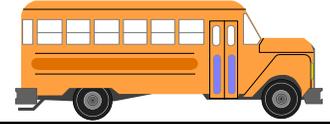




# OPEIU LOCAL #9

## Newsletter



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September 2014  
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**PLEASE NOTE**  
**MEETING LOCATION**  
**General Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2014**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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

**(Enter through door in parking lot)**

**Refreshments will be served**

(October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be at  
Chicago Regional Carpenters, 12 E. Erie)

### Summer Draws to a Close

We tend to think of summer as fun and sun and hopefully it was for each of you. Once Labor Day passes we shift our focus to the Fall, and to the upcoming elections which are critically important.

Pin Ceremony to Take Place at September Meeting to Honor Long-Time Members

At the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, those members who celebrate either their 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, or 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an OPEIU member this year will receive an OPEIU pin. These individuals will be sent a personal invitation to attend this meeting where they will be honored for their length of membership in OPEIU.

### We Say Hello & Welcome

The Executive Board, based on the recommendation of the interview committee hired David Rehberg as the new Business Manager for Local 9. Dave began working for Local 9 July 21<sup>st</sup>. Dave has 18 plus years experience as a Business Representative and as a Chief Negotiator for IBEW. He represented over

2,400 members on a day to day basis. He also has experience as Secretary-Treasurer of two Councils and a Trustee for an Apprenticeship Program. Dave has settled in and is busy getting to know the members as he travels Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa.

### Retirement & Goodbye

After spending almost 12 years as the Business Manager for Local 9, Dawn Martin has decided to retire. Presently she is enjoying her vacation time before her official retirement at the end of September. Most of you have met her at one time or another and I believe that all of you have received help from her in one way or another – especially for the fact that she negotiated all of our contracts. May she have a long and happy retirement.

### From Dawn:

I want to say a last good bye to the many wonderful members of Local 9. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and work with you for almost twelve years. You, our members are the backbone of the Local and it is vitally important that you be involved in your Local to see that it continues to be a strong voice. Good luck to you all.

### Unions Must Stand Strong to Help Fight Against Inequality—Please Join In This Fight

When workers stand together as union brothers and sisters, we are stronger than when we stand alone. That's why corporate-backed lawmakers, right-wing billionaires like the Koch brothers and anti-union organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) want to destroy unions. They know strong unions cut into their enormous profits by ensuring that workers earn wages that can support their families, and that they have good benefits such as health care and retirement security.

Charts recently posted at [unionswork.us](http://unionswork.us) demonstrate that when unions are strong (that is when union density goes up), wealth is distributed more equally and income inequality declines. But there is a flipside. When union membership goes down, so does the middle class.

Unions are one of our only counterbalances to big corporations and the super-rich who tilt the playing field in their favor so they can hoard more and more of our nation's wealth.

If you believe unions are important to a fair economy then please visit [unionswork.us](http://unionswork.us). Sign the petition and spread the word on Facebook and Twitter about how unions work for all of us.

## **Defending Our Right to Vote**

As citizens it is our right and responsibility to vote. Unfortunately, lawmakers in many states continue to push legislation to restrict access to the polls by shortening early voting periods, eliminating Election Day registration, making it harder for groups like the League of Women Voters to register voters, and limiting acceptable types of voter identification. Since 2010, 41 states have considered such legislation, with 22 states passing 27 restrictive measures.

Rather than protect the integrity of the voting process, these new laws actually harm the process by making voting less convenient for everyone. It is just wrong for politicians to try to influence elections by discouraging voters who don't agree with them. We need to endorse and support a positive agenda around voting rights that includes expanded absentee voting and mailing voting. It would also add voting hours, permit weekend voting, and automatically update voter registration rolls to reflect address changes. Luckily, some states, like Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts, are actually considering measures to improve voting, not restrict it.

Voters need to stand up to the politicians and extremists groups that are manipulating our democracy by kicking people off the voter rolls and passing new restrictions. Voting should be free, fair and accessible. So, when politicians

come asking for your vote, ask them where they stand on voting rights.

## **Get informed on Union endorsed candidates—visit your state AFL-CIO website for the list of endorsements.**

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

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