



OPEIU LOCAL #9 NEWSLETTER



For Bulletin Board Posting
JUNE 2016

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, JUNE 21, 2016
6:00 p.m.

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

(Enter through door in parking lot)

REMINDER: June is the Last General Membership Meeting for Summer

The June 21st General Membership meeting is the last meeting for the summer. There will be no July or August membership meeting.

General Membership meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 pm at the Milwaukee Professional Firefighters location.

SUMMERTIME & HOLIDAYS

Since this is the last newsletter until the September issue, please remember what the upcoming holidays are really for, as you celebrate them with family and friends whether at a cookout or at the fireworks in your area.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is to honor the fallen soldiers that have served this country throughout the years to protect our freedoms that we enjoy. I would personally like to thank those women and men that have served especially in combat situations as they put their family lives on hold to allow me (us) to have these freedoms. Whenever you see a person in uniform please thank them for serving in the military. Without them and those that have passed away in harm's way we wouldn't be allowed to have the elections and free speech we enjoy.

Independence Day (4th of July)

So many people have forgotten what Independence Day is all about. It is probably the most important day of the United States. Some people look at it as a day off from work, cookout with family and friends, parades, and fireworks.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1776 giving us our freedom from Great Britain, and letting the world know that these United Colonies should be free and independent states. The signers knew that Great Britain would not be enthused with the thirteen colonies and the British army would be sailing across the Atlantic to put an end to the thirteen colonies idea of being independent.

The first celebration of American Independence took place four days after the signing in Philadelphia. The ceremony began with a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, and then the Liberty Bell rang out. The coat of arms of the king of England was taken down. It wouldn't be easy for the colonist and they knew what lay ahead, but they cheered! A new nation sprang to life.

Labor Day

Labor Day is probably the most important day of remembrance for the hard working Union members in this country.

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. Finally in June 1894 Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year as a legal holiday.

In the late 1800's it was common for American workers to work 12-hour days and seven days a week just to make ends meet. Children as young as 5 or 6 worked in mills factories, and mines across the country, earning only a fraction of what adults earned. There was unsafe working conditions with no sanitary facilities, no breaks and in some cases limited fresh air.

Because of these deplorable conditions workers took to protesting and a strike against Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago on May 11, 1894. The federal government dispatched troops to Chicago to break the strike which resulted in deaths of more than a dozen workers. Congress trying to repair ties with the American worker passed an act making the first Monday in September as a legal holiday recognizing the American worker.

As Union members, please remember to respect and honor this day as a day for all union working women and men. The Governors of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin would do almost anything in their power to destroy the hard working union member so that our wages would be less, our benefits would be reduced, and we would go back to the days before when company's dictated to their workers how many hours and days off we would receive. Remember as you celebrate Labor Day these Governors will do anything to destroy (reduce) the benefits that your Union has fought hard to get for you and continue to fight hard to maintain those benefits.

Political News

The primary races are coming to a close. On the Republican side the nominee will be Donald Trump

based upon him reaching the needed delegate count. Considering how he has fought against one of his hotels in Las Vegas becoming a union hotel, if he is elected President who knows what will happen to the working union women and men? I'm sure his billionaire friends will all be happy to reduce our pay and health benefits.

The Democratic side is pretty much all wrapped up, but until the primary election on June 7th is over I won't state a position for either candidate. I do know though that I (we) should support a candidate that supports the labor movement.

Dues Adjustment Effective July 1, 2016

In accordance with the Constitution & By-Laws of Local 9, dues are adjusted annually effective July 1st of each year. Dues are calculated on your hourly wage in effect on June 1st of the current year and rounded up to the next fifty cents (\$.50), multiplied times two. The dues cap will be based on this year's International Convention per capita increase. Once the increase is established, Employers and non check off members will be notified.

Strangest Law's in States

Illinois

It's forbidden to give your dog whiskey.

Indiana

It's illegal for kid's to sell their parents jewelry in Fort Wayne.

Iowa

It's illegal to kiss a stranger.

Wisconsin

Proposed as a law in 1935 – Restaurants were required to put cheese on apple pie.

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

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