

# OPEIU LOCAL #9

## Newsletter

For Bulletin Board Posting

MAY 2014

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### PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
4:45 p.m.**

**Illinois Nurses Association  
105 West Adams Street, Suite 1420  
Chicago, IL 60603**

**(Enter at 212 S. Clarke Street  
Revolving doors)**

Refreshments will be served

### Local 9 T-Shirts Available

If you do not have a Local 9 logo t-shirt or if you have one and it is getting worn or stained please contact your steward to order you a replacement shirt or email Administrative Assistant Gail Brull at local9gail@sbcglobal.net. Please remember not to use your work e-mail to do this! We have sizes from small to 4XL. The shirts only come in black.

### Mary Burke Wins Gubernatorial Endorsement in WI—from WI State AFL-CIO

After a collaborative and democratic process involving workers and leaders across the state, the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO has endorsed Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke

for Wisconsin Governor in the 2014 November election.

Gov. Walker has attacked workers' wages, protections and collective bargaining rights, dismantled voting rights, enacted hyper-partisan redistricting lines, and failed to create good jobs for hard-working Wisconsinites. Wisconsin ranks an unacceptable 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation in private sector job creation. In March, Wisconsin ranked #2 in the nation in job losses. It is blatantly clear that Wisconsin needs new leadership to get our economy back on track and put Wisconsinites back to work.

Mary Burke has a proven track record of creating good jobs with family-supporting benefits for Wisconsin workers. Burke knows that respecting workers' rights to organize in both the public and private sector is good for the economy and good for workers. We need a Governor that will stand with workers and fight to raise wages so that we can grow our economy from the bottom-up and middle-out. By investing in workforce education, training and development and working with local manufacturers in important economic sectors like paper, agriculture and fresh water, Mary Burke can grow business and create jobs while respecting workers' rights.

The pressing issues for Wisconsinites this election is crippling income inequality and a lack of access to good jobs. Income inequality is destroying the American Dream. Gov. Walker is doing nothing to stop and everything to exacerbate the problem. Mary Burke is ready to go to bat for the middle class. She is ready to put Wisconsinites, not the Koch Brothers, first. What workers have seen proposed by Burke—focusing on good job creation, raising the minimum wage, supporting

citizen access to the polls, and investing in public education—is the Wisconsin way forward.

Learn more about Mary Burke by visiting her website at [burkeforwisconsin.com](http://burkeforwisconsin.com).

## **Dues Adjustment Effective July 1, 2014**

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>, rounded up to the next fifty cents 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.

## **A Blow to Democracy**

On April 2, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow to democracy and all but eliminated campaign finance limits by ruling in *McCutcheon v FEC* that individuals can donate to an unlimited number of politicians, political action committees and political parties.

The 5-4 decision tips the already skewed political scales in favor of millionaires and billionaires who want to silence working people by buying elections for their personal gain.

The *McCutcheon* case combined with *Citizens United* allows corporations and extremely rich people to have a stranglehold on democracy by giving the wealthy and elite a disproportionate say in our elections. The ruling will allow David Koch, for example, to contribute directly to every candidate and political part that his empty heart and full bank account desires.

Mike McCabe, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that, “in a country of 300 million, the Supreme Court took an action that helps just over 1,200 donors. We’re talking about a tiny fraction of the population that

benefits from this decision and everybody else loses.”

*McCutcheon v FEC* sets an unsettling precedent which is expected to lift aggregate spending caps for local and state elections, allowing a select few to have an excessive and unjustified influence on Wisconsin politics and democracy.

Most Americans cannot imagine spending tens of thousands of dollars on political campaigns, let alone hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. Workers spend the bulk of our money on things like rent mortgages, groceries, clothing, medicine, retirement and emergencies. Now, a handful of billionaires, 0.000003% of the U.S. population, will be able to spend crazy amounts of money on politicians and campaigns, deepening pay-to-play politics.

In America, we believe in one person, one vote. Unfortunately, recent court rulings give endless power to those with the most money to buy it.

This means more than ever it is crucial that working people use grassroots people power to talk with fellow workers, friends and neighbors about elections and candidates that will support people who work for a living, not the millionaires.

We need to continue to educate each other, connecting the dots between money, its influence on politics and our economy. These issues have a direct effect on the systematic dismantling of voting rights, union rights and the disappearance of a healthy and strong middle class. We can take our democracy back one vote at a time because in America we still have a democracy and we can and will make it work for the people.

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

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