

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 9 No. 12

www.unitedlodge66.org

December 2006

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

December 8, 2006

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 January edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is December 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- Christmas Party is December 15, 2006 at 6:00PM

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V-President Sample Ballot

United Lodge 66, IAM & AW, AFL-CIO

December 8, 2006 Election

You Must Vote For The Exact Number Of Candidates
As Indicated On This Ballot **or this ballot will be voided.**
Write-in votes are not allowed & will void this ballot.

Place a check mark in box

Vice President
(Vote for ONE)

Bob Paar

Sue Boinski

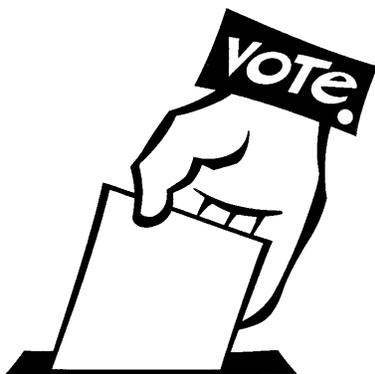
LL66

Name _____

Address _____

Book Number _____

Ballot Number _____



Voting for Lodge 66 Vice-President will take place:

- Friday, December 8, 2006
- From 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
 - Secret Ballot
- 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee

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



The MNPL is the political arm of the Machinists Union (IAM & AW) workers. It was created in

1947 to allow IAM members to gather individual contributions, coordinate political activity, and elect candidates who support IAM members and their families.

The candidates we support know that the MNPL stands for economic justice, security in the workplace and equality for every member. They do not take us for granted.

The MNPL scrutinizes each candidate thoroughly. We ask tough questions such as their positions on trade, labor law, economic conversion, transportation policies, and enhancement of the US manufacturing base.

To achieve the financial numbers to support the political candidates supporting working families we ask all members to be a sponsoring member in MNPL by voluntarily contributing \$10.00 per year. Collectively we can win.

Your shop chair has an MNPL voluntary contribution envelope or one can be mailed to you.

Lies and Deception

It is against federal law for any portion of your dues dollar to go directly to any political candidate. Only through the voluntary contribution by Machinists Union members do we have any money to support political candidates.

Those who say else - are liars by deception.



"A personal account would be your account, you would own it, and the government could never take it away." [Source: White House Web site]" 2/8/2005

"Bush's Social Security plan is a far cry from the private ownership he's touting, however. For example, instead of private plans that let Americans control their own investments, there are tight restrictions on which conservative stocks and bonds the public will be allowed to buy. And, as the New York Times reports, the more restrictions there are, the harder it would be for people to achieve the outsized returns the administration has generally promoted to sell the public on private accounts." - NY Times, 2/6/05"

dwc



Contact the fraud departments of any one of the three consumer reporting companies to place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures

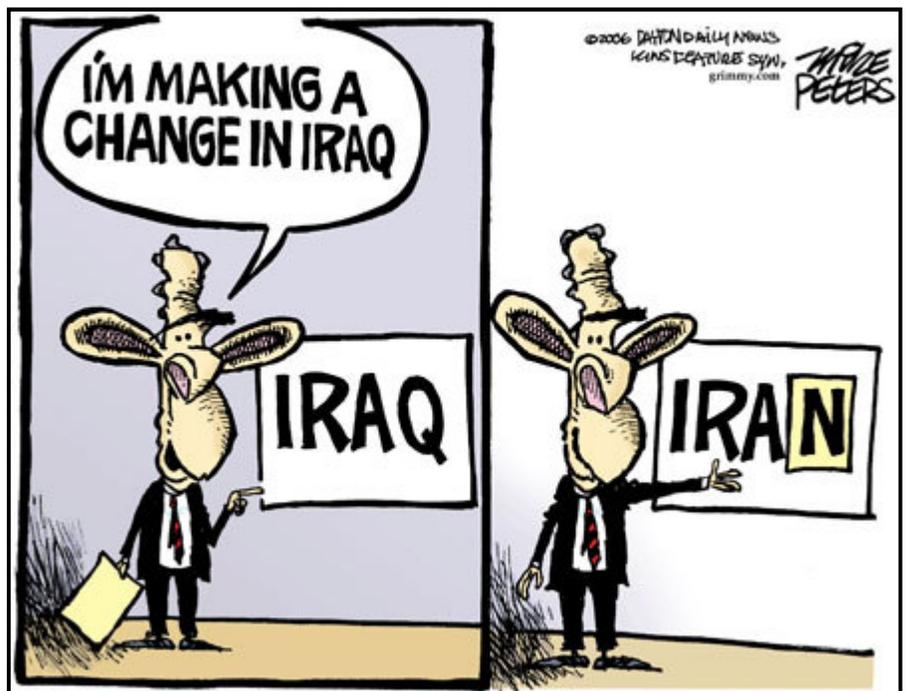
Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Use the ID Theft Affidavit when disputing new unauthorized accounts

File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place. Get a copy of the report or at the very least, the number of the report, to submit to your creditors

File your complaint with the FTC. The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. Filing a complaint also helps us learn more

www.ftc.gov/idtheft

IAMUNION





Union Plus Guide to Scholarship & college planning

Essay Contest of Wisconsin Labor History Society

Did you know the Union members can get significant discounts on health services and products by signing up for one of our Union Plus Health Savings Plans?

The Standard or Premium Plans of Union Plus help cover the often high out of pocket expenses. These plans are available by credit card or by check or money order.

Did you know that using the Union Plus Health Savings Program is a convenient and cost saving way to lower health card costs?

The Standard Plan is \$14.95 a year for discounts on retail or mail order prescriptions, vision care, foot and ankle care, hearing care and diabetic supplies. The Premium Plan is \$69.95 a year for all the Standard Plan PLUS dental care and 24 hour hotline.

Did you know there is NO annual fee for the Standard Health Savings Program if you use your Union Plus Credit Card:

One of the members only features of Union Plus Credit Card is access to the Standard Plan with a one time fee of \$4.95. After that there is no annual fee. Simply call the Health Savings Program at 877-570-4845 with your Union Plus Credit Card?

Did you know even if you have insurance the Union Plus Savings Program can save your family money?

The Union Plus Health Savings Pro-

Do you or your children need help paying for college? Affordable loans and consolidation loans are a click away.

To speak directly with a Union Plus Financial Aid Counselor, call 1-877-881-102. All calls are answered by Union members in the U.S. because the Union Plus Education Services provider American Education Services (AES) is Unionized through AFSCME Local 1224.

Union Plus Scholarship Program

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their secondary education. Over 1,300 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

<http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm>

gram is not insurance coverage but a discount service. The plans were designed to help meet the gaps in coverage for Medicaid recipients, those with inadequate employer coverage and also those who may not have insurance coverage at all.

For more information about Union Plus programs visit:

www.Unionplus.org

This yearly contest is open to high school students in grades 9 to 12. Talk to your family members, friends and neighbors about their Unions and their working life.

Search out other resources. In about 750 words write on the following them: **“Unions have been important to my family and my community because . . .”**

The cash prizes to be awarded in May 2007 include:

- \$500 First Place
- \$300 Second Place
- \$200 Third Place
- \$100 Honorable Mention (up to five awarded)

The rules: Essay will be judged on understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on white paper. Two copies must be submitted (one may be a photocopy). Please be sure to provide the following information on the cover sheet. Your name, address, home telephone number, your grade in school, name and address of your school and if your were encouraged or assisted by a teacher the teacher’s name. Also list your family’s Union membership, if applicable.

Send the completed essays to: Professor Harvey Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311

Submissions must be postmarked February 14, 2007 or before.

Activities for You and Family

- **Christmas Party is December 15, 2006, at 6:00PM.** The location is change to Paulo’s at 5121 W. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee. The change is due to the anticipated increase in attendance. This also the night of our raffle drawing and numerous door prizes. *Please RSVP your participation.*
- **Holiday Open House** with the Milwaukee County Labor Council is **Friday, December 15, 2006 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM**, 633 S. Hawley Road, Assembly Hall, Milwaukee. Refreshments and food will be served.
- **Placid Harbor Leadership Classes** and you can take your family and share the Union learning experience.

Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center

This Machinists Union Educational facility is open to all members. You do need to apply through the Lodge Education Committee and you need to be active in Lodge 66.

Since 1981 more than 46,354 members have attended this facility. It is a commitment from our leadership to us for the best trained Union representatives. On our website there is a complete list of dates for all classes. In most instances there is room for members to bring their families so all can experience our facility.

There are **leadership classes**: Leadership I, II, III and Advanced Leadership; Train the Trainer; Spanish and French Leadership classes. There are **communication classes**: Advanced Editors; Basic and Advanced Web development; Basic Newsletter development; Communicators Course. There are **staff programs**: advanced collective bargaining; arbitration; first contract; pension fundamentals.

Besides this there are opportunities to get a labor degree through the National Labor College.

Labor education to have the best trained. It is up to . . . guess who? YOU.



Placid Harbor, dorms and classrooms

Christmas Party

Friday, **December 15, 2006**

6:00PM to ??

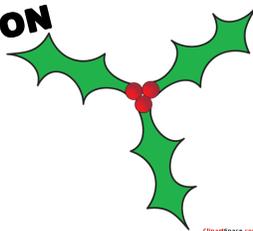
Paulo's Pizza at

5101 W. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee. There will be a meal provided by Lodge 66, by your executive board; along with beer and soda (*cash bar for other drinks*).

This is night of our raffle drawing for 31 - \$100.00 prizes. If you win once your ticket goes back into the drum. There will be other door prizes.

We would appreciate an RSVP for your planned attendance so there will be enough food for all. **Call 414-671-3800 or email smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net.**

Same Great Party - DIFFERENT LOCATION



2007 Scholarship Competition

of YOUR Machinists Union (IAM)

The scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children. This yearly competition was developed in 1960 and all money is from a separate fund.

Awards to members are \$2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years to enable the member to earn a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to children of members are for college at \$1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first. Vocational/technical school is \$2,000 per year until certification is attained or for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

To obtain an application send request to:

IAM Scholarship Program
9000 Machinists Place, RM 117
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Application packet information must be postmarked no later than February 23, 2007.

Union Office Closed

From December 22 thru January 1

NO PHONE MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED - BUT EMAIL WILL BE CHECKED.

Health care was a key issue in last month's election.

Voters cited rising health care costs as their top economic concern when they supported candidates who made health care reform a priority. The "changes in the composition of the House and Senate will have a profound impact on national health policymaking in 2007 and 2008," the health advocacy group Families USA asserts. "Improvements to the Medicare Part D program will receive a tremendous boost when the new Congress convenes in January." During the first days of the 110th Congress, the House likely will vote to "lift the legislative prohibition that prevents Medicare from bargaining with the drug companies to secure lower prices." Taxpayers could stand to "**save as much as \$190 billion over the next 10 years**" if Medicare negotiated prices with drug makers. It is time to let the market forces of supply and demand make drugs cheaper for seniors.

- **Medicare should be allowed to negotiate for lower drug costs.**
"Pharmaceutical companies, like companies in other industries, grant discounts in exchange for volume and market share. It stands to reason, then, that Medicare can get the best prices on prescription drugs by leveraging its group purchasing power—just as Canada, other nations and other large payers in the United States do." The 2003 Medicare prescription drug bill specifically forbids negotiations between Medicare and pharmaceutical companies. Medicare "pays for drugs indirectly, through the private insurers that administer the prescription program— and those insurers typically pay higher prices than government agencies, like the Veterans Administration, that buy medicines directly from drug makers." The prohibition "dilutes Medicare's bargaining position," and the provision's repeal would open up drug prices to the "good old-fashioned free market economics" of bulk purchasing power—something the president and his allies would undoubtedly be for under any other circumstances.
- **The Medicare Part D program has not achieved the low drug prices it could achieve if Medicare were allowed to negotiate. Prices are** "significantly higher than the drug prices negotiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Medicaid program for the poor, and foreign governments." (The governments of Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom all successfully negotiate with pharmaceutical companies.) Tony Snow said yesterday that Part D has "has been incredibly effective in dropping prices far below what people had expected in the first place." But the House Government Reform Committee estimates drug prices could be reduced by another 25 percent or more. The Veterans Administration's experience with negotiation proves its effectiveness.
- **Allowing Medicare to negotiate could help fill the doughnut hole. The savings the federal government** would receive from negotiations would be used to "significantly reduce the size" of Part D's infamous "doughnut hole." The doughnut hole is "perhaps the most bizarre and troublesome aspect of the Part D drug program." "After beneficiaries reach their initial limit of total drug expenses (\$2,250 in 2006), they have no prescription drug coverage until their total drug expenses reach a catastrophic threshold for the year (\$5,100 in 2006). While beneficiaries are in the doughnut hole, they must continue to pay their monthly premiums, although they do not receive any drug benefits. Only after they have spent thousands of dollars of their own money to get out of the hole (\$2,850 in 2006), in addition to their monthly premiums, does their coverage resume." In addition, the doughnut hole "financially penalizes sicker individuals who have more substantial drug need" and generates anxiety among seniors with high prescription drug costs.

(source: Center for American Progress Action Fund, November 14, 2006)

Seniors Corner

Bush Administration Vows to Block Negotiations of Drug Prices

The Bush administration announced that it would strongly oppose any legislation allowing the government to secure cheaper drug prices through negotiation with drug companies, as reported in the New York Times. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt claimed, "federal price negotiations would unravel the whole structure of the Medicare drug benefit, which relies on competing private plans." The same day Leavitt refused to negotiate for cheaper prescription drugs, White House counselor Dan Bartlett insisted that drug prices have "come down" and "the proof is in the pudding." Both statements from the White House set the stage for a contentious battle this January when the Democratic controlled Congress is expected to tackle prescription drug costs with the first 100 hours of the new session.

Join the Wisconsin ARA

We all lose by not being involved and not supporting groups improving or defending working family issues. Wisconsin ARA only function is to protect the health and economic security of seniors. The organization was founded in 2001 and is a coalition of Unions, retiree groups and community based organizations. To get your membership contact Wisconsin ARA at 6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53213. Their phone number is 414-771-9511. **They are a state-wide organization.**

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
- \$15.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$15.00 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.

Orange or Green @



Lodge 66 for \$15.00 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

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 **VACANT**
Recording Secretary
Mike Pietrzykowski
Secretary Treasurer . . Doug Curler
Conductor Sentinel . . . Bunny
Browning
Trustees:
Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,
Dave Russell

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

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 or Education Evening Meeting.

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