



THE BOSTON UNION TEACHER



Bulletin of the Boston Teachers Union

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER, 1965

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

NATION ACCLAIMS UNION VICTORY IN BOSTON

UNION LEADERS ELATED



REILLY HARTIN VANGEL OWENS

At the Boston Arena, site selected by the State Labor Relations Board for the history making election of a Bargaining Agent for the teachers of Boston, from the seven A.M. opening time of the polls till the final votes were tallied at ten P.M., Boston's teachers firmly endorsed the principle of Collective Bargaining by a resounding 66 to 1. Opposing 2718 votes cast naming a choice of agent, only 41 votes were for the "no agent" option. Recurrent waves of teachers descended upon the polls prior to the opening of schools in the morning, following the dismissals in the afternoon, the ending of Home and School sessions for Junior High Schools throughout the system, and finally through the gloom and confusion of the paralyzing and mysterious power failure of November 9, 1965.

Emergency lighting of the polling place, supplemented by the eerie flicker of household candles, planted on the tables provided for the commissioners and poll workers, heightened a bizarre atmosphere, already almost too tense for the weary on-lookers and workers.

The one emotion not visible at any time during the long day was complacency. The air of expectancy was compared by more than one teacher to that of a hospital waiting room, thronged with prospective fathers. To continue the not inapt analogy, we joyfully report a safe delivery, congratulate the proud parents, and predict a most auspicious future for this long awaited infant.

CONGRATULATIONS FLOOD UNION OFFICE

Evidence of the interest and good wishes of fellow educators and friends from all over the nation, in the form of telegrams, calls and letters continue to inundate the Union office at 38 Chauncy Street, as weary officers and members of the BTU adjust to the responsibility of their new mandate from the teachers of our city. From adjoining Chelsea and far San Francisco, industrial Detroit and exotic Kenosha, messages proclaim congratulations on a decisive, albeit by some, unexpected, victory.

Here follow a sampling of many similar felicitations.

Salem, Mass.

Congratulations to the Boston Teachers Union for its resounding collective bargaining victory.

Frank G. Nolan President Salem Teachers Union Local 1258

Lynn, Mass.

Congratulations on your CB victory the future of AFT locals in Massachusetts depends upon your negotiated contract with the Boston School Committee may you have continued success with your negotiations make it a good one.

Lynn Teachers Union

(02)

Kenosha, Wisconsin

Your mandate to serve as bargaining agent for Boston Teachers has been made quite clear Congratulations on your outstanding victory.

Virginia Tenuta, KTU Secretary

Continued on page 4

ELECTION RESULTS

Boston Teachers Union, AFL-CIO	1602
Boston Teachers Alliance	1116
No Agent	41

BOSTON TEACHERS UNION

MARGIN OF VICTORY

486 VOTES

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— Editorial —

THE FRUITS OF
VICTORY

A lovely old hymn of Palestrina's begins, "The strife is o'er, the battle done." Would that such were the case in our present situation. Those many of us who have been striving in our various ways and capacities for so long toward the goals of Collective Bargaining in our schools, and the naming of our Boston Teachers Union as the elected and legitimate Bargaining Agent of every teacher in the system, could well be tempted at this point to heave a sigh, and at long last permit our vigilance to relax, and ourselves to sink into that lethargy and inertia which characterize the vast majority of any large group.

WE CANNOT SUCCUMB TO THIS TEMPTATION, OR WE SHALL HAVE WON MUCH, MERELY TO LOSE ALL.

It will be said, not without justice, that the number of teachers who appeared at the polls for the CB election, each at some personal inconvenience or even sacrifice, is indicative of teacher interest in solving the problems of our system and our profession. We would bluntly point out that those who appeared, voted and went their ways followed only the prudent course of ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST. We attach no censure to such action; indeed we thank them for the efforts they extended.

The panegyrics, however, if they be due to any, are due most to those who sought them least. We refer to the volunteers of

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is well known that we of the Teachers Union have been working for Collective Bargaining for Boston teachers for many years. The vigorous showing of the BTU at the polls was the fruition of the zeal of our many loyal members who worked nights and week-ends for this victory.

With the certain knowledge that many teachers who have not affiliated as yet with the Boston Teachers Union cast their ballot for the organization they know is going to fight for their improvement, financial and social, I am filled with pride for our great organization.

The Union has been vindicated by the secret ballot. The Boston Teachers Union received a mandate from the teachers to stand for them in their negotiations with the School Committee and the Superintendent. This obligation we will fulfill.

I am confident that other units, the School Nurses, Attendance Supervisors will also request our assistance, and that we shall be even more effective as a bargaining entity.

To all teachers, Union members and non members alike, I say a new era has opened for us. We must be equal to the responsibilities that we have sought. Let us pull together for *our pupils, our school system, and ourselves*. Let us never forget our position of responsibility and trust in our community, nor ever swerve from our obligation to society and ourselves.

NOSTRA CULPA

Page 4 of the October issue of this accurate and meticulous publication erroneously refers to *Tuesday*, November Fifth.

Two underpaid and overworked proofreaders abashedly submit the correction, *Friday*, November Fifth.

CURIOSITY

To satisfy curiosity evinced by numerous inquiries, last month's cartoon was contributed by Adam J. Owens.

recent weeks in the office and at the tele- phones, and to those long-time members who have been contributing their time, efforts, talents, and personal funds toward this happy culmination since 1962 and before. It is a fitting time for every teacher realistically to assess his own proper share in the victory.

Happily and rightly, the BENEFITS of victory are for all; unfortunately, but in equal justice, the HONORS are less widely merited.



Scenes from Boston Arena as Teachers Choose Union by Landslide Vote.

AFT DOUBLES LIABILITY INSURANCE PROTECTION

Occupational liability insurance protection has been doubled in value this school year, it has been announced by the national office of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

The new protection for members in participating locals is now \$100,000.

This protects the teacher against liability suits brought by parents. In spite of everything, injuries occur in the classroom, laboratories, on the athletic field and on field trips. The AFT teacher has coverage for all claims for civil damages arising out of school-connected professional activities including damage suits where the teacher is accused of assault and battery.

According to Albert Wohlers, of Chicago, who is administrator of the AFT Insurance Plans, there are now some 100 cases pending.

In each case, expert legal counsel is provided for the affected teacher free of any fees. No teacher covered has lost a case in court.

The insurance policy is underwritten by Lloyds of London, one of the world's most famous reliable liability insurance underwriters.

In addition, the AFT makes available to its 114,000 members special group rates on these insurance policies:

- Loss of Speech, Sight or Hearing . . . protection up to \$25,000.
- Life Insurance . . . term insurance at low group rates.
- Disability Insurance . . . pays benefits in case of illness or accident.
- Accidental Death Insurance . . . pays \$1,000 benefit on a participating local basis.

FORMER BOSTON UNION TEACHER EDITOR ELECTED RETIREMENT BOARD PRESIDENT

William V. Feeney, senior member of Boston Public School Teachers Retirement Fund, was elected President of the Board by the trustees at the November Meeting held at Roslindale High School.

PARODIES

The Policy chairman in his enthusiasm at the success of our efforts, has donated the following parodies of familiar songs to the Social committee for use at the combination CB Victory and Christmas social, to be held at the Boston Army Base, N.C.O. Club, December 3, 1965.

To the Tune of *For Boston*

The Union, the Union
Has done it once again
They told us we couldn't
But we did it all the same
Our members all are pros at a job so tough
Our problem is that we don't get paid enough
In Boston, dear Boston, till our CB Victory.

In Boston, poor Boston
The teachers get the crumbs
The schools and the kiddos
Are not worth subsidiums
Till the Union came along with its call so clear
To set skinflints back on their COLLECTIVE ear
In Boston, dear Boston, with our CB Victory.

To the Tune of *Three Blind Mice*

Three Thousand Teachers
See how they vote
Three Thousand Teachers
See how they vote
They're for collective bargaining
They're for collective bargaining
Fed up with the way it used to be
Without C.B. Without C.B.

To the Tune of *Springtime in the Rockies*

When it's CB time in Boston,
And we all turned out to vote.
Though the lights were non-existent
And we froze inside our coat.
Once again our Union did it
Thanks to you and you and you.
Now it's progress time in Boston
With our dear old BTU.

BTU SOCIAL SEASON IN FULL SWING

Frank DiLorenzo and Joanne Antanelis Host Parties in Fenway, Dorchester, and Roslindale

. . . Hundreds of friends accepted the congenial invitation of our Social Committee to join in greeting personally . . . Fred Reilly, our President. . . Sally Parker, National Organizer . . . and Rose Claffey, International Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers . . . in town to help us in the battle for Collective Bargaining . . . Hostess to the Commonwealth Motor Hotel was Joanne Antanelis . . . Many of the members and Union friends, both old and new, were visibly impressed by the festivities . . . Those in attendance learned about Boston Teachers Union from Sally, Rose, and Fred . . . Present also were the Executive Board . . . Frank chose the William G. Walsh Post for his second "extravaganza" . . . where an enthusiastic gathering heeded the petition of the Union dignitaries . . . enjoyed themselves in unruffled goodwill, while furthering the cause of Collective Bargaining . . . The third social event of the week was a standing-room-only gathering at the Forty-Forty Lounge in Roslindale . . . Here also many recruits joined our forces in the BTU's battle for progress . . . All told, the three gatherings produced nearly ONE HUNDRED new members for the Union . . . Just before going to press we heard of the BTU Victory Party, Boston Army Base . . . N.C.O. Club, . . . See you there on Friday evening, December 3, 1965 . . .

CONGRATULATIONS- *Continued from page 1*
Chicago, Ill.

Congratulations to you and the Boston Teachers Union on their brilliant collective bargaining victory. I am confident that you will now proceed to negotiate an excellent contract for the teachers and children of Boston.

Charles Cogen Pres. American Federation of Teachers.

Springfield, Mass.

Congratulations — Your victory is assurance that Massachusetts Teachers are aware of the importance of unity in the struggle for professional dignity we wish you success negotiating a truly great contract.

Earl T. Erikson, Pres. Springfield Federation of Teachers.

Detroit, Mich.

Congratulations on your Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious win. We knew you'd do it.

Mary Ellen Riordan, Pres. Detroit Federation of Teachers.

Chicago, Ill.

Congratulations. I am thrilled by your victory. This should have a tremendous effect on the attitudes of all the teachers in New England. Warmest best wishes.

John E. Desmond, Vice President, American Federation of Teachers.

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