



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

MARCH 2014

Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

Dawn Martin, Business Manager - local9dawn@sbcglobal.net

414-771-9730, 1-800-870-9499, FAX: 414-771-9732

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
6:00 p.m.

**MILWAUKEE PROFESSIONAL
FIRE FIGHTERS HALL**
5625 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI
(Enter through door in parking lot)

Important Agenda Item at March Meeting

Local 9 and Local 35 have been involved in discussions and negotiations regarding the merger of Local 35 into Local 9. The Executive Board of Local 9 will have a special meeting Saturday, March 8th to vote on this merger agreement. If the merger is approved by the Executive Board, the March 18th membership meeting will include a membership vote on this merger agreement.

Local 35 is located in Milwaukee and represents 7 bargaining units, containing approximately 500 active members. They have both private and public sector units. Their largest unit is at Northwestern Mutual Insurance. Local 35 has been under trusteeship for the past 2 years and has no business manager/representative. They do have a part-time office staff person. There

would be no financial liabilities that Local 9 would be required to assume under the merger agreement. This merger ultimately provides strength to all parties by making the Local larger and should be a good thing for all parties. Your attendance at this important meeting and your support of this merger are important for the future of your Local.

Labor Fights for the Rights of ALL

It is important that we never forget those who labor everyday to make society work and significantly contribute to the creation of wealth in this country.

These workers forge the steel, build the buildings, bridges and highways; they produce the goods and move them around the country and the world; they teach our children; they care for the sick and the elderly; they facilitate communications from the internet to the letter in the mailbox; they harvest and process the food we eat and prepare and serve to us in restaurants; they change the sheets and clean the rooms and buildings; they protect our streets, our homes, our communities. Everything not put here by the hand of God was produced by the working class. Truly "Labor Creates All Wealth."

The labor movement arose so that workers could band together to collectively improve their livelihoods and the society as a whole. The labor movement has fought for, and lifted up, all those who labor, and ended child labor, won shorter hours, decent pay, benefits, pensions, and gave us the weekend.

There were times when the employer encouraged divisions that weakened that goal.

There is no denying, that at times in our history, we allowed race and national origin and gender to divide our ranks. But the labor movement of today is truly inclusive of the entire working class. We should not forget that when Dr. King spoke at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 he was flanked by many of the labor leaders of the day who helped build the march. Black, White, Latin, Asian, young and old, men and women, native born and immigrants, gay and straight, we are all workers and share a common struggle.

In recent years there has been an unrelenting attack on the rights of labor, seeking to return us to the days of the 1800's when workers, including kids, toiled long hours for starvation wages.

We in the labor movement must recommit ourselves to the historic role of fighting for all working people regardless of who they are. The recent uprising of fast food workers underscores the need to spread our fight and the benefits of organizations to every worker in the country. Join in to advance the cause of the entire working class. Solidarity!

Political Power is the Key

The wages, hours and working conditions that we enjoy as union workers are the result of the hard work done by our predecessors in the labor movement who engaged in a life and death struggle to pass laws like the Wagner Act of 1935 that give workers rights. Without the strikes, mobilizations, marches and other actions that led to legislation protecting workers, we would still be at the mercy of wealthy tycoons who extracted labor from workers without fair treatment or compensation. But our fair wages, benefits and working conditions are being threatened by anti-worker forces that want to destroy the political power of unions. If we continue to allow our influence to erode by electing anti-worker legislators, we risk losing the ability to defend our working family jobs and middle class life styles.

We need to learn from history, stand together again and fight for what we have. The days are gone when an apathetic union membership can take what they have for granted and depend on a few volunteers going door to door to win elections. We all need to do our fair share to help the cause and we need funding to get our message out. If every member gave just \$1 per month to the JB Moss V.O.T.E. PAC fund, imagine the strength of our voice. Please consider enrolling in the automatic payroll deduction for the V.O.T.E. Fund.

Remember Your Weingarten Rights

It is vitally important that you not forget that if you are called into a meeting with your employer or their representative for a conversation that could lead to discipline or termination you need to exercise your Weingarten Rights.

1. You must ask for union representation before or during the interview. Management does not have to tell you of this right.
2. Once you inform them of your desire for representation you do not have to answer any questions until representation is present. Stay quiet.
3. Don't make any written or verbal statement of guilt or innocence. You cannot be forced to make a statement. The best response is NO response.
4. Do not waive your right to representation. If you begin the questioning without representation you have waived your rights and statements can be used against you.

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

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