

OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter

For Bulletin Board Posting

APRIL 2010

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Iron Workers Union,
Local No. 8
12034 W. Adler Lane
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Election of Delegates to the OPEIU International Convention

Delegates to the OPEIU International convention, held in Washington, DC, will be elected at the April 20th general membership meeting.

In accordance with the International's Constitution 5 delegates may be elected at this meeting. A delegate must be a member in good standing for twelve months prior to the convention.

Delegates will be expected to arrive in DC on Saturday, June 19th with departure on Friday, June 25th. While the actual convention will not convene until June 21st, there will be an Educational Conference on Sunday, the 20th.

Anyone wishing to run for delegate to the convention that is unable to attend this meeting must inform the Local office by 2:00 pm on April 20th in order to have your name placed in nomination.

Affordable Health Care of America

The US Congress passed and the President has signed the health care bill. What does all of this mean to each of us? Below are some of the key provisions of the bill, most of which will take place within the next year at the most.

1. Small Business Tax Credits—offers tax credits to small businesses to make employee coverage more affordable with tax credits of up to 35% of the premiums will be immediately available to firms that choose to offer coverage.
2. Begins to close the Medicare Part D Donut Hole—provides a \$250 rebate to Medicare beneficiaries who hit the donut hole in 2010. Beginning in 2011, institutes a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole and completely closes the donut hole by 2020.
3. Free Preventive Care under Medicare—Eliminates co-payments for preventive services and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program as of 1/1/11.
4. Help for Early Retirees—creates a temporary re-insurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees ages 55-64.
5. Ends Rescissions—bans health plans from dropping people from coverage

when they get sick. (effective 6 months after enactment)

6. No Discrimination Against Children with Pre-Existing Conditions—prohibits health plans from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions (this applies to all people as of 2014).
7. Bans Lifetime Limits on Coverage—prohibits health plans from placing lifetime caps on coverage.
8. Bans restrictive Annual Limits on Coverage—tightly restricts new plans' use of annual limits to ensure access to needed care. These tight restrictions will be defined by HSS (use of any annual limits is banned as of 2014).
9. Free Preventive Care Under New Private Plans—requires new private plans to cover preventive services with no co-payments and with preventive services being exempt from deductibles.
10. New, Independent Appeals Process—ensures consumers in new plans have access to an effective internal and external appeals process to appeal decisions by their health insurance plan.
11. Ensuring Value for Premium Payments—requires plans in the individual and small group market to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services, and plans in the large group market to spend 85 percent.
12. Immediate help for the Uninsured Until Exchange Is Available (Interim High Risk Pool)—provides immediate access to insurance for Americans who are uninsured because of a pre-existing condition.
13. Extends Coverage for Young People up to 26th Birthday through Parents' Insurance—requires health plans to allow young people up to age 26 to remain on their parents' policy at the parents' choice.
14. Community Health Centers—increases funding for Community Health Centers to allow for nearly a doubling of the number of patients seen by the centers.
15. Increasing the Number of Primary Care Doctors—provides new investment in training programs to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses and public health professionals.
16. Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Salary—prohibits new group health plans from establishing any eligibility rules for coverage that have the effect of discriminating in favor of higher wage employees.
17. Health Insurance Consumer Information—provides aid to state to establish offices of health insurance consumer assistance.
18. Creates New, Voluntary, Public Long-Term Care Insurance Program—creates a long-term care program financed by voluntary payroll deductions to provide benefits to adults who become functionally disabled.

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

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