

# Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 17 No. 9

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

September 2015

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting September 8, 2015

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 October 2015 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is September 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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*dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio*

## Social Security at 80: Defending a Program Which Has Defended All of Us

By Nancy Altman

Social Security was signed into law eighty years ago, on August 14, 1935. In those eight decades, it has taught us a number of important lessons.

Social Security has demonstrated that there are some undertakings that government does better than the private sector.

Social Security is more efficient, universal, secure, and fair than any counterpart private sector arrangement is or could be.

**"Social Security works so extraordinarily well that it is a shining example of government at its best."**

government at its best.

Social Security has transformed the nation. Before Social Security, growing old was something to be dreaded. In 1912, a writer described what it was like to grow old: "After the age of sixty has been reached, the transition from non-dependence to dependence is an easy stage - property gone...ambitions collapsed, with death a final and welcome end to it all - such conclusions inevitably sweep wage-earners from the class of hopeful independent citizens into that of the helpless poor."

The vulnerability of workers which underlay those words confronts today's workers and their families, as well. Almost all Americans are dependent on wage income, and so are vulnerable to the loss of those wages. To have even some small measure of economic security, workers and their families need insurance against the loss of those wages. To protect against lost wages due to disability, they need disability insurance. Workers who have dependents need life insurance. Those who are fortunate enough to live to old age need steady, guaranteed income that they cannot outlive. Social Security provides protection in all three eventualities - death, disability, and old age.

At the time Social Security was enacted, orphanages had children who had a living parent who was unable to support the child after the death of a working parent. Every state but New Mexico had poor houses, the majority of whose "inmates," as they were often called, had been independent workers most of their lives but once they aged or were struck by a disabling illness or accident, they had no choice but to go to the poorhouse, unless their children or other relatives took them in.



**IT WORKS.  
IT WORKS.  
IT WORKS.**

*Continued on Page 2*

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

So prevalent was the fear of growing old that the first Monopoly boards had a space labeled the Poorhouse. If you were unlucky, that's where you landed.

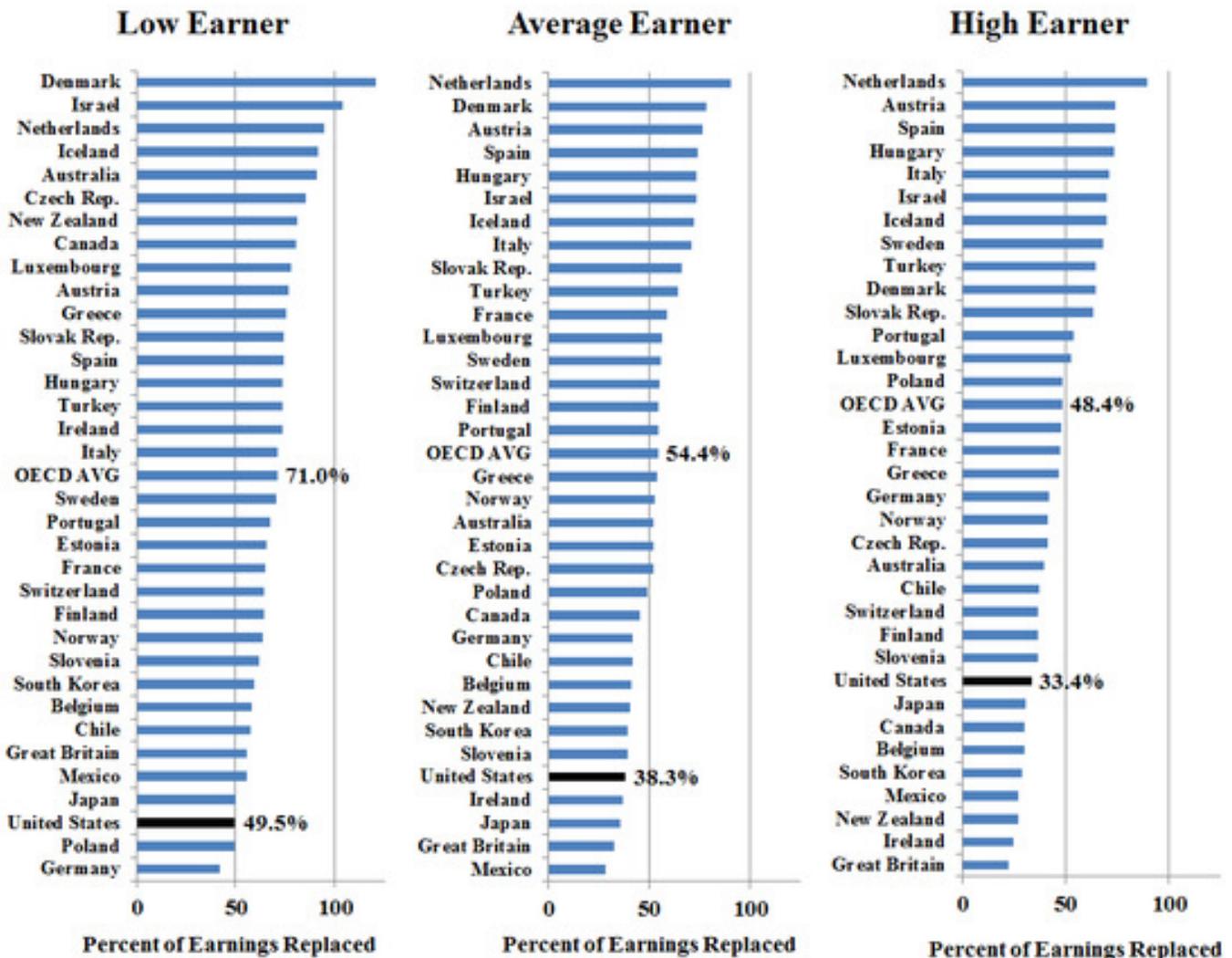
But Social Security has changed all of that. Fifty-nine million Social Security beneficiaries now receive a guaranteed, predictable monthly replacement of wages. And almost all working families are insured against lost wages. Unlike savings, this is income that cannot be outlived. It is adjusted annually to prevent its erosion as the result of inflation. It provides benefits as a matter of right to displaced homemakers and other divorced spouses. It is completely portable from job to job. And it is secure, since its plan sponsor is the federal government which will not go out of business and is not dependent on turning a profit. And it is incredibly efficient, spending less than a single penny of every dollar on administration. No private sector arrangement offers those features and that efficiency. Social Security's wage insurance can only do all of that because it is run by the federal government.

**"Rather than fearing old age, many workers today look forward to retirement as a time to be free of backbreaking labor."**

Rather than fearing old age, many workers today look forward to retirement as a time to be free of backbreaking labor. Perhaps no better metaphor of Social Security's effectiveness is the Monopoly board. The very same spot on the board that used to be the Poorhouse, a place you landed if you had bad luck, now is Free Parking, a place to rest, if you are lucky.

So why, after eighty years, doesn't everyone recognize Social Security's success and support increasing its modest benefits? Those benefits are low by virtually any standard. As just one measure of the inadequacy of Social Security's benefit despite our nation's wealth, the following chart shows how those benefits compare to those of other countries:

### Social Security Replacement Rates in OECD Countries by Earnings Level



Source: OECD Pensions at a Glance, 2013.

Note: These calculations model future replacement rates for workers entering the labor market in 2012 at age 20. They refer to single, full-career, male workers; rates for women are identical except in 5 countries (Australia, Chile, Israel, Mexico, Switzerland), where they differ due to a lower female pension eligibility age and use of sex-specific mortality. Low earners earn half of the average earner (\$47,600 in 2012). High earners earn 50% more than the average earner.

Continued on Page 3

In fact, why doesn't everyone support adding to Social Security important wage insurance in the event of sickness or the birth or adoption of a child? Those benefits fit within the model of wage insurance, since they are events where workers often lose wages.

The answers to those question lead to the second lesson learned over Social Security's eighty year history. While the overwhelming majority of Americans appreciate and support Social Security, there have always been a small group, outside the mainstream, who opposed it.

When Social Security was being considered in Congress eighty years ago, opponents claimed all sorts of dangers. For example, a Republican congressman from New York charged, "The lash of the dictator will be felt and 25 million free American citizens will for the first time submit themselves to a fingerprint test." His colleague, also from New York, warned, "The bill opens the door and invites the entrance into the political field of a power so vast, so powerful as to threaten the integrity of our institutions and to pull the pillars of the temple down upon the heads of our descendants." Playing on the same feelings of nationalism around today, a Republican Senator from Delaware claimed that Social Security would "end the progress of a great country and bring its people to the level of the average European."

Indeed, from the moment of Social Security's enactment onward, ideological opponents, backed by wealthy donors, railed against Social Security. But they were vastly outnumbered. Indeed, President Dwight Eisenhower, in a private letter to his brother, wrote, "There is a tiny splinter group...that believes you can [abolish Social Security.]...Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

The tiny splinter group tried to end Social Security in the 1930s and failed. They tried in the 1940's and failed. The 1950's and failed. The 1960's and again failed. So they changed their tactics. They started asserting that Social Security was a wonderful program but unaffordable and would bankrupt the country, crowding out spending for children and other important national priorities.

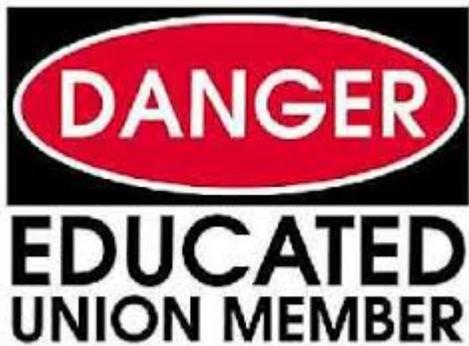
Though they have not been successful so far in actually cutting Social Security's cash benefits, they have stripped away an intangible benefit. As Social Security's name suggests, it is intended to provide security, peace of mind that if wages are lost, Social Security will always be there to partly replace those earnings. Eisenhower's small splinter group has effectively convinced too many Americans that Social Security is in danger of disappearing. That successful crusade to undermine confidence in the future has stripped away that peace of mind. But the reality is that it would take an act of Congress to end Social Security.

As the richest country in the world at the wealthiest moment in its history, the United States can afford a greatly expanded Social Security, while also greatly increasing spending on children, infrastructure, and other pressing needs. The issue is one of values and priorities. The choice is ours.

And an election is coming up where the two Parties have dramatically different values and priorities. Most Republican candidates want to cut Social Security, while a few want to maintain it at its currently scheduled level. Most Democratic candidates are on record favoring expansion.

Prior generations had the foresight and the tenacity to create Social Security and expand it, despite the powerful, monied opposition. Now it is our turn. If we follow the vision and tenacity of those who came before, Social Security's future landmark anniversaries will give us all even more to celebrate.

*Nancy J. Altman has a thirty-five year background in the areas of Social Security and private pensions. She is co-director of Social Security Works and co-chair of the Strengthen Social Security coalition and campaign. She is the author of *The Battle for Social Security: From FDR's Vision to Bush's Gamble* (John Wiley & Sons, 2005) and co-author (with Eric Kingson) of *Social Security Works! Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It will Help Us All* (The New Press, 2015).*



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## Steward Training

There will be a Steward Training class at District 10 (District 10 is located in Milwaukee, WI at 1650 South 38th) will be held on September 18, 2015 from 8am. United Lodge 66 will be paying lost time for those attending this class.

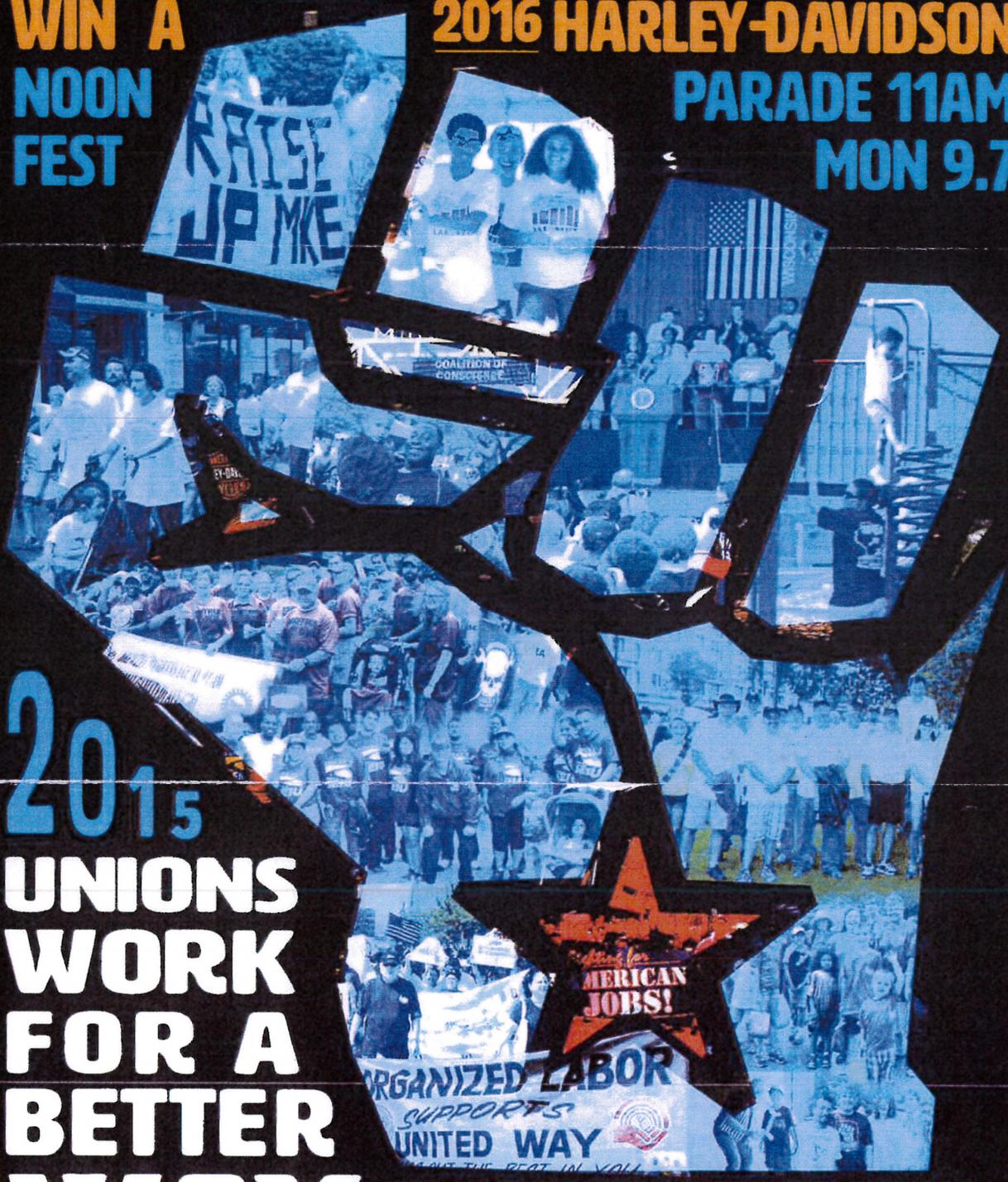
A list is being developed so if you are interested call into your Union Office at 414-671-3800 and let Ivan Collins know your desire.

# LABORFEST

WIN A  
NOON  
FEST

2016 HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
PARADE 11AM  
MON 9.7

2015  
UNIONS  
WORK  
FOR A  
BETTER  
WAY



f t #LABORFESTMKE



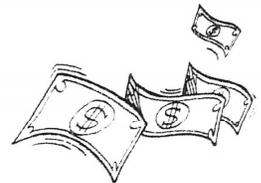
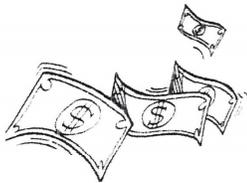
# Celebrate with us at Laborfest Get your RAFFLE TICKETS

**\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00**

CALL THE LABOR COUNCIL AT 414-771-7070 OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL UNION TO GET YOUR TICKETS

## GRAND PRIZE

**\*2016 HARLEY DAVIDSON\* - IRON 883**



## Additional cash prizes!

You need not be present to win!!!

Lic. #R0012990A-11331

The drawing will be held at 'Laborfest'  
**Monday, September 7, 2015**

**11:00 am – Parade Downtown**

**12:00 noon – Summerfest Grounds**

**(free admission)**

Live music / Childrens activities / Union Industry Display

**AND MUCH MORE**



# 3 AWESOME Celebrations

## WIARA 10th Anniversary

## Medicare 50th Anniversary

## Social Security 80th Anniversary

### At 1 OUTSTANDING Event

# Senior POWER Lunch

## Monday, October 12th

Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Exhibits Open

## Italian Community Center

10:30 a.m.

631 E. Chicago St.—Milwaukee, WI

### Guest Speaker

## Congressman Mark Pocan

**Our Sponsors**

Caseino  
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Johnson  
Law Offices

Milwaukee  
County  
Department  
On Aging

WE  
Energies

## Honoring Senior Champions



Community



Legislative



Community & Labor



Community



Legislative

To attend the Power Lunch, please complete the registration form marked "Senior Power Luncheon. To place a quarter, half or full page ad, complete the information on the page titled "3 Awesome Celebrations". You can also choose to remember an individual who has passed away or honor an individual in the Power Lunch booklet. If you are unable to participate, consider a donation to the WIARA to help us continue our work in the future. For questions, please call Judy at 414-771-9511 or email her at office@wi-alliance.org.



## Your Union Voice

by Pepe Oulahan

On July 30 2015 IAM District 10 Organizer Larry Morrow gave a presentation on the importance of having a strong Union Voice in the workplace at an Industrial Union Manufacturing Recruitment event held in Milwaukee.

The event, organized by Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP - Big Step) and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council was open to the public and provided an opportunity for workers to educate themselves on the advantages

available through employment in union organized companies. The over 100 attendees of the two session event submitted their resumes and were individually screened for potential matching with current job openings in unionized companies.

Along with brother Morrow the impressive list of speakers on union issues included: IBEW Staff Representative (Opportunities and family supporting wages in unionized shops), USW Local 3740 President Jeff Smith (Civil Rights in the workplace), UAW Local 469 President Mike Bink (union democracy and apprenticeships) and UAW Business and Representative Tony Rainey (registered manufacturing apprenticeships). In addition Carrie Geenen from Triada Employment Services (WRTP), spoke on how unions are making employment connections happen in Wisconsin and Joe Priesler from the Wisconsin AFL-CIO Labor Education and Training Center (LETC) spoke on the vast array of services provided to dislocated workers statewide by that organization.



Each presentation was extremely informative and served as a direct example of how unions continue to raise the bar for wages benefits and working conditions in Wisconsin and our nation.

**For information on future recruitment events and other employment opportunities go to [WRTP.org](http://WRTP.org).**





*Tom Buffenbarger*

## **IAM International President Makes the Case for Clinton**

Following the unanimous endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president by more than 600 union leaders at the 2015 National Staff Conference in New York, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger addressed the conference to highlight the differences between the two top candidates running in the Democratic pri-

mary and why former Senator Clinton is the best choice.

[Click here to watch the video of President Buffenbarger's remarks.](#)

"I don't say bad things about the candidates. I look for the positive things to say about them, but the other candidate in the race and why we chose to go the way we did, that candidate made it obvious," said Buffenbarger. "We're all affected by his votes on several key issues. I'm just going to run down the list of a few and the list is long.

"He voted no on F-22, no on F-35, no on P-8, no on F-16s, no on F-18s, no on F-15s, no on C-130Js, no on C-5s and no on C-17s. He's one of the few Democrats who opposed us on the Ex-Im Bank. And actually is very vocal against it. We need that bank for the work our members represented in this room do every day. It helps our companies sell the products made in the U.S. to foreign buyers. It underwrites the loans they take to buy the airplanes, jet engines, tractors, road grading equipment and any kind of machinery still left that we make in this country. Ex-Im helps [customers] buy our products and keeps us competitive.

"And now in the infinite wisdom of our Congress, they killed the bank. That's an assault on us and Bernie Sanders was a part of the assault on us. And we tried to tell him that," said Buffenbarger. "We don't look at it as helping a company or CEO, we look at it as providing jobs for our members. That's our job. We'll never shy away from finding those things or ways to help keep jobs for our members.

"He's opposed us on all of the issues that affect our forestry workers, our federal workers, their wages and health care benefits. He has voted with the Republicans to freeze them or make them pay more for different things. We have a lot of members in this union who work for the government. And they deserve respect and dignity, as well. And they're beat up on all the time, by politicians, sadly to say, from both parties.

"On every one of these things I just mentioned, Senator Clinton's been an ally."

## **Know Your Legislators and ....**



Just to complain at work, at home, at church, at a bar, or anywhere does no good if you do not express your opinion to your elected representatives. A simple note sent to him/her really means something. Here is how you can find out who is your state representative.

**To find them online:** <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov>. Once this is up you choose assembly or senate in the upper left corner. Then you type in your address in the search field located in the upper right hand corner.

**Or you can call 1-800-362-9472.** You will need to give your address; then ask who is your state senator and or assembly person; and ask what district you are in.

Once you get the contact information go ahead and give them your opinion but be polite.

**IAMUNION**

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.paulryan.house.gov)

### **Representative Ron Kind, 3rd District, Democrat**

1502 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-5506  
<https://kindforms.house.gov/contact>

### **Representative Gwen Moore, 4th District, Democrat**

2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-4572  
[www.gwenmoore.house.gov](http://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](http://www.sensenbrenner.house.gov)

### **Representative Glen Grothman 6th District, Republican**

501 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20215  
202-225-2476  
<https://grothman.house.gov/contact/email>

### **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

### **Republican Presidential Hopefuls Are Staying Silent Regarding Social Security Privatization but Still Favor “Reform”**

While still talking about the need to “save” Social Security by cutting benefits to retirees, this cycle’s crop of GOP Presidential candidates have been silent on whether they’d support a plan to privatize Social Security. In 2005, Democrats defeated a proposal by President Bush to allow individuals to invest in private accounts in lieu of Social Security – an idea which would have exposed decades of earned benefits to the volatility of the stock market while depleting the trust fund at a faster rate.

“While we are glad the Republican contenders are not currently making Social Security privatization a major talking point, we are still incredibly concerned about proposals to raise the retirement age and cut benefits for future retirees,” said Barbara Easterling, President of the Alliance.

“Unfortunately, I also continue to fear that the idea of privatization will rear its ugly head the next time the stock market rises.

### **Congressional Republicans Move to Dismantle Medicare**

In August 2015, House Republicans on the [Ways and Means Committee signaled](#) that they would begin writing legislation to privatize Medicare and turn it into a voucher system. The proposal, spearheaded by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), would also combine the Part A and B deductibles, shifting additional costs on to beneficiaries who do not use hospital care. The action could be particularly dangerous should the GOP win the White House and retain control of Congress in 2016.

“Just as we finished celebrating 50 years of Medicare keeping seniors out of poverty, recent events have shown that House Republicans have declared war on Medicare and are committed to tearing apart this important and incredibly successful program,” said Alliance Secretary-Treasurer Ruben Burks.

### **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)

## Activities for You and Your Family

- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council** delegate meeting: **September 9, 2015** at **6:30pm**, new location at Juneau Complex, in auditorium, 6415 W. Mount Vernon.
- Redesigned Website and compatible to cell phone and tablet—**TRY IT!**
- Videos are at [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge).
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** class schedule for 2015 is available (<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.

## Officers, LL66 Machinists Union

President . . . . . Mike Pietrzykowski  
 Vice President . . . . . Larry Morrow  
 Recording Secretary . . . DiAnn Fechter  
 Secretary Treasurer . . . . . Ivan Collins  
 Conductor Sentinel . . . . . Pepe Oulahan  
 Trustees: Tim Schwartz,  
 Bunny Browning, James Cobb  
 Communicator . . . . . Doug Curler  
 Educator . . . . . Pepe Oulahan  
 Editor . . . . . Doug Curler

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  
<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>  
<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>  
*dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio*

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

### What is an Unionist?

An Unionists is one who puts aside their individual needs and individual self interest for that of the membership.

An Unionists forgoes their personal agenda for that of their fellow members.

An Unionists is not an:

Elitist	Racists
<b>Sexist</b>	Classist
Homophobic	Xenophobic

### District 10 Office Directory

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;  
 dial **414-643-4334**, then extension for your Business Agent:

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

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union  
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