

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 12 No. 6

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

June 2009

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

June 12, 2009

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 July edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is June 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- Education Evening for June, July and August are suspended.

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Fair Trade and You

by James Cobb

When you hear the term Fair Trade, you might think of coffee. You might also think of chocolate, or bananas, tea, handicrafts. But what does the term mean?

Fair Trade refers to a trading partnership that focuses on equity in international trade. One of its main focuses is allowing poor, subsistence level workers to receive fair compensation for their labor and a fair price for their goods. This is a step toward a just and sustainable economic system.

In the city of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition (www.milwfairtrade.org) dedicates a weekend in May for more than 30 socially responsible shops to offer discounts, tastings, other specials, and educational events to demonstrate fair trade. Here in the United States we find many examples of Fair Trade Goods. Coffee sold at many local coffee shops, such as Anodyne and Al-terra, and groceries, textiles, jewelry and other labor intensive goods can be found without much searching in almost every grocery and department store. Even coffee giant Starbucks is committed to buying 100% of its coffee from "ethnically sourced" suppliers by the year 2015.

One store that specializes in these types of products is Future Green located at 2352 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee. In addition to Fair Trade Goods they also focus on eco-friendly products from flooring to toiletries.

What does Fair Trade mean to the average American Worker? If a coffee producer in Mexico is paid a living wage for his work he will more likely continue to produce coffee rather than going into the cities and working in a factory that might take American jobs away from Americans. If a woman in India is paid a decent living for weaving and dyeing her textiles she will less likely go into the cities to take a job in a call center.

People in developing nations that have Fair Trade work are more likely to have community pride, invest in their own family and community and help their neighbors.

And that is a fairness we can all live with.



Employee Free Choice Act *does allow secret ballot elections.*

The 1935 National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) had three aspects. One of which "left the decision whether to organize entirely to employees." A corporation had no say.

What activists judges and an unfriendly congress did was to modify the law giving corporations an unilateral rejection in recognizing a Union and force 42 days of intimidation, threats and firing before an election can be held.

The Employee Free Choice Act does allow card check recognition **or a secret ballot election** (if 30% of the workers so petition). This will put the power back to workers not corporations.

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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."

Organizing Incentives

Worth \$800.00 to you

- **Leads:** United Lodge 66 T-Shirt and \$125.00. A lead is considered a sit down face to face meeting with a worker from a potential organizing target and the District.
- **Organizing Drive** is worth \$200.00. This goes to the same member if the lead progresses to an Organizing Blitz.
- **Election** is worth \$475.00. A member will receive this if the Organizing Blitz leads to an election.

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.

Two Way Learning

Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President, and I 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.



IAMUNION



remember the 3800 members of Wisconsin National Guard now serving in Iraq for the next nine months.



For members of United Lodge 66 who are members of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance we will be holding a gun raffle at our September 2009 meeting. To be raffled off will be a: (a) Made in USA Beretta 3901- 12 gauge semi automatic shotgun; (b) Union Made in the USA Remington 770 rifle with scope, 30.06 caliber. The winner will responsible for a processing fee and must be willing to have a lone photo of the winner or a ceremonial hand off photo taken.

Gun Raffle

The USA is one of a kind, hunting and fishing association of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and its trade Union partners, exclusively for conservation minded Union members, retirees and their families that hunt, fish and appreciate the outdoors.

USA for an annual fee of just \$25 and enjoy the following:

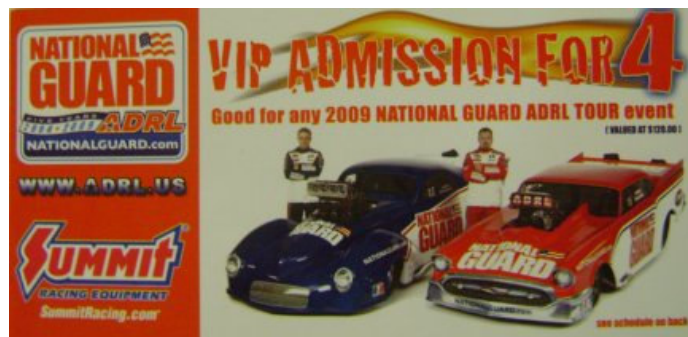
- Personalized USA membership card
- USA Logo Buck Knife
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear and services
- 1-Year subscription to a top outdoor magazine (\$31.92 value)
- \$25 gift certificate from Beretta field gear
- Chances to win exceptional prizes and trips
- Full access to MyTopo.com (\$29.95 value)
- Access to the "Members-Only" section of the USA website
- Free membership in the TRCP

That's a value of more than \$117, plus extra savings with deals and discounts!

Activities for You and Family

- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council:** June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- Laborfest is Monday, **September 7, 2009** from 9AM to 5PM. This is open to all members and their family. Be part of working families in the Labor Day Parade and enjoy the Summerfest Grounds.
- Union Sportsmen's Alliance and United Lodge 66 **GUN RAFFLE** is **September 11, 2009** at your Lodge Business Meeting. You must belong to USA and be a member of United Lodge 66. The two guns are: (a) Made in USA Beretta 3901- 12 gauge semi automatic shotgun; (b) Union Made in the USA Remington 770 rifle with scope, 30.06 caliber. USA applications are available from your shop chair or from the Lodge.
- **Free Raffle of VIP Admission for 4** (valued at \$120.00) to any of the 2009 National Guard ADRL Tour Events will be held at our June and July Business Meetings. If no member in attendance is interested and you want to be entered, as a alternate, then send in your name to your Union office.

(compliments from
George Dietsche)



Scholarship Program of United Lodge 66

This program is meant to assist two high school seniors that are children of a United Lodge 66 member. Listed below are the criteria for the Scholarship Selection:

1. Two (2) \$500 scholarship annually.
2. Only seniors in High School that are children of Machinists Union United Lodge 66 Members and those that are seeking post High School Education are eligible.
3. An essay must be written and **must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and community** to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. **Please note, "Essays written from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., will NOT BE ACCEPTED."**
4. Essays must be sent to: United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Essays will be given to the Scholarship Committee to review.
5. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.
6. One half of the Scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester (fall 2009) in which the individual is enrolled. The second half will be paid during the second semester (spring 2010) and also sent directly to the school. Selections of essay winners will take place at the September Lodge Meeting. **The essays must be in at United Lodge 66 office by July 31, 2009 or postmarked July 31, 2009 Absolute, no entries will be accepted past this date.**
7. Notification of availability of Scholarship will be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website, and posted in all worksites.

The selection committee will be executive board members. We urge all Union parents in United Lodge 66, with High School Seniors in their family, to encourage their children to enter this contest for consideration of a Scholarship. All entries become the property of United Lodge 66 and winning or any entries will or may be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website.



Application for Withdrawal Card

This card will or may save members money but they need to take action and in a timely manner. The card is available 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.

Also the current month dues along with the \$1.00 fee must be presented to the Lodge.

Once a member does lapse their membership they are not entitled to take out a withdrawal card.

Members need to do something, contact us, within two months of last paying dues. The Lodge does mail the appropriate information to members and why shop chairs need to communicate to all members what are their alternatives.

Applications for new members

It is the responsibility of each shop chair to make sure new employees fill out the Machinists Union Membership Application. This needs to be done before the Union Security clause date and then: (a) one copy is kept by the new member; (b) one copy goes to your payroll department; (c.) one copy is sent to United Lodge 66.

We do provide all shop chairs with the new member application and self addressed stamped envelopes. Before your worksite runs out of either you need to contact this office and more will be sent.

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Member Reimbursement Form for Lost Time

All members must use this form to be reimbursed any lost time from United Lodge 66. The form needs to be complete. The member does need to have a W4 form on file at the Lodge. This only needs to be done once and we keep it forever. The W4 only needs to be updated if you change your dependents.

Your business agent needs to sign this form before there is any payment.

There is also a place, "Applicants Signature." The member needs to sign this. Why? By signing you stipulate that the Lodge is reimbursing you for lost time and not your employer. If a member is caught double dipping they will have to repay the money and they will be forbidden from holding any representative position in the Machinists Union. (*per Grand Lodge*)

Your Address

If members will not keep their address current at Lodge 66, we will not pay a psychic to find out!



dwc

UNEMPLOYMENT LIFELINE

Many working families are struggling in these uncertain times. This website may be helpful, <http://www.unemploymentlifeline.com>. It is a one stop guide that links workers to the resources available in our area, from unemployment offices to veteran's services to child care. It also offers the opportunity to talk to others and share support and lessons learned.

If members do not have internet access then there is the public library or they can come into their Union Office. Just call us in advance.

<http://www.unemploymentlifeline.com>

[Opportunity.gov](http://www.opportunity.gov)

Visit this site for possible education aid for laid off workers. The President recently announced that unemployed workers receiving unemployment benefits may qualify for a special hand in paying for education and training. And aid can be significant: In particular, the Federal Pell Grant program can provide up to \$5350 for education costs at community colleges, colleges and universities and may trade and technical schools.

<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/opportunity/index.html>

Back Problems

(United Lodge 66 is not a underwriters testing organization but this article was received from one of our members and felt it worth sharing. As always research your needs.)

By George Dietsche, Shop Committee at Kieffer Sign

I want to share some information on a back support which I found after doing research on my own. I wear it at work because of lower back problems. It is Made



in the USA by Koolbak. They custom made one for me at no extra charge. The belts are great with a lifetime warranty. I ordered mine over the phone and was able to save money. I told him I prefer to buy items Made in the USA and that we are Union People.

I love the support it gives my back. It is narrower than what you would buy at the retail stores but my muscles should strengthen because of this back support.

With the wider belts your muscles might become weaker and you will need to rely on the belt forever. You will love this support. If an employer is interested in providing or looking into this type of back support the manufacturer will give them a break on the costs.

www.koolbak.com or 1800-653-8285.

Again the Lodge is not endorsing this item but sharing the information. If any member does want to talk to George just give us a call and we will give you his contact information.



Photo's by George

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Get Connected and Get Answers

Simply dial "2-1-1" for help with a variety of basic life needs and personal issues.

Free and confidential, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Call for help with:

- **Healthcare** - referrals to clinics for people who are uninsured or cannot afford to pay for healthcare.
- **Alcohol & other drug abuse** - direct connections to certified professionals.
- **Food** - locate pantries, meal site, summer youth meal sites.
- **Shelter** - locate emergency shelter, day shelter, domestic violence shelters.

2-1-1 @ Impact can answer your questions about:

- **BadgerCare Plus:** Health care coverage for uninsured families.
- **FoodShare:** helps low income families and individuals buy nutritious food.
- **Wisconsin Family Planning Waiver:** is a Wisconsin Medicaid program which offers low income women free, confidential reproductive health care.
- **iCare:** medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, prescription drugs, and social services benefits.
- **IDAP:** Interim Disability Assistance Program.
- **Medicaid:** A state/federal assistance program that helps certain needy and low income people pay their medical bills.
- **SSI:** Supplemental Security Income.
- **W-2:** Wisconsin Works
- **WIC:** Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.
- ... and More

By cell phone use 1-866-211-3380.

Milwaukee

the Nation's first Fair Trade City!

May 9, 2009 was the date of the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Fair Trade Crawl. Below is a listing of community business's you may want to consider supporting.

- **Stone Creek Coffee** (www.stonecreekcoffee.com) with 8 locations.
- **Sven's European Café**, 2699 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.
- **Sweeney Todd Salon & Fair Trade World Bazaar**, www.sweeneytoddworldbazaar.com, with fair trade home goods and jewelry.
- **Amaranth Bakery**, 3329 W. Lisbon, uses fair trade sugar and chocolate in their bakeries and serve fair trade coffee.
- **Fair Trade for All**, www.fairtradeforall.net, 5201 W. North Avenue,
- **Brewing Grounds for Change**, www.brewinggroundsforchange.org, 2008 N. Farwell Avenue.
- **People's Books Cooperative**, www.peoplesbookscoop.org, 2122 E. Locust Street.
- **Plowshare Gifts**, 219 W. Main Street, Waukesha.
- **Go Earth Imports**, 104 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Pewaukee.
- **Trails to Bridges**, www.trailtobridges.com, 139 E. Capitol Drive, Hartland.
- **Outpost Natural Foods Co-op**, www.outpostnaturalfoods.coop, with four locations: Bay View, 2826 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee; Capitol Drive, 100 E. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee; and Wauwatosa, 7000 W. State Street.
- **Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store**, www.fairtrademilwaukee.org, 5401 W. Vliet Street.
- **Chartreuse**, fair trade refreshments, and gifts, 2227 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, Milwaukee, www.hellochartreuse.com
- **Global Hands**, www.globalhandsfairtrade.com, 272 Broad Street, Lake Geneva.
- **Lillies**, www.lilliesgoods.com, Cedar Creek Settlement, N70 W6340 Bridge Road, 3rd Floor, Cedarburg.
- **La Tarte**, www.latarte.com, 6742 W. Wells Street.
- **Third World Handcraft Shoppe**, 5305 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee.

Fair Trade vs Free Trade

Past administrations have favored free trade agreements at any cost of the American people. Bush never saw a trade agreement he would not sign, all in favor of corporations. President Clinton did wrong with NAFTA and we let him know.

The **2009 TRADE Act** (Trade, Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment) would begin the process of creating a new agenda for trade by accomplishing four major objections:

1. Pausing negotiations on all new trade agreements.
2. Mandating a new comprehensive review of all past trade agreements to better understand economic and social impact of those trade agreements.
3. Setting standards beneficial to workers, communities, and the environment by which any future candidate country for a free trade agreement would be evaluated by.
4. Restoring Congress' constitutional responsibility to oversee U.S. trade policy.

Every member of United Lodge 66 needs to contact your U.S. Senator and U.S. House of Representative and ask them to support this legislation. Contact information is on www.unitedlodge66.org, www.goiam.org or we can send you the contact information.

Seniors Corner

Coyle Says Not to Overreact to Trustees Reports

The financial health of Social Security and Medicare has worsened because of the severe recession, according to Trustees Reports released a few weeks ago. However, Alliance leaders cautioned the public not to panic. "The impact of the recession on Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds underscores the critical need to support President Obama's plans to reform health care and create a lasting economic recovery. Putting more Americans back to work will send more money into these Trust Funds, and a universal, more efficient health care system will alleviate the severe strain that our health care crisis imposes on both families and employers," said Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Senate Finance Committee Offers Options

Although only as discussion items to our health care crisis, several options were discussed. Some would allow Americans 55-64 years of age to buy into Medicare; improve Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit; and financing a public health plan. The one option of taxation of health care plans (***your health care plan***) did not specifically say to tax the cost of benefits or the income of the people receiving them.

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.

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

www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

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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>

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HIRE Center

Help In Re-Employment
816 W. National Avenue, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI
414-385-6920

'Dislocated Worker Program'

Daytime Office Hours 8AM to 4:30PM

or business can be done by mail;
dropped in the mail slot at 2611 W.
Oklahoma Avenue; or on the nights of
our Business Meeting or
Education Evening

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

Union Made In America

clothing &
MORE; call 262-
373-0777. Located
at N35 W21100
Capitol Drive,



DOES NOT END
THE SECRET BALLOT.