



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

JANUARY 2014

Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

Dawn Martin, Business Manager - local9dawn@sbcglobal.net

414--771-9730, 1-800-870-9499, FAX: 414--771-973

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

**MILWAUKEE PROFESSIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 215
5625 W. Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI 53213**

(Enter through door off parking lot)

Happy New Year! We hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season spent with family and friends.

Blanketing Greater Milwaukee

The AFL-CIO Community Services of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee are collecting new and gently used blankets to be distributed to homeless shelters and community agencies throughout the community. The collection runs from January 20-31, 2014. Drop-off locations include the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, 633 S. Hawley Road, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, 225 W. Vine Street, and any City of Milwaukee Firehouse. You may also bring them to the January membership meeting and we will get them delivered.

Good Bye Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013

By Richard Trumka,
President AFL-CIO

President Nelson Mandela gave more than 60 years of his life fighting for the rights of South Africans and all of humanity. He was a gentle yet determined man who fought for his convictions.

In 1964, Nelson Mandela arrived on Robben Island, where he would spend 18 years confined to a small cell, forced to do hard labor in a quarry. Despite these hardships, Mandela never wavered in his commitment to social and economic justice for the people of South Africa and the world.

He told the court that sentenced him, "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I hope to live, and to see realized. But my Lord, if it needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

His quiet dignity earned respect for him and his cause across the globe. He once said, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."

During his visit to the United States in 1990, Mandela spoke to the AFL-CIO and called on the labor movement to use its history of empowering America's workers as a model for South African workers. We in the labor movement must take Mandela's words and continue to strive for equality and fairness for all working people around the globe.

ALEC Oath—Trumps Oath to State?

“I will act with care and loyalty and put the interest of the organization first.”

Sounds like a reasonable pledge of oath if you are a member of a civic organization, and your mission is to improve your community. Sounds frightening if you are a member of the state legislature and this oath potentially supersedes your oath of office to those you are elected to represent.

The oath is to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). A shadowy group of wealthy right-wing industrialists, and their corporations, have joined together to develop and seek to implement legislation at the state level. Their “model” legislation is clearly not a model for democracy.

Given the “Citizens United” US Supreme Court ruling that basically legalized bribery and corruption in the form of the vast contributions from corporations and the billionaire boys club who own them, we the people are seemingly at the mercy of these self-anointed oligarchs, who are attempting to purchase the best government that money can buy.

Regrettably, they have been particularly successful in their efforts to cut taxes for the rich and limit regulations on their corporations. We collectively are suffering the consequences of their success. We have struggling governmental units from the federal level to local schools as taxes continue to be cut. We have massive income inequality as too many people work hard, play by the rules, and can never seem to get ahead. We have been divided and conquered as we focus on immigration reform, guns, marriage equality and other wedge issues; the economic juggernaut has stayed focused single-mindedly on protection of their wealth and power.

This is not a coincidence nor is the outcome inevitable. If we decide that the interests of our country are best served by standing up to power and pursuing policies that put people, as in “we

the people” first, then our elderly, our children and our workers will again thrive and prosper.

Scholarships Available

Wisconsin Labor History

The deadline for entries in this year’s Wisconsin Labor History Essay contest is February 14, 2014. For complete information see November 2013 newsletter.

Chicago Federation of Labor

The CFL has announced the 2014 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship Awards. There will be 5 academic-based scholarships and 5 random-drawing scholarships each in the amount of \$2,000 per award. Students may apply in only one of the two categories. The period for applying is January 1st through March 1st. Applications are available online at www.chicagolabor.org/scholarship. To be eligible, the student or one of his or her parents must be a member of a local union affiliated with the CFL and the application must be signed by one of the top two officers of the local union to which the student or parent belongs.

OPEIU International Union

The rules for the 2014 OPEIU Scholarships, specifically the John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship, the Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship and the Romeo Corbeil/ Gilles Beauregard Summer Camp Scholarship, should be available at the OPEIU website, www.opeiu.org shortly. These scholarships are a great benefit for OPEIU members and their families. When on the website, click on Member Resources and then Union Scholarships.

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

/gb, dalu 24111, afl-cio