

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 11 No. 4

www.unitedlodge66.org

April 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

April 11, 2007

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
- Education Evening Meetings or by mail.
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is April 17 at 7PM. The topic is Health Insurance, the movie "SICKO."
- The deadline for articles to May edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is April 17.

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You will
hear
more
about

this organization as well as a gun raffle, including five other items. *This will be done in the fall.* We will keep you informed.

WWW Center - Your Place

Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center

I would like to thank the members of Local Lodge 66 for allowing me to attend the Advanced Leadership school the week of March 3rd. The topics we studied were Collective Bargaining, Leadership Psychology, North American Labor History, Organizing for Union Leaders, and Workplace Communications. I feel that I learned something in each class that I can bring back to the Lodge and my Shop. I would like to say that our Lodge can be very proud of Anne Walsh as she was our teacher for the workplace communications and did a very good job (she didn't let me get away with anything just because I came from her home lodge). I would like to encourage anyone thinking about going to the William W. Winpisinger Education & Technology Center to go as it is a great experience and you also will come away with a great feeling that you learned something that will help you and the members you represent.

*By Dave
Russell*

On my recent trip to the Winpisinger Center in Placid Harbor, MD, I was privileged to meet pieces of living Union History.

I attended the Advance Leadership training at the center. Also attending from Milwaukee was Badger Meter's own Dave Russell from the Maintenance Department, and Shop Chair.

One of the classes, "North American Labor History" took us from the Labor movement starting in 1922, right up to the present day. We were fortunate to have Brother Charlie Micallef as our instructor.

As the labor movement progressed, Brother Micallef was there, living every minute of it. Or so his fellow instructors would have the class believe (he's not that old). Our sessions with him came alive as he told us some of his stories of his early days of union building.

(continued on page 5)



James, Anne and Dave

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

Community Services Conference

of Wisconsin AFL-CIO

This conference was held from February 28 to March 1 and is put on entirely by Community Services Liaisons of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO. It is filled with dynamic speakers and workshops to fill anyone's needs. The workshops were:

- Building an Effective Communication Plan Within Your Local
- The Changing Face of Dislocation
- Community Services 101 - How to Start Working Together in Your Community.
- Conflict Skills Workshop
- Unemployment Insurance and Discrimination Claims - How to Maneuver the System.
- Advanced Community Services
- An Economy That Works for All
- Creating Civil Workplaces
- Improve Meetings by Understanding Group and Committee Development
- Workers Compensation I
- Making Joint Union-Management Partnerships Work
- Silent Colors - Fun Workshop Designed to Identify Your Personal Color
- Wisconsin Family Medical Leave - Overview and Recent Updates
- Workers Compensation II

The conference started with a presentation by David Newby, President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO talking about the political year ahead of us, the economy which is not working from families and the Wisconsin Healthy Program introduced into the legislative process.

Attendees picked a workshop for the Thursday afternoon as well as one for the morning and afternoon on Friday. The midday was filled by Sara Rogers, Vice President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO and on our Labor 2008 program. This is our way to communicate to our members on the importance of electing representatives who will pass laws in favor of working families. What we negotiate seems to be continually legislated away by our state legislature and the Congress in Washington, DC.

Those attending represented numerous Union from throughout the state. This makes it all more important with the diverse viewpoints and experiences which are shared.

March 5 - 7, 2009 is the next conference and members should get active in our Lodge and ask questions about how can they attend. There is a lot to be gained. Education and experience, a sharing process in the workshops, to bring back to our Lodge and your worksite. **Ask about this opportunity and become a participant.**

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Activities for You and Family

- April 17, 2008, 7:00PM, **Education Evening**, 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee.
- **Bay View Tragedy is on May 4, 2008, 4:00PM** to commemorate our struggle for the 8 hour day. In 1886, Wisconsin's Militia, under order of Governor Rusk open fired on the strikers killing seven and one child. (*corner Superior and Russell Streets in Milwaukee, Bay View area.*)
- **Grand Lodge Convention is week of September 7, 2008.** The nomination for delegates to the convention is on April 11, 2008, 7:00PM at the normal Lodge Business Meeting and if necessary the election of delegates will take place on Friday, May 8, 2008, from 9:00AM to the close of the regular Lodge Business Meeting on this day.

Organizing Committee

The next United Lodge 66 Organizing Committee meeting is Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 5:30PM at 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee. Members are encouraged to get involved and attend. If you have conflicts with this date leave a message for Bunny Browning at 414-671-3800. Together we need to stop the slide of our standard of living.

Badger Lodge News

We are always looking for members who want to distribute newsletters in their worksite. Just contact us and additional copies will be sent.

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*Larry Penn at Bay View Tragedy Event
(photo from: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org)*

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference

was held February 24 - 26, 2008

This is the spring conference held in Madison each year. The purpose allows us to lobby of our elected representatives on issues important to working families. **Health Care and the Healthy Wisconsin Program introduced into the legislative was our issue.**

Brother Richard Michalski, Grand Lodge General Vice President started out the conference with the discussion of a need for a real jobs program. Right now there is none. Nothing to make working families feel they are secure or their children will have it better.

Midwest General Vice President Phil Gruber discussed the big issue to be considered at this years September Grand Lodge Convention. Our Union has such a convention every four years. Attendance is from Lodge's throughout America and Canada. That big issue is the first real changing of our dues structure. The last time there was a significant change was 32 years ago. While proposals are not firm and there will be must discussion on this item at the convention, the outcome will be by a vote determined by a majority of the delegates. Brother Gruber discussed what will be necessary to make our Union solvent and lasting. He want through the growth and loss in our manufacturing base and the lost in revenue. Our Grand Lodge provides many services as well as financial support but this may not be able to continue with the declining membership and the present dues structure is not good enough.

Watch your Union bulletin board at work for postings when a full presentation and discussion of any dues proposal (**April 11 at Business Meeting**) will be given at United Lodge 66. Your present is required. Word of mouth will not work. **As always it is up to the member to take the time and educate yourself.**

The financial officers did meet separately but our time was limited because we were called on to participate in the lobbying effort. There was discussion on the filing of LM30's if anything of value is accepted from an employer and not offered to all the employees. This should never be none by members of the grievance or negotiating committees.

Healthy Wisconsin Your Choice, Your Plan

Summary of Health Care Plan

Who is Covered?

All residents and workers in Wisconsin are covered by Healthy Wisconsin, unless they receive health care through Medicare, Medicaid, Badger Care, or a federal employee health insurance Plan.

What Benefits are Provided?

Benefits are based on the comprehensive State Employee Uniform Benefits Plan to which has been added mental health parity and preventive dental care for children.

These benefits basically covers all medically necessary care plus prescription drugs, as well as preventive care, wellness programs, alcohol and chemical dependency programs, mental health parity, etc.

What is the Health Care Delivery System? Can I Choose My Own Doctor?

There will be a state wide fee for service plan that anyone can choose. If there are no other options in a given area, there will be no additional charge for this plan.

How is Healthy Wisconsin Financed?

All employers must pay 9-12% of wages of their employees (up to the limit of taxable Social Security wages. Employees must pay 2-4% of their Social Security wages.

The average family income in Wisconsin is \$42,000. So for the average family, the cost would be \$140 per month in payroll deductions. On average, the employer would pay about \$370 per month.

Unions may bargain, or employers may offer, to pay any part of the employee's charges, as well as provide additional benefits (including vision, dental, etc.).

Self employed persons and those with income but no wages pay 10% of income up to the Social Security wage limit.

What are the Deductibles and Co-Pays?

There is a yearly deductible of \$300 per adult (none for children)

There is a \$20 co-pay for office visits and hospital admission, except that there are no co-pays for preventive care, children or for office visits for those participating in a chronic disease management programs. Prescription drug co-pays are \$5 generic, \$15 brand name and \$40 for non-formulary drugs.

Out of pocket expenses are capped at \$2000 per adult or \$3000 per family.

For further information check www.healthywisconsin.net.

(source: our Wisconsin AFL-CIO and your Lodge provide all the written material to any member for your evaluation)

How You Vote Is a Personal Choice . . . BUT

Do Not Vote Against Your Families Economic Interest

Do You Have Questions about John McCain?

After the February 5 primaries, the Republicans now have a likely nominee. He's been advertised as a "Straight Talker" who has reasonable positions, but his policies do not match up to this reputation. If elected, would he make our country better for the working families that are struggling to make house payments, facing higher health care costs and worrying if their jobs will still be here next year?

I heard McCain was a "maverick" who went against party leadership because of his beliefs; Is that true

John McCain has actually supported Bush's position 89% of the time since Bush came to office, and in 2007 that number ran as high as 95%, according to Congressional Quarterly's Voting Study. He supports making Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, supported Bush's failed plan to privatize Social Security and his efforts to contract out large numbers of government. (1) McCain also shares Bush's misguided assessment that our economy is "inherently strong"; saying in January, "I don't believe we're headed into a recession." (2)

Isn't McCain a reasonable guy who will work to make our economy stronger?

At a time when the economy is the top concern for a majority of Americans, McCain has stated that economic issues are something he's "never really understood." He did not even bother to vote on the badly needed stimulus bill, despite being in Washington, D.C., at the time. (3)

Well, won't he at least help keep our jobs from continuing to go overseas?

Sen. McCain has made it clear that he won't. He told voters in Michigan and South Carolina that their "jobs are not coming back" and has proudly proclaimed he "would negotiate a trade agreement with almost any country." He has cast vote after vote for every free trade agreement under the sun, including the most devastating agreement in our history, NAFTA. He's gone on to praise NAFTA and its effects, said we need to expand CAFTA, and strongly supported normalizing trade relations with China despite its horrendous worker safety and product safety record. (4)

Well, isn't he at least being straight with us about his position?

Not exactly; what Sen. McCain doesn't often explain is his role in exporting those jobs in the first place. In addition to his support for these unfair trade agreements, McCain supported Bush's attempt to outsource many federal jobs. And McCain has certainly done little to aid those who have lost their jobs, voting against the extension of federal unemployment insurance benefits and would take money out of current job training programs. (5)

McCain claims to support regular working people; doesn't he at least support protecting our right to bargain for better wages and benefits?

No, Sen. McCain supported a Republican filibuster of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would protect that right, and he supported a national Right-to-Work-for-Less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. He even said that government workers are "crippled" by their union contracts. (6)

Health care is very much on families' minds right now. McCain said he will work to make health care more affordable. Will he?

Sen. McCain's health care plan is merely an extension of Bush's failed plan. It does not address the issue of the 47 million uninsured in America. It will force working families out into the private market to fend for themselves against the insurance companies and will chip away at employer-based health care. It will actually make it harder for many people to get coverage. In addition, Sen. McCain voted to slash funding for Medicare and Medicaid and opposed the reauthorization of and new funding for SCHIP that helps millions of children have access to health care.

McCain has not been a "Straight Talker" when it comes to his record on working families. Make sure you check the candidates' true records when deciding whom to support.

(1) Republican Presidential Debate, CNN, 1/30/08; SCR 83, Vote# 68, 3/16/06; SCR 18, Vote# 49, 3/15/05; S.Amdt.144 to SCR 18, Vote# 47, 3/15/05; SCR 86, Vote# 56, 4/1/98; SCR 86, Vote# 77, 4/1/98; HR 5631, Vote# 234, 9/6/06

(2) GOP Debate, Myrtle Beach, FNC, 1/10/08

(3) The Swamp," *Chicago Tribune*, 12/18/07; HR. 5140, Vote# 6, 2/6/08; *Associated Press*, 2/6/08

(4) HR 3450, Vote #395, 11/20/93; S 1307, Vote# 170, 6/30/05; H.R. 4444, Vote #251, 9/19/00; Economy Policy Institute, 10/9/07; *Des Moines Register* and www.BigThink.com interview, 11/2007

(5) S.1637, Vote #83, 5/5/04; S.2400, Vote #135, 6/22/04; S.1050, Vote #191, 5/21/03; H.R. 975, Vote #178, 6/22/99

(6) HR 800, Vote# 227, 6/26/07; S. 1788 Vote #188, 7/10/96; Address to the Oklahoma State Legislature, 5/21/07



Bush Not Good for American Workers

Recall how at the start of the Iraq war his words were against the French, they did not support him, and how we were suppose to remain French Fries to American fries. Now Bush's Defense Department has awarded the building of the new fueling tanker, to be used by the Air Force, to a French firm.

This will create an additional 12,000 American jobs **but** if the contract was awarded to Boeing, an American firm, it would have created 44,000 American jobs. **Bush and his policies are bad for America and bad for American Workers.**

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Seniors Corner

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

(continued from page 1: On my recent trip . . .)

One of the accounts he shared with us was back in 1968 in Detroit, Michigan. The company Brother Micallef was working for went out on strike and the strike lasted just short of 6 months. He said the demand for workers was so great that you could leave a job in the morning and have another by that same afternoon. It sure isn't like that at this time! He told us of other account of union history that had affected him, and made the class come alive for me, taking me back to strikes and other Union activities that I have been involved in.

Other classes in this session included "Collective Bargaining". This was taught by Brother Henry Bagwell. If you heard Brother Bagwell's drawl, you'd know immediately he was from Texas. Brother Bagwell showed us Costing the Contract. This economic lesson was one of the more important classes for me, because Badger Meter's Contract Negotiation is coming up this November. Brother Bagwell explained the importance of the Negotiating Committees working together and following EJP (Explanation, Justification, and Persuasion) when submitting a proposal at the Negotiating Table.

"Leadership Psychology" was taught by Brother Greg Murray. Brother Murray helped us to understand individual motivation and membership motivation and the effects with the difference styles of Union Leadership. Brother Murray also introduced us to the writings of Abraham Maslow, who was a psychologist in the 1940's and who introduced the "Hierarchy of Needs".

Brother Dave Miskoczi is a Canadian brother, who also led organizing campaigns in Canada. Brother Miskoczi was instructing "Organizing for Union Leaders." As Union members I want to think that we all understand the importance of Organizing and growing our membership back to the numbers that gave us strength we had before Reagan and now NAFTA.

Our own Sister Anne Walsh of LL 66 in Milwaukee taught "Workplace Communications." We discussed the different types of communication between local lodges, committees, shop stewards, the membership, what's working and what's not working within our organization's communication channels. We finished up with Interpersonal Communication and discussed working with face to face with our membership.

Together, the classes gave us a strong foundation in contract negotiation and strengthened our Union and Leadership skills.

Our instructors were as diversified as the class members which covered the entire North American continent, with some people coming from places as far away as Alaska, Florida and Oregon, and even Canada and British Columbia. Looking around the classroom at people who had come from all over with this common purpose of learning to make our union better, make more informed leadership decisions and stronger contract negotiations, I understood the sense of solidarity that early organizers were aiming for. We've come a long way, and we did that by working together. By continuing this proud tradition of unity, we can continue to support each other and strengthen our bonds.

"We All Are the Union and We All Control Our Union's Future"

By James Cobb

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 and Swearing In New Members

Will start in April. 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

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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

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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