



OPEIU LOCAL NO. 9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

**MILWAUKEE PROFESSIONAL
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 215
5625 W. WISCONSIN AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI**

**(Enter through door in parking lot)
No December Membership Meeting**

Greetings

While we may be a bit ahead of schedule, since this is the last newsletter of 2013 we want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season.

Labor Unions are the Last Voice of the Workers

Those who are hell-bent on destroying labor unions should be very careful about what they ask for.

The average worker today is completely at the mercy of his/her employer. The employee/employer relationship rarely exists. In a real "relationship" both parties rely on the other to be successful and happy, and they realize they need each other to make it work.

Do you have that relationship with your employer? If you do, stop reading this and celebrate.

Today's employee is conditioned to these thoughts: 1) Be grateful you have a job; and 2) If you don't like working here, quit! (Everyone is replaceable). It's no wonder job satisfaction is at an all time low.

By now, everyone knows Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's vicious attack on public employee unions wasn't about balancing the budget. It was about power and money.

Taking away the voice of the American worker leaves them powerless and makes employers even more powerful. Taking away that voice maximizes how much an employer can use that employee to make the employer money.

Does your job exist to take care of you? Or does it exist to make your employer money? Businesses today exist solely to make money, not to make happy employees. So who is watching out for you? Unions are the American workers' last hope for a voice, a say in earning a real living wage, getting benefits they deserve and protections on the job.

Unions exist to make sure that a relationship exists with your employer that recognizes every single hour you put into that job. Unions honor the important contribution you make to that employer, while respecting the contribution that employer makes in your life. Unions maintain that balance needed to protect you and provide for your future, while giving the employer the most productive workforce imaginable. Who can argue that happy employees make for happy employers?

Every time we hear someone cry, “Why should they get pensions? Why should they pay so little for their insurance?” we should just want to scream back: “We deserve it!” And so does every worker!”

Every single employee deserves to be rewarded for their hard work. The problem is, we have become so beaten down because we are just grateful to have a job, that we have forgotten we earned that money! We worked hard for it! We exchanged a third to half of our day for it!

Average workers trade 20, 40 and, in some case, 60 hours a week of their lives, basically, so the employer can have money and power. What is that worth? The only people left who are fighting for what you are worth are the unions.

Be careful of what happened in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana to name a few states. They didn’t only try to destroy the voice of the unions, they are out to destroy the voice of every worker.

WI Labor History Essay Contest

Union members can help get labor’s story told in Wisconsin schools by supporting the Labor History contest and by contacting teachers and administrators in the local schools to urge students to participate in the contest. Teachers could use this as a learning opportunity for their students to teach them some of the labor history in Wisconsin and in the nation.

The contest itself will accept essays of about 750 words on the topic: “Unions have been important to my family and my community because . . .” The contest is for Wisconsin high school students, grades 9-12. Students are urged to interview family members, neighbors and friends for their stories about work and unions. Prizes are awarded as follows: 1st prize, \$500; 2nd prize, \$300; 3rd prize, \$200 and Honorable Mention, \$100 (up to 5 awarded).

Essays are due on or before February 13, 2014. For complete rules and further information go to <http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org/contests> or email info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Check-Off

Every day our nation’s elected leaders make decisions that affect us as working families. Corporations spend millions of dollars in political contributions to ensure that their interests are protected, but what about working people? We deserve to have our voices heard when it comes to issues such as job creation, collective bargaining rights, health care and education. By joining together as union sisters and brothers, our collective voice can be heard loud and clear in Washington, D.C. and at the state and local level. When we come together, we are a strong force that can make a huge difference in moving America on the path to prosperity for all.

OPEIU has established the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund, a political action committee (PAC) fund that ensures OPEIU has the necessary fund to support pro-worker political candidates and to push for legislation that matters to us as working people. The International has prepared Form 35 and has made it available to all Local Union offices to provide to those members interested in signing up for automatic deductions to the J.B. Moss VOTE fund. Please consider signing up for the VOTE fund and help ensure that OPEIU members are heard and that our interests are protected.

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

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