



OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



For Bulletin Board Posting

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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, JANUARY 15, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

**Milwaukee Area Labor Council
633 S. Hawley Road
Milwaukee, WI 53214**

UPCOMING UNION MEETINGS

January 15th, 2019 – Membership Meeting 5:30 P.M.
Milwaukee Area Labor Council
6333 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214

February 19th, 2019 – Membership Meeting 5:30 P.M.
Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters, Local 215
5625 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53213

March 19th, 2019 – Membership Meeting 5:30 P.M.
SEIU HCII/SEIU Health Fund
2229 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60608

April 16th, 2019 – Membership Meeting 5:30 P.M.
(Nomination Night for Officers and Executive Board)
Milwaukee Professional Fire Fighters, Local 215
5625 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53213

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

As 2018 comes to a close the Officers, Executive Board and staff of Local 9 would like to wish all its members a joyous and festive holiday season. As we look to 2019, we need to reflect back on 2018 and look at the positive things that we need to carry forward and continue in 2019 and if there were negative things that happened to change those things into a positive direction for the betterment of 2019.

CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED & RATIFIED

Boilermakers Local 374
CWA Local 4603
Operating Engineers 420
UAW Local 893
Independent Employee Benefit Corp.
Plumbers & Steamfitters Union, Local 400
Fox River Valley Education Fund

LOCAL 9 & LOCAL 35 MERGER VOTE

After nearly a year of discussions, the Executive Boards of OPEIU, Local 9 and OPEIU, Local 35 unanimously voted to approve merging the locals together pending approval of the membership at the January 15th membership meeting.

The merger of Local 35 into Local 9 will double the current size of Local 9 from what it currently is today. The entire organization will benefit from this merger, from contract negotiations, to politically, and financially for future years to come.

If any member would like a copy of the signed Merger Agreement they can contact Business Manager Dave Rehberg at local9dave@sbcglobal.net and he will email a copy of the Agreement or it can be viewed on our web site at www.opeiu9.org.

Why a Merger Makes Sense

Our OPEIU region has experienced a steady decline in membership from anti-worker labor laws, subcontracting out work, automation, lack of organizing new members and other reasons. By joining together and combining resources, members of Local 9 and Local 35 will be in a much better position to create a stronger union.

Merger Benefits

- 1) Additional resources to bargain strong, union standard contracts
- 2) Additional union staff to strength member representation and support
- 3) Additional organizing resources to build and grow our membership
- 4) More clout for political action and influence
- 5) Enhanced member communications
- 6) Greater participation in union governance through membership meetings and other areas
- 7) Greater shop steward and member education opportunities
- 8) An opportunity to increase both internal and new organizing
- 9) Greater visibility and participation in the community
- 10) Greater efficiency and savings for members by combining administrative functions

When will this merger take place?

The Executive Boards of Local 9 and Local 35 have voted to approve the merger. The next step is for members to decide. Local 35 members will be voting at the January 10th Membership Meeting. Local 9 members will be voting at the January 15th Membership Meeting. Once members of Local 9 and members of Local 35 vote to approve the merger, the Merger Agreement becomes effective.

Will Local 35 be represented on Local 9's Executive Board?

Yes. The Merger Agreement designates that current Local 35 officers will fill interim seats on the Local 9 Executive Board. The next regularly scheduled nomination of all officers will be in April 2019 in accordance with the Local 9 Constitution and By-laws.

Will Shop Stewards or union staff change?

If you are currently a Shop Steward for Local 9 or Local 35, you can continue to be a Shop Steward. Local 35 administrative staff will become part of the Local 9 staff. Local 9 currently has a full-time Business Manager who will work with the current leaders of Local 9 and Local 35 to ensure that members are represented fully.

Where will the union office be located?

After the merger, we'll transition the Local 35 office to the current Local 9 office which is located in the building shared by the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO at 6333 W. Bluemound Rd. The location has plenty of space and is in a good location. We'll save money by consolidating offices. We'll be discussing the best location to hold membership meetings to make them accessible as possible to the members.

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

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