

# Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 11 No. 8

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

August 2008

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

August 8, 2008  
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 September edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is August 17.

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*dwe/iama66, afl-cio*

## 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*

## We Need Another Union Movement

*By Jan DeSmidt, from Plymouth, Wisconsin*

Exploitation, oppression and the everlasting turmoil of discontent; this is how I describe the American Middle Class in this country.

A very long time ago, these inadequacies among our people seeded the Union movement in America and with it came in improved quality of life for all working people. This unity gave us a forty-hour work week, with overtime premiums, a right to a safe work environment (OSHA) as well as environmental safety standards.

Not only does the water we drink have to be safe but it also ensures the safety of the lakes our families swim in, not to mention the air that we breathe.

Unionists fought and lobbied for unemployment insurance, workman's compensation, short and long term disability, just to name a few. What about health and dental insurance, prescriptions, pensions and social security. Take everything away above and where would we be?

When a plant closes or work is outsourced, where does the blame lie. Just ask the former employees of Tecumseh, Lawn Boy, Bolens, Trak and now Simplicity aka Briggs and Stratton, which will close in October.

Thousands of workers have lost their jobs. It is not the Union. We are the Union. **The Union is only as good as the people who are the members.** Are you saying we failed ourselves? Look deeper. The answer is there.

Is it Wisconsin? We do have a very high health care cost in this state. This is neither the fault of the employee or the employer. We began sharing the cost of this burden many years ago. We were born and raised on the frozen tundra, once a thriving manufacturing area, a place to make a good living and a place we fondly call home.

I am about to face my third plant closing in my thirty years of working. The heart-break and devastation of my fellow employees is overwhelming as each time before.

Many are married, many are multiple family members, mom, dad, sons and daughters. Grandpas and grandmas who are retired and are about to be told their retirement promises are no longer a promise.

*(continued on page 3)*



*Jan*

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

## Wisconsin AFL-CIO Joins Health Care for America Now!

By David Newby, President Wisconsin AFL-CIO  
414-581-0942

We all know that our health care system is broken. It costs too much, it covers too little, and too many are left behind.

Early this year the AFL-CIO did an on-line survey about people's attitudes toward our health care system. Over 26,000 took the survey and over 7,000 submitted heart wrenching stories about their experience with health care in America. I would like to read two of those stories from Wisconsin.

This one is from Marie in Madison. "What would you do if you had to choose between food and medicine? Because of rising health care costs, that is a question that is frequently asked in my home. I work full time and have health care through my employer, but only a percentage of the cost is paid by them. I recently needed medication for an ailment, but did not get the medicine. I could not. What would I choose? I chose my children and what they need, whether it be food or medicine. I am the one who will go without before they suffer."

Here is another from Patsy from Milwaukee. "I am a 64 year old single grandmother raising my two grandchildren. Now we are all covered under my employer. When I retire my employee health coverage will end because I will qualify for Medicare but my grandkids will have no coverage. It appears that I will make just too much money with my pension and Social Security for them to qualify for state aid, but I do not know that I can keep my house and buy private insurance for them too. Both kids have disabilities that require daily medication and ongoing therapy. I am tired, very tired and I would love to retire but I am too scared. I do not think we would make it if I do."

No one in America should be able to tell a story like Patsy's or Marie's.

That is why the Wisconsin AFL-CIO has worked so hard over the past years to pass universal health care in Wisconsin. It is why we continue to fight for *Healthy Wisconsin*, which would guarantee comprehensive, quality health care to everyone in our state.

That is also why the AFL-CIO is a member of Health Care for America Now, both on the national level and here in Wisconsin. We are proud to be an active participant in Health Care for America Now, among with these allies we will keep working and organizing until everyone in our state and nation is guaranteed to have the health care they need.

## McCain's HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL

*Will Increase Costs and Reduce Benefits*

**John McCain's health care proposal is similar to President Bush's failed plan.** Like Bush's, McCain's plan undermines existing employer-based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. It will reduce benefits, increase costs and leave many with no health care at all.

**A New Tax on Working Families.** McCain wants to shift the burden from employers to workers. He will make health care premiums part of taxable income, essentially creating a new tax for working families.

**Increases Costs to Workers.** The modest tax credit McCain wants to give people to cover his new tax would cover less than half the average health premium, leaving workers to pick up the difference. Also, by promoting high-deductible Health Savings Account (HSA) plans, which provide fewer benefits at higher costs, he will make the high costs of individual insurance even worse.

**Leaves Workers at the Mercy of Big Insurance Companies.** McCain's efforts to "eliminate the bias" toward employer-based health care will encourage employers to stop offering health care, pushing workers into an unregulated private insurance market to fend for themselves. Big insurance companies will be free to weed out people with health care needs, charge excessive premiums and limit benefits.

**Makes Health Care Harder to Get.** Pushing workers into the private health care market and promoting HSAs will encourage insurance companies to attract only the healthiest people, driving costs up overall. Insurance companies can decide to refuse to cover people with preexisting conditions, such as cancer survivors. Retirees will have a particularly hard time getting health care.

**Lowers the Quality of Available Health Care Plans.** Many states have laws regulating health care quality by requiring basic services to be included in health care coverage. McCain's proposal would circumvent these laws, resulting in lower quality coverage without consumer protections.

### Activities for You and Family

- **Grand Lodge Convention is week of September 7, 2008.** We will be trying to have daily updates on our [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge) site.
- LaborFest will be on Monday, September 1, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM.

Sources: The Commonwealth Fund, *Envisioning the Future*, 1/08; Los Angeles Times, 11/20/07; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), *Administration's Proposed Tax Deduction for Health Insurance Seriously Flawed*, 7/31/07; CBPP, GAO Study Confirms Health Savings Accounts Primarily Benefit High-Income Individuals, 9/20/06; CBPP, *A Brief Overview of the Major Flaws with Health Savings Accounts*, 4/5/06; The Commonwealth Fund, *Paying More for Less*, 6/05; McCain's campaign website, accessed 2/21/08; Health 08.org (Kaiser Family Foundation) Presidential Candidate Forum: John McCain, 10/31/07; Kaiser Family Foundation and HRET, *Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey*. </>



This day is for families *at the Summerfest Grounds*. **Laborfest is from 11AM to 5PM.**

The parade begins at 11AM from Zeidler Union Square, 4th and Michigan Avenue, Milwaukee.

Dave Russell has agreed to make sure that marchers receive their T-shirts. He and Patricia Elizondo will be giving out the refreshment and meal tickets. Hopefully members read the last issue of the Labor Press for the changes implemented regarding the tickets.



(continued from page 1)

It is not just Wisconsin, it is the whole Midwest. Our jobs are moving, because it is more profitable somewhere else. Maybe south, where they can get cheap labor or overseas where throw away products are made by throw away people, as their governments refer to them.

There are no safety laws, child labor laws, or minimum wage. They can work endless hours and if you tire or get hurt they will toss you out so the next guy in line can come in. Is that what we are heading for, again? Yes again.

There was a time when this would have described what it was like to work in America. People fought to get what we have. They were beaten, killed and starved themselves and their families to provide a better life for those of us who do manual labor for a living. Do we even appreciate the luxury we were born into? Did you make too much money? Did you have too many benefits that we bankrupted the company? This is not the case.

Our country has sold out the middle class. Corporate CEO's never make enough money, the new term used by them is "We must compete globally." What that means is that moving their products where there are no laws for humanity can make them richer. I call that selling out America.

They are allowed to ship those products right back into this country and we are foolish enough to buy them. **We the people are our own worst enemy.** NAFTA (North American Free Trade Act) needs to be reformed or abolished, along with its other mistakes like CAFTA, etc. A working America has enough buying power to sustain its own economy.

I am an American, I support America. Let us get back on track and start fighting again. We are the Union, people who come together to support a worthy cause in search of a better future.

## Bylaws United Lodge 66

“Article VI, Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Shop Chairperson to notify the Secretary Treasurer and District No. 10 of all committee members elected each year, not later than December 31st.”

We hope shop chairs do keep their list current at United Lodge 66. Our communications is only as good as you allow it to be.

I am always willing to sit down and discuss with shop committees at a time, date and location of your choice so we are always working together and understand the procedures within our Lodge Bylaws and Grand Lodge Constitution.

*dwc*

## Spanish Leadership II - 1st Ever

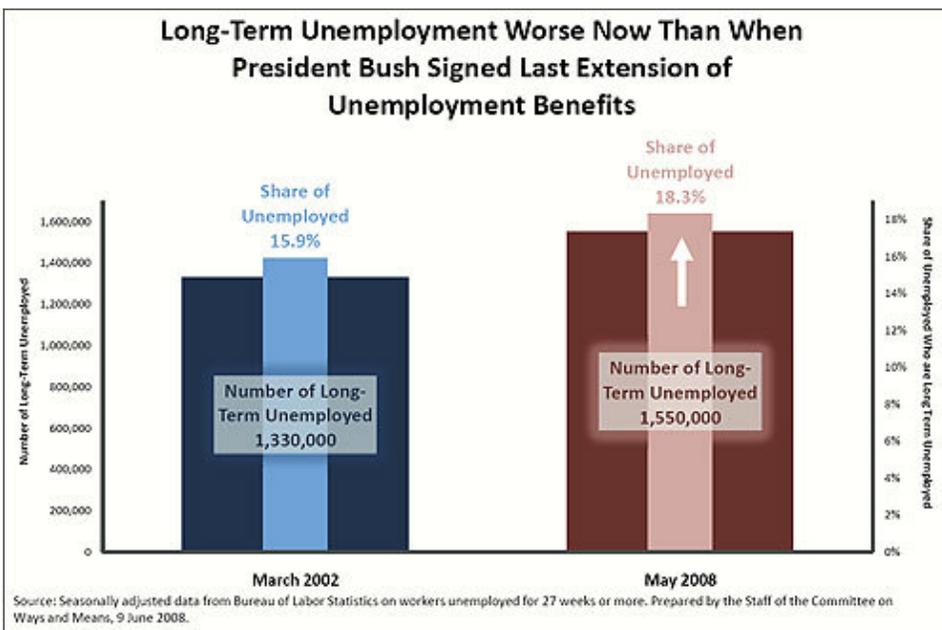


*Jose Rivas, in red shirt, and Carmen Del Valle, 2nd row, yellow blouse.*

United Lodge 66 was fortunate to have two of our members at this first leadership program conducted entirely in Spanish during the week of June 29. “This program continues the Machinists Unions proud tradition of meeting the changing education needs of the membership. The Spanish Leadership II Program demonstrates the Machinists Unions commitment to provide all of it members with the education they need to effectively represent their sisters and brothers,” said President Tom Buffenbarger. “These members are leaders in their workplaces and in their locals. The Machinists Union is strengthened and invigorated by their involvement and activism. I am very proud of each of them.”

*(editors note: Lodge 66 is also proud of them and they represented us well.)*

**IAMUNION**



## MNPL

On line recipients of the Lodge newsletter go to above link, <http://goiam.org/mnpl.cfm>, and protect your future. This is the only way the Machinists Union gives to a political candidate. By voluntary donations from members. **Anyone who says your dues dollar is contributed is a LIAR.**





## Seniors Corner

### Senate Vote Strengthens Medicare

On July 9 the US Senate voted to rescind cuts in Medicare reimbursement to physicians, scale back subsidies to private Medicare Advantage providers and expand health care for low income seniors. Defying a White House veto threat, the Senate reversed a June 26 vote on the same issue. Senator Spector (R-PA) changed his vote, paving the way for other Senators to do the same. Many Republicans opposed the bill because it would take away subsidies from Medicare Advantage private insurance plans. ***The vote on HR6631 was 69 to 30 with Senator McCain the lone absentee.***

### 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](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

## Tax & Spend Republicans

To the 23% of Americans who support Bush and the 30% of Machinists Members who vote for their personal choice!

- When Bush took office on 1/2001 there was going to be 10 years of surpluses totaling \$5.6 trillion.
- Projected deficit for 2009 is \$482 billion.
- Each year Bush has given us a deficit, to pay off (**you to pay-off!**)

Thank you tax and spend Republicans, who were in control.

## McCain Collects His Social Security Check! *Why Should Not You?*

- At a July 7, 2008 forum in Denver, Senator McCain called Social Security “a disgrace.” McCain said, “Americans have got to understand that we are paying present day retirees with taxes paid by young workers in American today. And that is a disgrace. It’s an absolute disgrace and it got to be fixed.”
- In 2007 Senator McCain did collect \$23,157 in Social Security benefits for an average of \$1,929.75 a month! He has never returned any of his checks which he characterized as a disgrace.
- In 2006, McCain, did vote for Bush’s Social Security Privatization Plan to shift Social Security surplus’s (?) into a reserve account to be converted into risky private accounts.
- In McCain’s 2000 presidential bid his plan was to divert a portion of the Social Security payroll taxes into risky stock market accounts and reduce the Social Security payments from the federal government.
- In 2003 McCain voted to use Social Security funds to pay off federal debt. ((HJR51, vote #201, 5/23/03)
- In 1998 McCain voted twice to replace Social Security guaranteed benefits with income from risk based private investments. (SCR86, vote #56, 4/1/98; SCR86, vote #77, 4/1/98)

## Are We Better Off Than Eight Years Ago?



## 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

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or [bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 . . .  
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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](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com)

Video: [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)

Website: [www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org)

dwc/iamaill66, 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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