



OPEIU LOCAL NO. 9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

General Membership
Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2010
5:00 p.m.

SEIU HCII
2nd Floor Meeting Room
209 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL

No December Membership
Meeting

New Executive Board Member Appointed

President Candy Johnson announced her appointment of Jennifer Day to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board. Jennifer will serve as a member of the Board until elections in 2011. Jennifer works at the B/P facility in Whiting, IN and also serves as co-steward for the bargaining unit there.

Congratulations Judith Cummings

Local 9 member Judith Cummings was a recipient of one of the John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarships awarded by our International Union. This scholarship is available to OPEIU members who are doing either undergraduate or graduate work in Labor Studies, Industrial Relations, Union Leadership and Administration or Non-

Degree Programs sponsored by the National Labor College at the George Meany Center.

Judith is enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan University, working toward a Bachelor of Science in Management thru an on-line program. Congratulations!

Two Interesting Commentaries on Unions

Unions: A "Special Interest"?

We hear it all the time: Organized labor is just a "special interest. They only care about themselves." Why single out unions in a negative way as a special interest?

This is nothing more than an attempt to turn the union into a "third party" to undercut support. The intent is to make people think the union is something other than its members, and that the union looks out for "itself" and nothing else.

The trust, of course, is that a union is its members, and the members are the community.

First and foremost, the people in this and every community want that most basic thing—to be able to take care of themselves and their families. We want to provide food, shelter and other necessities, and to make sure our children have access to a good education and our elders have a chance for a secure retirement. We want to make sure medical care is there when we need it, and that we live in safe and secure neighborhoods.

People form unions to act on that value with the belief that when we work together we can

achieve more—both for each other and ourselves. Unions are the members and are only as powerful as the membership is active. But, it is critical to remember that union members are also an integral part of their communities.

Studies indicate that through collective bargaining and political and legislative action union wages are 15-20 percent higher which means there is more money to spend supporting the local economy. This also translates into more disposable income for recreation and entertainment. But, more importantly, union members donate money, time and expertise for the betterment of their communities and others less fortunate. In addition to the good works, unions also give members an organization through which to act collectively to make their communities better.

Does this make unions a “special interest? It makes union members a force for good in the community. Unions are the members. The members are the community.

The Millennial Generation is Largely Pro-Union

A survey by the Center for American Progress examines how the attitudes of young people have been changing over the last couple of decades. The current generation of 18-29 year olds—the “Millennials”—are more strongly progressive, in contrast to the group that preceded them, the more cynical “Generation X-ers.”

How progressive are they?

- Millennials are more likely to support universal health coverage than any age group.
- Eighty-seven percent of Millennials think the government should spend more money on health care even if a tax increase is required to pay for it.
- An overwhelming 95 percent of Millennials think education spending

should be increased even if a tax increase is required to pay for it.

- Sixty-one percent of Millennials think the government should provide more services, the most support of any age group.

And this progressive trend extends to supporting workers’ rights to join together in unions as well:

- Millennials are very supportive of labor unions, with the second highest level of support of any age group in the over 40-year history of this question.

Plus, the Millennial generation shows high levels of political interest and engagement. In other words, they are progressive and they vote. That’s an encouraging combination for the future.

**Side note: In light of the election results on November 2nd we can only hope in the continued accuracy of this survey.

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

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