

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 13 No. 6

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

June 2010

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

June 11, 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 July 2010 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is June 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- July and August Business Meetings are cancelled.

CONTENTS:

What Is A Union?	Pg 2
Activities for You	Pg 2
Jobs Now Letter	Pg 3
Union Financial	Pg 4
Union Veterans Committee	Pg 4
The Big Difference	Pg 4
Seniors Corner	Pg 5

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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 Stimulus Act

James Cobb, Communicator LL66

There's been a lot of rhetoric about the Stimulus package that President Obama signed into law last year. Although some of the bill's detractors and supporters seem divided along party lines, work on the stimulus bill was begun during the Bush administration and represents somewhat of collaboration between the two administrations.

And for every voice raised against the Stimulus, there's another one who's for it.

So what does the Stimulus mean for those of us in the IAMAW?

Tax reduction for small businesses may mean the difference between layoffs and out-of-business signs and a productive, thriving company with employed workers.

At Badger Meter, newer employees who were slated for layoffs have been able to keep their jobs a little longer due to the Made in America stimulus provision as well as tax incentives for businesses that avoid layoffs. Initiatives to support businesses that cut back on outsourcing across the border to cheaper labor are helping to keep Americans working here at home.

Employers are taking a new look at how they make their products and are finding ways to keep payroll dollars going to American employees.

Some other points in the stimulus package that will affect us are tax incentives for companies exploring new ways to provide clean energy technology. However, the Wisconsin State Legislature tabled the Clean Energy Jobs act which would have tapped some of the stimulus dollars available for creating jobs in the clean energy field.

Stimulus dollars are also available for education and job training, which can benefit displaced workers, and provide incentives for businesses that create jobs for disadvantaged workers such as veterans and at-risk youth.

Federal dollars spent on programs such as the controversial high speed rail between Madison and Milwaukee will create hundreds of jobs in our state, as well as reducing fuel consumption and opening job markets to people who would otherwise be unable to find affordable transportation. There's a factory to restore and renovate the train cars that is opening at a formerly vacant building in Milwaukee.

And plans are in the works for a plant that will build wind turbines in the Wisconsin Rapids area, which will initially employ about 200 people and hopes to employ up to 600 people eventually.

We still need our Representatives to replace, repair, or repeal NAFTA, and the Free Trade Amendments that take jobs away from Americans and support sweatshop labor. As we've said before, get involved and let your Reps know how you feel about these issues.

The Stimulus Act has helped to put us on the long road to economic recovery. And that's something to shout about.



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

What is a Union?

An organization of workers joined together for a common purpose, for mutual aid and protection, to engage in concerted activity and collective bargaining, to elevate their conditions of life and labor; an organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.

What is a Unionist?

A Unionist is one who puts aside their individual needs and individual self interest for that of the membership.

A Unionist forgoes their personal agenda for that of their sisters and brothers.

A Unionist is not an:

- Elitist
- Racist
- Sexist
- Classist
- Homophobic
- Xenophobic

(source: training manual William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center)

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.

Let us introduce ourselves and what opportunities exist for members.



dwc

Niemoller's Poem

A poem by Pastor Martin Niemoller, Berlin, 1939.

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the communists
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out--
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me--
and there was no one left to speak out
for me.

(Niemoller was a pastor in the German Confessing Church who spent eight and one-half years in a Nazi concentration camp.)

America's Health Care?

To those defenders of our health care system and to keep "big government" out!

WHY is the United States 42nd with infant mortality among children under 5 years?

Our health care system and the ability to keep our children alive lags behind Europe, Canada and even the likes of Chile and Cuba. All these countries have government involvement in health care.

About twenty years ago the US ranked 29th in the world but we have been losing ground steadily as our corrupt and inept health care system keeps excluding Americans while increasing profits for corporations.

Thank goodness for the Health Care overhaul in 2010.

(source: www.cia.gov & article in May 24, 2010 Mil-

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council:** June 2 in 2010. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- **United Lodge 66 Veterans Badge Night** will be held on **Saturday, June 5, 2010**. This is by invitation only from a list received from our International Machinists Union. It is recognition for years of continuous membership and is in five year increments and includes an evening of food, refreshments and awards right here at our hall. The invitations will be going out in late April.
- **Car Show on June 26, 2010** at Scotty's Bar & Pizza with Masonic Lodge at 3921 S. Clement Avenue, Milwaukee. George and Bonnie Dietsche, from Kieffer and Company in Sheboygan and one of our worksites, plan on entering their classic. This is a fund raiser for Children's Hospital.
- **September 6, 2010 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM** is **Laborfest**.
- 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 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 months newsletter, will be sent to all shop chairs.
- The July and August Friday Night Business Meetings have been cancelled by a vote of the membership.

Tell Congress America Needs JOBS Now!

This letter is taken off the IAM Activist Center site and each member is requested to send a letter to your elected representative. Regardless of party, we need to hold our elected representatives accountable. The May 2010 Badger Lodge News did list the addresses of your elected representatives. This newsletter is online at www.unitedlodge66 (past Newsletter Page) or we can send hard copy.

[Insert Date]

[recipient address was inserted here]

Dear [recipient name was inserted here],



The American people need immediate relief from this wretched economy. Over 31 million Americans have been idled in this Grave Recession. Already meager unemployment benefits are running out. Families are turning to food stamps or going to food banks in record numbers. Mortgage foreclosures are on the rise. And, hard-earned life savings are being wiped out.

The only answer to this crisis is JOBS Now!

To re-ignite the engines of growth, Americans cannot rely on "off the shelf" appropriations bills. Instead, Congress and the president must devise new policies and more carefully targeted programs that can generate Jobs Now!

A second, targeted stimulus plan will give America's manufacturing and transportation sectors, and all whose livelihoods are tied to it, the fighting chance it deserves. And, it will create long-term growth and sustained job creation Americans so desperately need.

Working families can no longer afford to wait. If we can spend billions on banks - the ones responsible for getting us into this mess - we can certainly invest in American workers. I urge you to press for a second stimulus package and take action to create JOBS Now!

Sincerely,

Machinists Union Contribution to Vietnam Vets Memorial

Last month your international union contributed \$50,000 towards the maintenance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds on the National Mall.

This memorial was built by a private foundation and they also took over the maintenance from our National Park Service. The call went out for financial help and our Union did respond.

The picture shows members of the Union Veterans Committee in attendance at the May 2010 LZ Lambeau event to welcome and support Vietnam Veterans.

Pictured is Keith, Associated Bank; Mike, Milwaukee Area Labor Council; Doug, United Lodge 66.



What Is a 401(k) Plan?

*Contributed by Brian Goode, Financial Advisor, IAMAW member LL66
Union Financial, Inc. Cell: 262-930-5059 Office: 262-898-1440*

A 401(k) plan is self-directed, qualified retirement plan established by an employer to provide future retirement benefits for employees. Employee contributions are made on a pre-tax basis, and employer contributions are often tax deductible. (Roth 401(k) contributions are made after-tax, but qualified withdrawals in retirement are free of federal income tax.) Many employers are now enrolling new hires automatically in 401(k) plans, allowing them to opt out later if they choose not to participate. This is done in the hope that more employees will participate and will start saving for retirement at an earlier age.

If you elect to participate in a 401(k) plan, you can allocate a percentage of your salary to your plan every month. The maximum annual contribution is \$16,500 in 2010. If you will be 50 or older before the end of the tax year, you can contribute an additional \$5,500. Contribution limits are indexed annually for inflation. The funds in your account will accumulate tax deferred until you begin taking distributions in retirement.

Employer contributions are often subject to vesting requirements. Employers can determine their own vesting schedules, making employees partially vested over time and fully vested after a specific number of years. When an employee is fully vested, he or she is entitled to all the contributions made by the employer when separating from service.

In plans that offer loans, you may also be allowed to borrow money from your account (up to 50% of the account value or \$50,000, whichever is less) with a five-year repayment period. Of course, if you leave your job, the loan may have to be repaid immediately.

The funds in a 401(k) plan are portable. When you leave your job or retire, you can move your funds or take a taxable distribution. However, if you leave a company before you are fully vested, you will be allowed to take only the funds that you contributed yourself plus any vested funds, as well as any earnings that have accumulated on those contributions.

Within certain limits, the funds in your 401(k) plan can be rolled over directly to your new employer's retirement plan without penalty. Alternatively, you can roll your funds directly to an individual retirement account (IRA) instead.

You must begin taking required minimum distributions from 401(k) plans no later than April 1 of the year after you reach age 70½. Distributions from regular 401(k) plans are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty if withdrawn before age 59½, except in special circumstances such as disability or death.

A 401(k) plan can be a great way to save for retirement, especially if your employer offers matching contributions. If you are eligible to participate in a 401(k) plan, you should take advantage of the opportunity, even if you have to start by contributing a small percentage of your salary. This type of plan can form the basis for a sound retirement funding strategy.

If you have questions on this, or on any financial planning for your future, please call Brian Goode @ Union Financial, Inc. Cell: 262-930-5059

The information in this article is not intended to be tax or legal advice, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek tax or legal advice from an independent professional advisor.

If you want to be involved in future events contact Mike Balistriere at 414-771-9829 or mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net. We hold monthly meetings or when necessary.



Future events for you and your family:

- June 11, the Wounded Warrior Project for those of the Afghanistan and Iraq war. There be various rides and activities, visit: <http://SR.WoundedWarriorProject.org>.
- June 16 at 8:00AM, a Take a Vet Fishing Day, from the VA Center in Milwaukee to Port Washington.

The Big Difference!

A few weeks ago the National Mediation Board, which oversees the labor management relations under the Railway Labor Act, issued a ruling making the election of worksites covered by the RLA more democratic. Believe it not but during a Union election those workers who did not vote were counted as no votes. Now if you chose not to vote your vote does not count either way and this is how it should have been. The Republicans and right wing radio talk show NeoCon's should have been against such an undemocratic process. But they were not.

While the RLA covers those workers in the airline, railroads and a few other industries the National Labor Relations Act covers the rest of workers.

The big difference came because the White House gets to appoint members of the National Mediation Board. Right now there are two Democratic appointees and one Republican. When Bush was in power working families had no voice or representation. Now we have a voice and we need to make sure it is kept and must not get disenfranchised by the liars on right wing radio and cable news.

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 to 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.

dwc

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.

dwc

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.

dwc

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.

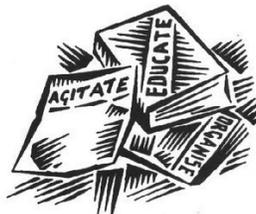
dwc

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.



Seniors Corner

Congress Trying to Fix Doctors' Medicare Reimbursements

The U.S. House and Senate are scheduled to vote on HR4213, The American Tax Loopholes, and Preventing Outsourcing Act, that extends unemployment benefits, COBRA subsidies and enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) matching funds for states, while fixing physician payments under Medicare for 5 years. Failure to pass this legislation will result in doctors facing 21% cut in their Medicare reimbursements. However, the doctor reimbursement fix will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to have access to family physicians and specialists. Also included in HR4213 is a provision to increase funding to states to help pay for increased Medicaid reimbursements. Medicaid dollars provide assistance to low income seniors and pay for nursing home care; failure to extend this provision will force states to close budget gaps with brutal cuts that will affect many seniors.

Special Committee on Aging: Social Security Only Needs Modest Changes

Social Security faces a \$5.3 trillion shortfall over the next 75 years but a new congressional reports says the gap could be erased with only modest changes to payroll taxes and benefits. Senator Kohl heads this committee and the report can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/bQkEdp>. The report lays out options for fixing Social Security but does not endorse any of them. Kohl said lawmakers will probably combine several options to ease their impact.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-771-9511

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

Alliance for Retired Americans

888-16th Street, NW Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006
202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497
Fax 202-974-8256

www.retiredamericans.org

Car Pooling

From Kenosha: Want to carpool to Union Meeting? Contact Vice President Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-605-0436 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com



From Sheboygan: from Sheboygan or picking members up in Port Washington call either: Ron Simmelink, 920-627-0325 or George Dietsche, 920-946-6723. Both are from Kieffer & Company in Sheboygan.



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/iamaull66, afl-cio

Directory for District 10 Office,

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

Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	16
Janice DeSmidt (Organizer)	15

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438
 414-671-3800
www.unitedlodge66.org
www.youtube.com/badgerlodge
dwc/iamaull66, afl-cio

