

Badger Lodge News



Newsletter for United Lodge 66, Machinists Union, AFL-CIO
Chartered: November 30, 1895



Vol. 16 No. 4

www.unitedlodge66.org & www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

April 2014

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

April 8, 2014

7:00 PM

2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800

**ALL Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.**

- **DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS - Tuesday thru Friday, 8AM to 4:30PM.**
- The deadline for articles for the May 2014 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is April 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- **Membership Meetings NOW 2nd Tuesday** of each month.

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dwc/iamawill66, afl-cio

United Lodge 66 Hall
& Union Office
is **SMOKE FREE.**

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference, February 2014

By Ron Simmelink, Recording Secretary



Ron

I just came back from attending the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists spring conference. It was my honor to serve the Lodge as delegate to the conference and wish to thank the members for allowing me to attend. The conference started out strong with dinner attended by some interesting speakers. Congresswoman Gwen Moore talked to our members and guests on the topics of her supporting raising the minimum wage. She feels there is too much inequality in this country and has a hope to raise the quality of life for all people. She also stated that it would be very hard to defeat Scott Walker in an upcoming election based on what happened with ACT 10 alone, but she went on to say that "since ACT 10 Scott Walker has managed to tick off everyone else!" She then enthusiastically states she is supporting a strong woman who knows what it's going to take to defeat Mr. Walker and announces her support for our next speaker Democratic Candidate Mary Burke.

Mary Burke was a pleasure to listen too. She stated she loves the State of Wisconsin along with its people. She feels Wisconsin has incredible potential and that **"WE DESERVE BETTER"**. She says we need leadership that brings people together. She also says Governor Walker is more interested in advancing his own career than putting people back to work. She promises to fight every day for the following if elected...to insure that woman can make their own choices, restore Collective Bargaining to Public employees, roll back school vouchers, raise the minimum wage, that every child would have access to public education, and **NOT PASS "right to work" legislation**. She wants to restore a sense of pride back to Wisconsin. Mary Burke then goes on to say she needs every Machinist to get out and help her in her campaign. She says that bigger corporate profits are not to be more important than a thriving middle class.



U.S. Representative Gwen Moore & Mary Burke

Monday was a productive day. Secretary Treasurer Stephanie Bloomingdale of the WI State AFL-CIO talked to members about INCOME INEQUALITY. She also noted the importance of AB611 and how companies can avoid paying overtime to workers, substituting it for time off at the employers discretion., AB750 and how a living wage ordinance would be a good

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"The Power of OUR Union is Directly Related to YOUR Level of Activism in OUR Union."

In My Opinion - Let us Not Forget

Joe Oulahan, Educator, United Lodge 66



Pepe

In April of last year the world was shocked by news of a building collapse in Savar Bangladesh killing 1100 workers and leaving hundreds of others injured and/or trapped in the rubble. As news of the disaster evolved it was reported that the top four floors of the building housed garment factories used to supply western brands such as Benneton, Primark and Walmart.

It also came to light that the building in question was built without legal permits, and was facing multiple building code violations. In fact, the day before the collapse, building inspectors had reportedly condemned the building citing structural deficiencies. This inspection caused a bank and shops on the lower floors to close.

But, the garment workers on the top floors were ordered to report to work or face dismissal. With no Union to protect them the workers had no choice. The average wage of workers at the plant was reported to be \$18.00 a month. A wage that even by Bangladesh standards is not close to enough to live on. Five months earlier a fire at a Tarzeen Fashions factory in Bangladesh killed 112 workers.

Hopefully, we as Union activists were sickened by these striking examples of the abuses that come with corporate globalization and the lack of worker protections. Maybe some of us donated money to help survivors or participated in the anti-sweat shop protests that cropped up around the incidents. And maybe a few of us were spurred to increase our involvement in the fight to secure global worker rights. But, for most of us we returned to our lives and business as usual. After all, what can we really do?

The answer is there are many things we can do. Attend a Union meeting, run for Union office, attend a rally, volunteer for a Get Out The Vote campaign, or in short: participate.

You may say how does that help workers in Bangladesh?

We often forget that although we may belong to a particular Union, our true strength comes from being part of a movement. Anything we do to strengthen our movement ultimately helps to strengthen the rights of all workers.

We as Union activists should also remember a similar avoidable accident in our own country. In 1911, one hundred and forty-six young female workers were killed in a horrific fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City.

Reaction to that workplace accident played a major role in passage of the National Labor Relations Act and ushered in decades of Union growth and the growth of a booming American middle class.

So, as we approach the one year anniversary of the horrible workplace accident that happened 8,421 miles from our borders it is important that we recognize that time does not erase, or even decrease the devastating effects of unregulated greed. That if multinational corporations allow this to happen in another country why would they not do it here? And, finally, when someone says that Unions are outdated or are not needed any more we turn to them and say *"I remember Bangladesh!"*

Executive Council Resolution

Whereas: The delegates to the WI State Council of Machinists being held February 23, 24 and 25, 2014, at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club in Madison, WI, realize our union needs strong and experienced leadership in these trying times; and

Whereas: There is Executive Council Election in April 2014. That is very important to all the members of International Association of Machinists and Aero Space Workers; and

Whereas: The current Executive Council of the International Association of Machinists has proven their leadership abilities in the offices they hold,

Therefore Be

It Resolved: That the body of this Wisconsin State Council of Machinists go on record as supporting and fully endorsing the re-election of the incumbent Executive Council in its entirety.

The Committee recommends adoption of this resolution. The members of the Resolution Committee: Ivan Collins, LL 66, Joseph Skonieczny LL 78, Sharon Becker LL2053.

(editors note: a similar resolution was passed at the March 2014 United Lodge 66 membership/business meeting.)

IAMUNION

Activities for You and Your Family

- **March 29, 2014**, Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Day event, see flyers online at www.unitedlodge66.org.
- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council** delegate meeting: **April 2, 2014** at **6:30pm**, new location at Juneau Complex, in auditorium, 6415 W. Mount Vernon.
- A. Philip Randolph Institute Discussion On *'The Continuing Struggle for Racial Equality and Economic Justice'*, **April 5, 2014**. FREE and open to all - see more on page 6.
- Christmas Videos & **MORE** are at www.youtube.com/badgerlodge.
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** class schedule for 2013 is available online (<http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/courselist>) or at your Union office. Or come to any Union meeting and just ask. This center is open to all members, you just need to be active and want to be the future leader at your worksite or at United Lodge 66.



This year's **Bay View Tragedy commemoration** promises to be every bit as inspiring as any the Society has held since we began the event in 1986.

A keynote address by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO President Phil Neuenfeldt, memorable songs by labor's own folksinger Larry Penn, larger-than-life puppets to re-enact the 1886 massacre and the presence of the Solidarity Singers from Madison will be

featured. The event will be held at:

3 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 2014

State Historical Marker Site
S. Superior St. and E. Russell Ave.,
Milwaukee

Register here for the 33rd Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Labor History Society to be held:

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2014

UAW Local 833 Hall
5425 Superior Ave., Sheboygan WI

Conference Topic: "The Kohler Strikes: Three Decades of Struggle. What can labor learn? What works today?"

Not only will the conference trace the history of the UAW Local 833 - Kohler strikes, but it will seek to discuss how labor is responding to today's challenges.

It should be an informative and exciting conference. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 17



(A) Walker when he ran for Governor in 2010 he promised to create 250,00

new jobs in his first term.

As of January 30, 2014, Politifact Wisconsin stated Walker has created 107,572 jobs. Walker has until October 31, 2014 to create the other 57% of his promise!

(B) Walker on planning to run for a second term on February 26, 2014 promised not to raise property taxes through 2018.

(C) **Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.**

Wisconsin Jobs Lags Midwest

Article on: March 20, 2014, Mary Spicuzza, Wisconsin State Journal

Wisconsin ranked 35th in private-sector job creation, by federal numbers released on March 19, 2014.

The quarterly numbers released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, show that Wisconsin added 28,351 jobs over the most recent 12 months for which information is available, from September 2012 to September 2013. That amounts to a 1.2 percent increase.

continued from page 1, Wisconsin State Council of Machinists

thing for workers, and AB667 making the 24 hr. rest period in 13 days voluntary would lead to intimidation in the workplace where workers feel they must work every day in order to keep their jobs. She ends her speech by stating that the best ticket to a strong middle class is a "Union card".

Mitchell Stille of the WI State AFL-CIO was in my opinion the best speaker of the entire conference. He talked to us about what could happen to the people of Wisconsin should Wisconsin decide to move forward with "right to work" legislation. He clearly showed us the correlation of right to work states and states that have a Republican Governor. He showed us that the only ones that benefit from this legislation are corporations and business owners. **Workers in "right to work" states earn approximately \$5,330 dollars per year less than workers earn in states that do not have this legislation.**

Thomas Flanagan of The Previant Law Firm went over just how Worker's Compensation Laws are passed, and very strongly hopes that the current bill is passed. He feels that this bill is in the best interest of both workers and employers. He goes on to say that although it is not "perfect", it is a good improvement over the way things are currently being done.

Our own Brian Goode of Union Financial, Inc. spoke to those in attendance about the importance of educating our members on the need for doing a retirement income evaluation. Members need to be aware of the products out there to help them maximize their retirement income and in turn increase their own quality of life during those years. I would encourage each member to give Brian a call and see how Union Financial can help you come up with a retirement plan according to your comfort and risk level. This service is free to our members.

The above mentioned are what I will remember most about the conference. I was able to go to the Capital, and other than some spirited singing in the rotunda it was very quiet. I don't believe that many Assembly and Congress leaders were around. I would however like to encourage our members to look up these assembly bills and contact your elected representatives and tell them your stance on the issues at hand. It is your duty, it is your life, and it is your right!

Overcoming Retirement Challenges

Contributed by: Brian Goode, Financial Representative from Union Financial Inc. Brian is a dues paying member of IAM Local Lodge 66. Brian is available for a no cost financial / retirement planning for all Lodge 66 members
Ph.262-835-9111 , email: goode.brian@princor.com



Brian

In a 2013 survey of people aged 50 to 70 with \$100,000 or more in investable assets, 90% reported that they had experienced at least one setback in saving for retirement. In fact, the average respondent had experienced four setbacks with an average loss or missed opportunity of \$117,000.

(1)

The future is always uncertain, and as the saying goes, “Life happens.” It would be wise to prepare for the unexpected and react logically rather than emotionally when faced with retirement challenges. Here are some obstacles you might need to

overcome.

Surviving market downturns. More than half of those surveyed said their assets had been reduced by market losses during the Great Recession.(2) Yet another survey suggested that about 50% of workers who were 32 to 51 when the recession started actually showed gains in their retirement accounts during the 2007 to 2009 period. (3) This group may have had lower balances when the recession began, and it’s likely that they continued saving throughout the downturn, which might have helped them benefit when the market started to improve. Remember that all investments are subject to market fluctuation and the potential for loss.

Saving too little or too late. To accumulate sufficient assets to retire at age 65, one rule of thumb suggests saving 15% of income starting at age 25. Someone starting at age 35 might need to save about 30% each year, and the savings percentage would increase to about 64% annually for someone starting to save at age 45! (4) If these percentages seem unrealistic, consider that any savings increase is better than none. In addition to maximizing your retirement contributions, you may also need to adjust your lifestyle and control your spending. Once you reach age 50, you are eligible to make additional “catch-up” contributions.

Experiencing a traumatic event. A job loss, unexpected medical expense, death of a loved one, or divorce might make it difficult to save for retirement. Having an emergency savings account that could help cover at least three to six months of living expenses would put you in a stronger position. If possible, avoid tapping your retirement savings, especially tax-deferred IRAs and 401(k)s, because withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty if taken prior to age 59½. When your life returns to normal, try to save as much as possible at the highest contribution rate you can afford.

Balancing college and retirement. When these two priorities compete, many people — 15%, according to one survey — stop saving for retirement to pay for their children’s educational costs.(5) A wide variety of college funding options are available, but there is no “scholarship” for retirement. The key is to balance your children’s needs with your own retirement goals and find an appropriate strategy.

The road to retirement is long, winding, and seldom smooth. But with patience and a steady commitment, you could reach your destination regardless of how many obstacles you encounter along the way.

1–2) DailyFinance.com, May 14, 2013

3) The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2013

4) Forbes.com, September 24, 2012

5) usnews.com, March 4, 2013

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RETIREEES, read my lips, *please* ...

While we may think we have ours ... but we need to make sure we keep what we have ... as well as make sure others will get theirs at retirement age. We need to make sure we are not the last to retiree with some dignity.

One simply way is to get involved and join the:

- [Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans](http://www.wisconsinara.org), 6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53213; 414-771-9511; www.wisconsinara.org; (or find a chapter in your state, Lodge 66 can help you with this) or
- [National Alliance for Retired Americans](http://www.nationalallianceforretiredamericans.org), 815 - 16th Street NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20006; 202-637-5399; or
- **BOTH**



Send Your Thoughts, *To those who should be working for you!*

President Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Ron Johnson, Republican

386 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5323
www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

Senator Tammy Baldwin, Democrat

1 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5653
www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Representative Paul Ryan, 1st District, Republican

1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3031
www.paulryan.house.gov

Representative Gwen Moore, 4th District, Democrat

2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4572
www.gwenmoore.house.gov

Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, 5th District, Republican

2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5101
www.sensenbrenner.house.gov

Representative Tom Petri, 6th District, Republican

2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2476
www.petri.house.gov

Representative Sean Duffy, 7th District, Republican

1208 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3365
<https://duffy.house.gov>

Governor Scott Walker, Republican

115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53707
608-266-1212

Seniors Corner

Stand up to the American Legislative Exchange Council and Protect Pensions

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a corporate-funded, “pay-to-play” lobbying group that brings corporations and state legislators together to craft “model” legislation. The “model bills” they craft, regrettably, put corporate profits before the public interest. Stand up to ALEC – the coalition group that includes the Alliance for Retired Americans, the AFL-CIO, and other unions and allies, will focus on pensions during the week of March 17. ALEC’s goal is to wipe out public pension systems in favor of private 401(k) type plans. In a Wall Street-managed, individual 401(k) world, workers would lose their ability to save, invest and take action collectively. For a fact sheet on ALEC and retirement security, go to <http://tinyurl.com/l6ruewq>.

“ALEC and its sister organization, the State Policy Network, are planning campaigns, lobbying activities, and lawsuits to challenge and degrade state and local public pension systems in numerous states,” said Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance. “Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania are targets at the least, and we cannot afford to stay out of this battle. We will reach out to expose these anti-democratic efforts step-by-step.”

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-771-9511

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

Alliance for Retired Americans

888-16th Street, NW Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006
202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497
Fax 202-974-8256

www.retiredamericans.org



Need a reason to get the rewards credit card designed to meet the needs of hard-working Union members like you?

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For details about the rewards card and to find out about the alternative Low Intro Rate card, [visit UnionCardApply.com](http://UnionCardApply.com)



“The Continuing Struggle for Racial Equality and Economic Justice,”

Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10am to 1pm

Labors Local 113 Union Hall, 6310 W. Appleton Avenue, Milwaukee

FREE and OPEN to ALL

By the Milwaukee Chapter of A. Philip Randolph Institute

More info: Nacarci Feaster, 414-534-1735 or aprimilwchapter@gmail.com

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Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com

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**Business/Membership Meetings are -
 2nd Tuesday, 7PM each month.**

District 10 Office Directory

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;

dial 414-643-4334, then extension for your Business Agent:

Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	16
Greg Pursell	24
Alex Hoekstra	26
John Rolbiecki	25
Larry Morrow (Organizer)	15

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