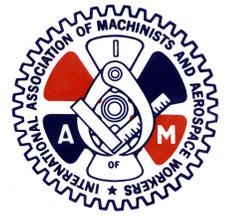


Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 10 No. 4

April 2007

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

April 13, 2007

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;** business can be done at the Business or Education Evening Meetings or by mail. **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles for the May edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is April 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- **Education Evening is April 19, 2007** at 7:00PM

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OFFICE CLOSED

The week of
April 23 through 27, 2007

NO MESSAGES

Will be returned
Until
May 1, 2007

Unions - A Reflection

By Hillary Singer

(Hillary is the daughter of Dennis Singer, committeeperson at Miller Brewery and she received an Honorable Mention in this years Wisconsin Labor History essay contest.)

Clarence Darrow, a famous labor lawyer, once said, "With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men, than any other association of men." By definition, a union is an organized group of workers who come together for a common purpose. Through their membership, they can make decisions about the conditions of their work and impact work related issues. The primary purpose of a union is to promote fair wages and working conditions. Unions have been important to my family and my community for many reasons.

Unions have been part of our family for generations. My dad, grandpas, and great grandpas have all been union members. Each of them was lucky enough to work at a company that had a strong union, which provided high wages, good benefits, and ample pensions. My dad has belonged to various unions for the entire twenty-two years of his working career. He has been active in them by being a steward and a committee member. In his positions, he addresses grievances between workers and the company. He also educates workers on their rights and benefits under their contract. Union membership has given him a steady job, a solid wage to live on, good benefits, and the ability to care for his family. Unions have given him safe working conditions and eight hour days, which allow him to spend time with his family. He shares pride and solidarity with other union members. My dad knows the importance and power of the union in the workplace. He continues to support the union knowing what an impact it has on the labor force. A few years ago, my father chose to leave a job because his company was shipping so many jobs overseas. This was taking work away from local employees. His union fought hard but was not able to stop this negative trend. He had to start over at a new company, which he believed would provide a better future for his family. Unions affect my family members on a daily basis both directly and indirectly.

My father's involvement in unions has developed a family awareness of work related issues. Union awareness has affected my family's buying habits. We prefer to buy American made products whenever possible. My family only buys American made cars. We do not shop at stores such as Wal-Mart because the company does not treat its employees fairly. We also do not buy products that are made by companies such as Tyson or Azteca because management has tried to break up their employees' unions. The Milwaukee area has many companies that have unions. The local media such as television, newspapers, and radio always publicize major conflicts between companies and their unions. The public becomes more aware of the issues when they arise in our community. The actions taken by local unions often affect our community, especially when strikes occur or where products or services are denied to the public. Union awareness has affected my family's buying habits and consumer choices.

(continued on page 2)

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

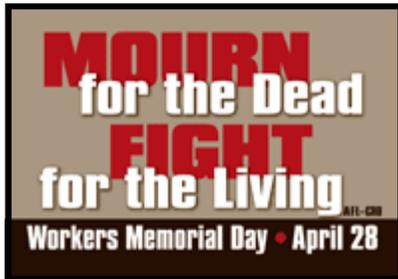
Photography Contest for Machinists Union

Each year the Machinists Union (IAM) runs a photography contest for pictures to be spotlighted in our Machinists Union calendar. The photo should catch a Machinists Union member at work in an un-posed photo.

A member can only submit one photo. The complete set of rules and entry form is on the IAM Website or your lodge can send them to you.

The deadline is June 15, 2007.

We encourage all members to submit a photo and send a copy to the Lodge for use.



“I think if the President would agree for his close advisers in the White House to testify before Congress under oath, he’d be making a huge mistake. There is a thing called executive Privilege.” - **Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott (R-MS)**, [3/25/07](#), on President Bush invoking executive privilege in the prosecutor purge.

“I think they’ve made a mistake by [invoking executive privilege]. I think it will damage the credibility. It looks like they are hiding something, so I think they shouldn’t have done it.” - **Lott**, [3/24/98](#), on President Clinton invoking executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky saga.



Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening is April 19, 2007.**
- **Workers Memorial Day**, is commemorated **April 27, 2007**. Those workers who have lost their lives on the job will be remembered at an event on this day at 5:00PM at Zeidler Union Square, 4th and Michigan Avenue. Bring your family.
- **Bay View Massacre** event will be held on **Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 3:00PM**. At the corner of Russell and Superior Streets, Milwaukee. Save the date. More information to follow. See video at meeting.



(Unions - A Reflection, continued from page 1)

Teacher unions have directly impacted my family and community. My school district has an excellent reputation for its professional staff and its students’ academic success. Through their union, teachers have a voice in their working conditions, wages, and benefits. Their hard working union satisfies the teachers’ needs and attracts quality candidates to teach in our district. The benefits of quality teachers is passed on to the students, their success, and our community.

Jimmy Carter once said, “Every advance in this half-century: Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education...one after another, came with the support and leadership of American labor.” Over time, much evidence has been collected to support the fact that companies with unions have higher wages and safer working conditions. They have better benefits, pensions, and hours. Workers are generally happier and more productive. They are financially better off and therefore contribute to the local economy. Unions have been responsible for a better quality of life for my family for generations. They have raised awareness and affected our buying habits and consumer choices. The presence of a strong teachers’ union has directly affected the quality of my education. Unions have been important to my family and community in many ways and for this, I am grateful.

(Editors note - we are grateful for the youth of today and their perspectives)

Pulling the Plug on Time Warner

The Communications Workers of America (CWA), AFL-CIO is trying a new

approach to dealing with the anti-union cable companies. Instead of workers risking their jobs to organize a union at Time Warner in Milwaukee, CWA is going right after the company with a simple message, "let workers decide for themselves if they want a union--or the union will help Time Warner's customers and employees dump Time Warner."

CWA will reach out to members of unions asking them to pull the plug on Time Warner by switching to TV and internet services provided by union members at AT&T U-verse.

As customers dump Time Warner in



favor of AT&T, the union company will need to hire more technicians in Milwaukee and more Customer Service jobs in Appleton and

Milwaukee--creating good jobs with good benefits. Not only will the loss of customers start to hurt Time Warner's profits, but their employees can then shed their low-pay, low-benefit, low-respect jobs at Time Warner and take good union jobs at AT&T!

Union members can support the effort to create good union jobs while punishing a viciously anti-union company by switching from Time Warner to AT&T U-verse.

To switch to AT&T U-verse call this union members-only order line: 1-888-667-8489, or for more information on CWA's campaign check out the website at: www.GetUnionTV.org



2007 Shop Committees

Only 50% of the Shop Chairs have communicated to Lodge 66 who are the members on their respective committees. We try to get information out to current shop committees but you are the most important link. We need to be updated each year or when there are any changes to a shop committee.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Veterans/Badge Night at United Lodge 66

Your night will be on **June 2, 2007**. At this event a members continuous years of membership in the Machinists Union will be honored. It starts out at 15 years and in five year increments up to 50 years of membership. This year will be bigger than ever with the merger of three other Lodges. Our list for this year is for just under 1200 members of which 105 will be receiving their 50 year pins and gold cards.

The list is based on continuous membership prior to June 1, 2007. The list is provided by the Grand Lodge. Members on this list will be receiving an invitation.

More than ever the RSVP is necessary to plan this event and make it successful.

The event includes a buffet meal and numerous door prizes. This is done by members of your Executive Board, who volunteer their time. **Any member can volunteer.** If so interested let us know now!

Seniors Corner

U.S. Senate Rejects Medicare Cuts

The Senate on March 16 easily defeated a bid by neo-con Republicans to curb the growth of the Medicare program during debate on the \$2.9 trillion budget outline for 2008. The 74-27 vote on Medicare dismissed a bid by Senator Cornyn (R-TX) to trim \$34 billion from Medicare's \$2.2 trillion budget over the next five years. The plan was aimed at reducing payment increases to Medicare providers and was approximately half the size of the cuts that President Bush proposed in February. "This vote is yet another example of how critical it is that Alliance members stay educated and mobilized. What happens in Washington and in our state capitals affects retiree's daily lives. We must keep the pressure on our elected officials," stated Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Insurance Companies Caught denying Care to the Most Vulnerable Seniors

Confidential depositions indicate some longer term care insurers have developed procedures that make it impossible for policyholders to be paid. Current and former employees at companies of Conseco, Bankers Life, and Penn Life have described business practices that denied or delayed claims for trivial reasons. "Some of these companies coldheartedly calculate that older claimants will give up on being reimbursed," stated George Kourpias, President of the Alliance.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter,
6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, 53213. (414-771-9511) Yearly dues are \$10.00.

[http:// www.wisconsinara.org](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
- \$4.00 for mesh cap
- \$11.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$11.00 for Khaki cap
- \$15.00 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.



Caps available from Lodge 66 for **\$11.00 each.**

YOUR Email

The lack of communications regarding opportunities for you and your family is not the result of us not trying. You can pick and choose from the events, at least you are informed, or you can pass on the activities to your friends at work.

Email: smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net
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 |

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
smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

Daytime Office Hours on Tuesday thru Friday

or business can be done:

- by mail;
- or dropped in the mail slot;
- or on the night of a Lodge Business Meeting or Education Evening Meeting.

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438
414-671-3800
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dwe/iama1166, a8-cio

“Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor - those who cripple bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized - do a disservice to the cause of democracy,” stated President John F. Kennedy.