

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 14 No. 2

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

February 2011

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

February 11, 2011

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, 8AM to 4:30PM;** 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 March 2011 edition of the "Badger Lodge News," is February 18.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- February 2011 **Education Evening** is **February 17** at 7:00PM. Topic is: **Trade Adjustment Assistance**

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Jec/iamaw ll66, aflcio



United Lodge 66
Hall and
Union Office
are
SMOKE FREE.

Scott Walker's Unusual Strategy for Wisconsin

By James Cobb Lodge 66 communicator

The voters of Wisconsin put Scott Walker into the Governors job based on his top two campaign promises - creating 250,000 jobs and balancing the State Budget.

He's certainly taking a novel approach to this goal. Walker is undermining the wind turbine industry, for starters.

Walker introduced "Special Session Assembly Bill 9." This bill will change the state wind farm location statutes developed last year. The new bill would impose the most restrictive laws on wind farms in all of the United States, and stop the expansion and creation of more wind farms in Wisconsin.

At this time there are at least 21 factories already at work building wind energy components. With Walker's help, this number will be reduced and more people will be out of work.

Wind energy has been one of the fastest growing grass roots industries in Wisconsin and these policies will limit their growth and expansion, and reduce the potential for job creation.

Walker's effort to put a stringent regulation on wind turbine manufacturing industry is perfectly understandable, however; the Realtors Association, a group which opposes the wind turbine industry, contributed \$1 million to his campaign.

Walker has also cancelled the federally funded passenger train rail line and given \$810 million back to the Federal Government, resulting in the loss of approximately 4700 jobs that would have been connected to this project.

Spanish rail car maker Talgo, which had pledged to locate and expand a much needed manufacturing operation in Milwaukee's job-strapped central city, was asked by Walker in November to remain in Milwaukee, but in December the company decided that it will move its operations to another state that is more train friendly. Talgo will leave a maintenance crew here in Milwaukee, but the manufacturing jobs will be gone by 2012.

Walker's stance on the rail line also leaves the city of Milwaukee with several million dollars of debt which the city invested in revamping the old Tower Automotive plant as an incentive for Talgo to base its operations here. With Talgo's withdrawal, the city is left with an expensive facility that will be largely empty in 2012. It is a distinct possibility that the city will sue the state to recoup the financial losses incurred by the fiasco. That can't possibly be good for the state budget.

It remains to be seen whether Walker can reverse the drastic cuts to Wisconsin manufacturing he has already begun. Perhaps his promises of a "business friendly state" mean less manufacturing jobs with decent pay, and more minimum wage jobs. It's certainly an interesting strategy.

Don't Forget the Texas Hold 'em Tournament

The tournament is on **Friday February 11th 2011 at 8PM.** This is right after the **Lodge 66 Business Meeting.**

The tournament is being Sponsored by Brian Goode, a member of Lodge 66, and Union Financial, Inc.

Those lodge members who attend the Lodge's Business Meeting will receive an extra **\$500** in playing chips.

Brian wants to get Union members together for a good oldfashioned, Friday night get-together. If you don't know how to play Texas Hold 'em Poker, Brian said he is willing to help you to understand the game.

So come on out for the Lodge's Business Meeting, and see what is going on in your Lodge, and have a fun evening with fellow workers and friends.

"The Power of OUR Union is Directly Related to YOUR Level of Activism in OUR Union."

Depression, Then and Now

By Anne Chase

We're a few years into the recession. Some would say it's a depression, and there's a strong case for calling it that.

Nearly ten percent of Americans are unemployed or underemployed. Unemployment benefits have been extended, but those receiving them are getting by on a fraction of what they are used to making. Social security recipients are being told that there will be no cost of living adjustment for 2011. Gas prices are rising, food costs are rising; housing, energy, childcare and medical care costs are stretching our dollars even further than ever.

The ten percent figure is somewhat deceiving, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics only counts unemployed Americans who are still actively looking for work. Thousands more have simply given up looking.

During the Depression of the 1930s, the unemployed were visible. Hundreds stood in bread lines. Families loaded their kids and possessions into jalopies and headed somewhere, anywhere, in search of a place to live and work. Teenage boys and single men left their homes and rode their thumbs and freight trains around the country, and "hobo jungles" sprang up on the outskirts of towns and rail yards. African Americans flocked north, seeking communities where skin color was not a barrier to employment.

Ball parks and movie theaters provided cheap entertainment; for a nickel or a dime you had entertainment and social interaction and the knowledge that while you might be living close to the bone, your neighbors were right there with you, dealing with the same hardships.

It looks very different these days.

Despite living in a world full of cell phones, internet and cable TV, people living in poverty tend to be isolated.

With a day at the ball game or an evening at the movies no longer a cheap form of entertainment, the poor tend to stay at home. People drive less to save on gas. They shop less, spending less time at the mall looking at things they can't afford. To save the cost of child care, parents stay home with the kids rather than attend a PTA meeting or other social group.

Nutrition is suffering. While many people who are tightening their belts plant backyard gardens or lease a plot at a community garden, the cheapest way to get the most calories for your food dollar is not always the healthiest. Americans are growing obese on macaroni and cheese and inexpensive fast food.

As home prices fall and people default on their mortgages, they are moving back into the cities where apartment costs are lower and public transportation is available. With that change comes an increase in crime, both in the cities and in the suburbs where less people paying taxes means less money for law enforcement, and where abandoned homes can make up most of a neighborhood.

The people who left their homes and searched for jobs in the 1930s were still hopeful that things could be better elsewhere. Rumors spread of jobs to be had in distant cities, of crops that needed picking, of factories opening somewhere down the road.

That hopefulness hasn't reached into this era. The news tells us that the economic outlook is pretty grim across the US. People are able to look for jobs online and through agencies in other states, and some do find work this way. As in the 1930's, that means leaving family, friends and community, and uprooting one's spouse and children.

People without hope – that section of the population who have simply stopped looking for work – are at risk for depression, suicide, drug or alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. This in turn affects the communities in which they live.

There is no easy answer for the negative way the economic downturn has affected our society. Being poor and unemployed is a depressing place to be. Isolation is the enemy. If you find yourself in this position, reach out. While government programs can only go so far, resources are out there.

Communities have responded with grass roots efforts for food banks, job fairs, support groups and training programs to teach new skills to jobseekers. People are going back to school to further their education in unprecedented numbers, and many people who sit at home with no job have used the time to visit the public library or get online to expand their knowledge. Online communities such as www.unionofunemployed.com and www.unemploymentlifeline.com help the unemployed to find solace, support, news, and resources.

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegates to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: February 2, 2011.** All meetings start at **6:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Business Meeting** is Friday, **February 11, 2011 at 7PM.**
- **Texas Hold 'em February 11, 2011 at 8PM** This is at the Union Hall right after the Business Meeting.
- **Delegates to District 10: February 14, 2011.** All meetings start at **7:30PM.** This month's meeting will be held in Horicon at **Local Lodge 873 , 258 Barstow Street, Horicon, WI , 53032**
- **United Lodge 66 Education Evening for February 17, 2011 at 7:00PM ,Trade Adjustment Assistance.**
- **Machinists Union leaders wanted** for the nomination and election of officers and executive board members for United Lodge 66 covering the years of 2012 through 2014. There will be several openings at your Union. The nominations are in November 2011 and **election of officers in December 2011.**
- The class schedule for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office and can be viewed at any of the meetings.

Education Night for February

The Topic for Education Night will be
Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Many of us might think "this doesn't affect me." However, layoffs and outsourcing are becoming all too common these days. It is to your advantage to find out more about this federal program for workers who have been laid off due to the impact of foreign competition.

Topics to be covered include tuition, weekly benefits, and how to file a petition. This informative session will be conducted by Lodge 66 President and Educator, Pat Elizondo.

Members, their families, and friends are invited to Education Night which is the third Thursday of the month, February 17, 2011 and will start at 7PM .

Essay Contest

*Wisconsin Labor
History Society*

The WLHS High School Essay Contest for the 2010 to 2011 school year has a **deadline for submission of February 15, 2011.**

The essay should be no more than 750 words following the theme, "Unions have been important to my family and my community because" Have your children talk to other family members, friends, neighbors about their Unions and their working life.

The cash prizes, which will be awarded in April 2011, include:

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

Send completed essays to:

Professor Harvey J. Kaye,
Center for History and Social Change,
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI
53411

Complete information can be sent from the Lodge or available at www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

jec



2011 Scholarship Competition

by our *International Machinists Union*
(online version, click on the above title)

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada under procedures and rules of eligibility.

Scholarships are determined in competition among eligible applicants that is judged by a special Selection Committee.

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: College - \$1000 per academic year. All rewards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained up to a maximum of four years. Vocational/ Technical School - \$2000 per year until certification is reached up to a maximum of two years.

An Eligible Applicant Must Be Either:

- An IAM member or;
- The son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an IAM member.

A Member Applicant:

- Must have two years of continuous good standing membership through the closing of the competition which is February 25, 2011;
- May apply either when entering college or vocational / technical school as a freshman or at a higher lever with some college credits already completed;
- May apply as a full time or part time student.
- If not a winner, may apply again the following year.

This is a brief summary. The pamphlet of all the information can be sent to any member or you can [click for the online version at www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org).

**The deadline is
February 25, 2011.**



jec

What is a Union?

An organization of workers joined together for a common purpose, for mutual aid and protection, to engage in concerted activity and collective bargaining, to elevate their conditions of life and labor; an organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.

Union Veterans Committee

Get involved in 2011 by contacting Mike Balistriere,
414-771-9829 or mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net.

He is heading the committee for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

Car Pooling

From Kenosha: Want to car-pool to Union Meeting? Contact Vice President Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-605-0436 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com



From Sheboygan: from Sheboygan or picking members up in Port Washington call: Ron Simmelink, 920-627-0325, from Kieffer & Company in Sheboygan.



Officers, LL66 Machinists Union

President Patricia Elizondo
 Vice President Bob Paar
 Recording Secretary Mike Pietrzykowski
 Secretary Treasurer . . Ivan Collins
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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
<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>
<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>
jec/iamawll66, afl-cio

Directory for District 10 Office,

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215; dial 414-643-4334, then extension for your Business Agent:

Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	16
Greg Pursell	24
Janice DeSmidt (Organizer)	15

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