

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 11 No. 7

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

July 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

July 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** 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 August edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is July 17.

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Laborfest Labor Day Parade

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council with all of its affiliated Unions will be hold the annual parade and Laborfest Event on Monday, September 1, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM. Get your whole family involved in the parade and then enjoy and afternoon at the Summerfest grounds for games, entertainment and refreshments.

Our parade, with you in it, will begin at Ziedler Union Square Park and participants will march to the Summerfest grounds.

For more information leave your inquiries at 414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com.



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



DERFING ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE ©2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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

Cell Phone No Call Registry

You will get some relief from those nuisance telemarketers by adding your cell phone number to the registry.

Add your number by:

- 866-966-2255 is toll free in Wisconsin
- On the web at:
nocall.wisconsin.gov

dwc

Massive Layoff or Closing

If your employer has laid workers off or has announced a closing and you have evidence the layoffs were due to the impact foreign competition then your layoff may be covered by extended benefits from the federal government under a program called TAA/TRA.

Well in advance shop committees should be collecting and keeping a file of any time of company posted information if they see such a trend of layoffs affected by foreign competition.

When a layoff or plant closing is affected by foreign competition then a **'petition' must be filed** to get these extended benefits.

While this Union office can not do it for a shop we are willing to help make sure our members know the process they must follow.

dwc

McCAIN'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL *Will Increase Costs and Reduce Benefits*

John McCain's health care proposal is similar to President Bush's failed plan. Like Bush's, McCain's plan undermines existing employer-based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. It will reduce benefits, increase costs and leave many with no health care at all.

A New Tax on Working Families. McCain wants to shift the burden from employers to workers. **He will make health care premiums part of taxable income**, essentially creating a new tax for working families.

Increases Costs to Workers. The modest tax credit McCain wants to give people to cover his new tax would cover less than half the average health premium, leaving workers to pick up the difference. Also, by promoting high-deductible Health Savings Account (HSA) plans, which provide fewer benefits at higher costs, he will make the high costs of individual insurance even worse.

Leaves Workers at the Mercy of Big Insurance Companies. McCain's efforts to "eliminate the bias" toward employer-based health care will encourage employers to stop offering health care, pushing workers into an unregulated private insurance market to fend for themselves. Big insurance companies will be free to weed out people with health care needs, charge excessive premiums and limit benefits.

Makes Health Care Harder to Get. Pushing workers into the private health care market and promoting HSAs will encourage insurance companies to attract only the healthiest people, driving costs up overall. Insurance companies can decide to refuse to cover people with preexisting conditions, such as cancer survivors. Retirees will have a particularly hard time getting health care.

Lowens the Quality of Available Health Care Plans. Many states have laws regulating health care quality by requiring basic services to be included in health care coverage. McCain's proposal would circumvent these laws, resulting in lower quality coverage without consumer protections.

(sources: The Commonwealth Fund, Envisioning the Future, 1/08; Los Angeles Times, 11/20/07; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), Administration's Proposed Tax Deduction for Health Insurance Seriously Flawed, 7/31/07; CBPP, GAO Study Confirms Health Savings Accounts Primarily Benefit High-Income Individuals, 9/20/06; CBPP, A Brief Overview of the Major Flaws with Health Savings Accounts, 4/5/06; The Commonwealth Fund, Paying More for Less, 6/05; McCain's campaign website, accessed 2/21/08; Health 08.org (Kaiser Family Foundation) Presidential Candidate Forum: John McCain, 10/31/07; Kaiser Family Foundation and HRET, Employer Health Benefits 2007 Annual Survey.)



Visit the [Real McCain website](#).

Activities for You and Family

- **Grand Lodge Convention is week of September 7, 2008.** The election for delegates to the convention has taken place. It is up to members to attend the monthly Lodge Business Meetings and express your opinion on issues important to you.
- The **Lodge Organizing Committee** meets before the Friday Business Meeting. Members are encouraged to get involved? To protect their present pay and benefits.
- LaborFest will be on Monday, September 1, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM.

Retirement Card NOT Withdrawal Card

When a member does retire from the trade, from their shop, the proper procedure is to take out a retirement card. There is no cost for members who have more than 30 years of continuous membership, members get the exempt card. For members with less than 30 years, there is a \$10.00 fee but that is paid for by United Lodge 66, and members get a retiree card. With the exempt or retiree card your membership in the Machinists Union continues to grow. Members also continue to receive the IAM Journal and other communications from the Grand Lodge and from United Lodge 66. Members also get invited every five years to our badge night celebration.

If you take out the withdrawal card your membership ceases on that date, the person is no longer a Machinists Union member.

This is the procedures as spelled out in our Grand Lodge Constitution and should been applied, regardless what local lodge a member was in. All to often it was not improperly done. From our recent Badge Night mailing one member thought his friend should have been given his 40 year pin. They had always been involved in previous awards while a part of Lodge 34. The shop committee records had this member retiring from the shop in 1989. Well after checking with our Grand Lodge this member actually took out a withdrawal card in 1989, when he retired from the shop.

dwc

Dues Missing and Bad Address

If a member is missing from a monthly dues checkoff the member will be receiving a post card from Lodge 66 requesting the dues. We do not know a members status unless the member communicates directly to the Lodge or we get such communications from the shop chairperson.

The post card will be sent to the address on file at the Union office.

It is the members responsibility to keep the Union office informed of their work status and any change of address. If members fail to communicate we can not be blamed. **Call 414-671-3800 or email: lodge66@gmail.com**. We do try to return all calls within one day. Our voice mail does inform office closings.

Seniors Corner

Medicare Bill to Help Seniors Falls One Vote Short in Senate

On June 26 the Senate fell one vote short to vote on bill HR6331, "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008." Debate could not be closed and no vote could be taken. This bill would have helped more seniors qualify for help paying Medicare's premiums; would have stopped schedule payment cuts to doctors who treat Medicare patients; would have improved Medicare's preventive benefits by eliminating several co-payments; and bring mental health parity to Medicare benefits.

Alliance for Retired Americans

888 - 16th Street, NW Suite 520
Washington, DC 2006

202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497

Fax 202-974-8256

www.retiredamericans.org

Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road

Milwaukee, WI 53213

414-771-9511

www.wisconsinara.org

Worker Activists Can Stop Employer Attacks on Our Benefits



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.

New Members

will be sworn in at each business meeting

Want to carpool?

Contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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

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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

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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.

