



Local 35 and Local 9

Stronger Together

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 35 and Local 9 will be in a much better position to create a stronger union.

Merger Benefits

- ✓ Additional resources to bargain strong, union standard contracts
- ✓ Additional union staff to strengthen member representation and support
- ✓ Additional organizing resources to build and grow our membership
- ✓ More clout for political action and influence
- ✓ Enhanced member communications
- ✓ Greater participation in union governance through membership meetings and other areas
- ✓ Greater shop steward and member education opportunities
- ✓ An opportunity to increase both internal and new organizing
- ✓ Greater visibility and participation in the community
- ✓ Greater efficiency and savings for members by combining administrative functions....*and more!*



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Questions and Answers about the Merger

Why are we voting to merge with Local 9?

Our Local 35 has experienced a steady decline in membership over the years and although current leaders have done a great job turning things around, we must join forces if we're going to survive as a union in the future. OPEIU Local 9 is based in Milwaukee and is in a position to have Local 35 members merge. Together we'll form a new and stronger Local 9. It's the best option for the members of Local 35 and for members of Local 9.

When will this merger take place?

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

How much will our dues be, if we merge with Local 9?

The current dues rate for Local 35 members is \$37.70 per month for members who work full-time and \$22.00 per month for members who work part-time. Local 35 bargaining unit members do not pay an initiation fee. The current dues rate and no initiation fee will remain the same until members vote on and approve any changes. In July 2019, a finance committee will convene to review the dues structure and finances of the merged Local 9. The finance committee will have an equal number of Local 35 and Local 9 members. The finance committee will make any recommendations to the membership about any changes to the dues rate and initiation fee. Members would vote on and approve any changes.

Will my current union contract change?

No. The merger will not impact your current union contract. Local 9 will notify each Local 35 employer about the merger and have each sign a new signature page of the contract in order to memorialize Local 9 as the new bargaining representative. It would be against the law for employers to refuse to bargain with Local 9 as the new entity representing Local 35 members.

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 35, you can continue to be a Shop Steward. Local 35 administrative staff will become part of the Local 9 staff. Local 9 has a full-time union representative who will work with the current leaders of Local 35 to ensure that members are represented fully.

I've been a member of Local 35 for 15 years, will I lose my union seniority if we become a part of Local 9?

No. Membership will be transferred directly. If you are a 15-year member of Local 35, after the merger, you'll become a 15-year member of Local 9. Your seniority in your workplace will not change by the merger.

Where will our 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 Labor Council at 6333 W. Bluemound Rd. in Milwaukee. This 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 as accessible as possible to members.

Who does Local 9 represent?

Local 9 has 460 members who work in credit unions, union offices and other workplaces based mostly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Local 9 also has some members in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio.