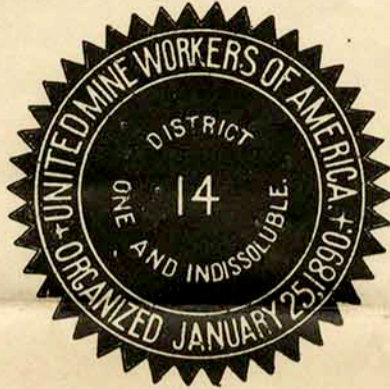


OFFICIAL CIRCULAR

United Mine Workers of America



Pittsburg, Kansas

Sept. 13, 1926

To the Officers and Members,
All Local Unions, U.M.W.A.,
District No. 14.

Greetings:

Under date of August 11th, we forwarded all Local Unions a circular letter reading in part as follows:

"We are now facing a period where idle members are fast returning to work, but this period also confronts us with an enormous expense in addition to the normal expense of the district, namely:

Trials of some fourteen members of our organization, including District Officers and individual members of the rank and file, charged with unlawful assembly, etc. arising over the marches last Spring. The nomination and election of district officials. The expense of a Legislative Committee beginning January 1st for a period of approximately sixty days, and probably legal advice in connection with same. (In view of the fight that is to be made upon our Compensation Law, we must use every effort along this line.) Participation of our district in the National Convention in January, as well as in the National negotiation for a new scale in February. The expense of our own District Convention in March, which will also elect a Scale Committee. (The last Scale Committee consisted of eleven members from the rank and file.) The negotiation for a new contract by the three southwest districts immediately following the convention. The length of time of this negotiation, before a new contract is secured, is indefinite, and we must have finances on hand to meet any unforeseen emergencies in this negotiation."

A goodly number of replies were received in answer to this communication and all the replies, with the exception of three, suggested that we immediately submit a proposal to the membership for a referendum vote. All the replies so suggested were in favor of a percentage basis with one exception.

Therefore, the District Executive Board has set the date to hold this referendum vote as Tuesday, September 28th. The question to be voted upon is:

"Are you in favor of a Two (2%) Per Cent net assessment on the earnings of our working membership, beginning October 1st and continuing until the amount of Forty (\$40,000) Thousand Dollars has been paid in? (This fund to be used for no other purposes other than those stated in this communication).

Vote "YES" if in favor. "NO" if opposed.

There is no shirking this issue. The funds must be raised if your organization is to continue to function. The expense, in addition to the normal expense of the district, will be as follows:

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Nomination and Election; Trials of officers and members;
Legislative Committee; the National and District Conven-
tions; Scale Committee, and the negotiation for a contract;

which will require an amount of at least Thirty (\$30,000) Thousand Dollars, and as the District at this time is operating upon borrowed funds, namely the amount of Ten (\$10,000) Thousand Dollars, this assessment must be left on until Forty (\$40,000) Thousand Dollars has been paid in, and as soon as this amount is paid in, the assessment will be immediately discontinued. The length of time that this requires will depend upon the number of men that return to work. We estimate it will take three months.

Every member who believes in strengthening the organization so that it will be in a position to fight and regain some of the lost conditions in this district, should be ardent supporters of this proposal.

Ballots, Return Sheets, and Envelopes will be mailed you under separate cover in sufficient time to hold your election on September 28th. If you fail to receive them by the 25th, please call the District office by telephone. These returns must be in the hands of the District Secretary not later than October 4th.

Fraternally yours,

District Executive Board.

M.L. WALTERS, President
DAN O'DONNELL, Vice Pres.
HARRY W. BURR, Sec'y-Treas.