



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

Dawn Martin, Business Manager - local9dawn@sbcglobal.net

414--771-9730, 1-800-870-9499, FAX: 414--771-9732

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Hall
5625 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53213
(Enter through door in parking lot)

Report on Merger Proposal

At the March 8, 2014 special meeting of the Local 9 Executive Board the proposal to proceed with a merger with Local 35 failed to be approved. This vote was reported to the International and there will be no further discussions toward a merger agreement with Local 35.

Election for Educational Conference

There will be an election for two positions to attend the 2014 North Center-Erie/Northeast Educational Conference sponsored by our International Union. The conference is May 15-18 in Washington, DC. Anyone interested in running but who is unable to attend the April Meeting, must submit a notice that if nominated you accept the nomination. Please send notice to local9dawn@sbcglobal.net by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Travel, lost

time, hotel room, registration and per diem as required will be paid.

State Legislative Battles and Working Families

Some of the biggest and most important struggles working families engage in take place in state capitals where legislatures and governors set the agenda. As we have seen in the recent past in states where Republicans took controls of the governorship and legislature those agendas often are blueprints to advance corporate influence and lower wages, suppress voters rights and eliminate worker protections on the job.

Rather than create jobs, many state lawmakers are playing politics by pushing bills like right to work for less that are nothing more than a political ploy that undermines the basic rights of workers. We can't afford these political games. That is why union members in state after state, working in coalition with grassroots community groups, have been busy championing legislation that would put working people back on the job and make corporations pay their fair share to the community.

Right to work for less laws—backed by the extreme American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and other anti-worker groups—are on the radar in far too many states.

ALEC pushes a corporate agenda and fights to undermine workers' rights. The extreme right

wing Koch brothers are major funders along with corporations including Koch Industries, Bayer, Kraft Foods, Coca Cola, State Farm, AT&T, Wal-Mart and Philip Morris. Behind closed doors ALEC generates model legislation for right-wing grassroots activists and funds their attacks on workers' rights, public employees and more.

Republican lawmakers want to mute the voice of workers in elections with paycheck deception laws and ballot initiatives. With more money pouring into politics from big corporations than ever before, it's crucial that working families are able to protect our own interests. "Paycheck deception" laws being proposed would create burdensome restrictions that interfere with union members' rights to participate in the political and legislative process. These laws also weaken the ability of working people to advance working family issues such as legislation that would create jobs and stop outsourcing.

Workers' wages—especially those of construction workers—are threatened by attacks on project labor agreements and prevailing wage laws. Building and construction trades workers are one of the hardest hit groups in the nation's job crisis. Yet, state lawmakers, backed by construction industry CEO's want to cut the wages of those workers. Prevailing wage laws protect communities and workers from unscrupulous contractors low-bidding on taxpayer-funded projects by setting wage rates to the local or prevailing standard.

New voting restrictions aimed mainly at young and minority voters could disenfranchise millions of voters in critical elections. Bills have been introduced, and in far too many cases, passed, that will suppress people of color, the poor, people who live in rural areas, seniors and students. Additional legislation has reduced early voting periods, restricted voter registration and toughened voter

registration laws. The common claim of backers of voter suppression laws is that voter fraud is rampant. But there is no evidence to support this claim. For example, in Wisconsin there were more UFO sightings (40) than reports of improper voting (14) out of the 3 million votes cast in the 2008 election.

More states are considering extreme anti-immigration laws like those in Arizona and Alabama. The current wave of anti-immigration legislation began with Arizona's draconian racial profiling law and has spread, especially through southern states. Civil rights leaders have likened Alabama's harsh law that is breaking apart families and denying education to immigrant children to the old South's infamous Jim Crow laws.

It is clear that we must remain ever vigilant to the attempts to deny workers, voting and basic human rights by our legislators. It is vitally important that everyone stay informed and take an active role in the upcoming months as the mid-term elections draw near.

POLITICAL POWER IS THE KEY

One way to assert political power is through contributions to your Union's Political Action (PAC) Fund. We need to stand together and fight for what we have. We need to do our fair share to help get our message out. If every member gave just \$1 per month to the JB Moss V.O.T.E. PAC fund imagine the strength of our voice. Please consider enrolling in the automatic payroll deduction for the VOTE Fund.

As always if you have any problems do not hesitate to call or email the office.

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