

Badger Lodge News

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



Vol. 8 No. 8

www.unitedlodge66.org

August 2006

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

August 11, 2006

7:00 PM

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

*All Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.*

•DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS

are on Tuesday thru Friday; or business can be done at the Business or Education Evening Meetings or by mail.

•CHECK the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.

•September 4, 2006 is LABOR-FEST - Be There!

•The deadline for articles to September edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is August 15.

•Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at D10.

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Leadership Change @ Lodge 66

The July Business Meeting of Lodge 66 had the announcement of Brother Ben Elizondo, Lodge President, who will be resigning to accept a position as a business agent for District 10. As per our Grand Lodge Constitution the

Vice President will assume the presidency of Lodge 66 for the remaining term. This will have Sister Patricia Elizondo as the first female to elevate to this position in Lodge 66.

There will be no interim appointment but an election for a vice-president of Lodge 66, as per our Lodge Bylaws. The

formal mailing will be forth coming.



Sister Elizondo, filling in for recording secretary as Brother Elizondo listens to a question from the membership.

dwc

Our Government Continues To Export OUR JOBS!

The Republican controlled House of Representatives and the Republican controlled Senate did approve the Oman Free Trade Agreement. This now goes to the Republican President to sign.

This bill accelerates the loss of American jobs and lowers our standard of living. It was opposed by labor, religious, consumer and environmental groups since this agreement also included extensive and binding protections for corporate profits and intellectual property but they include no protections for workers right to organize Unions, no basic environmental standards, or no human rights protections.

The OFTA also permits foreign ownership of port security to foreign corporations. **The Republicans say one thing and vote the other way - shame on them.**



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

IAM Organizing – A Difficult Task but Necessary for Our Survival

Notes from the Educator

By Patricia Elizondo

In mid June I was called by District 10 to learn that I had been asked by the Machinists Union Midwest Territory to participate in an IAM organizing campaign in Lincoln, Nebraska. Nurses employed at BryanLGH Medical Center, in Lincoln, had contacted the IAM looking for assistance with setting up a Union earlier this year and the house visit campaign was underway.

I was curious as to why I was being asked to get involved with this campaign because my only prior experience with organizing was a blitz I had volunteered for about six years ago. I was told that the IAM wanted women to be a major part of this event because we would be attempting to organize nurses. I was anxious and extremely nervous about the responsibility ahead of me. I've been a Union member for 33 years (10 with the IAM) and understand the importance of growing our Union, but the thought that kept going through my head was that there had to be Machinists with more organizing experience and better suited for this task.

There were fourteen of us at the orientation – seven women and seven men, along with Darrin Nedrow, the Grand Lodge Representative in charge of the Bryan LGH organizing campaign and Mike King, Midwest Territory Communicator. Five of the seven women were either grand lodge or special representatives with the Midwest Territory. The men were all from lodges in Nebraska. I was relieved. Because of my inexperience, I knew I would be paired up with someone who would take the lead and let me sit back and learn. Wrong!! We were told that the women were the team leaders and that we would be paired up with one of our brothers from Nebraska. Much to my surprise, I didn't panic (much!).

I expressed my concerns about my lack of experience and was met with more support than I could imagine. The Midwest representatives were a constant source of encouragement and absolutely wonderful to work with. Brother Nedrow always kept a positive attitude and met with us every morning for reports and to express his confidence in our abilities. My partner was patient and, although I took the lead during the house visits, he was always ready to step in and helped me pick up the slack. By the end of the week, he seldom got a word in!

As I look back at my experience in Lincoln, it was rewarding and I would do it again. Everyday I became more and more confident in my ability to get the IAM message out to the nurses from BryanLGH. It was actually very simple. I truly believe in the labor movement and the importance of growing our membership. After a few visits I found I didn't need to follow a script or rely on my partner to fill in the blanks. I spoke from the heart and it became easy to talk about the benefits of belonging to the Machinists Union.

At Lodge 66, we are looking to add members to our Organizing Committee. Please consider getting involved. The next time District 10 puts out a call for assistance on a blitz, give some serious thought to giving organizing a try. Put your anxieties and fears aside and help us grow the IAM. It's a matter of survival and maintaining the benefits we enjoy today.



Patricia

W-4 is Needed!

Each member must **have on file** at the Union office a W4 form **before any reimbursement of lost time can be made**. We have mailed this form to each committee person and have made them available at the Lodge Business and Education Evening Meeting. It is up to you to complete and return the W4 to the Union office. While you will get paid any lost time it will only be after you have completed your responsibility.

Besides this all **members must use the Lodge 66 lost time form**. You must put the appropriate percentage in the designated area, sign and date the form.

Activities

- **Laborfest**, September 4, 2006, from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The march goes from 4th and Michigan to the Summerfest Grounds. **Brother Tom Buffenbarger our International President will be in attendance**.
- **Volunteer for the Member to Member Walks** to help elect those to service your best economic interest. Let your Lodge know or call Sue Ledbetter, 414-476-2896 at the Wisconsin AFL-CIO building in Milwaukee.

Shop Chairs, Remember Your Shop Meetings To The Membership

Shop Committees should be planning their 2006 meetings for their shops to allow the membership a time to speak out.

Shop Committees can get together and discuss issues. The Hall is available and simply needs a little advance planning and a phone call for a date and time. Service, communications and involvement is what **we are responsible for to the membership.**

Call 414-671-3800 for a date.

Be Informed!

What we negotiate can and always has been legislated away because of who we vote for. If working families continue to vote for the wrong elected representatives the outcome will continue to be the same. If you want to be informed visit our Home Page at www.unitedlodge66.org for shortcuts to information pages or go to the Machinists Union page at <http://capwiz.com/iamaw/home/>.

By visiting this page you will see what issues and legislation is being considered. Better yet you should sign up on for the Action E-List, so you can email your opinions to your elected representative; and receive the MegaVote, how our representatives did vote.

Also available are short cuts to email Congresspersons as well as our state officials.

Seniors Corner

Drug Industry Benefiting on Backs of the Poor

The already lucrative pharmaceutical industry has discovered a new way to increase earnings. The automatic transfer of 6.5 million low income people in the Part D program from Medicaid has created much larger than expected profits for drug makers, with some estimates stating the windfall could be up to \$2 billion this year. Because Medicaid, which by law received the lowest available drug prices, no longer buys medicines, drug companies are able to charge insurers higher prices from the drugs offered under Part D plans. The drug industry has raised wholesale prices of brand name drugs an average of 3.6% since Part D went into effect.

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



Don Griffin, District 10 business agent, giving his monthly report at the Lodge Meeting. A good reason for your attendance.

United Leasing Associates is a full service leasing company and are newly represented members of the Machinists Union **and part of Lodge 66**. We book, finance and service our own deals. Everything is processed through their corporate office in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We also provide service to the customers throughout the term of the lease.

Lease applications are reviewed and decided upon with 24 hours or less. ULA not only offers leasing on almost any type of equipment but they also allow customers to include installation, consulting and training fees in their lease. Government, municipal, non-profit and Indian reservation leasing programs are available through ULA. Equipment can even be leased to companies in Canada!

ULA was established in 1987. They are members of the Equipment Leasing Association, the United Association of Equipment Leasing and the Wisconsin Association of Equipment Leasers.

By Steve Nickel

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.

Lodge 66 Office Hours

We are now open during normal daytime hours Tuesday thru Friday. It is still best to call if you are coming from a long distance. **Call 414-671-3800.**

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 .. **Vacant**

Recording Secretary . Mike Pietrzykowski

Secretary Treasurer . Doug Curler
Conductor Sentinel.

Bunny Browning

Trustees:

Dave Russell, Dave Spengler,
Darrell Rasch

Communicator . Don Burmester
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>

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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LABOR DAY

September 4, 2006 is LaborFest
Be an Active Member in our March