



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

FEBRUARY 2017

Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

Dave Rehberg, Business Manager - local9dave@sbcglobal.net

414-771-9730, FAX: 414-771-9732

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

**Milwaukee Professional
Firefighters Local 215
5625 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53213
(Enter through door in parking lot)**

OUR 45TH PRESIDENT

On January 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the United States 45th President. Based upon reports many union sisters and brothers voted for President Trump in the November election. I'm not sure why union members did, and the list of reasons could be vast from not trusting Hillary Clinton, to gun rights and President Trump making the pledge to build a wall or bring back jobs for the middle class.

That being said, President Trump has only been in office just over a week and the most ridiculous statements have come from him and his administration. His ego is so big that he continues to make false claims about events that have happened, or as Kellyanne Conway stated these are alternative facts. I was always told that facts are facts, and if it wasn't factual then it's a lie. So let's look at the past week of President Trump:

The crowd at his inauguration was the largest of any inauguration. The pictures don't lie that President Obama's inauguration of 2009 was much larger than President Trump's inauguration of 2017. Why make such a statement - EGO!

The popular vote of 2-3 million won by Hillary Clinton was only because there was rampant voter fraud. No individual can come up with actual proof of this anywhere. The States run their own elections and unfortunately the majority is run by Republican Governors. How would they even allow this to happen?

President Trump is going to build a wall between Mexico and the U.S. and Mexico is going to pay for it. Then President Trump made the statement that he will impose a 20% tax on all incoming goods from Mexico if they don't pay for it. Right away his administration started back pedaling and stating that this could be one option. Senior House Republicans are really backing away from it. Just think how much the middle class is going to have to fork over up front, to cover this wall to nowhere.

One of the most controversial issues is the Affordable Care Act. President Trump on his campaign stated he would repeal it and all the Republican Congressmen and Senators were in favor of it. BUT WAIT; now all of a sudden they want to keep some parts of it and if they repeal it without having a new plan in place, 20 million individuals could lose their health insurance. Who would even think of getting rid of such a major benefit to the American people without having something in place?

LOCAL 9 ELECTIONS

This is just the start of President Trump's initiatives to change America in the way he thinks it should be changed. He has shown in the past by his actions that he is not in favor of Unions and some of his picks for cabinet positions are right in line with his thinking. Unions have given the middle class a hope for the future with reasonable wage increases, health insurance, and pensions. If Trump and his cronies have their way, the middle class will work well into their seventies just so he and his billionaire friends can live high on the hog. We the Unions lost a lot in this past election and only time will show how bad it will get for union membership. Elections will be coming around in the near future and if we don't come to the realization that our paychecks, health benefits, and pensions are more important than our guns, or walls, we the middle class will pay for our voting errors for a very long time to come.

WISCONSIN POLITICS

On Friday, January 27th a panel of federal judges ordered the Wisconsin Legislature to redraw legislative boundaries by November so they could be in place for the 2018 elections.

In 2015, a dozen voters sued over the Republican drawn maps that were drawn up by the Republican Legislature shortly after they gained complete control of the state government in 2011, alleging they unconstitutionally consolidated GOP power and discriminated against Democrats. Wisconsin's Attorney General Brad Schimel (a Republican) has already stated that he will take it to the Supreme Court wasting Wisconsin tax payer's money. Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca called on Republicans to do it correctly and not behind closed doors.

Nomination for President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, three Trustees, and Executive Board members based on the number of members will take place at the regular membership meeting in April 2017.

No person shall be elected or appointed to an office of this Union unless she/he has been a member in continuous good standing for at least the preceding twelve months prior to the election or appointment. If there is but one candidate for each office the election shall be dispensed with. Any candidate that is unopposed shall be declared the winner and their name shall not be placed on the ballot. In the event there are positions with more than one person nominated per position there will be a mail ballot election in May, per the Constitution.

OPEIU SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Our International Union each year offers two different scholarships for members in good standing and their children. The Scholarships are the Howard Coughlin Memorial which offers 12 full-time scholarships with a maximum payment of \$6,500.00, and the John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship which offers 10 scholarships with a maximum of \$3,250.00. Deadline to apply for these scholarships is March 31st. Please visit www.opeiu.org, click on Member Resources for further information.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues, please call or email the office.

/gb, dalu 24111, afl-cio