



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

FEBRUARY 2011

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, February 15, 2011
6:00 p.m.**

**Iron Workers Local 8
12034 West Adler Lane
Milwaukee, WI**

Steward Training Available for Interested Members

Anyone interested in brushing up on their skills as a steward or learning about being a steward is invited to participate in the steward training being offered in Milwaukee or there is an on-line option also available. Please see the article with full information and reservation form in this newsletter.

One Delegate Position Filled, Another to be Available for Chicago Federation of Labor

Leah Raffanti, an organizer for the American Federation of Teachers - Great Lake Organizing Project, has filled the open position as a delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor. Additionally, there will be another position open for a delegate beginning in March. Anyone interested in this

position should contact President Candy Johnson at local9candy@sbcglobal.net.

Watch Out for the Political Payback

It is political payback time in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and other states—and jobs are on the line as a result.

Recently elected state politicians have been very busy saying “thank you” to their corporate friends by attacking workers and unions. Instead of working for middle-class working families in an economic crisis they are coming after working people with dangerous new legislation designed to lower wages, cut benefits and ship jobs overseas.

These job-killing proposals are all about transferring more of our hard-earned dollars from Main Street to Wall Street. First it was NAFTA, unfair trade with China, Wall Street deregulation and tax cuts for the rich. This year’s political payback to CEO’s and corporate campaign contributors will be dangerous new laws designed to do great harm.

Here are just some of the proposals that working families could be faced with:

“Right to Work”—for less: Contrary to the lies, this legislation will not give anyone rights or jobs. This just weakens unions by letting free-riders get all the benefits of union protection without paying their fair share. This results in weakened unions with fewer resources to defend the workers they represent. This is why workers in states with these misnamed laws make, on average, \$5,500 a year less.

Paycheck deception: The only way working people can stand up to all the corporate money flowing into politics is through our unions. Unions are involved in politics to protect the basic rights of all workers in the community. The minimum wage, the Family and Medical Leave Act, worker's compensation and unemployment insurance are just some of the protections unions have won through politics. It's no surprise that big corporations want state government to restrict how union members can spend their union dues—while spending unlimited funds on politics themselves. If they get their way, we'll have a much harder time convincing lawmakers to create jobs and protect workers.

Attacks on public employees: Teachers, firefighters, police, federal workers and all public servants have become scapegoats for the extremists who want to shrink government regardless of the cost in jobs and public services. They're coming at public employees with attacks on jobs, pensions and bargaining rights.

Attacks on building trades workers: They've come after the public servants. They've outsourced jobs. Now they are attacking workers in the building trades with lies about prevailing wages and Project Labor Agreements. Who is next? Who is safe from these attacks?

This year corporate interests which profit from outsourcing and driving down wages dumped unprecedented sums of money into the November elections. We as the labor movement cannot take their action lying down. We must fight back, early, often and aggressively. We have to draw a line in the sand and stop these attacks on our jobs, our paychecks and our unions.

In Wisconsin those who want to help the cause can go to the WI AFL-CIO website at wisafclcio.org and sign the petition to state

legislators asking that WI laws must support good jobs with fair pay.

Local 9 Update—What's Happening

With the holidays over things are settling back into the usual routine. Contracts are open and in negotiations at a number of work sites. The economy remains a huge factor in negotiations with employers reluctant to offer much, if any wage increases. Most of our employers are also labor organizations and they are taking a hit with reduced numbers of active members also.

Grievances have been filed for suspension, discharge, denial of sick time request, issues regarding quality and quantity of work.

Arbitrations are pending on layoffs, discharge (3), suspension, job elimination and stipend pay. An arbitration on seniority was resolved on the day of arbitration, with the assistance of the arbitrator. An arbitration on a discharge was resolved prior to the hearing.

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

/gb, opeiu #9, afl-cio-clc