

OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter

For Bulletin Board Posting

MAY 2013

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
5:00 p.m.

SEIU HCII
2229 South Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60608

Refreshments will be served

Local 9 Elections

The following nominations were made at the April 16, 2013 General Membership meeting:

President—Candy Johnson,
Vice-President—Pat Diamond,
Secretary-Treasurer—Dawn Martin,
Recording Secretary—Lori Schmidt,
Trustees (3)—Jackie Podjaski, Cheryl Renard,
Claudia Geitz,
Executive Board members (6)—Marilinda Johnson,
Robin Lundgren, James Muhammad, Cathy
Stachura, Tony Vanderbloemen, Alice Zyniecki.

Since all candidates were unopposed they were elected by acclamation and there will be no mail ballot necessary. Installation of officers will be at the June 18th meeting.

Online Steward Training

The UCS Online Steward Training Course is a course designed to cover all the basics every steward must know. It is a course that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The

cost is just \$20 per person and those members who enroll and successfully complete the course will be reimbursed by Local 9. To enroll in the course you go to unionist.com and sign up. You must pre-pay in order to be able to complete the course. The entire course takes students an average of 8-15 hours to complete—and you are awarded a Certificate of Completion at the end. The opportunity is open to all Local 9 members.

Victor Crambeau-Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award to Local 9 Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary Lori Schmidt received the Victor Crambeau Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award from the Greater Green Bay Labor Council Community Services. This award is for an active volunteer in community services who has demonstrated a leadership role in providing volunteer activities in the community during their career. Lori has been a major part of the Annual Labor Day Picnic Organizing Committee for the GGBLC since its inception and is currently one of the co-chairs of the Committee. Lori has also been the GGBLC Financial Secretary for 8 years. In addition, Lori volunteers extensively with her church in Maribel working with the Denmark Cupboard Pantry. Congratulations Lori!

Dues Adjustment Effective July 1, 2013

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

At this time, the maximum monthly dues cap paid by a member remains at \$44.

Letters on this matter will be sent to Employers for those who are on dues deduction, and to individuals who pay directly.

Who Was Frances Perkins and Why Should We Care?

Recently, on the 133rd anniversary of the birth of Frances Perkins, MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell paid homage to Perkins as the behind-the-scenes architect of Social Security. "The man gets all the credit in popular history, but the woman did all the work," O'Donnell said. "Social Security was her idea. It would never have become law without her." As the Secretary of Labor for President Franklin Roosevelt, Perkins had immense influence on his policy decisions. A chance meeting at a tea party with Supreme Court Justice Harlan Stone provided Perkins with the legal framework for her initiative, setting into place certain present day laws. "The constitutionality of Social Security, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act are all based on Frances Perkins' novel use of the power to tax 78 years ago," said O'Donnell. "Frances Perkins was a self-made woman," he added. "She did not advance her career by marriage. She didn't flinch at challenges that everyone else considered impossible. Frances Perkins changed the world the old-fashioned way—with hard work, persistence and passion. This country owes Frances Perkins a huge debt of gratitude for her fortitude and foresight.

Join the Struggle

Across this country workers are frustrated with the lack of progress we seem to be making. Wages are stagnant while Wall Street seems to be setting records on a regular basis. Too many have yet to find work, too much student loan debt, too much uncertainty, but plenty for the top 1%.

We have to decide what kind of country we want to leave for future generations. Will it be one where the top income levels own all and live in opulence while the rest of us struggle to get by? Will it be one where the wealthiest have purchased the government elected officials who keep them in comfort while they deny the rest of us opportunity?

The labor movement has a long and rich history of working to improve the conditions of all workers. We negotiate contracts for our members that put upward pressure on wages and benefits that benefit all workers. We lobby for legislation that increases safe working conditions, unemployment compensation, and social good for all workers, not just those covered by collective bargaining agreements or those carrying a union card in their pocket.

We continue to struggle to make life in this country better for those who work hard and play by the rules. We fight against the greed that is crippling this country, against the far right who want to deregulate industry and regulate our lives, and against those who would deny the workers of this nation a right to fair wages, decent benefits, and dignity in the workplace.

Join the struggle. Being a dues-paying member is not enough. Make a commitment to stand in solidarity with workers who fight against the attacks on public workers who fight against the attacks on fair wages and against a fair and equitable society. Act in the best interest of all workers. It's not hard. You start by spreading this message to friends, family and those you come in contact with. Then you are on your way to joining the struggle and becoming a union activist.

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

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