

Militants in Needle Trades to Meet in National Conference

The call for the National Conference of all Needle Trades Militants, to be held in New York City, May 5th, has been sent out. It is as follows:

The influence of the militants in the American labor movement is assuming ever greater proportions.

In the Needle Trades the militants can with just pride claim the honor of being the pioneers of all advanced ideas in the trade union movement of America. As far back as 1913, they organized into various groups. No matter what the name, the purpose was fundamentally the same, to solidify the workers, wrest the power of the unions from a small number of officials and place it in the hands of the rank and file.

Never before has an opportunity of realizing these aims presented itself as at present. The experience of the needle workers during the last two years, when because of their existence as separate Internationals, they were compelled to carry on heroic struggles in isolated unions against the combined strength of the employers. These struggles have demonstrated to ever greater and greater numbers, the crying need of amalgamating the separate International unions into one union of needle workers.

It is the duty of the militants to crystallize this sentiment in favor of amalgamation, and lead it into definite channels.

The movement for amalgamation in the needle trades is no longer confined to one city or any special territory. Wherever there is a local of needle workers, there you will find sentiment for amalgamation. The problem that confronts our movement is how to unite the scattered groups into a national and international movement.

The recent conventions of the Amalgamated, "International", and Furriers have proven, that the movement of militants, that is not nationwide in scope, and the activities of which are not unified and coordinated, cannot hope for success.

To formulate a definite program and plans of carrying on a great campaign for amalgamation; to clarify the aims and tactics of our movement, and coordinate the activities of all leagues, a National Conference of Needle Trades Militants has been arranged for New York City, May 5th. Leagues in the various needle trades centers must by all means be represented at this conference.

This National Conference will mark the first step in a movement, that will result in nothing short of welding together the present separate unions into one great organization of the needle workers. Let all militant needle workers rally to this call.

International Committee of the Needle Trades Section, Trade Union Educational League, 208 E. 12th St., New York City, Joseph Zack, Sec'y.