

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 10 No. 7

www.unitedlodge66.org

July 2007

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

July 13, 2007

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, **8:00AM to 4:30PM**; and business can be done at the Business Meeting or by mail. **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles for the August edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is July 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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OFFICE CLOSED

July 2 through 6, 2007

**No messages will be returned until
Monday, July 9, 2007.**

Please send any dues directly to the
Union office.

Veterans/Badge Night - June 2, 2007

In 2006 we had the merger of three lodges into United Lodge 66 which made our Veterans/Badge Night larger than ever. On this night the continuous years of membership in the Machinists Union is recognized. The list provided by our Machinists Union Grand Lodge had 1179 recipients. On this list were 105 members receiving their 50 year pins and Life Time Gold Cards.

(more photo's on page 2)



Brother Dave Russell and Brother James Cobb checking in recipients. Brother Rasch was in attendance for his 15 year pin.

Employee Free Choice Act

By the time this newsletter is out the Senate will already vote on EFCA and we will know which Senators and which political party is for working families. EFCA is necessary since the activists neo-con judges have continuously changed the NLRB Act (national labor relations act of 1935) since its passage. Hopefully it will be passed this year but if not we will keep working until it is passed.

What EFCA will do:

- **Certification on the basis of majority sign-up.** Provides for certification of a Union as the bargaining representative if the National Labor Relations Board finds that a majority of employees in an appropriate unit have signed authorizations designating the Union as its bargaining representative. Requires the board to develop model authorization language and procedures for establishing the validity of signed authorizations.



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

Veterans/Badge Night

A Thank you for Badge Night

“To the Executive Board of United Lodge 66.

Thank you for the invitation to your annual veterans night celebration.

I want to convey a special thank you for the 50 year watch and 50 year Badge, which were presented to me on Saturday night.

My wife and I appreciate the great buffet and the work of the board to put it all together.

Tony Truskowski, former Local 34.”



Recipients and guests enjoying their event.



These members with 50 years of continuous membership in the Machinists Union were in attendance. They were in alphabetical order: Harlyn Albert, Floyd Barber, John Newman, Philip Pettey, Gayle Smith and Anthony Truskowski; pictured with Patricia Elizondo, United Lodge 66 President.

(EFCA continued from Page 1)

- **First Contract Mediation and Arbitration.** Provides that if an employer and a Union are engaged in bargaining for their first contract and are unable to reach agreement within 90 days, either party may refer the dispute to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for mediation. If the FMCS is unable to bring the parties to agreement after 30 days of mediation, the dispute will be referred to arbitration, and the results of the arbitration shall be binding on the parties for two years. Time limits may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties.
- **Stronger Penalties for Violations While Employees Are Attempting to Form a Union or Attain a First Contract.** (a) **Civil Penalties:** Provides for civil fines of up to \$20,000 per violation against employers found to have willfully or repeatedly violated employees' rights during an organizing campaign or first contract drive. (b) **Triple Back Pay:** Increases the amount an employer is required to pay when an employee is discharged or discriminated against during an organizing campaign or first contract drive to three times back pay. (c.) **Mandatory Application for Injunctions:** NLRB is required to seek a federal injunction against a Union whenever there is a reasonable cause to believe the Union has violated the secondary boycott prohibition in the act; or injunction against employer who has discharged, discriminated against or threatened to discharge against employees engaged in organizing.

(source: AFL-CIO fact sheet)

Our Charters & more



We have added a display (thanks to Brother Roy Schneider of Lodge 510) showing the original Charter of Lodge 66, (as well as for Lodges 34, 437, 1493 and PM2824). Also enclosed is an 1891 indenture agreement between machinist Oscar Seibers at the Filberg Stowell Company; a photo display showing Leslie Gray, an United Lodge 66 secretary treasurer; as well as the plate used in 1974 to burn the mortgage agreement for our present building.

The draping of the charter (above Lodge 34's) is a Machinists Union tradition when members pass away. In this case it was in respect for Brother William Buzza a past president of Lodge 34. Brother Buzza was a machinist employed at the Eaton-Dynamatic Company and the president of Lodge 34 for 20 years. His ethic and upbringing was developed in his early years in the mining town of Ironwood, Michigan. This transcended to the labor movement involving the rights of workers and social issues. Along with UAW labor leaders in the Kenosha Area he helped start a job training program for low income senior citizens. "Bill just really cared about making the community better, whether city or county or nonprofit project. He wanted to just make it a better tomorrow than it was today," stated John Collins, former Kenosha County Executive.

Reimbursement of Lost Time

There will be no reimbursement of lost time unless: **(a)** a member has a W4 on file at United Lodge 66. This only has to be done once.; **(b)** the member does need to fill out the Lodge 66 reimbursement form which does have to be dated and signed by the member, as well as check the appropriate functional category. **(c.)** the reimbursement **MUST be signed by your business agent** to ensure the Lodge will be then reimbursed by District 10. This is all governed by a proposal from District 10, dated December 20, 2005 and agreed to by the Delegates of District 10.

There are only two pay periods in any given calendar month and if one is missed a member does need to wait until the other in two weeks. All payroll is done by ADP and checks are mailed to the member once they are received by the Lodge. Right now the remaining paydays in 2007 are: 7/10, 7/24, 8/14, 8/28, 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11 and 12/24 (if changed check out the calendar page on our website or call the office). **All lost time sheets must be received before these dates. Payroll is done early in the day on these dates.**



Rule of Law Violated by Administration

The Bush Administration sometimes fails to follow provisions of laws after President Bush attaches “signing statements” meant to interpret or restrict the legislation.

Lawmakers asked the Government Accounting Office to conduct a study and said it was further proof that the Bush White House oversteps constitutional bounds in ignoring the will of Congress.

“Too often, the Bush administration does what it wants, no matter the law. It says what it wants, no matter the facts,” stated



Senator Byrd, Chairman of the Appropriation Committee.

Signing statements, in which the president appends bills he is signing into law with statements reserving the right to revise, interpret or disregard provisions on national security and constitutional grounds, have become a sticking point in the power struggle between Congress and the White House.

The limited GAO study examined signing statements concerning 19 provisions in fiscal year 2006 spending bills. It found that in six of those cases the provisions were not executed as written.

(editor: if, we did that, drove as fast, disregarded traffic signs or only paid the taxes we want; would the Bush Administration enforce the laws against us? You bet they would.)

IAMUNION

Thank You Union Representatives

These members deserve a big thanks for taking time out of their personal lives to attend classes to better serve our membership.

Attending the Steward Training class in Milwaukee run by the School for Workers:

- Christopher Brady, from Badger Meter.

Attending the Steward Training class in Kenosha run by the Mid West Machinists Union Educator:

- Joseph Dosemagen, from Ocean Spray
- Jean Mosby, from Racine Housing Authority
- Randy Ollila, from Chrysler
- Carmen del Valle, from Milwaukee Resistor
- Jose Rivas, from Becker Company
- Oscar Santos, from E.C. Styberg Engineering
- Victor Weirich, from Dings Company
- Kim Zamecnik, from Racine Housing Authority

110th Congressional Directory

Our Machinists Union Legislative Department does put out this directory. The Lodge has purchased enough copies to be sent to each shop chair. The expectation is for shop chairs to share the directory with their shop committees and members.

The directory contains contact information for the White House, Cabinet, select Agencies, Supreme Court, Senate and the House of Representatives. It shows which Senators and Representatives are on what committees.

There is information on how a bill becomes law and **how to communicate to members of congress.**

The most important part is your participation in communicating your feelings to members of congress.

One letter, whether typed or hand written, means more than the 100 complainers who do nothing but ‘bitch.’

dwc

dwc



Labor Day and Laborfest is Monday, September 3, 2007

Union Growth - *(a continuing series)*

Organizing for Local Lodge Leaders, by James Cobb

I had the opportunity to go to the Winpisinger School in Placid Harbor Maryland and attend the 'Union Growth for Local Lodge Leaders.' The weeklong class was on organizing. We looked at everything from a broad view of organizing and where the Union stands today; to the organizing blitz; how to handle most situations during a blitz. One of the exercises was to conduct a mock interview with potential members, being filmed and critiquing. All intent to make us do our job better.

Being in the class and being on the organizing team from Lodge 66 gave me a better understanding of the how's and why's of organizing and a better sense of solidarity with the other Lodge team members.

I saw the importance of educating as well as involving and encouraging all our Brothers and Sisters as well as their family to participate in the organizing process. This family unity will grow our Union numbers. A growing membership leads to better wages, improved health plans and more secure pensions. **With greater membership does come greater strength.**



Lodge Organizing Committee and Placid Harbor Training, by Bob Paar



Recently I volunteered to serve on the Lodge Organizing Committee and attended the training at Placid Harbor to learn, understand and utilize the Machinists Union's process to organization and applying it here within our Lodge.

As a Union we must grow in order to better, not only our lives, but also those of the community in which we live. Many people do not understand that when we organize we are able to make more, therefore spend more. This allows for the creation of more jobs. Non-Union employers always look out for themselves and their profits. They expect their employees to do more with less and watch their bonuses grow. The average CEO makes 400 times that of the average worker. We need to grow and the only way we can do this is to support our Union, attend meetings and refer organizing leads to your Lodge. Unions have long been know for defending the rights of workers and using the collective bargaining process to get a larger piece of the pie (ie: 8 hour day, seniority, better wages, pensions, health benefits, vacations, safe workplace, a grievance and arbitration process and holidays to name a few).

Another issue is employers terminating their operations and leaving our brothers and sisters out on the street. If we organize this would give workers other organized workplaces and possibly allowing them not to suffer a break in service if there is a similar pension.

Over the next couple of months the members of the organizing committee may be contacting you for leads to grow our Union. These leads should come easy to you with your communications between friends, neighbors and listening to their concerns for a better and fair workplace. We can and must help them. It is rough being an "employee at will." Such workers do not have the benefit of a collective bargaining agreement. There are no guaranteed rights to seniority, fair wages. Favoritism can not be fought. **Employees at will can be terminated for no reason, with no protection or recourse.**

I challenge all members to renew within and the need to grow our Union starts with you.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

In reality it stops with each member. Several times a year the Lodge sends postings to shop chairs; we hope they get posted; we hope members read them. The postings are about dues and keeping your Lodge informed. Members need to:

- Keep your address current
- Let us know if laid off
- Let us know if on sick leave
- Let us know if on family medical leave
- Let us know if your leave the employment and then you should take out a withdrawal card. *A member should never just leave their present employment and fail to contact the Lodge.*

Members will be sent a post card when we are in doubt of your work status but **the final responsibility in communication does belong to you.**

Call us: 414-671-3800

Email us:

smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net

Write us:

Seniors Corner

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

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.



License Plate frame are: \$1.50

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 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
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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