

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 11 No. 1

January 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

January 11, 2008

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 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is January 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- **Education Evening is January 17, 2008 at 7:00PM**

CONTENTS

Activities	Pg 2
Communicator Class	Pg 2
Essay Contest	Pg 3
Senior Corner	Pg 3

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio



If we keep
electing the
same
type of
individuals
no one
EXCEPT

our elected officials
will have health care!

GET INVOLVED IN 2008

Unions

By Tim Spengler

Unions have been very important to my family's life because it allows for better working hours for my dad and to receive better benefits with the job he does. If it were not for the Union we would not have some of the things we have now. From the Unions we are able to have things like better wages, and an eight hour work day. One of the most important things that comes from the Union is that it allows us to have improved health insurance, paid holidays and vacation time. Lastly, Unions are groups of people and to get something changed it is always easier when you have other people supporting your decisions and fighting for the same thing as you are. With all of these benefits it makes life easier for a family to function and not have to worry about everything.

There use to be a time when there was no minimum wage and people would have to work six-teen hour days. Working this many hours and receiving such a low pay was not fair for the workers. Now there is a minimum wage that all workers over the age of eight-teen must get paid and also shorter work days. There are some people that would work very hard at everything they did in their job and yet they would barely get paid anything. While on the other hand there were others that would barely work at the same job but got paid way more for working less because of who they knew. Now because of the Unions everyone gets paid a certain amount of money and this takes a lot of stress off the workers. I know that with my dad every days he works a certain amount of hours and gets paid a certain amount of money. If he works extra hours then he gets overtime and is rewarded for doing more. By doing this it allows him to be happier with what he does and not get over stressed or over tired with everything. Before people were working to hard and not getting enough rest this would sometimes ever tear families apart and possibly cause more accidents on the job. Although these two benefits of being in a Union may seem small they are a huge factor and have helped families especially ours get through the tough times in life.

(Unions, con-
tinued on
page 3)



Tim

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

Communicator Class at Machinists Union Winpisinger School

By James Cobb

I would like to thank the Executive Board and the membership of Lodge 66 for sending me to the Communicator class at the Winpisinger School in Baltimore, Maryland, and for encouraging me to deepen my involvement in the Union.

The class was very informative. The main subject we looked at was how to set up, build and maintain a Micro-Website. We at Lodge 66 are very fortunate to have a great website which was built and maintained by Brother Doug Curler. Because of his fine work, I was able to understand much of what was talked about in the class, because I'd seen it firsthand in our own lodge.

Among the other subjects we covered were Designing Handbills. There was some discussion on writing techniques and interviewing techniques. It is a personal goal of mine to sharpen these skills in the coming year.

I met with communicators from all over the United States and Canada. In the attached picture, you can see me with Toni McBroom, from Lodge 956, and Bill Upton, one of our instructors.

Toni was featured in the IAM Journal, Summer 2007, where her photo made the cover during an Enough is Enough rally in Washington, DC.

We also had communicators from the Transportation Communication Union (TCU). There were many different viewpoints and ideals shared in the class.

The number one view shared by all of us was: "How do we get more of the Union membership to attend our monthly meeting?"

Between overtime and family obligations, a Union meeting is sometimes pushed to the back burner. On the other hand, one hour a week is not a lot to ask. I would like to pose the question: what would it take to entice more members to the monthly meeting and the Education Night? We currently have drawings and raffles, and would like your input on what else would draw people out to meet with the lodge just once a month. Your suggestions are welcome!

Remember, our meetings are a two way street. We are there to tell the membership about issues that affect them and what we are doing about it, but also to listen to questions, concerns, and suggestions from the membership.

I hope each and every one of our membership and their families had a joyful holiday, full of friends and warmth and cheer!



James, Toni and Bill

Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening is January 17, 2008 at 7:00PM.** The topic is your 2007 taxes. This is open to all members and you are encouraged to bring your family and friends.
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger** leadership classes for 2008 are out. This is open to all members but you need to attend your Lodge Meeting. All expenses and lost time are taken care of . . . just meet the challenge.
- Lodge Committees **need your support and involvement.** They include: Women's Committee and Human Rights Committee.
- The University of Wisconsin-Extension, School for Workers will be hold a five week **Steward class** on Wednesday Evenings from **5:30PM to 8:30PM, running from February 6, 2008 to March 5, 2008.** There is a registration fee of \$49.05 but any United Lodge 66 completing the class and submitting the certificate and payment receipt to the office will be reimbursed. The location will be at 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis at the offices of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals. Your shop should be posted or call your Lodge for the information at 414-671-3800. Information can be obtained by calling the school at 608-262-2112 or schoolforworkers@uwex.edu.

Wisconsin Labor History Society Essay Contest



This contest is open to all high school students in the grades 9 - 12. In about 750 words write an essay on the following theme: **“Unions have been important to my family and my community because . . .”** Information can be collected from family, friends, neighbors as well as using other resources as the library and the internet.

Judging by:

Prof. Harvey Kay
Center for history and Social Change
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Green Bay, WI 54311

Cash Prizes: \$500 - 1st Place; \$300 - 2nd Place; \$200 - 3rd Place
\$100 - Honorable Mention (up to 5 awarded)

Submissions must be postmarked by February 15, 2008 or before. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on white paper and two copies must be submitted.

All shops should have been posted but we can send the flyers to anyone by calling United Lodge 66 at 414-671-3800 or smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net.

(Unions, continued from page 1)

Not only did Unions fight for improved wages and better hours but also better health care benefits. Now most of the time when you get a job they offer you different health care benefits, paid holidays and vacation time. Employees will look for these bonuses and when they see that they have the options it is always a plus. The workers are able to have added bonuses because of Unions fought for them. With this the workers can get some breaks from work and have time for themselves. Now if someone wants to get away from everything they can take a vacation and they will still be paid as if they were working, but instead they are getting a break from everything. These can play a huge role when choosing a job and what is best for your and your family. With the Union's help to make everything easier for the families it can save them a lot of time and effort.

The final thing that has been important to my family is that Unions have a greater chance of changing something than a single person does. A Union consists of a group of people that all want the same thing. With a whole group of people they will have more power and have a greater chance of getting something that they want. A single individual will have a harder time to get something that they want than a group of a hundred would. The group of one hundred shows that they are many people that want this changed and that it is affecting more than just one person. If the boss has a whole group of people come to him then he knows that something needs to be changed, whereas if just one or a couple people come he may not think it is as big of a deal. This is important with my family because if there is something that my dad and his fellow workers do not think is fair, then they can go in and possibly get it changed to their likings.

Unions are especially important for my family and community and those are just a couple of the main reasons. Without Unions the workplace would be very different and workers may not be able to get the things that they want or need. **By forming these Unions it allows the workers to unite and become one and get done the things that need to get done.**

(editors note: Tim was awarded United Lodge 66's 2007 Scholarship for his essay)



Seniors Corner

Budget and Medicare Bills Passed:

Before leaving Washington for the holiday recess Congress increased the funding for Social Security and protected physicians from receiving cuts in their Medicare payments. The SSA funding level is \$150 million over the President's budget request. Language was also included to address the backlog in handling disability claims.

Funding was extended until March 2009 for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). To attract Republican support and avert a presidential veto the package is supported by relatively uncontroversial Medicare cuts.

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

I AM UNION

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,

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
- \$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.

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

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438
414-671-3800

www.unitedlodge66.org

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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 smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net or lodge66@gmail.com

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio



Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	
United States	6.5
Canada	4.8
France	3.5
Japan	2.8