

# OPEIU LOCAL #9

## Newsletter

For Bulletin Board Posting

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Officers and Executive Board would like to wish all of our members a belated Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy 2021.

What a year 2020 was. Who would have thought a year ago that we would mostly all be working from home, wearing a mask everywhere and overly concerned of catching a virus that we weren't sure how it would affect us. Sadly, we have lost a couple of our members due to the virus and way too many that have caught the virus are still dealing with the aftereffects of it. Please continue to stay safe and practice the guidelines that were laid out by the CDC.

### Union Meetings

The Executive Board of Local 9 continued to hold meetings via virtual attendance since April when most States went on lockdown to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Until such time as it is safe to have in person meetings, they will continue to be held virtual. Going forward, if a member would like to be a part of the general membership meetings that start at 6:00 PM they will have to email President Johnson ([pres@opeiu9.org](mailto:pres@opeiu9.org)) at least 24 hours in advance. Your email that you used will be replied to with the information to join the General Membership meeting via Zoom. Executive Board and Membership Meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of the month.

### WHAT AN ELECTION

As a union organization we support those running for office that support the labor movement.

Unfortunately, the former President did not believe that unions are a valuable asset, whereas President Biden has always supported the labor movement.

This election has torn families, friends and co-workers apart. I never thought that I would see such an ugly election with so many false statements being made.

The attack in D.C was despicable. People were afraid for their lives and innocent people were killed because of acts by MAGA (Make America Grieve Again) enticed by the outgoing President.

It's time to put the election behind us, quit making up false statements, and put America first again. The Coronavirus has left so many people without a job, unable to put food on the table, or worse yet homeless. We need to pull together as a Country and get the economy back on its feet so wages and benefits can also increase. We need to support one another throughout these difficult times no matter what side of the political arena that person is on. The Union was built on unity of individuals, not as an individual person.

## **Local 9 Elections**

Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, three Trustees, and eight Executive Board members will take place at the virtual regular membership meeting to be held on April 20, 2021.

No person shall be elected or appointed to an office of this Union unless she/he has been a member of this Union in continuous good standing for at least the preceding twelve months prior to the election or appointment. If there is but one candidate for each office, the election shall be dispensed with. Any candidate that is unopposed shall be declared the winner and their name shall not be placed on the ballot. In the event there are positions with more than one person nominated, ballots will be mailed within one week following the May meeting, per the Constitution.

## **2021 OPEIU Educational Scholarships**

This year there are two scholarships being offered and they are:

**Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship** for OPEIU members and their dependents.

**John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship** for OPEIU members who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in labor studies, industrial relations and union leadership and administration.

If you are interested in either one of these scholarships visit [OPEIU.org](http://OPEIU.org) and under Member Resources link it will give you the full details and application form.

## **2020 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The first two and half months saw the year start out as usual working on negotiations, grievances, and other member issues. Then the middle of March came and everything came to a halt with the pandemic on everyone's plate. From the middle of March through the middle of June I was on Zoom, Skype, and Team meetings as well as numerous conference calls every day.

Members were asked to work from home which created a new situation, with hours being worked, to internet problems, to discipline issues.

Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa were changing their positions constantly as the pandemic spread, this added uncertainty to how employers were going to have their employees work. For the most part everything was worked out for the betterment of the members.

The difficult part for me as the Business Manager was negotiating contracts via zoom instead of in-person. It brings a whole new outlook to how things are done instead of in-person negotiations. Listed below are the contracts that have either been extended or negotiated during the past year:

Milwaukee Transit Service  
Previant Law Firm  
Molson Coors Brewery  
Bricklayers  
BPA Laborers  
IBEW 2150  
Building Trades Pension Plan  
GCC/IBT  
SEIU HCII  
METC  
Lewis University

Please provide our new Administrative Assistant, Laura Winkelman, with your updated information – home address, personal email address and phone number, so that you can be kept informed of the happenings with Local 9. Her email address is [admin@opeiu9.org](mailto:admin@opeiu9.org)