



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

JANUARY 2016

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.

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

(Enter through door off parking lot)

“A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES”

As we start the New Year off, we should always reflect on the past to see what we did wrong, what we did right, and what will make the year 2016 a more enjoyable year, both at work and at home. Anyone can go on line and read about resolutions and make a statement that for the New Year I resolve to do this or that, but the statistics show that within four weeks into the New Year most resolutions are either dropped or forgotten. In fact, 45% of people make resolutions but only 8% are successful in keeping those resolutions.

It's your choice whether to make a resolution or not and if you do I wish you the best of luck in keeping that resolution. For myself I look back at the previous year and see what went wrong and what went right so I can try and improve and

represent the members of OPEIU, Local 9 in the fullest, most efficient manner.

CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED/RATIFIED

Listed below are contracts that were negotiated and ratified since September 2015:

IEBC
Operating Engineers 420
Boilermakers 374
CWA 4603
Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council
Workers Organizing Committee of Chicago
Elevator Constructors Local 15
UAW 838
UAW 865

WISCONSIN POLITICS 2015

Looking back at the year 2015 in Wisconsin politics there were numerous laws and events that took place. First, Governor Walker denies the Menominee Tribe to build a casino in Kenosha. This project alone would have brought in millions of dollars as well as over 2000 jobs for southeast Wisconsin. Then the Republican legislator passed Right-to-Work or better known as **Right-To-Less**. Even though the Governor stated that it shouldn't be brought up as a legislative bill, once it passed both the house and senate, the Governor was quick to sign it and then boasted about it on his short lived campaign trail. This bill is not good for the working women and men of the state of Wisconsin, and only hurts the Unions with this law. The legislators have said that the Right-To-Work will help the state with jobs. Then tell me why Wisconsin is 35th in the nation in job creation

and is in last place in the Midwest for job creation. Governor Walker made a pledge on his campaign that he would create 250,000 jobs but has not even come close to that with only 122,000 jobs being created. Over 10,000 jobs have been lost under the Governors term.

Governor Walker then announced in July his intension to seek the President's job in the upcoming election. In September, after only 3 short months he announced he was dropping out of the race. This was the third shortest bid for an election of President since 1972. Finally, the republican legislator decided in their infamous wonder to try and pass a law that would have gutted the Wisconsin open records law. If this law would have moved forward it would have allowed the republicans to hide special interest groups, and disclosure records of all levels of government from the public eye. Fortunately, there was a large outcry from all citizens of Wisconsin and the republican legislator withdrew the proposed law.

ILLINOIS POLITICS 2015

A new Governor was sworn in. This was the first time in 12 years that a Republican won the Governors seat in Illinois. True to form Rauner went right after the labor unions by trying to make an executive order prohibiting the collection of "fair share" from state employees. The order proved unenforceable but is pending in the US Supreme Court.

In April, it appeared the Democrats and the Governor were starting to work together, the Governor announced cuts to several key state programs, one of which was for autism. The citizens and Democrats were outraged and later after several hearings the funds were restored. Governor Rauner wanted Right-To-Work in the state of Illinois, but because both the House and Senate were Democratic controlled the bill would not pass. So then Governor Rauner pushed an

agenda through for individual cities to create "empowerment zones". He continues to deny that he wants Illinois to be a Right-To-Work state but his actions speak louder than his words. In actual studies of Right-To-Work states, the wages of the hourly worker are far less than those that don't have RTW. Also, Rauner's claim that it would bring in more business is unfounded from looking at other RTW states. Rauner's goal is not pro-business but anti-union.

IOWA POLITICAL NEWS

The first gauge for the upcoming Presidential election for both parties will happen on February 1st in Iowa as the people of Iowa hold their caucuses around the state. The formula is different than most states, but it is a gauge for the Presidential hopefuls seeking to secure their party's nomination at the main Democratic or Republican Conventions. All eyes will be on Iowa for the results.

LABOR HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

The Wisconsin Labor History Society essay contest will award prizes to high school students. First prize is \$500.00, second prize is \$300.00, and third prize is \$200.00. The topic for this year is "Unions have been important to my family and community because...". The deadline for entering this contest is February 13, 2016. More information can be acquired by visiting the website www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A great attitude becomes a great mood,
Which becomes a great day,
Which becomes a great year,
Which becomes a great life.

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

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