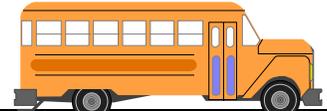




OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

September 2010

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, September 21, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

**Ironworker's Local 8 Hall
12034 West Adler Lane
Milwaukee, WI**

Summer Is Over and It Is Time for Serious Work

Hopefully everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. It is time for us to start our membership meetings again. We would like to encourage you to attend the general membership meeting when possible.

Vacancy on the Executive Board

Due to job eliminations we have lost an Executive Board member. Many thanks to Mike Kuchinsky for his years of service on the Local 9 Board. It is necessary to fill this vacancy.

Anyone who is interested in serving on the Executive Board should email their intent to President Candy Johnson at local9candy@sbcglobal.net by Friday, September 17th. Include a bit about yourself, where you work, etc. and your desire to fill the unexpired term. Appointees will serve until the next election in June of 2011. President Johnson will make the appointment.

Members of the Board are paid for lost time in order to attend the meetings in addition to mileage for their travel.

At least two membership meetings a year are held in the Chicago area the others are held in the Milwaukee area – the Executive Board convenes before the general membership meetings. Please consider serving your Local Union in this capacity.

It Couldn't Be Said Any Clearer or Better

After President Obama spoke to the AFL-CIO Executive Council he was asked what advice he had for workers as the election approaches, especially those organizing to have a voice on the job. Here is his response.

“Well, you guys don't need advice from me, but let me tell you what I see out there. We were hurt by this recession, badly hurt. This is going to take some time to recover. Unemployment is at unacceptably high levels.

But as I said before, we'd had challenges before the crisis hit. A lot of your membership had been hurting long before, partly because we just live in a more competitive world. There's nothing we can do about that, that's just the truth. But a lot of it also had to do with the fact that we put policies in place that were not good for working families. There is a reason why incomes, wages, were stagnant for average workers, even while the costs were going up. And part of it had to do with the fact that we had a philosophy that said that providing help to workers, allowing them to collectively bargain, allowing them to negotiate for better benefits, that that all was something of the past instead of something we need for the future.

So on the one hand; I think that everybody here understands we've got to be competitive in America. We've got to have competitive price structures. We've got to make the best products possible. Workers have to be invested in trying to help the companies they work for succeed. With respect to public employees, we've all got to work together to make sure that whatever we're doing, whether it is as firefighters or as teachers or as postal workers, whatever it is, that we're providing the best possible service. I think that everybody understands that there's no operation in the United States of America that shouldn't be efficient and effective in doing what it does.

But it is my profound belief that companies are stronger when their workers are getting paid well and have decent health benefits and are treated with dignity and respect. It is my profound belief that our government works best when it's not being run on behalf of special interests, but its being run on behalf of the public interest, and that the dedication of public servants reflects that.

So FDR I think said—he was asked once what he thought about unions. He said, "If I was a worker in a factory and I wanted to improve my life, I would join a union." Well, I tell you what, I think that is true for all workers generally. I think if I was a coal miner, I'd want a union representing me to make sure that I was safe and you did not have some of the tragedies that we've been seeing in the coal industry. If I was a teacher, I'd want a union to make sure that the teacher's perspective was represented as we think about shaping our education system for our future. As a worker, I would want a union."

Remember Your Weingarten Rights

Don't forget that if you are called into a meeting with your employer or their representative for a conversation that could lead to discipline or termination you need to exercise your Weingarten Rights.

1. You must ask for union representation before or during the interview. Management does not have to tell you of this right.

2. Once you inform them of your desire for representation you do not have to answer any questions until representation is present. Stay quiet.
3. Don't make any written or verbal statement of guilt or innocence. You cannot be forced to make a statement. The best response is NO response.
4. Do not waive your right to representation. If you begin the questioning without representation you have waived your rights and statements can be used against you.

Join President Obama

At The Milwaukee Labor Day Parade

We have just learned that President Obama will be appearing at the Labor Day activities for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. We have no details as this is being printed other than he is coming and will be speaking at some point in the afternoon. Tickets will be required and must be obtained through the Local 9 office. Please call Gail and let her know if you are interested in attending. We also encourage you to join your OPEIU brothers and sisters and march in the parade starting at 11 am at Zeidler Park. We will have a truck and our Local 9 banner. Please wear your Local 9 T-shirts

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

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