



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

JANUARY 2015

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

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

(Enter through door off parking lot)

Happy New Year!

I would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy New Year. I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season spending time with their families and friends.

Contracts Settled

Workers Organizing Committee of Chicago

In November 2014, twelve individuals became new members of OPEIU, Local 9. After months of negotiations with Workers Organizing Committee of Chicago a new Agreement was reached and ratified by the members. I would like to thank the Stewards that sat at the negotiation table for their dedication and concern for all individuals working at Workers Organizing Committee of Chicago. The negotiation team consisted of Abe

Gamboa, Cynphoni Skipper, Gladys Zarate, and Martin Stainthorp.

UFCW Benefit Fund

In December 2013, the company announced a major layoff that would take place in early 2014. With that in mind and the reduction of companies utilizing the Benefit Fund the contract expiring on December 30, 2014 was not looking promising. After only two negotiation sessions, and realizing the company valued the remaining employees an agreement was reached and then ratified by the members by almost ninety-five percent. I would like to thank my Stewards, Angela Ramirez, Carol Etheridge, and Jeannette Roszko for their assistance in the negotiations.

Lewis University

The negotiations at Lewis University have always been tough in the past, so I have been told. The company came to the table not wanting to give much and tried taking things away from the members. The negotiations were heated at times but after all was said and done the members received higher wage increases than the rest of the staff working at Lewis University and additional time off as well as language changes. The contract was ratified by ninety percent in favor. I would like to thank retired Chief Steward, Barb Seppi, new Chief Steward, Sue Kovach, and Steward Jessica Kush for their assistance in the negotiations.

Other Agreements Ratified

NE Wisconsin Building & Construction Trades Council

Communication Workers 4603

UAW Senior Citizens Center

INFO

After mailing out our holiday greeting the union received numerous “no longer lives here” returns. So that you are informed of monthly news information from your union, please contact the office at 414-771-9730 or email Gail at local9gail@sbcglobal.net when you have an address change.

Wisconsin Political News

As the entire political makeup in Wisconsin is now all Republican what does that mean for the working women and men of the State of Wisconsin. First on the Republican agenda, is to change Wisconsin to a Right-to-Work State. This will drastically hurt the hard working middle class union people here in the State. First wage increases will be difficult to negotiate as most non-union employees doing the same work as union employees receive less pay and benefits, thus bargaining strength will be lessened. Second safety standards will become more lax. In States where there is Right-to-Work, workplace deaths are 36% higher based on statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Finally 8 out of 12 States with Right-to-Work have the highest unemployment. Let your Congressmen or Senator's know that they should focus their efforts on reducing taxes for the middle class hard working employees. Second, let them know they should focus their efforts on reducing the State 2.2 Billion dollar deficit, not on legislation that will hurt the middle class working employees.

Illinois Political News

As the newly elected Governor gets set to be sworn in on January 10th, he made a bold statement in his campaign to make Illinois a Right-to-Work State. This may be difficult as fortunately for individuals living in the State of Illinois the House and Senate are still controlled by Democrats. Please contact your Representative and/or Senator to remind them that a right-to-work law is not the way to go in Illinois.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Blanketing Brown County Drive

Between January 6th and January 27, 2015 the Green Bay Labor Council along with the United Way are collecting blankets for the needy. If you have blankets that you would like to donate, and for further information, please call 920-676-2028.

Council Delegate Spots

Those individuals that are interested in being a Delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor, please contact Gail at the office at 414-771-9730.

Labor History Essay Contest

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announced its High School Essay Contest for the 2014-2015 School Year. The theme is “Unions have been important to my family and my community because...”

For information on the contest rules visit website <http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org>

Local 9 Elections

Nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, three Trustees, and six Executive Board members will take place at the regular membership meeting in April of 2015.

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 proceeding 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.

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

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