

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 12 No 2

www.unitedlodge66.org & www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

February 2009

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

February 13, 2009
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 March edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is February 17.
- **Education Evening** is **February 19, 2009** at 7:00PM, is on Workers Compensation Hearing Loss Benefits.

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dwechiamawll66, afl-cio

Organizing Incentives

Leads: United Lodge 66 T-Shirt and \$125.00

A lead is considered a sit down face to face meeting with a worker from a potential organizing target and District 10.

Organizing Drive - \$200.00

To the member if the lead progresses to an Organizing Blitz.

Election - \$475.00

If the Organizing Blitz leads to an election.

Each of you, as an Union member, is a representative for what Unions can accomplish.

In your daily life, you talk to friends and acquaintances who may work in non-Union environments. If they are unhappy with the voice they have or do not have in their company, talk to them about what your Union does for you

At the same time let Us know if you encounter news of a company where a Union presence would benefit the workers.

Sister Bunny Browning announce the above incentives for members to send new organizing leads into United Lodge 66. This could be up to \$800 for any member if a lead turns into an election to have a Union.



Bunny

Remember this process is not easy and cannot happen over night, so help your friends and acquaintances achieve the steps to have a Voice@Work as a direct result of your activism.

The forms are available online and from your shop committee or we can mail the Lead Sheet to your home.



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

UNION OFFICE IS CLOSED:
on all Mondays.

Hearing Loss Tests

Members are encourage to attend the **February 19, 2009, 7:00PM Education Evening** at your Lodge. The presentation will be on Workers Compensation Hearing Loss Benefits.

Besides the presentation there will be a free loss test conducted for any member. See what you may be missing and how to proceed.



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

Machinists Union 2009 Scholarship Competition

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. The IAM Scholarship Fund was established in 1960.

Scholarships that make possible the attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification. Scholarship awards are determined in competition among eligible applicants that are judged by a special Selection Committee.

The deadline is February 27, 2009. Your Lodge has more call or ask us to send it to you right now.

Milwaukee's Labor History

Visit this website to learn about Milwaukee's Labor History at www.milwaukeeelabortrail.org.

Essay Contest

by Wisconsin Labor History Society

This High School Essay Contest is for 2008-2009 school year Wisconsin High School students in grades 9-12. The cash prizes are awarded in May 2009 (1st is \$500; 2nd is \$300; 3rd is \$200; and up to 5 \$100 Honorable Mention.

Rules: (portion) Is about 750 words in length on the significance of the labor movement in their lives. Essay is judged on students understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance.

Completed essays to Prof. Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311. DEADLINE postmark is February 13, 2009. For full details go to:

<http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org>.

Or your Union Office can send you the details but remember the deadline.

Merger into Lodge 66

In early January we received official notice from our Grand Lodge that Local Lodge 1430 was merged into United Lodge 66 as of December 31, 2008. This adds an additional two shops from our north. They are Modern Equipment and Kieffer Company.

We welcome them and extend an offer to sit down with the respective shop committees on this merger, what it means to them, and how United Lodge 66 functions.

Applications for Machinists Union

Our international has issued new applications and shop chairs should only be using those **Form No. MR0001-09**. The form number is right where the perspective member provides their signature

Education Evening

January 15, 2009

by James Cobb

Our Education Evening welcomed professional Joanne Reuss. Ms. Reuss is an Enrolled Agent and spoke to us about the 2008 tax season which is upon us and the changes in the tax law that apply to us. Members benefited from her clear explanations and answers to their tax questions.



Joanne

NEW Shop Committees

Shop chairs need to keep the Lodge updated, as to any changes in their committees.

Please immediately update any changes to United Lodge 66 so we can keep members informed.



FREE HEARING TEST

February 19, 2009 at 7PM,
2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue,
Milwaukee

Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening**, Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00PM.
- **Steward Training class** is available to all members, see page 5.
- Membership applications for the Union Sportsmen Alliance is available from your Union Office.
- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council**; February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. All meetings start at 6:30PM.

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance

Connecting Union Hunters and Anglers across North America

Like so many of your Union brothers and sisters, you're passionate about – perhaps even addicted to – hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors. So where do you turn when you want to know what other hunters are planting in their food plots, get opinions on a shotgun or fishing rod, find Union-owned outfitting services offering discounts, or share your favorite hunting or fishing photos?

The answer is easy – **The Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA)** – a hunting and fishing club exclusively for Union members, retirees and their families. Thanks to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and 20 Unions of the AFL-CIO, you can connect with Union members across the U.S. and Canada who share a love for the great outdoors.

A \$25 USA Membership Delivers Quite a Bang for Your Buck!

- Personalized USA membership card
- USA-logo Buck knife (\$30 value)
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear and services
- Year subscription to a top outdoor magazine (\$32 value)
- \$25 gift certificate from Beretta field gear
- Chances to win exceptional prizes and trips
- Full access to MyTopo digital mapping service (\$30 value)
- Access to the "Members-Only" section of the USA website

Free membership in the TRCP

That's a value of \$117 plus extra savings with exclusive discounts.



Even more important, the USA together with the TRCP, gives you the opportunity to help guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish and carry on our country's long-standing outdoor traditions. We've organized in the workplace to ensure safe and fair working conditions. Now we can do the same to protect the places we enjoy during our leisure time, both for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren.

Join the Union Sportsmen's Alliance today and start enjoying all the great benefits while helping protect and defend an American way of life.

Visit www.UnionSportsmen.org or call 1-877-USA-2211 (toll-free)

(applications for USA available from United Lodge 66 office)



The USA's Union Partners

Charter Unions, provided seed money to launch the USA

- USW, United Steel Workers of America
- IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- IAMAW, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- CWA, Communication Workers of America
- IAFF, International Association of Fire Fighters
- UA, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters
- SMWIA, Sheet Metal Workers International Association
- IUPAT, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- Roofers, United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, & Allied Workers
- AFL-CIO, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

USA Supporting Unions not providing seed money but welcoming promotions of the USA to their members: APWU, American Postal Workers Union; Iron Workers, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental & Reinforcing Iron Workers; BCTGM, Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers Intl. Union; BAC, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craft Workers; Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers; UMWA, United Mine Workers of America; UWUA, Utility Workers Union of America; OPCMIA, Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons International Association; IUEC, International Union of Elevator Constructors; Insulators, International Association of Heat, Frost Insulators & Asbestos Workers; BRS, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.

Employee Free Choice Act

In my generation I grew up watching my parents work, save, take family vacations, not worry about healthcare, retire with an adequate pension, and age gracefully. This is not the case these days.

It's all about the numbers.

In the years following WW2, the American workforce was 35% unionized, and made significant gains in wage equity, healthcare, educational credits and other benefits.

But since the 1970s, while employee productivity increased by 48%, wages did not. With the trend toward de-unionization, spearheaded by big business interests, most recently supported by the Bush administration, less than 7 percent of American workers are represented by unions. As a result, stagnant wages, disappearing pensions, and higher out of pocket healthcare costs has been the burden we've been handed.

The numbers get even uglier.

Under the Bush Administration's tax cuts for the wealthy, the TOP 10 percent took 90% of the Income Gains, and of that the TOP 1 percent took roughly 60% of that, and the TOP 1/10 of a percent took roughly 35% of that, according to FMR. Rep. David Bonior, a member of President-Elects Obama's Economic Transition Team.

Without the opportunity for collective bargaining, employers have less accountability towards the employees that keep their companies running. They can terminate employees without reason, cut benefits, raid pension funds and cut hours and wages. They can ship jobs overseas, or outsource to the lowest bidder, often to people who have no pride in their workmanship nor vested interest in keeping the product American made and held to the highest quality standards.

Part of the problem is that workers voting in support of unionizing have no expectations of privacy; the employer knows how each employee votes on deciding to unionize. While not all employers practice threatening behavior, far too many harass, intimidate and even fire people who support unionizing, with no accountability.

Corporate lobbyists like to paint a picture of greedy unions asking for outrageously high wages, and holding their employers hostage to unreasonable demands.

But what is un-American about wanting a decent wage, reasonable healthcare, and a pension? As American workers, we should not feel guilty for wanting those things.

And the ability to form unions is beneficial to the economy; when workers can bargain for better pay and benefits, their consumer dollar power and financial stability increases, ultimately benefiting the national economy. There's certainly nothing un-American about that, either.

There's been a change in Washington recently. Both President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden support the Employee Free Choice Act. Legislators like Congressman Eric Massa (D – NY) who won his Congressional seat on a pro-worker platform, and Sen. Arlen Specter (R – PA), who broke with party affiliation to support this important legislation when the bill was narrowly defeated last June are likely to get this important bill passed in the next session.



The changes in Washington reflect a trend toward unity, bipartisanship and working together to achieve common good. That is the very essence of what Unions are all about and why collective bargaining and the Employee Free Choice Act is so important. And that's powerfully Pro American.

In Solidarity James Cobb

Invite Us!!



Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President and I are willing to meet with any shop committees at your shop meetings or at a shop committee meeting to discuss procedures of United Lodge 66 and within the Grand Lodge Constitution. This can not be done if you do not ask. We just ask for advance notice and any place or time at your convenience.

Doug Curler, Secretary Treasurer

Steward Training

Wednesdays on March 4 to April 1, 2009 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

This class will cover the duties, rights and responsibilities of stewards as well as techniques for investigating grievances and presenting them to management.

- What does a Union do?
- The role of the steward
- Rights and responsibilities of the steward
- The grievance procedure and the contract
- Grievance investigation
- Effective writing and presentation
- Union's legal right to info from the employer
- Union's legal duty of fair representation
- Discipline cases - 7 Tests of Just Cause
- Handling issues outside the grievance procedure.

This class is done by the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension at Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals Hall, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis.

There is a registration is to be determined but the Lodge will reimburse **all members** who complete this class and submit to the Union Office their completion certificate and proof of payment.

The deadline for this class is not set yet. To enroll call 608-265-2112 or your Union Office does have the registration forms and your shop should have been posted by your shop chair. Payment only needs to be made on the first night of the class and the check should be made out to MATC.

ANY DUES PAYING MEMBER CAN TAKE THIS CLASS AND WILL BE REIMBURSED.



Health Care for All

We must never forget **the USA can AFFORD health care for all it's citizens.** We bail out our financial institutions, our automotive industry and fund the Iraq War at \$10 Billion a month. Yes we can!

47 million Americans, working Americans, have no health care and **when YOU lose your job it is too late to ask "WHY ME?"**



Why Is Our Health Care Not Guaranteed?

Our elected representatives have it!

We the tax payers pay for it.

IAMUNION

Seniors Corner

Obama Promises Bid to Overhaul Spending on Retiree Programs

"The Alliance will reiterate our policy positions and stress the need for the quality of life of seniors not to suffer," said George J. Kourpias, President of the Alliance. "We appreciate that President Obama has consistently opposed privatizing Social Security and is for raising the caps on income subject to the Social Security tax, which will help the finances of Social Security. He also wants to reduce Medicare waste and fraud and introduce more efficiencies, and plans not to tax the first \$50,000 of seniors' income. We are confident that he will continue to stand up for retirees."

Alliance Lobby Toolkit Available

The Alliance has prepared a toolkit providing materials to make getting appointments and talking to your elected representative easier. Visit the website at <http://www.retiredamericans.org> for the talking points on important issues like: stopping Medicare privatization, on long term care, a retiree's stake in health care reform and seniors and the economy.

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

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

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaaroskenosha@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

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

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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