

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 12 No 4

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

April 2009

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

April 10, 2009

7:00 PM

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

*All Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.*

- **DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS** are Tuesday thru Friday, **8AM to 4:30PM**. Business can be done at the Business or
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles to May edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is April 17.
- **Education Evening** on **April 16, 7:00PM** on the **Occupational Safety and Health Act**.
- **OFFICE CLOSED** April 9 and 10th.

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dwciamawell66, afl-cio

Employee Free Choice Act HR800

The women punch the time clock and enter the locker room. Because of the type of chemicals they are working with, they must put on company supplied coveralls. But often there's not enough clean coveralls for everyone. Sometimes they put on coveralls still warm from the bodies of the departing shift.

The rules are strict here. Workers are searched before being allowed to go to the restroom. One woman is pregnant, but is not allowed to use a stool, she must stand for her entire shift. These women are making minimum wage.

If you are reading this article you are most likely a Union member and as a Union member you are working in a shop with safety rules and conditions, you are making a good wage, have healthcare benefits, and a pension. The wants of our fellow workers who work in a non Union shops with working conditions if at best, for minimum wage and Badger Care as their Healthcare plan.

The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field for these workers who want to be a part of a collective bargaining unit, and want the right to be represented by a Union, without captive audience meetings with the threats of being fired, and being told how much it's going to cost the company if they do unionize, or that the company is now going to have to move out of state or even out of the country.

The Employee Free Choice Act does not take away the right to a secret vote, It does limit the amount of time management has to hold their captive audience meetings while making their threats at the employees.

I've personally been on the picket line to show support for these employees who want to be a part of a Union and have a collective bargaining agreement.

We as Unionist need to help educate those who don't know or understand what it is to be a part of a Union, and dispel the negative campaigning that is out there about the Employee Free Choice Act.



*In Solidarity
James Cobb*

www.employeechoiceact.org

President's Direct Line

Members can leave messages on my direct line at United Lodge 66. My phone number is 414-671-6980. I will try to be timely in answering.

Patricia Elizondo

UNION OFFICE IS CLOSED:
on all Mondays.

Call Your Senators

Here are some phone numbers for working families to contact your Senators to voice your concerns. Help us make the American Economy work for families and not just corporations.

- Senator Kohl, urge him to support the Employee Free Choice Act, 1-866-207-2060 (a free call)
- Senator Feingold, thank him for supporting the Employee Free Choice Act, 1-414-276-7282 or 1-920-465-7508.

"The Power of OUR Union is Directly Related to Y O U R Level of Activism in OUR Union."

Welcome to our Brothers and Sisters

A letter received from the workers at Kieffer Sign

Attention: Pat Elizondo (President Local Lodge 66), Bob Paar (Vice President Local Lodge 66), Executive Board members of Local Lodge 66, Brothers and Sisters of Local Lodge 66, Brother Michael Hornby (Director District 10), Brother Keith Smith (Assistant Director District 10), and IAM General Vice President Philip Gruber.

Please consider this letter as official notice that the IAM brothers and sisters that work at Kieffer and Company, Inc., of Sheboygan, Wisconsin voted unanimously to merge into Local Lodge 66. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Brother Gruber and Brother Hornby for allowing us to have our say as to what lodge we will be joining since the disbandment of Local Lodge 1430.

Although we didn't know it at the time and some members still do not understand completely why Local Lodge 1430 was disbanded, the leadership here at Kieffer and Company could not be more pleased that our members have allowed us to stay with Local Lodge 66. We certainly have been welcomed with open arms from our brothers and sisters of Local Lodge 66 and the resources that they have available to our membership are unparalleled. The top notch web-site along with the wonderful communication of Secretary Treasurer Doug Curler had made this an easy recommendation to our members.

Thanks again to all those involved. Mr. Hornby certainly had our best interest in mind when he originally assigned us to Local Lodge 66. We look forward to a strong future in the IAM working actively with our new family.

Appreciatively,

Ronald Simmelink, Chairperson
George Dietsche, Shop Steward
Eric Daun, Committee Member



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 conditions of life and labor, an organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.

IAMUNION

Vote April 7, 2009

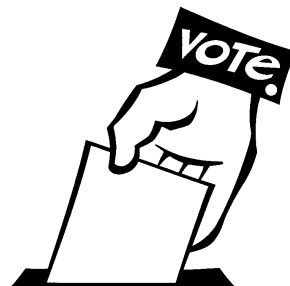
On this date is an important vote for a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice. Take the time to have your voice heard.

There has been a lot of news of AIG and how corporate executives believe they are above the law while taking tax payer money to solve their failures. This is not right and corporations need to be held accountable for their actions.

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson, who is running for re-election, in 2005 sided with the majority of justices that corporations producing lead base paint should be held liable for their actions. Children who are permanently damaged because of the intake of lead based paint need to be protected and corporations who produced such products needed to be held accountable. Her opponent instead supports a free market economy and corporations should not be held liable for their actions- even if your children are adversely affected!

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson is also endorsed by the Milwaukee Police

Association (MPA) and the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPTA) as well as a majority of the states district attorneys.



Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening**, Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7:00PM on our Occupations Safety and Health Act.
- Membership applications for the Union Sportsmen Alliance is available from your Union Office.
- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council**; April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- The Bay View Massacre memorial event is Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the corner of Superior and Russell Streets.
- The veterans/badge night for United Lodge 66 is Saturday, June 6, 2009 and letters will be sent for all members involved in our 2009 celebration.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance

Work Hard . . . Play Hard!

That is the Union Way. When you are playing hard in the outdoors, you can count on the Union Sportsmen's Alliance to make your experience even better, while helping to preserve our hunting and fishing heritage.

The USA is one of a kind, hunting and fishing association of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and its trade Union partners, exclusively for conservation minded Union members, retirees and their families that hunt, fish and appreciate the outdoors.

The TRCP is a coalition of the nation's leading conservation organizations, labor Unions and individual hunters and anglers working together to "Guarantee All Americans a Place to Hunt and Fish."

So whether it is fins, feathers or fur that get your heart pumping, the USA will help you plan trips, learn tips, swap stories and save a bundle on hunting and fishing gear and trips. Plus your USA membership will go to work for you through the TRCP, protecting access to the best places to hunt and fish in America, while keeping you informed about the latest hunting, fishing and conservation issues.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is continually building relationships with outdoor brands and manufacturers to offer a wide range of benefits for its members. Union members and retirees of the AFL-CIO and their families **can join the USA for an annual fee of just \$25 and enjoy the following:**

- Personalized USA membership card
- USA Logo Buck Knife
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear and services
- 1-Year subscription to a top outdoor magazine (\$31.92 value)
- \$25 gift certificate from Beretta field gear
- Chances to win exceptional prizes and trips
- Full access to MyTopo.com (\$29.95 value)
- Access to the "Members-Only" section of the USA website
- Free membership in the TRCP



That's a value of more than \$117, plus extra savings with deals and discounts!

To Join the USA

www.UnionSportsmen.org

1-877-USA-2211 (toll-free)

Or your Union office has the applications and we can mail one to your home. Call us at 414-671-3800 or email lodge66@gmail.com.



Cathy Johnson signed up her son, Shaun Lytle of Local 2202, for a USA membership at the Machinists Union Grand convention and was drawn as the winner of the USA gun raffle held at the event.

Machinists Union Members at Kieffer Do It Themselves!

The membership at Kieffer did what was necessary to show their solidarity when their employer did not want to recognize the years of service of its employees. Three members with 25 years of working at Kieffer, Bob Welsch, Bob Thill and Paul Palosaari, had a special recognition led by Brother Simmilink, Shop Chair. Food was provided by him as well as special 25 years plaques made by Brother Dietsche.



Lost Time

Your business agent needs to sign the reimbursement for before any member receives any lost time. All members need to have a W4 on file at the Union office to receive the reimbursement. The Lodge does payroll twice a month. If one is missed then you will have to wait until a following pay period.

dwc

Addresses???

No if and or but . . . all members need to directly contact this office to update any address change. If you do not we will not have it. We need this to contact you in case there is any dues arrearage.

Members do not want to get dropped because they failed to communicate to us.

Shop Committees

We need shop chairs to continuously update the Lodge on any changes to shop committees. If you do not we will not know and we do consider it very important to communicate.

Also of importance is to make sure you give us the shift a representative does work.

dwc

Communications from the Lodge

Any member can request to be added to our mailing list and email list. Just let us know. We will not share your email with other organizations.

dwc



Savings and Solidarity

Get **special discounts** on wireless devices and **save 10%** on monthly service charges through AT&T

Now union members can save 10% on any new or renewed service plan with AT&T. You'll find a wide selection phones and plans that offer great value for your money. Plus, while you save, you'll also be supporting the only wireless company that is "Proud to Be Union!"

Start today!

- 1. TAKE** this ad to your local AT&T store. To find the location nearest you, visit att.com/find-a-store."
- 2. SHOW** union identification, such as your Union Plus credit card, union membership card, or paycheck showing union dues deduction. (Reference FAN #113662)
- 3. SIGN UP** for or renew a two-year service agreement.

*The discounts described in this ad are NOT available with the iPhone and associated wireless service.



www.UnionPlus.org/ATT EMM8-10/07

Invite Us!!

Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President and I are willing to meet with any shop committees or attend your shop meetings to discuss procedures of United Lodge 66 and the Grand Lodge Constitution. This can not be done if you do not ask. We will also bring along general information from our Lodge Business Meetings and an appropriate video.

We just ask for advance notice and any place or time at your convenience.



Doug Curler, Secretary Treasurer

Scholarship Program of United Lodge 66

This program is meant to assist two High School seniors that are children of United Lodge 66 members. Listed below are the criteria for the Scholarship Selection:

1. Two (2) \$500 scholarship annually.
2. Only seniors in High School that are children of Machinists Union United Lodge 66 Members and those that are seeking post High School Education are eligible.
3. An essay must be written and **must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and community** to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. **Please note, "Essays written from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., will NOT BE ACCEPTED."**
4. Essays must be sent to: United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Essays will be given to the Scholarship Committee to review.
5. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.
6. One half of the Scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester (fall 2009) in where the individual is enrolled. The second half will be paid during the second semester (spring 2010) and also sent directly to the school. Selections of essay winners will take place at the September Lodge Meeting. **The essays must be in at United Lodge 66 office by July 31, 2009 or postmarked July 31, 2009 absolutely, no entries will be accepted past this date.**
7. Notification of availability of Scholarship will be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website, and posted in all plants.

The selection committee will be executive board members. We urge all Union parents in United Lodge 66, with High School Seniors in their family, to encourage their children to enter this contest for consideration of a Scholarship. All entries become the property of United Lodge 66 and winning or any entries will or may be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website.



What is a Unionist?

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

A Unionist forgoes their personal agenda for that of their sisters and brothers.

A Unionists is not an:

- Elitist
- Racist
- Sexist
- Classist
- Homophobic
- Xenophobic

Seniors Corner

Taxation of Employer-Provided Health Benefits is on the Table

The New York Times reported a few weeks ago that the Obama administration and Senator Baucus have indicated that they are open to the idea of taxing employee health benefits to offset the costs of health care reform. Eliminated "employer exclusion" would represent a tax increase for working families and retirees with employer provided insurance, and many policy analysts believe that this proposal would hurt efforts to expand access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans. The proposal would also undermine health care coverage by causing employers to discontinue the higher cost employee and retiree health care plans, disrupting health insurance for those who have coverage they like. "The Alliance opposes taxing employee health benefits because it would give employers an incentive to walk away," Alliance Secretary Treasurer Burks said. "Americans bargained for these benefits and they have every right to expect to move forward and not backward."

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road,
Milwaukee, WI 53213

414-771-9511

dues are \$10/year

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

Alliance for Retired Americans

888-16th Street, NW Suite 520

Washington, DC 20006

202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497

Fax 202-974-8256

www.retiredamericans.org

Union Pride

Machinist Union T-shirts and caps are available at the United Lodge 66 office.

All shirts have a pocket and over the pocket is **"Lodge 66"**. The T-shirts come in blue or gray.

- \$10.00 for medium
- \$10.00 for large
- \$10.00 for X-large
- \$11.50 for XX-large
- \$11.50 for XXX-large
- \$3.50 for mesh cap
- \$11.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$11.00 for Khaki cap
- \$12.00 for **Camouflage** cap
- \$4.25 Acrylic Mug, A Woman's Place Is In Her Union
- \$.10 IAM Logo Temporary Tattoo's

There are two types of shirts: (1) with **'Fighting Machinist'** on the back or (2) with a plain back.

Car Pooling from Kenosha

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

YOUR Email

Get it done by getting your email to United Lodge 66. You can pick and choose from the events, you be informed, and you can pass on the activities to your friends at work.

Email: lodge66@gmail.com

Some activities in our Labor Community, may be in our newsletter, but events happen too fast. **The only way is to visit the "Lodge 66 News" Page or better to be on the Lodge 66 Activists Email List.**

The choice is yours!

In Solidarity,

Directory for District 10 Office,

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

Bill Christianson	24
Mike Hornby	13
Russ Krings	19
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	23
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	18
Keith Smith	16

HIRE CENTER

Help In Re-Employment
816 W. National Avenue, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 414-385-6920
'Dislocated Worker Program'

Officers, LL66

Machinists Union

President Patricia Elizondo
Vice President Bob Paar
Recording Secretary
Mike Pietrzykowski
Secretary Treasurer. . . Doug Curler
Conductor Sentinel . . .
Bunny Browning
Trustees:
Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,
Dave Russell

Communicator James Cobb
Educator Patricia Elizondo
Editor Doug Curler
Notary Public 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

Video: www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

Website: www.unitedlodge66.org

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Daytime Office Hours are 8AM to 4:30PM

or Business can be done by mail;
or dropped in the mail slot; or the
night of a Lodge or
Education Evening Meeting.

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April 7, 2009