

# Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 15 No. 5

[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org) & [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)

August 2013

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

**\*\*\*August 13, 2013\*\*\***

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 September 2013 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is August 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/iamawll66, afl-cio*

## Is Cutting Taxes The Only Way?

*By Leon Burzynski*

One of the complaints heard most often during political discourse among retirees or seniors, or those wanting to be retirees, is that "taxes are too high." We hear and read statements like "I already paid for the schools and roads; now it is time for someone else to pick up the tab." Others simply complain "without telling you which programs they would cut and why."

I believe having that attitude is comparable to the 'taxpayer revolt' syndrome that appears to have taken the nation by storm during the past several decades. For those who believe they are financially comfortable in retirement, this column may seem unimportant. This problem belongs to our kids and grandkids. After all, "We have ours; retirement concerns no longer apply to us."

As I reflect on the issue of taxes, it is precisely our kids and grandkids that concern me. They also complain about taxes along with the rest of us. The present state of the economy, coupled with the predictions for their future, does not bode well for an escape from the economic vise in which they find themselves.

A recent report estimates the median net worth of all Americans, excluding homes and cars, to be \$10,890. Adding homes in the equation doesn't do much. The 2008 crash of the economy erased trillions of dollars of "housing wealth."

The real challenge when considering taxes is where to assign the blame. This is an area politicians have exploited in ways average folks cannot fathom. By twisting and flat-out lying about expenditures and budgets, we are led to believe cutting taxes is the only answer.

The idea of cutting taxes has an appealing ring. We all would like to see a little more in our pocket and a little less going to taxes. Politicians tell us cutting taxes, the "austerity plan," will be good for the country.

Historically, austerity has failed dismally. If you dislike history, just review what austerity has brought to the European economy during the past four years. It is a disaster.

In the United States, political leaders married to austerity, like Paul Ryan, continue to call for cuts to social programs as a way to cut taxes. Ryan just voted to throw 1.8 million poor Americans off food stamps. This is the same Paul Ryan who boasts that he used Social Security benefits to put himself through college.

Ryan also wants to cut Medicare coverage for seniors and Social Security payments while giving more tax cuts to corporations.

**In my opinion, the issue is not cutting taxes; it is making the tax system fair and equitable.** Retirees and working families foot almost the entire U.S. tax load while **corporation pay little or no taxes. It is time for a change.**



*Leon Burzynski,  
President Emeritus Wisconsin  
Alliance for Retirees Americans*



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



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





## “Spirit of the Midwest” Rides for Guide Dogs of America

*Sponsored by the Machinists Union Midwest Territory  
July 20, 2013*

*Pictures and material by Mike King,  
Midwest Communicator*

This sponsorship did start in 2009 with a series of week-end events in the St. Louis area.

These events does show a devotion of pride and dedication by everyone, while providing the opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause, Guide Dogs of America. GDA does not

receive any federal or state funding support. GDA was started

by a blind Machinists Union (IAM)

member and was incorporated in 1948. Since that time, GDA has helped more than 2000 blind and visually impaired men and women free of charge.



This years poker run started at IAM District 10 in Milwaukee, WI. The event drew the largest number of motorcycles, riders, and participants to date. Riders went west of Milwaukee to Waukesha and through the Kettle Moraine area south and north of I94. The north end stop was at IAM Local 873 in Horicon; where everyone enjoyed the

food and beverages Local 873 did provide. The ride returned through the Kettle Moraine area to Milwaukee where the riders went to the Harley Davidson museum in downtown Milwaukee. The Previant Law Firm donated the tickets for the museum tour. Riders returned for supper at IAM District 10 and awards were presented.

This is a yearly event and if you feel left out then stay connected to United Lodge 66 for information and visit our website at: [www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org).

## Activities for You and Your Family

- **Protect American Workers/Protect American Jobs Rally on August 3, 2013, 10am** at Zeidler Union Square Park, 301 W. Michigan Street, Milwaukee
- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council: August 7, at 6:30pm.**
- **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.





## [WWW.Labornotes.org](http://WWW.Labornotes.org)

Labor Notes is a media and organizing project that has been the voice of union activists who want to put the movement back in the labor movement since 1979.

Through their magazine, website, books, conferences and workshops, they promote organizing, aggressive strategies to fight concessions, alliances with workers' centers, and unions that are run by their members.

Labor Notes is also a network of rank-and-file members, local union leaders, and labor activists who know the labor movement is worth fighting for. We encourage connections between workers in different unions, workers centers, communities, industries, and countries to strengthen the movement—from the bottom up.

That movement is needed because workers are being hit hard by their employers. We have lower real wages, less job security, and smaller, weaker unions than our mothers and fathers did.

## What is a Union?

An organization of workers joined together for a common purpose, for mutual aid and protection, to engage in concerted activity and collective bargaining, to elevate their conditions of life and labor; an organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.

Well .... what are we/you willing to do?

# Passive Resistance Won't Kill ObamaCare Either!

By Barbara Shelly, *Kansas City Star*

ObamaCare haters first looked to the U.S. Supreme Court to kill health care reform. When that did not work, they fixed their hopes on Mitt Romney's election and a Republican takeover of the U.S. Senate. Foiled again.

Opponents in Washington and state legislatures are now turning to passive resistance. If you follow the legislatures in Missouri and Kansas (now Wisconsin) you see how it works. Refuse to set up a state insurance exchange. Turn down an opportunity to reform Medicaid and get more people into health insurance. Cheer Congress as it denies federal agencies the funds needed to get the Affordable Care Act up and running.

Make the rollout as bumpy as possible. And when you detect a stumble, declare the entire law a failure.

**There is just one problem with this self-fulfilling prophecy. For consumers, the law is actually working very well.**

Insurers can no longer not cover a child with a pre-existing condition, and that protection will apply to adults in 2014. Lifetime limits on coverage have been banned. At least 80% of what consumers pay in insurance premiums must be spent on medical care. New insurance plans must pay for checkups and preventive measures without co-pays or deductibles. Health plans are easier to read and understand.

A tracking service compiled by the Henry G. Kaiser Family Foundation shows that of 57 provisions scheduled to be carried out by the end of 2012, all but two are in place and the provisions for this year are rolling out on schedule.

The biggest, trickiest parts of the law are yet to come, however, and the efforts to obstruct are making a mark. Congress did not expect 33 states to default to a federally run insurance marketplace. Getting the exchanges set up and ready for the start of open enrollment on October 1 is looking like a titanic task, made harder by Congress refusal to allocate sufficient funds to educate consumers on how to use the new system.

It also appears more than half the states will not expand Medicaid eligibility this year, despite the extraordinary



**Long  
Road**

Click on image or Long Road or copy and paste; then enjoy: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqLr7d\\_88XU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqLr7d_88XU)

flexibility from President Obama's administration in allowing states to craft their own models.

That will prevent the Affordable Care Act from achieving its coverage goals, no doubt to the glee of the Republican governors and lawmakers who refused to cover more people. But those same obstructionists will have to explain why hundreds of thousands of citizens still can not have access to a doctor, and why hospitals remained burdened with uninsured patients, when federal money is available to provide them with coverage.

As it has from the beginning, the crippling of ObamaCare relies on omission and distortion.

Opponents somberly recite every report of anticipated insurance rate increases, without noting that the law calls for subsidies to offset those hikes.

They repeat ad nauseum a projection from the Congressional Budget Office that the health care law could result in as many as 800,000 Americans being unemployed, not mentioning that those are the people the CBO expects to retire voluntarily once they no longer have to worry about spending all of their retirement savings on exorbitant health care costs.

ObamaCare haters are too fixated on their cause to realize it is doomed. The consumer protections already in place are popular, even if the law itself is not. Having come this far, we can not go back to the old way, in which the only real guarantee of being able to afford health care was to never, ever get sick.

The jalopy called health care reform needs money for parts and is carrying too much excess baggage. But it will continue to lurch forward, the journey made easier as the forecast disaster fails to materialize.

## Republican Tax Hike

from AARP Bulletin

The chained CPI is a new way to calculate cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security and Veterans Benefits. Regrettably President Obama included it in his most recent budget proposal. Most of the attention has been on how this new consumer price index, if adopted, would be stingier with annual increases in benefits.

But the chained CPI (C-CPI) could also increase your taxes. Experts estimate that taxes would increase for about 80% of all taxpayers.

How? Every year, the Internal Revenue Service makes adjustments, based on inflation, to income tax brackets, standard deductions, personal exemptions and more. The adjustments help prevent bumping taxpayers into higher brackets and making them pay more because of inflation. Because the chained CPI would yield smaller increases than the current formula, more of your income would be taxes at a higher rate.

"This impacts a lot of middle-class families," said Cristina Martin Firvida, AARP director of financial security and consumer affairs.

Taxpayers with income of \$10,000 to \$20,000 would see their taxes rise the most, by almost 7% over 16 years, according to the Tax Policy Center in Washington. The higher the tax bracket, the lower the percentage increase, bottoming out at 0.2% for those earning more than \$1 million a year.

So in addition to cutting Social Security by \$127 billion over 10 years, the chained CPI would raise income taxes by \$142 billion.

## How Are You Affected By The Chained CPI?

Visit this site: [aarp.org/whatyoulose](http://aarp.org/whatyoulose).



# IS YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY AT RISK?

Right now, some politicians in Washington want to cut Social Security and veterans' benefits by \$146 billion over the next 10 years alone. They call it chained CPI—a fancy Washington term that really means cutting the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and veterans' benefits. The cut would start now and grow larger over time.

**UNDER THE CHAINED CPI, THE CUMULATIVE BENEFIT CUT FOR THE AVERAGE 65+ RETIREE WOULD BE:**

A typical senior has an annual income of only  
**\$20,000**



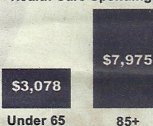
## WHAT THE CHAINED CPI MEANS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY & YOU



### IT'S LESS ACCURATE FOR SENIORS

Many seniors spend much of their money on necessities like prescription drugs and health care – items that don't have lower-cost substitutes.

Annual Out-of-Pocket Health Care Spending



Out-of-pocket health care spending is **2.5 times** higher for those 85+ than those under 65



### WOMEN WILL FEEL THE EFFECTS LONGER

Women tend to live longer and make up a larger share of the population as it ages.



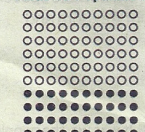
**68%** of Social Security recipients age 85+ are **women**



### DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF FALLING INTO POVERTY

Many people with disabilities spend a large share of their income on health care, which rises faster than inflation and doesn't have lower-cost substitutes.

Disabled Population



**40%** of people with disabilities are kept out of poverty by Social Security



### OLDER VETERANS WOULD BE HURT TWICE

Social Security AND veterans benefits will both be cut by the chained CPI, so every COLA dollar lost will have a huge impact.



By age 90, a 62-year-old veteran would lose **\$32,000** in total benefits

Learn how much you could lose and have your say at [aarp.org/whatyoulose](http://aarp.org/whatyoulose).

## Seniors Corner

### Long Term Care and Nursing Homes

By generating close to \$500 billion dollars in Medicare savings, the Affordable Care Act allows for innovative initiatives that address long-term care. One example of this is the Community Living Assistance Services Support Act (CLASS Act), which will create a national long-term care insurance program. This insurance option will be financed through voluntary payroll deductions that will provide cash benefits to enrollees who are unable to perform activities of daily living. Moreover, the new law provides incentives for states to increase Medicaid funding to long-term care and nursing home services. These provisions, along with many others, will ensure that, as America's seniors get older they are provided with the care that they need in order to maintain a healthy and quality lifestyle.

In Wisconsin, Walker has rejected \$4.38 billion in federal funds under the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid coverage. This will mean about 84,700 Wisconsinites will be adversely affected by forcing them in the private insurance exchanges. Then our state government will have to make extra payments to hospitals to reimburse them for treating the increased number of uninsured due to his decision.

Walkers' reasoning is that he can not trust the federal government to keep providing the federal funds for Medicaid. Well, Walker, then how can you trust the federal government to keep paying for road building once you start a project.

**Walker Lies, but Good!**

### 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](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

## Support the Strengthen Social Security Act (S.567)

Instead of a cold, calculated benefit cut like the Chained CPI, the Strengthen Social Security Act (S.567), introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) would actually increase annual Social Security benefits by an average of \$800!

# Car Pooling

**From Kenosha:** Want to car-pool to Union Meeting? Contact Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-605-0436 or [bpaaroskenosha@yahoo.com](mailto:bpaaroskenosha@yahoo.com)



**From Sheboygan:** from Sheboygan or picking members up in Port Washington call: Ron Simmelink, 920-627-0325, from Kiefer & Company in Sheboygan.



The federal minimum wage was last increased on

July 24, 2009. There was a day of action on July 24, 2013 to bring to remind America 30 million workers need a raise.

Representative George Miller (D-Calif.) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) have introduced the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 to raise the wage to \$10.10 and index it to inflation. This bill also increases the minimum wage for tipped workers.

**Why is it that Republicans can not support increasing the minimum wage but vote to increase their own salaries?** Who do they think is paying them?

## Officers, LL66 Machinists Union

President . . . . . Mike Pietrzykowski  
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The views and opinions expressed by various writers in this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive Board or the LL66 membership. The Editor reserves the right to publish, edit, or exclude publication of any article submitted to "*Badger Lodge News*". Any member may contribute articles for publication; send to United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438. Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or [lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com)  
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<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>  
*dwc/tamawll66, afl-cio*

**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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