



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

MAY 2016

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

**Milwaukee Professional Firefighters
Local 215
5625 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53213
(Enter through door in parking lot)**

POLITICAL SEASON

Whether you are a Hillary Clinton supporter or a Bernie Sanders supporter, (I hope none of the others) anytime an individual has the opportunity to introduce one of the candidates at a rally the Local should be honored. OPEIU, Local 9 had that opportunity on March 29th in Green Bay, Wisconsin when Executive Board Member Tony Vanderbloemen had the opportunity to introduce Hillary Clinton in front of about 1,200 yelling and screaming supporters of Hillary. His introduction was short and to the point. Citing what the current Governor of the State of Wisconsin has done to the hard working women and men by attacking workers rights and unions with ACT 10 and Right-To-Work laws. Stating that Hillary supports the basic rights of workers to democratically form unions to collectively bargain for hours of work, well-paid wages,

and sustainable jobs, which our consumer driven economy depends on.

Tony went on to say that the hard work isn't always enough if you're not on a level playing field. We are at a disadvantage when corporations care about profit, not people, and when wages stagnate while the cost of living goes up.

Congratulation's Tony on being selected to introduce Secretary Clinton at the rally in Green Bay. I'm sure you were nervous, but did an excellent job.



WISCONSIN POLITICAL NEWS

In March of last year, three unions from Wisconsin brought before a judge in Dane County a lawsuit to strike down the Right-To-Work law. On Friday, April 8th, the judge agreed with the unions that in similarity like a corporation that offers services to an individual, they expect to be paid for their services. No different than a union negotiating

and representing individuals that are under a Collective Bargaining Agreement, the unions are offering a service. The Republican Attorney General of Wisconsin immediately sought to have a stay on the judge's decision. The Dane County judge ruled against the Attorney General stating that the legislation enables non-union workers to receive free representation. The judge further stated the decision boils down to "there is no free lunch." The state now has filed notice to the 3rd District Court of Appeals in Wausau. The Republican Governor and his cronies will continue to do whatever is possible to take away the hard working union member's rights to organize and be represented fairly in this State.

ILLINOIS POLITICAL NEWS

The Illinois State workers union and Governor Rauner are at odds over the contract negotiations and are headed to a law judge at the Illinois Labor Relations Board to hear arguments on whether or not the two sides have reached an impasse on negotiations. The union and Rauner agreed that while negotiations were ongoing that there would be no strike, but now Rauner is pushing the issue that the negotiations have reached an impasse to either force the workers to accept the current proposal or go out on strike. The sides have been negotiating for close to a year and at stake are workers wage increases, health insurance costs, and the state's ability to outsource tasks to the private sector, these are the key hang-ups. Rauner's people say the sides are deadlocked on every core issue and negotiations would be futile. The union insists that they're not done negotiating and the parties should sit back down at the table. The livelihoods of 38,000 state workers are at stake. The hearing before the labor board could take a whole month.

INDIANA POLITICAL NEWS

The time has come for Indiana to have their primary and the stakes are high for the Presidential candidates. On the Republican side Senator Cruz and Governor Kasich have teamed up against Donald Trump to try and stop his momentum as the nominee for the Republican Party. None of these three individuals care about the middle class hard working families. On the Democratic Race, Bernie Sanders has stated he is going the distance all the way to California to contest Hillary Clinton even though he trails by over 275 delegates and more than 400 super-delegates. Voting for either Hillary or Bernie now and in the future is a far better decision than voting for one of the other three candidates that aren't worker friendly. Remember to vote, it is your privilege to have the ability, whereas in many countries they don't have the opportunity.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, and truth."

The boy thought about it, and asked "Grandfather which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."

Have a great Memorial Day and be safe.

As always, if you have any concerns or issues, please contact the union office at 414-771-9730 or by email at local9dave@sbcglobal.net.

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