quirini defeated James W. Kennedy and Sister Bliss defeated David Fisher.

Harmond Cartwright was elected sergeant-at-arms over Frank D. Civitello, and George Walker defeated Stephen James in the race for guide.

Albert Davis and James Kelly were reelected trustees and Edward Tanski was chosen as the new third trustee. The other candidates for this office were J. A. Mele, John Dunn and Henry Frick.

(See page 3 for Election Committee report).

CIO Furniture Workers Win Granville Strike

The six-week strike of 200 members of the United Furniture Workers of America, CIO, against the Telescope Folding Furniture Co. was won this week.

The workers returned to their jobs with a pay increase of 15 cents an hour, assurance of equal pay for women for work equal to men's, and other contract improvements. They received \$25 retroactive pay apiece.

Election Committee Submits Its Report

The Local 301 Election Committee made its official report Tuesday to a general membership and committee-men's meeting of the union on the annual election of the union on the general officers of the local conducted Monday.

As 7812 ballots were cast and the polls did not close until midnight, the committee was in session long past daybreak. With William Stewart of Bldg. 60 as chairman the group performed the long and laborious job of ballot counting. The group signed the following statement:

"We, the undersigned members of the Election Committee tabulated the votes and found the following votes cast for candidates:

President		
Andrew Peterson	4202	
Chris Herbeck	3413	
Vice-President		
Joseph Dominelli	3685	
William Hodges	3845	
Treasurer		
Marshall White	4131	
Larry Fagnon	3186	
Recording Secretary		
Helen Quirini	3789	
James W. Kennedy	3598	
Asst. Recording Secretary		
Lillian Bliss	3782	
David Fisher	3490	
Chief Shop Steward		
William Mastriani	3849	
Foster T. Campbell	3654	
Business Agent		
Leo Jandreau	4676	
Kenneth Sheehan	2870	
Sergeant At Arms		
Harmon Cartwright	4249	
Frank D. Civitello	3161	
Guide		
George Walker	3929	
Stephen James	3230	
Trustees		
Albert Davis	4277	
James Kelly	4142	
Edward Tanski	2772	
J. A. Mele	2057	

District CIO Council Backs Mine Workers

Condemning the federal government's use of an injunction against the United Mine Workers in the coal strike, the Capital District CIO Council at its meeting at 301 Hall Nov. 25 passed the following resolution, patterned after the resolution passed by the National CIO Convention under Philip Murray's guidance.

"The American labor movement has waged a struggle for almost half a century against the evils of government by injunction. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court has ruled that the right to picket is a basic constitutional right; despite the fact that many of our states have enacted anti-injunction laws, the abuses of the injunction in labor matters still continues.

"The recent failure in the city of Pittsburgh to break the strike of the power employees through injunction should illustrate the fact that this anti-labor weapon does not afford any solution for labor disputes. Similarly, the use of injunction in Schenectady against the employees of the General Electric Co. failed to contribute to a just settlement of the strike.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Capital District CIO Council condemn the action taken by the federal government in obtaining a sweeping injunction against the United Mine Workers of America. This is a clear violation of the Norris LaGuardia Act. No anti-labor injunction can dispose the problems now confronting the miners who see their earnings shrink before the fast rising cost of living. American democracy should not tolerate any attempt to impose economic slavery through vicious anti-labor injunctions."

GE Wants Rollback

The General Electric Co. has started a court action to have the \$18,204,986 assessed valuation of its Schenectady property cut to \$12,275,823, for the year 1947.

The less GE pays the city on its huge holding the higher taxes the small home-owner and little business man must pay.

John Dunn	2485
Henry Frick	1808
TOTAL VOTES CAST	7812
VOID	197
Signed:	
THE ELECTION COMMITTEE	