



OPEIU LOCAL NO. 9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

**SEIU HCH
2nd Floor Meeting Room**

**209 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL**

Refreshments will be served

No December Membership Meeting

Local 9 T-Shirts

If you have not given your shirt size to your steward, please call the Local 9 office at once so we have this information and can place our order for the shirts for all members. The Executive Board has authorized the purchase of a t-shirt with the OPEIU logo and Local 9 on it for each member in good standing. The shirts will have to be ordered, printed and then mailed so you will not receive them until late December or early January.

Do Not Patronize Hyatt Hotels

From President Michael Goodwin

I am asking you to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Massachusetts AFL-CIO by not patronizing any Hyatt hotel chain throughout the United States and Internationally, following the company's decision to outsource the jobs of 98 housekeepers at three Boston area hotels.

Please do not support Hyatt hotels anywhere in the world, in any way, until these worker's jobs are restored.

In late September the Hyatt subcontracted these 98 jobs to a temporary agency that pays their workers \$8 per hour with no benefits. The outsourced housekeepers, some with more than 20 years at the Hyatt, were making up to \$15 per hours with health, dental and 401 (K) benefits.

The employer's egregious behavior didn't stop there. Unbelievably, Hyatt management tasked these housekeepers with training their own replacements, telling them the new housekeepers were simply vacation fill-ins. This brazen act of worker abuse has caused unions, government officials, religious leaders and community supporters to rally around these housekeepers and demand they be rehired. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO recently passed a resolution calling on the Hyatt to rehire these workers and vowing not to patronize the hotel until they do so.

I urge you to send a letter to Hyatt CEO Mark Hoplamazin alerting him that your Local Union will not be patronizing Hyatt hotels until the situation is rectified and urging expedient action to rehire the 98 outsourced housekeepers.

Thank you in advance for your solidarity with the struggle of these workers.

Trumka Elected to AFL-CIO President & Pledges Aggressive Movement

One-time coal miner Richard Trumka, secretary of the AFL-CIO since 1995, was elected its president at the federation's

September convention. A powerful speaker and strong personality, he promised a more aggressive style than his predecessor, John Sweeney, and pledged to reach out to younger workers.

“We need a unionism that makes sense to the next generation—young women and men who either don’t have the money to go to college or are almost penniless by the time they come out,” Trumka told hundreds of cheering delegates.

He said he would meet the challenge of rebuilding a labor movement that once represented 35 percent of American workers but is down to just 12.4 percent today head-on.

He told delegates that the labor movement would lead the nation out of its economic mess, where millions work as temps, contractors and home workers for low wages, no health care and no job security.

“Even though it wasn’t the labor movement that got us into this, we are the people who are going to lead America out of it,” he declared.

“The American labor movement can turn our country around,” Trumka said, “and together that’s exactly what we’re going to do! We need a new kind of labor movement—one shaped to meet the needs of Americans in a changing economy.”

“We need a labor movement that’s not afraid of new ideas—and understands that nostalgia for the past is no strategy for the future,” he went on to say.

Elected along with Trumka were two women, Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker. Baker had served in the same position during the Sweeney administration. Shuler, 39, the youngest person ever to become an officer of the AFL-CIO, had been serving as the executive assistant to the Electrical Worker’s President, Edwin Hill. All three were elected by acclamation.

Economic Stimulus Plan Helps with Energy-related Investments

While the economic stimulus plan was implemented earlier this year some of the energy-related investments/benefits have not been well publicized to the public.

There is a 30% tax credit of up to \$1,500 for the purchase of highly efficient residential air conditioners, heat pumps or furnaces. This credit can also be used by home-owners to replace leaky windows or put more insulation into the attic. This credit is only available in 2009 and 2010.

Additionally, about \$300 million has been set aside for rebates to get people to buy efficient appliances. Most of the states have not determined how they are going to implement this plan so members interested in utilizing this need to watch what regulations come out in their own state.

Late Breaking News

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a Health Care Insurance Reform bill this past weekend. It will end up in a conference committee formed by members of the House and U.S. Senate once the Senate passes a bill. History is in the making.

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

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