



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

APRIL 2015

Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

Dave Rehberg, Business Manager - local9dave@sbcglobal.net

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

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Hall
5625 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53213
(Enter through door in parking lot)**

Upcoming Elections:

Local 9 Elections

Nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, three Trustees and six Executive Board members will take place at the regular membership meeting on April 21, 2015. The meeting begins at 6 pm at the Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters Hall, 5625 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. If anyone is interested in running for a position, but is not able to attend the meeting, please send a notice of intent to run and specify the position via letter or email to President Candy Johnson at local9candy@sbcglobal.net by noon on April 21st so your name can be placed in nomination. If there is only the required number of candidates for the position(s) the election shall be dispensed with and the candidates shall be declared the winner(s). Should an election be necessary for any position(s) a mail ballot election will be done as required under the constitution.

No person shall be elected to an office unless they have been a member in good standing for at least the preceding twelve months.

SEIU HCII RATIFIES AGREEMENT

After three months of intense negotiations, the members at SEIU HCII ratified their agreement on March 13th by 98% in favor of the three year agreement. The membership had a "CAT" team that did job actions periodically throughout negotiations that greatly assisted the negotiating team in accomplishing higher wage increases, automobile allowance increases, bilingual pay, and more favorable contract language. I would like to thank the "CAT" for keeping the pressure on management, as well as the negotiating and for long the hours they put in to achieve this agreement.

Boycott Ameristar Casino - East Chicago

UniteHERE members have been working under an expired contract for over two years. Pinnacle Entertainment purchased Ameristar Casino in 2013, and the members have not had a fair contract since then. Pinnacle is fighting to take away affordable family health care from their employees. UniteHERE is asking union brothers and sisters to boycott the casino until all contract issues are resolved. Blue Chip Casino and Majestic Casino in the area have union contracts and were just ratified.

STEWARD TRAINING UPDATE

I have had quite a few members responding that they are interested in a Saturday Steward Training session (see March Newsletter). The date that is being seriously looked at is June 13th. The location will be on the Illinois/Wisconsin border, not sure what State yet. The class size will be limited so if you are interested, please contact me at 414-771-9730 or local9dave@sbcglobal.net at your earliest convenience to save a spot.

Remember Your Weingarten Rights

It is vitally important that you do not forget that if an employer calls you into a meeting for a conversation that could lead to disciplinary action or termination you have the right to exercise your Weingarten Rights.

- 1) You must ask for your union representative before or during the meeting. Management does not have to inform you of this right.
- 2) Once you inform management of your desire to have union representation (steward) you do not have to answer any further questions until a representative (steward) is present.
- 3) Stay Quite
- 4) Don't make any written or verbal statements of guilt or innocence. You cannot be forced to make a statement. The best response is NO response.
- 5) Do not waive your right to representation. If you start responding to managements questioning you have waived your right, and any statements you make can be used against you.

Always remember to error on the side of caution. If you feel management is heading towards a disciplinary action against you ask for your union representative (steward).

Illinois Politics

The Chicago Mayoral election is April 7th. Make sure your voice is heard and get out and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Governor Rauner's grand idea to put Right-To-Work in small areas across Illinois is being challenged by Attorney General Lisa Madigan. The so called "empowerment zones" is a violation of federal laws according to AG Madigan.

Rauner also has made an executive order to withhold fees unions receive from workers who choose not to become members. The fees are required under state law and collective bargaining agreements. AG Madigan is seeking to have the legislative order thrown out because Rauner doesn't have the authority to challenge standing laws that allow for the fees.

Wisconsin Right-To-Work

First, all existing contracts that are in place will continue to be in place until the contract is extended or renegotiated. Therefore, for those agreements it's business as usual. As contracts for Wisconsin members expire, there will be language that has to be inserted to come into compliance with the new law. I am looking at language from both Michigan and Indiana to see what is best suited for the membership here in Wisconsin. If an individual does not pay union dues, they do not have the right to vote on their contract or vote in union elections. Also, there is a lawsuit that has been filed by the AFL-CIO and two other unions. We will keep you updated.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues, please call or email the office.

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