



# OPEIU LOCAL #9 NEWSLETTER



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For Bulletin Board Posting June 2015

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## MEETING NOTICE

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Tuesday, June 16, 2015**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Firefighters Hall  
5625 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53213**

**(Enter through door in parking lot)**

## Local 9 Election News

Prior to the May 2015 Union Meeting, Robin Lundgren emailed President Candy Johnson requesting that her name be removed from the election ballot.

Therefore, since there are only six members running for the Executive Board, there will be no need for an election.

All Officers, Trustees, and Executive Board members will be sworn in at the June 2015 Union Meeting.

The Officers, Trustees, and Executive Board members and their place of employment are as follows:

**President** – Candy Johnson - Milwaukee Police Association, Local 21

**Vice-President** – Pat Diamond – Benefit Plan Administration

**Secretary-Treasurer** – Jackie Podjaski – Operating Engineers Local 139

**Recording Secretary** – Kaitlin DeCero – SEIU HCII

## Trustees

Claudia Geitz – Boilermakers Local 107

Alice Zyniecki – Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 215

Tamara Becker – UFCW Local 1473

## Executive Board Members

Peter Klein – SEIU HCII

Cheryl Renard – Operating Engineers Local 420

Lori Schmidt – IBEW Local 158

Shani Smith – SEIU HCII

Cathryn Stachura – BP Products

Tony Vanderbloemen – Greater Green Bay Labor Council

## Steward Training

Just a reminder that the Steward Training class will be held on June 6, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 6161 West Grand Avenue, Gurnee, IL 60031. The class will run from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. and will be conducted by Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services. If you have any questions prior to the seminar please contact the union office.

## REMINDER: June is the Last General Membership Meeting for Summer

The June 16<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting is the last meeting for the summer. There will be no general membership meetings in July or August.

General membership meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

## Dues Adjustment Effective July 1, 2015

In accordance with the Constitution & By-Laws of Local 9, dues are adjusted annually effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dues are calculated on your hourly wage in effect on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and rounded up to the next fifty cents (\$.50), multiplied times two.

At this time, the maximum monthly dues cap remains at \$44.00 per month.

## **Educational Conference by Business Manager David Rehberg**

I attended the OPEIU North Central- Erie/ Northeast Educational Conference recently. It was a very fulfilling and informative conference.

One of the speakers discussed what is the “American Dream?” So I ask you – is it wealth, is it health, family, retirement, freedom or is it a combination of everything mentioned above.

Recently we celebrated Memorial Day. Many Americans forget what this day is all about, but only look to see that they have a day off from work. I attended a dedication over Memorial Day weekend for my father who served in the Korean War. As I sat there listening to the speakers I thought how fortunate we are to be living in a country where we can say what’s on our mind, have a job that pays a living wage, choose what religion we want or don’t want to belong to, and choose (by voting) who our leaders of this nation will be.

I then started thinking of what the speaker said at the conference I attended and how this “American Dream” is slowly fading away from the everyday working family. Yes, we still have our freedom, but we are ever so watchful of the terrorism that happens periodically in our country. Our wages have slowly diminished as CEOs of the largest companies received on an average of 16% jump in pay in 2014. In the 1980’s the gap in wages between workers and CEOs was around 40 times the hourly worker. Today that gap has risen to over 350 times the average worker. In negotiations, we struggle just to maintain what we have yet these CEOs take home on an average of \$9,300 per hour. The pensions that our early labor leaders fought for are almost non-existent for today’s worker. Health insurance is on the rise and employers

target the employees to pay the extra. In a lot of cases, our families come second as many working Americans now have to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet. Paid days off are being taken away, or employees are afraid to take days off in fear of losing their jobs.

As I talk to union members and negotiate agreements, so many times I hear what is in it for me. Not, what is best for the whole group that I work with? If the labor movement is to continue and hopefully grow we have to re-evaluate our priorities. If we want retirement benefits, decent health insurance at affordable rates, and reasonable wage increases we have to work together. The non-union worker averages approximately \$4.00 per hour less than what the union worker makes. Is this what is in store for us if we worry only about ourselves? What about the “American Dream,” is it fading fast in your life? I know sitting at that conference a lot of individuals including myself wonder what will the future hold not only for us but for our children and grandchildren. Will there only be the rich and poor and no middle class in the future?

Throughout the summer when you have a paid holiday or paid vacation remember that the union helped you receive these benefits, and without a union these benefits could easily be lost.

### **The American Dream – The UNION**

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

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