

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 13 No. 1

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

January 2010

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

January 8, 2010

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 February 2010 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is January 17.
- **Education Evening** is January 21, 2010 at 7:00PM on **Your Taxes**.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

CONTENTS

Do You Have Eyes?	Pg 2
Activities for You	Pg 2
Essay Contest & More	Pg 3
Jobs Now!	Pg 4
Seniors Corner	Pg 5

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Christmas Party

by James Cobb

The children's Christmas party was more like a parade, with a steady stream of children showing up to fill the Lodge. They came for the hot dogs, chips and juice but most of all to see Santa Claus. Some were still completing their wish list for Santa, while others waited patiently for the jolly man to show up. The children were not disappointed because Santa did show up with a gift for children both naughty and nice. Each child received a stocking from Santa while he listened to the children tell him what they wanted most for Christmas Day.

Santa was sent off with a cheer and Merry Christmas to all but soon returned to use the phone to call 'AAA' as one of his sled runners was in need of repair before going on to his next stop.

Later that evening the adults Christmas Party took place and soon the Lodge was full. There was plenty of conversation and merriment going on. Usually when we see each other we are meeting over Union business so it was a nice opportunity to socialize and have fun and relax.



photos by James Cobb



Yearly Compensation

Once each year committeepersons and stewards are compensated for attendance at United Lodge 66 Business Meetings or Education Evenings. While we are a diverse lodge spread out over a large region there is still a chance to learn from each other and find out opportunities for your personal growth. This will not happen if you do not make the effort. Attend a meeting, introduce yourself and express your questions. Stay around after the formal meeting and get the 'informal' opinions.

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

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

Do You Have Eyes in the Back of Your Head

by James Cobb, Lodge 66

Milwaukee band Dr. Chow's Love Medicine has a song, "Eyes in the Back of My Head" which seems like the perfect prescription for navigating all the rhetoric and nitpicking surrounding the healthcare debate which has obsessed the media and tied up Congress.

Health insurance company Aetna, worried about meeting projected profit goals, plans to drop over 600,000 clients as well as raise their premiums in order to keep profits firm.

And profits, which pay the \$1.1 million salaries of CEO Ronald Williams and President Mark Bertolini, aren't the only expense Aetna has to meet. Lobbying efforts cost over \$2 million annually. That buys a lot of influence peddling in the halls of government.

The new bill currently in the Senate, which will require all Americans to have health insurance, is not likely to include a public option. It's important to remember that health insurance does not equal health care. Just ask the thousands of Americans who have insurance but cannot afford copays, or whose plans do not cover necessary medications or procedures.

There's a reason that health care stocks closed at record highs on Friday, right after a "compromise" was reached among Senate Democrats that threw out the public option and imposed even tighter restrictions on abortion.

As citizens who will be affected by this legislation, it's important to keep eyes in the back of your head. Get educated and follow the debates. Listen to the experts on both sides of the aisle and let your senator and congressional representatives know where you stand.

Veterans Donation

At our Christmas Party we asked for donations from attendees for the veterans at our Zablocki VA Center who are hospitalized for the season. Again our members came through and we were able to help out those who have served and given to this country. *Thank you all.*

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Camp Lejeune (USMC) Clean Water?

Contaminated water may have been consumed by persons on Camp Lejeune prior to 1987. If you were stationed there go online and register: www.marines.mil/clwater or your Lodge has the information.

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Health

A Comparison between the Senate

Who's Covered: About 94% of legal residents under age 65, compared to 83% now. Government subsidies to help buy coverage start in 2014. Of the remaining 24 million people under 65 left uninsured, about one-third would be illegal immigrants.

Requirements for individuals: Almost everyone must get coverage through an employer, on their own or through a government plan. Exemptions for economic hardship. Those who are obligated to buy coverage and refuse would pay a fine starting at \$95 in 2014 and rising to \$750.

Requirements for employers: Not required to offer coverage, but companies with more than 50 employees would pay a fee of \$750 per employee if the government ends up subsidizing employees' coverage.

Illegal immigrants: Would be barred from receiving government subsidies or using their own money to buy coverage by private companies in the exchanges.

(source: AP, 12/24/2009)

(Only a partial summary, will send more by request.)

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council:** January 13, February 3. March 3 in 2010. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- **"Crash Course"** for Stewards is being offered by the University of Wisconsin Extension School for Workers on **Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 8:00AM to 4:30PM** at the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals building, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis. Any member can take this class and will be reimbursed the registration fee from United Lodge 66. Call your Union Office for the Registration Form and for all information on how to be reimbursed the fee.
- **Education Evening on January 21, 2010** will be on **Your 2009 Taxes** and the changes in federal and state by Joanne Reuss.
- **49th Annual Joint Installation Dinner** is on **Saturday, January 23, 2010** at the Wyndham Hotel, 4747 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee. Cocktails are at 5:30PM with dinner at 7:00PM. The cost is fifty-five (\$55.00) per ticket which includes free soda and beer. Members may purchase one ticket and get a second ticket paid for by the Lodge. For single ticket sales, the lodge will cover half the cost. **BUT this must be done through Lodge 66.**
- The class schedules for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office or can be viewed at any of the meetings. The schedule is also on the website: www.goiam.org. A copy of the Lodge Education guidelines, which were printed in last month's newsletter, will be sent to all shop chairs.

Care

& House of Representatives Bills

Who's Covered: About 96% of legal residents under age 65. Government subsidies to help buy coverage start in 2013. About one-third of the remaining 18 million people under age 65 left uninsured would be illegal immigrants.

Requirements for individuals: Must have insurance, enforced through a tax penalty of 2.5% of income. People can apply for hardship waivers if coverage is unaffordable.

Requirements for employers: Must provide insurance to employees or pay a penalty of 8% of payroll. Companies with payrolls under \$500,000 annually are exempt and the penalty is phased in for companies with payrolls of \$500,000 to \$750,000. Businesses with 10 or fewer workers get tax credits to help them provide coverage.

Illegal immigrants: Would be barred from receiving government subsidies but permitted to use their own money to buy coverage offered by private companies in the exchange.



See what is available for Machinists Union members at www.unionplus.org or we will, at your request, send you the booklet on the benefits in the Union Plus program.

- computers
- car or truck tires
- legal advice
- help in health care and prescriptions
- more, more, more

Essay Contest

Wisconsin Labor History Society



Members need to encourage their children or grand children to enter the 2010 essay contest of the Wisconsin Labor History Society.

<http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org>

Cash prizes are available for high school students for writing essays in about 750 words on the topic: "Unions have been important to my family and my community because . . ."

The cash prizes will be awarded in May 2010, include: \$500 - First Place; \$300 - Second Place; \$200 - Third Place; and up to five \$100 prizes for Honorable Mention.

Rules: Essays should be approximately 750 words in length. They 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, your grade in school, name and address of your school, and if you were encouraged or assisted by a teacher, the teacher's name. (Also list your family's Union membership, if applicable.) If you have any questions, contact: Harvey J. Kaye at 920-465-2355 or kayeh@uwgb.edu.

Send completed essays to: Prof. Harvey J. Kaye, Center for History and Social Change, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54311. **Submissions must be postmarked February 15, 2010 or before.**

Teachers are urged to assist students in with editorial and research for these essays.

Students may talk to their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or other relatives, friends and neighbors about what labor Union membership has meant to them or what struggles they may have faced in their jobs.

Union members are urged to suggest their high school children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces participate and to tell them about what the Unions have meant to them.

More Competition

There is a National History Day in Wisconsin and cash prizes to be won by middle school and high school students. Log on to: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/teachers/historyday/> and see what needs to be done for the 2010 contest.

For college and university students the Wisconsin Labor History Society an annual competition of the Zeidler Academic Awards for the best original research papers about Wisconsin Labor and working-class history. Complete details can be attained at: <http://wisconsinlaborhistory.org/Zeidler2009CallForPapers.law.pdf>.

2010 Scholarship Competition

This competition is run by our International and made possible by the dues paying members with our organization. The deadline for the scholarships are February 26, 2010. A brochure explaining the competition is available from your Union office or simply write to our International for the information. It would be fastest to directly contact them:

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



The Machinists Union Jobs Now program is a comprehensive strategy to put millions unemployed Americans back to work immediately. Jobs Now calls for a second stimulus package, one focused on investing more in manufacturing and transportation and providing more skills training.

We need to stop pointing fingers but it is time for Congress and the Obama Administration to act.

Write to your elected representatives and tell them to get going:

- President Obama, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20500.
- Senator Kohl, Hart Senate Office Building, SH330, 2nd & C St., NE, Washington, DC 20510.
- Senator Feingold, Hart Senate Office Building, SH506, 2nd & C St., NE, Washington, DC 20510.
- Representative Moore (D-4th), Longworth House Office Building, Room 1239, Independence & New Jersey Avenues, SE, Washington, DC 20515.
- Representative Sensenbrenner, Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2449, Independence Ave. & S. Capitol St. SW, Washington, DC 20515.
- Representative Ryan (R-1st), Longworth House Office Building, Room 1113, Independence Avenue & New Jersey Avenues, SE, Washington, DC 20515.

Two weeks ago the AFLCIO also called on Congress and the Obama Administration to take these five steps for the jobless.

1. **Extend the lifeline for jobless workers.** Unless Congress acts now, supplemental unemployment benefits, additional food assistance and expansion of COBRA health care benefits will expire by 12/31/2009. Extending benefits also will boost personal spending and create jobs throughout the economy.
2. **Rebuild America's schools, roads and energy systems.** America still has at least \$2.2 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs. We should put people to work to fix our nation's broken down school buildings and invest in transportation, green technology, energy efficiency and more.
3. **Increase aid to state and local governments to maintain vital services.** State and local governments and school districts have a \$178 billion budget shortfall this year alone, while the recession creates greater need for their services.
4. **Put people to work doing work that needs to be done.** If the private sector can not or will not provide the needed jobs, the government should step up to the plate, putting people who need jobs together with work that needs to be done. These should never be replacements for existing public jobs. They must pay competitive wages and should target distressed communities.
5. **Put TARP funds to work for Main Street.** The bank bailout helped Wall Street not Main Street. We should put some of the billions of dollars in leftover Troubled Asset Relief Program funds to work creating jobs by enabling community banks to lend money to small and medical size businesses.

(sources: goiam.org and aflcio.org)

Free, all three!

By law you can get free each year a credit report on you. With this report you will also see who is checking up on you. This is the law.

The best and smartest way is to request one report every four or five months and you will then keep a running report on your credit history and not pay a dime.

The three credit agencies are:

- Equifax: www.equifax.com or 1-800-685-1111.
- Experian: www.experian.com or 1-888-397-3742.
- TransUnion: www.transunion.com or 1-800-916-8800.

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Shop Committees in 2010

All shop committees need to send into the Union office who are their committeepersons for 2010.

This information is needed so we can send out our information to the correct members.

If shop chairs **DO NOT** send in the information there could also be a loss of compensation for some committeepersons. This is not our fault but that of each shop committee. In 2009 some did not receive the proper compensation because of a lack of communications from shop chairs or a W4 was not on file.

Our newsletter is our voice of communications and if members do not read it and do what is required ***we will not make calls.***

It is up to you.

Thanks,

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Don't You Just Love Them?

Republican Representatives Ryan and Sensenbrenner on December 18, 2009 ***voted no*** and HR2847 to extend unemployment insurance to laid off workers.

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Reimbursement of Lost Time for Committee Person

While you will be reimbursed for lost time it may not be as fast as you would like if proper procedure is not followed. Please be aware reimbursement will only be done as stated in the letter from District 10 to Financial Officers dated January 23, 2009.

This must happen or be on file at the Lodge office:

- W4 must be completed by you and on file at the LL66 office. This needs be done only once.
- Properly complete the Lodge 66 Reimbursement Form.
- Lost time must be approved by your business agent at District 10.

Since October 2006 all lost time is paid by ADP payroll. Payroll is done only twice a month. If you miss one payroll date then it will have to wait until the next. Lost time reimbursement forms must be into the LL66 office before the Monday of a payroll date.

Payroll dates are listed on the Calendar Page of our Lodge website at: www.unitedlodge66.org.

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Organizing Incentives Worth \$800.00 to you

The Organizing Lead sheet is available from your Union office or can be downloaded from the home page at www.unitedlodge66.org. They are simple to fill in. Just talk to your friends and find out if they want to have a voice at work and stop being an Employee at Will.

We can only do it with your help.

Car Pooling from Kenosha

Want to carpool to Union Meeting? Contact Vice President Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

Initiation Fee

Per the Lodge 66 Bylaws: **"The Initiation fee will be the applicable monthly dues for the respective shop of employment for all members."**

This was changed in 2001 and remember this is a fee not a due.

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Honorary Withdrawal Card

There is a \$1.00 Fee - It Is Not Free

There has always been a fee for the withdrawal card. All too often a member sends in the application for the card and expects one at no cost.

Withdrawal cards are allowed if:

- Left the trade because of illness
- Obtained employment outside the trade or industry.
- Furthering education.
- Obtained a supervisory position above the rank of working foreman.
- Because of circumstances over which I have no control, am compelled, as a condition of employment, to join another labor organization.

In order to get the withdrawal card a member must obtain such within two months of paying dues.

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Hello Out There!

Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President, and I (Doug) are willing to meet with all shop committees or to attend your shop meetings to discuss procedures of the Lodge and the Grand Lodge Constitution. **This can not be done if you fail to ask!**

We just ask for advance notice at a time and place of your convenience.

Seniors Corner

How could the health care reform being debated in Washington, DC affect seniors? There is no final bill but here are a few items in the Senate and House version.

Senate:

- Medicare payroll tax increased to 2.35% on income over \$200,000 a year for individuals, \$250,000 for couples.
- Cuts in Medicare?
- Long-term care: a new voluntary long-term insurance program would provide a basic benefit designed to help seniors to help avoid going into nursing homes.

House:

- To increase prescription drug coverage for seniors under Medicare.
- \$400 billion cuts in Medicare and Medicaid?
- Long-term care: a new voluntary long-term insurance program would provide a basic benefit designed to help seniors to help avoid going into nursing homes.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter,
6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, 53213. (414-771-9511) Yearly dues are \$10.00.

[http:// www.wisconsinara.org](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

IAMUNION

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, large or X-large
- \$11.50 for XX-large or XXX-large
- \$4.00 for mesh cap
- \$11.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$11.00 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.



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

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Directory for District 10 Office,

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

Bill Christianson	24
Russ Krings	16
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	23
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	18

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Education Evening
January 21, 2010
7:00PM