

OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

For Bulletin Board Posting OCTOBER 2014

David Rehberg, Business Manager - local9dave@sbcglobal.net

414-771-9730 FAX: 414-771-9732

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2014
5:00 p.m.**

**Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
1st Floor Meeting Room
12 East Erie, Chicago, IL 60611**

Refreshments will be served.

Pin Ceremony for IL and IN members to Take Place at October Meeting

Those IL and IN individuals who were sent an invitation to celebrate either their 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th or 50th anniversary as an OPEIU member this year, will receive an OPEIU pin at the October meeting in Chicago.

An Urgent Call to Action

At a time of stagnant wages, mounting student debt and booming corporate welfare the November 2014 mid-term elections are a crucial step toward leveling the playing field and providing an opportunity for working families to choose leaders whose views reflect our vision of a better America for all.

In 2010, too many working families stayed away from the polls and empowered tea-party politicians to sweep into office from the local to national level. Corporate interests and Wall Street financiers were footing the bills for these reactionary forces and

anti-worker extremists won in too many races. Those politicians turned their backs on working families and put in place policies that favored corporate billionaires.

New governors such as Scott Walker in WI, and Rick Snyder in MI, to name a few, moved laws to eliminate collective bargaining, eliminate union dues collections, destroy some employee pensions and in some cases, instituted "right-to-work".

We must fight back in these November elections. The enormity of the challenges and the importance of voter turnout can be seen in the rhetoric of politicians who are continuing to scapegoat public service employees. Bruce Rauner, running for governor in IL, said that he would fire public employees and shut down the government to close the budget deficit. Instead of closing a \$100 billion pension shortfall, Rauner said he would abolish the pension program all together. Governor Pat Quinn needs to be re-elected in November to prevent these extreme assaults on the working families of IL.

In WI voters can give the boot to Scott Walker who also supported pension and health care cuts for public service workers, and an 8% payroll cut. As we know too well, he went on to strip workers of their voice and their ability to fight back by ending collective bargaining in the public sector. We will elect Mary Burke as the new governor to restore rights and dignity to the workers of WI.

The voters in Iowa need to stand up to the smear campaign attacks on Rep. Bruce Braley who is running to succeed retiring Sen. Tom Harken. Rep. Braley represents a voice for the workers and not the extremists.

None of this matters unless we do more than just support these candidates and other labor-endorsed candidates on paper. There are active efforts going

on for all of our members to be involved in, to support candidates who will protect collective bargaining rights, preserve retirement security, ensure that every American has decent health care coverage and stand up against the corporate billionaire-backed tea-party agenda. Volunteers are needed so please consider donating some of your time to this vital effort. To win, we must vote in greater numbers than our opponents. It's just that simple. But, to make that happen we need to make sure people are registered to vote, have the proper ID now required by some states and vote early where available. We must reach out to our co-workers, friends and neighbors. Volunteer and vote as if your future depends on it—because it does.

Facts on the Governor's Race in WI

JOBS:

--Mary Burke helped grow Trek Bicycle sales from \$4 million to \$50 million annually.

--Scott Walker's term in office has seen WI become dead last in job creation in the Midwest.

HEALTH CARE:

--Mary Burke will focus on reducing the cost of health insurance.

--Scott Walker kicked nearly 63,000 people off of BadgerCare (meaning a loss of health insurance to these individuals).

PAY EQUITY:

--Mary Burke will work with the legislature to reinstate the 2009 Equal Pay Enforcement Act.

--Scott Walker repealed the 2009 Equal Pay Enforcement Act.

MINIMUM WAGE:

--Mary Burke favors increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

--Scott Walker opposes any increases.

EDUCATION:

--Mary Burke will improve education and make college more affordable.

--Scott Walker slashed a record \$800 million per year from public education.

VOTING RIGHTS:

--Mary Burke believes every eligible voter should have the freedom to cast a ballot.

--Scott Walker signed restrictive voter ID requirements; limited access to early voting and eliminated all weekend early voting.

Scott Walker has failed the workers of WI and has shown that he does not care about us. The WI State AFL-CIO endorsed Mary Burke because of her commitment to put working families first. It is up to us, as informed workers, to educate and work for a new governor this November.

Get informed on Union endorsed candidates—visit your state AFL-CIO website for the list of endorsements.



Dawn Martin celebrating retirement at the September Membership meeting.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues please call or email the office. Please do not use Dawn's email (local9dawn@sbcglobal.net) or her cell number since she is officially retired.

/gb dalu 24111, afl-cio