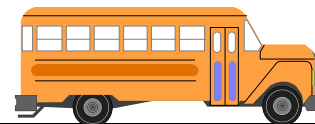


OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting
SEPTEMBER 2017

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**PLEASE NOTE
MEETING LOCATION
General Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

**Milwaukee Professional Firefighters
Local 215
5625 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53213**

(Enter through door in parking lot)

**(October 17th meeting will be at SEIU HCII
2229 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL)**

PIN CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE AT SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MEETINGS TO HONOR LONG-TIME MEMBERS

At the September 19th meeting in Wisconsin and the October 17th meeting in Illinois, we will be honoring members who celebrate their 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, and 40th anniversary as an OPEIU member. These members are being sent an invitation to attend either of the meetings and receive an OPEIU pin to commemorate this special milestone. Please plan on attending one or both of these meetings to congratulate the individuals receiving their pins. The members receiving their pins are:

FROM WISCONSIN

40 years – Sharon Price
35 years – Barbara Schroeder
30 years – Claudia Geitz
Sherry Horton
Alice Zyniecki

25 years – Val Cheese
Ramona Garrity
Robin Lundgren
Diana Timm
20 years – Sandra Eigner
Denise Fenger
Lori Guevara
Janel Stepp

FROM ILLINOIS

30 years – Olivia Diaz
Allonda Jackson
Jacqueline Petrovich
25 years – Tina Edmondson
20 years – Karla Andersen
Carla Lebre
Anthony Manno
Patti Purri

Indiana and Iowa did not have any members celebrating distinguished years of service this year.

CONTRACT AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED AND/OR RATIFIED SINCE APRIL

Brewery Workers, Local 9
Painters District Council 7
Bricklayers District Council
Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
Inter-Local Pension Fund
North Central States Regional Council of
Carpenters
United Food & Commercial Workers, 1473
Boilermakers, Local 107
IAMAW District 10

Excerpt of the Nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

Unions reduce inequality and are essential for low- and middle-wage workers' ability to obtain a fair share of economic growth

The spread of collective bargaining that followed the passage of the National Labor Relations Act in 1935 led to decades of faster and fairer economic growth that persisted until the late 1970s. But since the 1970s, declining unionization has fueled rising inequality and stalled economic progress for the broad American middle class. When unions are weak, the highest incomes go up even more, but when unions are strong, middle incomes go up.

Research by EPI and other institutions shows this correlation is no accident. First, unions have strong positive effects on not only the wages of union workers but also on wages of comparable nonunion workers, as unions set standards for entire industries and occupations. Second, unions make wages among occupations more equal because they give a larger wage boost to low- and middle-wage occupations than high-wage occupations. Third, unions make wages of workers with similar characteristics more equal because of the standards unions set. Fourth, unions have historically been more likely to organize middle-wage than high-wage workers, which lowers inequality by closing gaps between, say, blue-collar and white-collar workers. Finally, the union wage boost is largest for low-wage workers and larger at the middle than at the highest wage levels, larger for black and Hispanic workers than for white workers, and larger for those with lower levels of education – wage increases for these groups help narrow wage inequalities. We know how big a force for equality unions are by looking at how much their decline can explain one-third of the rise in wage inequality among men and one-fifth of the rise in wage inequality among women from 1973 to 2007. Among men, the erosion of collective bargaining has been the largest single factor

driving a wedge between middle-wage and high-wage workers.

Collective bargaining is how working people gain a voice at work and the power to shape their working lives

Almost everyone has at one point felt unheard or powerless as an employee. Joining a union simply means that you and your colleagues have a say because you negotiate important elements of employment conditions together. That could mean securing wage increases, better access to health care, and more reasonable and predictable hours. Through collective bargaining negotiations, the union also works with management to develop a process for settling disputes that employees and their managers are unable to settle individually.

Once a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is agreed to, union representatives work with employees and with management to make sure the rights and obligations spelled out in the agreement are honored. And they represent workers in high-stakes situations. By these means, collective bargaining gives workers a say in the terms of their employment, the security of knowing that there are specific processes for handling work-related grievances, and a path to solving problems.

To cover expenses for negotiating contracts, defending workers' rights, resolving disputes, and providing support to members of the bargaining unit, unions collect dues.

The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935 and amendments govern private-sector unions and collective bargaining.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues, please contact the union office at 414-771-9730 or by email at local9dave@sbcglobal.net.

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