

## **Past Presidents of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Labor & Employment Relations Association (DC LERA)**

**The Industrial Relations Research Association was established in 1948. In December of that same year, local members founded the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the IRRA with William Morris Leiserson as its president. In 2005, IRRA became the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA).**

1948-49 William Leiserson (Dec.)

1949-50 Ewan Clague

1950-51 Oscar Smith

1951-52 John D. Stewart

1953-54 Nelson M. Bortz

1954-55 Louis G. Silverberg

1955-56 John Herling

1956-57 Joseph L. O'Brien

1957-58 Nathaniel Goldfinger

1958-59 Sar A. Levitan

1959-60 Bernard Cushman

1960-61 Jacob Seidenberg

1961-62 Herbert Liebenson

1962-63 Seymour Brandwein

1963-64 Joseph P. Goldberg

1964-65 Ogden W. Fields

1965-66 Harold H. Brodeur

1966-67 Frank M. Kleiler

1967-68 Woodrow Ginsberg

1968-69 Robert Volger

1969-70 Wayne L. Horvotz

1970-71 Benson Soffer

1971-72 Richard C. Hotvedt

1972-73 Rudy Oswald

1973-74 David Waugh

1974-75 Morag MacLeod Simchak

1975-76 Marvin Friedman

1976-77 Francis X. Burkhardt

1977-78 Leon Greenberg

1978-79 Edgar Weinberg

1979-80 Richard Prosten

1980-81 Philip Ray

1981-82 Randolph Hale

1982-83 Ronald van Helden

1983-84 Donald Wasserman

1984-85 Freddie Lucas

1985-86 Nicolas Fidandis

1986-87 John Truesdale

1987-88 Norman Weintraub

1988-89 James Power

1989-90 John Serumgard

1990-91 Jerald Schultheis

1991-92 John McKensie

1992-93 Henry Guzda

1993-94 Jacqueline Blanchard

1994-95 Michael Conyngham

1995-96 Michael Fischetti

1996-97 Rachael Hendrickson

1997-98 Maggie Jacobson

1998-99 Nancy Sedmak

1999-00 Greg Woodhead

2000-01 Jeff Wheeler

2001-02 James Auerbach

2002-03 Eileen Hoffman

2003-04 Iain Gold

2004-05 Russ Davis

2005-06 Christian Weller

2007 James Auerbach

2008 Julie Martinez Ortega

2009 Revae Moran

2010 Fred Stahl

2011 Jim Kimball

See next page for a 1939 Time Magazine article about Dr. William Lieserson, the first president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the IRRA/LERA.

This is a background story on Roosevelt's appointment of Dr. William Leiserson to the NLRB. A decade later, Leiserson would become the first president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Industrial Relations Research Association.

## **Time Magazine**

Monday, May 08, 1939

### **National Affairs: Two Nice Men**

When William Morris Leiserson was arbitrating labor rows in the disputatious garment industry, he used to say: "I give the decision to one side, but I give the language to the other." Last week the President nominated diplomatic William Leiserson to the National Labor Relations Board.

The man chosen to sweeten NLRB is a merry, contemplative cherub of 56. Now grey, paunchy and averse to all forms of physical effort, he worked his way through the University of Wisconsin by cooking flapjacks for the One-Minute Coffee Shop in Madison. Between cakes & coffee he absorbed the principles of economics and labor from Wisconsin's famed Professor John R. Commons. Later he taught economics at Antioch College, where his students called him "Uncle Billy." He has been a careerist in mediation and arbitration—for NRA, for the petroleum industry, finally (in 1934) for the railroads as chairman of the National Mediation Board. So good & fair at his calling is William Leiserson that he is often asked to mediate outside the railway field. In his last such important chore, ruling that messenger boys come under the Wage & Hour Law, he did not forget to butter up big Western Union and other complaining companies with kindly words.

NLRB and the Wagner Act sorely need a butter patter. Up to now, NLRB has applied a drastic statute so literally that it has accumulated a fine roster of enemies. By his own inclination and by instruction from the President, Dr. Leiserson proposes to continue literal enforcement of collective bargaining, minus the harsh words now characteristic of NLRB. If his placating presence fails to smooth down A. F. of L., Business and hostile Congressmen, the Administration may even enlarge NLRB, or as a last resort sacrifice Chairman Warren Madden and co-Member Edwin Smith in order to save the Wagner Act from ruinous amendments.

Dr. Leiserson replaces Donald Wakefield Smith who has had a recess appointment since his term expired last August. To replace William Leiserson on NMB, the President chose another man small in stature, large in repute: David John Lewis, the learned, lovable, little Maryland ex-Congressman who was used last year in a bitter and stupid effort to purge Senator Millard Tydings (TIME, Sept. 12, et seq.).\* As a worthy favorite at 70, Davey Lewis was considered too old for arduous duty on NLRB, just right for the easier routine of a railway mediator.

\*Senator Tydings muttered that 70-year-old Mr. Lewis is not capable enough for even the Mediation job, but he was not expected to fight confirmation. How capable Millard Tydings is was suggested by news last week from Pennsylvania. That commonwealth deducted \$750,000 from the \$7,457,798 net taxable estate of the late Henry W. Breyer (ice cream) to pay fees to counsel who saved the estate \$6,447,988 in Federal estate taxes. Paid to Millard Tydings' law firm: \$140,000.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,761206,00.html>  
[as of July 5, 2011]