



OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

**WI STATE AFL-CIO
6333 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI**

Happy New Year! Hopefully all of you had an enjoyable Holiday Season and are now ready to tackle 2012 with renewed energy and commitment.

Watch Out With Your Email

There have been court rulings that make it clear that anyone who uses their employer's email for personal use is exposing themselves to risk and monitoring. While there are employers who have policies that allow employees to use the company email for personal use one must always be aware that first and foremost, that policy can change at any time, but also that the employer has every right to monitor and read those emails if they so choose. Additionally, you should not be reading your personal email during work hours—that should only be done when you are on a break or on your lunch—and even then, because it is the employer's computer,

you need to exercise caution. The employer owns your computer therefore may monitor anything that you do on it and may check it at any time.

Credit Union for OPEIU Members?

OPEIU is considering the concept of whether or not an OPEIU credit union is a good idea for the organization. If one were to be established, it would provide banking services to all OPEIU members.

The first step in the process of consideration is that OPEIU conduct a survey of its members. Members are asked to go on-line to www.opeiu.org and click on the survey—it will only take a short period of time to complete and will provide the International with the needed data to make a decision.

The Assault on Private Sector Union Rights has Begun

A little less than a year ago when the Governor of WI and the Legislature began its assault on public sector Unions there were people who felt it was "OK" because it was public employees who were being affected. First of all, an attack on anyone in the Labor movement is an attack on all in the Labor movement, and therefore is not acceptable.

Secondly, many suspected that this would just be the tip of the iceberg - if there was success in the public sector that it would only be a matter of time until private sector employers tried the same thing.

Well, it has happened. At a company that Local 9 has a contract with. Manitowoc Crane has contracts with Local 9, IBEW,

Boilermakers and IAMAW (Machinists). Local 9 signed a 3 year agreement one year ago. The IAMAW has been in negotiations with the Company for months. They received a final offer from the Company that included language that basically mirrored Act 10 (the public sector law in WI). They proposed that the members recertify the Union each year and that the Company no longer does dues deductions. The negotiating team said no but the Company said let the members vote.

The members voted 180-2 to reject the contract! They have now been on strike for close to a month. Labor forces came together for a Solidarity Rally December 10th with thousands of union brothers and sisters coming out in frigid weather to march and show support for the strikers. Donations of food and money are being accepted for the striking families and can be made via the IAMAW District 10 website at www.iamawd10.org.

Anyone who thinks that this is just a coincidence that this company is trying to get this anti-union language into the contract is wrong. This is all part of the Governor's agenda. One only has to look at campaign finance reports to see the contributions from the hierarchy at Manitowoc to the Walker Campaign to be able to connect the dots.

It is important for all of Labor to stand with the strikers at Manitowoc as this is not a strike about money, but about basic union rights. The rights that we value to our core.

Recall Walker & Kleefisch

Anyone in WI who has not signed a recall petition for both Gov. Walker and Lt. Gov. Kleefisch still has time. If there is no recall office in your area you can go to the Local 9 website at www.opeiu9.org to download the forms. You are allowed to sign your own form and submit it—all the directions will be there. Please do this by January 10th so you can be counted. At this time everything points to success in the recall effort against Walker but until all of the petitions have been

reviewed and checked we will not know for certain. Every effort is being made to cross-check multiple times so that duplicates and highly suspicious names are not submitted in the final documents to the Government Accountability Board.

Once it is clear that the actual Recall is on there will be more activity going on as candidates announce their campaigns.

While it may seem like we have "election/recallitis" in WI, it is exciting to be a part of times that are again making history in our state. The recall of the state senators this summer was unprecedented. If there is success in obtaining sufficient signatures for a recall of the Gov. and Lt. Gov. this will again be precedent setting. Defeating them at the polls in a recall election would be epic.

Voter ID in Effect Starting with WI Spring Elections

Where needed, there will be Primary elections on February 21st and then the Spring General election and Presidential Preference Primary will be held on April 3rd. As a result of legislation enacted last year, voters will be required to have photo identification when they go to vote. Anyone not having a photo id needs to obtain one in order to be able to vote.

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

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