This is the Home of
LOCAL 301 IUE, AFL-CIO
Organized 1936
A tribute to the men and women who have
served this union in raising the quality
and standard of living for our members
and the community.

On the wall, in Local 301’s Hall, the above sign expresses the
feelings of Helen Quirini and Henry Antonelli. They carry on the
tribute to their union brothers and sisters through this book, their
effort, determination and love for a Union that they are both proud
of and for the men and women that made it possible.

DONATIONS $4.00
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The Story of
Local 301
IUE-AFL-CIO

Reflections

by

Henry Antonelli
Helen Quirini

APRIL 1987
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS

Helen Quirini  Chairperson — Researched Women’s Discrimination
Henry Antonelli  Researched Strikes

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PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL 301 IUE-AFL-CIO

We, the Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, realize that the struggle to better our working and living conditions is in vain unless we are united to protect ourselves collectively against the organized forces of the employers.

Realizing that the old form of trade union organization is unable to defend effectively the interests and improve the conditions of wage earners, we the Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, form an organization which unites all workers in our industry on an industrial basis, with rank and file control, regardless of craft, age, sex, race, nationality or creed. We shall pursue at all times a policy of aggressive struggle to improve the working and living conditions of all workers in our industry.

We, the Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, further realize that the preservation of our freedom and the advancement of our economic well being require that our democratic institutions and our civil rights and liberties be preserved, strengthened and extended and that they be protected against their totalitarian enemies.

We pledge ourselves to labor unitedly for the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our union and work concertedly with other labor organizations to bring about a higher standard of living of the workers.

INTRODUCTION

In 1986, Local 301 celebrated its 50th Anniversary as the bargaining agent for the hourly factory employees at the General Electric Plant in Schenectady, New York.

We felt it important to update “The Story of Local 301” written in 1968 and updated to 1973, which was prepared with the editorial assistance of Archie Cole, who was assistant to president William Bywater IUE District Three at the time.

This update is compiled from old records, newspapers, pictures, and contributions by leaders, retirees, and members of our local.

We proudly dedicate this “story” to our members who gave and still give unstintingly of their time, money, and dedication to Local 301. Because of Local 301’s existence, the standard of living in our city, county, and surrounding areas has increased to the betterment of all people. But we also leave a legacy as a leader on a state and national scene — millions of workers have benefitted because of our leadership.

The history of Local 301 has been one of struggle to advance the wages and benefits of GE Schenectady workers in the face of stern opposition of one of the most powerful corporations in the world.

The gains the union has made these past 50 years, its pioneering efforts in helping unite other GE workers in strong union organizations, and the later development of coordinated bargaining among all AFL-CIO unions which deal with the General Electric giant, are described briefly in this booklet.

We hope also that the sacrifices made by so many of our union brothers and sisters in bringing us where we are today will inspire our present day members to participate in and help carry through the many programs of our local, inside the shop and in the community.

We proudly salute the following leaders of our union:

PRESIDENTS

Leo Jandreau  Frank Kriss
William Turnbull  Harry Williams
Frank Emspak  John Shambo
Fred Matern  Joseph Alois
William F. Wilkinson  Joseph Mangino
Edward Wallingford  Angelo Durante
Andrew Peterson  David Gunn
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