



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Building
6333 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53213

Please note the May 15th meeting will be held in Chicago. Site to be announced.

A History Lesson on Workers' Memorial Day

Saturday, April 28th will mark the Annual observance of Workers' Memorial Day or International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured. This is an international day of remembrance for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell by their work.

Across the world each year more than two million men and women die as a result of work-related accidents and diseases; workers suffer approximately 270 million occupational accidents each year; some 160 million incidents of work-related illnesses occur; hazardous substances kill 440,000 annually (asbestos claims 100,000 of those) and one worker dies every 15 seconds worldwide, 6,000 die every day. Work kills more people than wars.

Workers' Memorial Day is an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of most

workplace accidents and ill health and to promote campaigns and unions organization in the fight for improvements in workplace safety. The slogan for Workers' Memorial Day is ***Remember the Dead. Fight for the Living.***

Health & Hygiene Drive Kicking Off

The 23rd annual Health & Hygiene Drive, sponsored by the Community Services Committee of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council will kick off on April 4th and run through June 8th.

Contributions can be brought to our April and/or May membership meetings. Donations will be given out to the almost two dozen homeless shelters in the area which are in urgent need of products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, non-alcohol mouthwash, razors, shaving cream, combs, brushes, hair picks, hair care products, spray deodorant, lip balm, baby products, feminine hygiene products, paper products, laundry supplies, first aid supplies. Donations can also be dropped off at the MALC office, 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee, at any Milwaukee Fire station or at the United Way offices at 225 W Vine St.

Wisconsin Recall Elections are Scheduled

The Government Accountability Board has ordered the recall elections for Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Kleefisch, and 4 State Senators. The primary will be held on Tuesday, May 8th. The General election will be held on Tuesday, June 5th. At this time there are no endorsements in the primary for either Governor or Lt. Governor.

Wisconsin Workers Endorse Senate Candidates in Summer Recalls

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO—comprised of 1,000 affiliated local unions and 250,000 workers—has endorsed Lori Compas in Senate District 13, John Lehman in Senate District 21, Kristen Dexter in Senate District 23 and Donna Seidel in Senate District 29 in the upcoming recall elections.

“The people of Wisconsin, through grassroots activism, are fighting to hold their legislators accountable for attacking middle class families, union rights, education and health care by recalling Republican Senators who ignored the voices of their constituents in order to rubber-stamp Governor Walker’s agenda,” explained Phil Neuenfeldt, President of the WI State AFL-CIO.

No further endorsements are being made at this time.

The Recall is Not One Issue

Many talk-show hosts, pundits and others are trying to say that this recall effort is just about a single issue—Act 10 which removed collective bargaining rights for public sector employees. This is not true.

The recall is not happening only because the Governor gutted workers’ rights. He is being recalled for egregious abuse of power. The destruction of union rights was not necessary and was not about balancing the budget. Unions had already agreed to all of the financial concessions they were being asked to make. Finances had nothing to do with his actions; it was an abuse of his power.

The Governor is being recalled for balancing the budget on the backs of the poor and sick while giving hundreds of millions of dollars to his corporate cronies. He is being recalled for supporting voter suppression (currently on hold thanks to the courts). He is being recalled for supporting a radical right-wing Legislature that does not want women to

have access to basic health care and does not want teenagers to know how their bodies work.

He is being recalled for replacing our Department of Commerce with a private economic development corporation that is given tens of millions of taxpayer dollars but is not accountable to those same public taxpayers. He is being recalled for putting a concealed, loaded gun in the hands of anyone who wants one. He is being recalled for allowing his minions to gut consumer protection laws. He is being recalled for slashing education budgets from kindergarten to the University of Wisconsin System at exactly the time we need better education to compete in a global market.

His contempt for unions is only the tip of the iceberg. We need to change course before we sink. Because there is such a short period of time for this election process it is vitally important that each and every one of us commit to getting involved in the recall elections. Pick your candidate and do everything possible for them. Most important of all **VOTE** on May 8th and June 5th.

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

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