

HISTORY OF LOCAL 207

Our union, Local 207 United Rubber Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America, was chartered May 7, 1941. The charter was officially signed on May 10, 1941 at the Phoenix Hotel. That same night the following temporary officers were elected.

President Fred C. Smith
Vice Pres Harold F. Wise
Secretary J. E. Higley
Treasurer Raymond E. McMahon

On June 1, 1941 Brother Raymond McMahon rented our first union hall at 515 Hurd Ave. Two weeks later on the fourteenth and the fifteenth there was an open house, with a large turn out because there was a 16 gallon keg of beer for their enjoyment according to the recorded notes. The first duly elected officers were elected as follows on July 27, 1941.

President Harold Wise
Vice Pres Ralph Brown
Secretary Flosie Chambers
Treasurer Floyd Neff

Ex. Board
..... Orville Brooker
..... George Mitchel
..... Harry Gardner

In August of 1941 the union realized that their first job was to approach the management of Master Tire & Rubber—Corporation (not Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.) and ask that the company recognize the Union, Local 207, as exclusive bargaining agency for all production and maintenance employees. Recognition was only the first step for our union, now the union, Local 207, was responsible for the health and welfare of their members.



Our union's first contract was adopted October 20, 1941. Accepting for Local 207 U.R.W.A.-C.I.O. was Harold Wise, Floyd Neff, George F. Mitchell, Edward Pahl, Orville W. Brooker, H. F. Gardner and Ralph Brown. Accepting for the Master Tire & Rubber Corporation was W. B. Brewer, Vice President in charge of manufacturing.

Some of the first provisions of the contract were:

- Recognition
- Grievance Procedure clause
- Over-time pay
- Minimum Rates
- Vacations
- Seniority clause
- Maternity leave
- Report to work clause

Some things the first contract did not have:

- Pension plan
- Arbitration clause
- Life Insurance
- Hospitalization Insurance
- Equal pay for equal work

The contract was very limited, but it has served as a foundation for future contracts of Local207

