



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

MARCH 2015

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

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 on April 21, 2015.

No person shall be elected or appointed to an office of this Union unless she/he has been a member of this Union in continuous good standing for at least the preceding 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 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.

FORTY-TWO NEW MEMBERS



In December 2013, a vote was taken by approximately thirty-one individuals to be represented by OPEIU, Local 9. The employees of SEIU Healthcare Fund voted in favor of the union by a 58% to 42% margin. For the next seven months only three negotiation sessions were held and the Administrator of the Health Fund used delay tactics to stall the negotiations from moving forward. Finally in late July 2014, after coming on staff as the new Business Manager, there was a very heated discussion at my first negotiations I attended which started the negotiations progressing. The Administrator was not done with his anti-union tactics. In September, he trumped up false information and terminated one of the very outspoken and negotiating team members. Several Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) were filed against the company for violations of the National Labor Relations Act. After nearly a month, the Fund agreed to bring back the

terminated employee with all back pay and benefits.

Negotiations continued very slowly throughout September, October, and November with the company insisting on language that was regressive compared to what the employees were currently working under prior to voting for a union. In December, the Trustees of the Fund informed the Administrator to start utilizing an attorney to handle the negotiations as the negotiations were dragging on and he was taking the negotiations personal. In late December, all non-economic issues were resolved after only two sessions and proposals were given for economics.

The first week of February was an exciting time for the employees of the health fund. The entire contract was tentatively agreed to and the membership voted 95% to accept the new Agreement. Welcome to all the forty-two new members and a special thank you to the negotiating team consisting of Bill O'Connor, Lety Resto, Duaniia Toran, and Robbin Westrich for all their hard work and keeping all the members informed and actively supporting the union.

STEWARD TRAINING

The Local is looking to conduct a Steward training class for all new Stewards and those interested in possibly being Stewards.

The class would be held on a Saturday sometime in May or June. It would be at a facility on the border of Illinois and Wisconsin to accommodate as many individuals as possible.

Steward training is a vital need to ensure that the contracts are properly enforced and grievances are written and processed properly.

Please email me at local9dave@sbcglobal.net to let me know if you would be interested in attending a Steward Training class. If there is enough interest from the membership, in the near future a definitive date will be scheduled.

REMINDERS (Death Benefit/Towing)

When an individual joins OPEIU Local 9 they are mailed out a Death Benefit Certificate. The Benefit is valid after twelve consecutive months of good standing with OPEIU Local 9.

Winter is almost over, but we have had several members call regarding the towing privilege provided by the International. For a member to be able to use this service they must have paid their \$50.00 initiation fee. Also, because of the paperwork process the towing service is not available to a member for the first three months following the initiation payment.

WISCONSIN RIGHT-TO-WORK

As of this writing the Wisconsin Senate has already passed the Right-To-Work Bill and the House will be surely passing it soon. Although, there is always hope that they won't. The Governor has stated now that when it is passed he will sign it. Strange how during election time he stated time and again that the Right-To-Work law was a distraction, but now it's one of his priorities.

The Local has fielded many calls concerning the Right-To-Work Bill, but until all is said and done and the Bill is reviewed can we only then get a clearer picture into what is and isn't in the Bill.

The Local will update you when we have further information.

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

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