

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 15 No. 8

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

November 2013

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

November 12, 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 December 2013 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is November 23.
- 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



Most of us came
into our Union
jobs with all the
benefits and
work environ-
ment in place for
which others
fought.

Unions, What Have They Even Done For Me?

8 - hour day
Paid Sick Leave
Higher Wages
Health Insurance
Overtime Pay
Pensions
Safer Working Conditions
Paid Holidays
Job Security
Severance Pay
Paid Vacations
Maternity Leave



Our Union movement came
from the community.



To survive we need that community
back in our Union.

*What Are YOU Willing To Do?
What you MUST be willing to Do?*

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

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists, Fall 2013

by Ron Simmelink, Recording Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LL66:



I just finished watching the Packers take care of business against the Lions. Good game for the pack! I figured I would use the rest of my afternoon to report about the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Convention that I attended on September 26-28th in Appleton. Personally the event was somewhat bitter-sweet for me as I was battling some kind of illness on Friday evening and stayed confined to my room to try to get some rest. Thursday evening I must say I enjoyed a good game of Texas Holdem with some fellow brothers and ended up in 2nd place overall. Congratulations to the winner. After the game a handful of us went out to socialize and unwind. We all had a nice time getting to know some members from John Deere. We have some really good leaders in our group. I encourage you all to take the time to get to know each other when given the chance.

Thursday September 26 Midwest General Vice President Brother Phil Gruber opened Dinner with a brief update on the need to hold another Election for the Grand Lodge Executive Council (our International Union). Watch for further information on this. The unfortunate thing in all of this is that it is estimated to cost approximately \$1.6 Million Dollars to redo this election and it is a very good bet, that the results will not change one bit. That money could be better spent on more important things.

Machinists Union Non-Partisan Political League Co-Director Rick de la Fuente gave us a brief update on the political side of the Nation. This ended with some spirited questions about what we as machinists are going to do about Congressional Leaders in this state of Wisconsin that appear to be in a more Liberal area and continue to hold office.

The answer was basically this...If we don't like how things are turning out perhaps we need to get off of butts and get involved. It takes a grass roots movement with personal face to face meetings with real people to find out what concerns they may have and how can we help to change things. It also takes plenty of resources, and much like the vote we need to spend money on that I mentioned above, if the candidates aren't strong, and financial resources aren't there then it might end up a complete waste of money that could be better spent elsewhere. So...I just want to report on our leaders in both the Senate and House on issues that are important to RETIREES. My findings can be verified by going to the GOIAM.ORG website. The information is from the Alliance for Retired Americans 112th Congress dated Jan-Dec of 2011.

Senator Herb Kohl a Democrat scored 100% on issues that would help retirees. Lifetime he is 97%.

Senator Ron Johnson a Republican scored 0% on the same issues and lifetime he scored 0% as well.

In the House these are the scores:

Ryan (R)	10%	lifetime 6%
Baldwin (D)	100%	100%
Kind (D)	80%	93%
Moore (D)	100%	100%
Sensenbrenner (R)	0%	6%
Petri (R)	0%	13%
Duffy (R)	0%	0%
Ribble (R)	0%	0%



Again these are not my numbers made up but reported by the Alliance for Retired Americans concerning the 112th Congress voting records from Jan-Dec of 2011. The state of Wisconsin is clearly divided politically. We don't have to go back in time too long to remember the fight in Madison against the Unions in this great State. That was only the beginning...This fight is going throughout the Midwest and beyond. Resources are needed all over this Nation to counter-attack the lies and find true friends of Labor to help turn this country around. I have rambled enough on this and want to end by encouraging each and every member to research what our Elected Leaders are doing and ask you....have you personally contacted them to either thank them or tell them to start representing the real people of this state and not the Corporations that have a different agenda.

(Wisconsin State Council of Machinists ... continued next page)

Activities for You and Your Family

- Milwaukee Area Labor Council delegate meeting: **November 6, at 6:30pm.**
- United Lodge 66 Business Meeting and Union Sportmen's Alliance Gun Raffle is **November 12, 2013 at 7pm.**
- **United Lodge 66 Christmas Party, December 14, 2013**
- Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center class schedule for 2013 is available online (<http://winpisinger.jamaw.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.

Previant Legal Seminar :

What You Need to Know About the Affordable Care Act

Whether you call it the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Obamacare, the new health insurance law will have major ramifications for Unions, members, health funds, and participants. The Previant Law Firm is pleased to offer an informative presentation on the new law and what it means for union leaders and fund trustees. Join us in Milwaukee, November 7th, for this live presentation by Attorneys Frank Locante, Jill Hartley, and Adam Abelson. The presentation will include:

- * An overview of changes that have already gone into effect
- * Understanding Health Care Exchanges
- * Employer Shared Responsibility
- * Negotiating Contracts under the ACA
- * What to expect in the future.

Attendance is free for union and fund representatives and will be followed by a light lunch. Preregistration is preferred for purposes of ordering lunch, however same day registration will also be available. To register for the event, please click below:

Milwaukee: November 7, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (or register at seminars@previant.com; **Nathan Eisenberg at 414-223-0415; seminar location is Plumbers Local 75, 11175 W. Parkland Avenue, Milwaukee 53224**)

(Disclaimer: The content of this email and any attached or referenced pages have been written or gathered by The Previant Law Firm, S.C., Suite 202, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. This email is not intended to solicit legal work for The Previant Law Firm S.C. in any jurisdiction or state where the law firm or its attorney are not licensed to practice. Pursuant to Wisconsin SCR 20:7.3 this communication may be considered ADVERTISING MATERIAL. Please send all inquiries to news@previant.com.)

(continued ... Wisconsin State Council of Machinists)

Back to the Convention... It was interesting to hear from International President Thomas Buffenbarger on Saturday the 28th. He expressed how "sick and tired" he was of our Politicians bickering. He is extremely proud of the Machinists that stood up to Gov. Walker in Madison. He also stated that every one of us needs to get involved in the fight. No one is going to do it for us. He mentioned the movie..."Too Big to Fail", and he encouraged everyone to watch it. If I am not mistaken the Lodge showed this movie about a year ago and it is a good movie about how Wall Street fell.

Why do I pay dues? Is a question that some of our members may ask.... President Buffenbarger answered this ..."To help us make a fight to save our way of life!" Members that ask this truly do not understand the attack on workers in this country. Look at the attack on Pensions and Healthcare just to name a few issues.

President Buffenbarger also touched on Article 20 of the AFL-CIO constitution. It's concerning the "no raiding" clause. This came about concerning some issues we are having at the national level and the Teamsters. He also mentioned the IAM has been against the Affordable Care Act due to the fact that it doesn't cover everyone and is not a "Single Payer System". They are for a system that is closer to that of Medicare and I encourage you all do some research on it.

Brothers and Sisters please forgive me for ending this short but my report is already longer than anticipated. Many more things were presented and discussed. I would be happy discuss them individually if you care. I will end by quoting Abraham Lincoln which was brought to our attention from Attorney Steve Kluender of the Previant Law Firm which represents Union Workers...

"He, who represents himself in a lawsuit, has a fool for a client."
Abe Lincoln

Hmmm...Why do I pay dues?



President Buffenbarger at Wisconsin State Council



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Milwaukee Office
1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 202
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
888-513-3592
Local: 414-875-3955
Fax: 414-271-6308

CREDIT REPORT



Reviewing your credit reports regularly is a good idea — to keep track of your credit history, especially if you plan to apply for a home mortgage.

From Union Plus.org

What's in your credit report?

Your credit report captures key data about you and your finances:

Personal information

- Addresses where you've lived
- Employment history
- Phone number(s)
- Variations of your name, if any

Potentially negative items

- Public records like bankruptcy, liens and court judgments
- Credit accounts with defaults and late payments that stay on your credit report an

average of seven years

Accounts in good standing

- All current revolving and installment accounts
- Balances and payment histories that may stay on your credit report even after accounts are closed

Requests for your credit report

- Requests for credit that you initiate
- Information about creditors who are monitoring your credit
- Pre-screened offers as allowed by law

It's easy to order your free annual credit report from each of the three main credit bureaus one time per year. Just call 1-877-322-8228 or go to annualcreditreport.com, the only official site for free credit reports.

How do credit scores work?

The three major credit reporting agencies generally calculate your credit score by evaluating five key criteria:

- Payment history (about 35% of the score)
- Amounts owed (about 30%)
- Length of credit history (about 15%)
- Recently opened credit accounts (about 10%)
- The mix of credit in use, such as credit cards, revolving debt, and mortgages (about 10%)

Typically, the higher the credit score, the less risk a lender takes on. Wonder why this is important? Loan customers with low credit scores may face higher down payment requirements and higher interest rates.

Why do lenders look at credit reports?

Lenders review your credit reports to decide whether or not to lend you money based, in part, on the history they see on your credit report. And they use your credit score to determine how much of a risk you are — typically, a higher credit score indicates less credit risk for the lender. Lenders look at your:

- Payment track record
- Current debts
- Credit history
- New accounts
- Types of credit

What can lower a credit score?

- A history of late payments
- An excessive amount of debt
- Legal judgments, such as a past foreclosure or bankruptcy
- A large number of new credit accounts
- Numerous credit applications

How can I manage my credit?

- Establish your credit history
- Stay current with your bills
- Pay down the amounts you owe
- Keep your balances low on credit cards and other revolving debt
- Don't open new credit accounts you don't need

Keep in mind — negative items in your credit history have less impact as time passes. A missed payment four years ago has a less negative impact on your credit score than a missed payment four months ago.

Our Social Security ...

We just went through 16 days where reactionaries put our country's future in jeopardy. They will be back to more of their hateful antics and another will be to attack and diminish our Social Security, *which has not added a cent to the national debt.*

On our side is **Democrat Representative Linda Sanchez, from California**, who announced the introduction of the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013, or HR 3118.

The Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013 improves the short-term and long-term health of Social Security in three steps. First, H.R. 3118 would change the benefit calculation formula the Social Security Administration uses, which would increase benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries by approximately \$70 per month. Second, the Strengthening Social Security Act would change the way the Social Security Administration calculates the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), ensuring that benefits better reflect the increasing costs facing seniors today. Third, H.R. 3118 would phase out the current taxable cap of \$113,700 so that all Americans contribute to Social Security taxes fairly.

"Right now, millionaires and billionaires are being given a free pass: an absolute cap on their contributions to Social Security," said Congressman Rush Holt (NJ-12). "No matter how many millions of dollars they earn, they don't contribute even a penny more in taxes. This is wrong. It's time to preserve and expand Social Security by asking the very wealthy to pay the same Social Security tax rate as everyone else." "We applaud Representative Linda Sanchez's bill which enhances benefits and strengthens the long-term solvency of our Social Security system," Eric Kingson, Founding Co-Director of Social Security Works. "Americans are fortunate that Representative Sanchez and the bill's co-sponsors recognize that the nation's retirement income crisis must be addressed by building upon, not cutting, our Social Security, the nation's most reliable retirement vehicle, built by hard work and payroll tax contributions over many generations."

H.R. 3118 is the House companion to S. 567, introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) in March, and has been referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee, as well as the House Committee on Ways and Means, on which Congresswoman Sánchez serves.

The Strengthening Social Security Act has garnered support from Social Security Works, Strengthen Social Security Campaign, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Campaign for Community Change, Paralyzed Veterans of America, UAW, The ARC, Alliance for Retired Americans, National Education Association, United Steelworkers, and the Senior Citizens League.



(continue of Your Credit)

Be sure to review your credit reports annually for errors, outdated account information, and even suspicious activity that may suggest identity theft. To correct an error or discuss anything that doesn't look right, contact the credit bureau reporting the item in question:

Equifax: 1-800-685-1111 or www.equifax.com

Experian: 1-888-397-3742 or www.experian.com

TransUnion: 1-800-916-8800 or www.transunion.com

If you need help improving your score or free assistance with budgeting, you can use Union Plus Credit Counseling and even receive free debt management plans (DMP) if you qualify.

Seniors Corner

Seniors' Issues Front and Center in Government Shutdown, Debt Ceiling Talks

On Wednesday, a letter instigated by **Rep. Reid Ribble (Republican-WI)** was signed by 51 House Republicans, urging Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to make cuts to Social Security benefits before the debt ceiling is raised and the government is re-opened. To read the letter and see if your U.S Representative was one of those who signed it, go to <http://bit.ly/GROQZe> The letter recommends:

- raising the retirement age;
- implementing the chained CPI benefit cut to Social Security;
- means testing Social Security benefits for higher income recipients; and
- cutting the FICA withholding rate that funds the Social Security Trust Fund.

"The letter was nothing short of a direct assault on Social Security," said Edward F. Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance. "This will undoubtedly be a major issue for months to come and into the 2014 elections." A blog post about the letter at The Daily Kos is here:

<http://tinyurl.com/larfndb>

Also, on Wednesday, another **Republican Representative** from Wisconsin, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, published an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal asking for cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid in exchange for an increase to the debt ceiling <http://tinyurl.com/larfndb>. For the latest on the budget negotiations from Politico, go to <http://tinyurl.com/kt6e2tk>.

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

Car Pooling

From Kenosha: Want to car-pool to Union Meeting? Contact Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-605-0436 or bpaaroscke-nosha@yahoo.com



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



A reminder that at our **November 12, 2013**, Lodge Meeting we will be drawing for a gun in support of The Union Sportsmen's

Alliance. Every member of IAM United Lodge 66 and is a member of The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is eligible to win. It doesn't cost you to become a member. The IAM is a charter member of the Alliance. You do however have to sign up to be a member of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. You can sign up on their website



www.unionsportsmen.org. The Lodge can also mail an application to you. Just send a request to the Lodge. There will be extra tickets available at the lodge meeting for sale if you wish to purchase extra tickets for the gun.



There will be more information but right now set aside **December 14, 2013** for United Lodge 66's Christmas Party.

Look for the flyers to be posted in your shop or call into the Union Office for information as the date gets near.



Officers, LL66 Machinists Union

President Mike Pietrzykowski
Vice President Larry Morrow
Recording Secretary . . . Ron Simmelink
Secretary Treasurer Ivan Collins
Conductor Sentinel Pepe Oulahan
Trustees: Tim Schwartz,
Bunny Browning, Dave Russell
Communicator Doug Curler
Educator Pepe Oulahan
Editor Doug Curler

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<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>
<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>
dwc/iamaull66, 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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