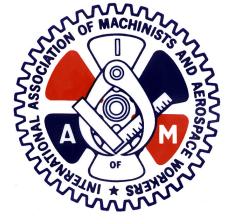


Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 10 No. 6

www.unitedlodge66.org

June 2007

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

June 8, 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, 8am 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 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.*

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Oui France!

Last month France did hold their national elections for president.

Voter turnout was 84%. American citizens should follow the lead of France.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

following is the presentation given by our International President Tom Buffenbarger to the thousands of activists at our day of action on May 17, 2007 at the Mall of Washington, DC

Brothers and Sisters, welcome to this Day of Action.

And it is a day of action, a day of protest, a day to unequivocally say to the President of the United States:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

You're going to hear from impressive speakers this afternoon. So, I will be brief. Never in the long history of this nation have we had a president who has failed us so miserably.

We all know who the greatest presidents were: Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. Monuments to their greatness stand proudly at the other end of the Mall.

But who were the worst presidents? Well, the historian Arthur Schlesinger and a group of scholars have ranked all 42 presidents. And they gave pretty darn good reasons for how bad some of them really were.

Their bottom five list contains some pretty sad excuses for Commander in Chief. Here's their worst of the worst:

38 – William Henry Harrison – had the longest inaugural address ... delivered in freezing weather ... and shortest administration lasting but 31 days. He died of pneumonia.

39 – Andrew Johnson – blocked Reconstruction after the Civil War, vetoed civil rights legislation and barely survived impeachment.

#40 – Franklin Pierce – failed to avert the Civil War, watched helplessly as the union pulled apart at the seams, and died from alcoholism.



(continued on page 3 and 4)

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

Culture of Corruption

For those citizens who contribution money to politicians: who would have thought your donation would be going to pay their legal defenses? But analysis has shown that over the last 27 months \$5 million of campaign donations is so spent. Here is a list of top 10 lawmakers who spent the most campaign money on legal fees:

- Former Rep. Tom Delay, **R-Texas, \$1,100,000**
- Rep. Jerry Lewis, **R-California, \$905,000**
- Former Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham, **R-California, \$570,000**
- Former Rep. Bob Ney, **R-Ohio, \$518,000**
- Rep. Dennis Hastert, **R-Illinois, \$285,000**
- Former Rep. Mark Foley, **R-Florida, \$253,000**
- Former Rep. Conrad Burns, **R-Montana, \$160,000**
- Rep. John Doolittle, **R-California, \$149,000**
- Rep. Alan Mollohan, **D-West Virginia, \$140,000**
- Former Rep. Curt Weldon, **R-Pennsylvania, \$132,000**

While using campaign funds is perfectly legal by the guidelines set by the Federal Election Commission, it certainly seems a different set or morals. Included in this cost is the routine FEC filing of elections but that only averages \$12,000.00 per year.

(source: USA Today, 5/18-20, 2007)

Newsletter Award Received at 2007 Communications Conference

Doug Curler was in attendance at the Machinists Union Communications Conference, from May 14 to 18, in Baltimore, MD to receive an Honorable Mention Award for our *Badger Lodge News* Newsletter. It was for a Best Feature Article printed in the August 2006 issue. The judges reason for choosing this article read: “Not originally submitted as a feature entry, but plucked from the stack because of its compelling presentation. Local Lodge 66 *Badger Lodge News* editor, Doug Curler, included an contribution from a Community Services Liaison recently returned from working with storm victims in Louisiana. A funny and touching introduction to the culture of the Gulf region from the perspective of a native storm victim. Even though it was authored by an individual outside the local, the content, topic and presentation fit the classic definition of a feature. The editor deserves credit for recognizing its value, crediting the source and making space for it in the newsletter.”

Both the award and the article in the newsletter is appropriately hanging on the wall at your Union Hall.

dwc



Tom Buffenberger, Machinists Union International President, and Doug

Very Interesting!

A car company can move it's factories to Mexico and claim it is a free market.

A toy company can out source to a Chinese subcontractor and claim it is a free market.

A shoe company can produce its shoes in southeast Asia and claim it is a free market.

A major bank can incorporate in Bermuda to avoid taxes and claim it is a free market.

We can buy HP printers made in Mexico. We can buy shirts made in Bangladesh. We can purchase almost anything we want from 20 different countries.

BUT, heaven help the senior citizens who dare buy their prescription drugs from Canadian or Mexican pharmacy. That is called Un-American! And you think the pharmaceutical companies do not have a powerful lobby? Think again!

Maybe this is an issue that should come up in the 2008 election!

#41 – James Buchanan – failed to act during the secession crisis in 1860 leaving it all to his successor, played a role in the infamous Dred Scott decision and was prone to depression.

#42 – Warren Harding – a corrupt and short administration best known for the Teapot Dome scandal. Harding said “I am not fit for this office and never should have been here.”

So true, so sad. Look around Brothers and Sisters. Do you see any monuments on this Mall to Johnson, Harrison, Pierce, Buchanan and Harding? Of course not. Abject, utter failures are not heroic figures in American history. They’re pissants.

These are men of insignificant stature – Webster’s definition of a pissant.

These five men are pathetic political hacks who took the greatest gift a free people could give anyone – the Presidency of the United States – and each one wasted that gift. They shrank in fear and trembling from doing the right thing ... at the right time ... for the right reasons ... for the people who elected them. But for all their faults and failures, Presidents Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Harrison, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan and Warren Harding stand like the Colossus of Rhodes compared to #43!

George W. Bush has to crane his neck back to see the worst of the worst. From his subterranean vantage point, Bush can only look up to the likes of Harding, Buchanan, Pierce, Harrison and Johnson. Number 43’s remarkable record of failure, scandal and corruption will bring him the place in history he so justly deserves.

From the beginning, he made working people and union members a special target. Airline executives were given a free pass to shred contracts, to dissolve pensions and to eliminate health care for a generation of workers. Railroad workers were held hostage to old contracts for years while executives raked in millions in profits. Entire towns were reduced to economic rubble as companies moved away in the name of free trade.

If this president could figure a way to take candy from babies, he would. And he would claim it was in the name of national security. This is a president who never shied away from the low road, the cheap shot or even the big lie. Even before his administration first called union leaders “terrorists” we knew where we stood with this president. Even before he threatened to use National Guard troops to prevent strikes, we knew where we stood with this president.

For seven long years, every federal agency, every function of government at his disposal has been turned against us. And while we survived the onslaught against all odds, it has not been without a cost. The millions of lost jobs, the millions of shattered dreams is the legacy of abysmal failure that will follow this president through the annals of history.

Yes, historians will judge this presidency harshly. Brothers and Sisters, we cannot wait on the judgment of history. Today, we can let this Commander – in – Competent know how we really feel.

Today, we have a chance to say over and over again: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

I’m certain you’ll have lots of chances to shower George Bush with more pungent lines today, but let’s practice a little solidarity here. When I say “Mister President”, you say “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.”

But first, a bit of bush league humor, Mr. President! “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”

Come on, you can do better than that, Mr. President! “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”

On October 3rd, 2001, George Bush told us, “I am here to make an announcement that this Thursday, ticket counters and airplanes will fly out of Ronald Reagan Airport.” Flying ticket counters AND airplanes, Mr. President! “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”

On August 5th, 2005, George Bush told us that “our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country, and neither do we.” So that’s your strategy, Mr. President! “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”

Well, the harm George Bush has done to this country is endless. But let me recount just a few of the ways that he’s harmed the country we love.

America has lost 3.2 million manufacturing jobs, Mr. President! “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!”

America's national debt has doubled to 8.2 trillion dollars, Mr. President. "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Billions of Hurricane Katrina's relief monies were wasted and tens of thousands of New Orleans residents were left to fend for themselves, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Your Medicare Drug program has made insurance and pharmaceutical companies richer and our seniors poorer, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Last year, because of your policies, America achieved a NEGATIVE savings rate, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

The price of gasoline has soared to \$3.25 a gallon, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

America's annual trade deficit is fast approaching ONE TRILLION DOLLARS, Mr. President!

Hundreds of thousands of America's workers saw their pensions – everything they had worked for ... for twenty, thirty and even thirty-five years – wiped out over the last two years, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Thousands of railroad workers saw their contract negotiations illegally held hostage by your government and their employers for seven heartbreaking years, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

And when the working men and women who were most directly affected by the terrorist attacks – the workers in the aerospace and air transportation industries – asked for help, you chose to give all the help you could to the fat cats and executives and SCREW the workers, Mr. President. "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

And when millions of Americans lost their jobs, their incomes, their homes and, yes, even members of their family, what did you do George Bush? Nothing, not one goddamn thing -- except go on long vacations, Mr. President! "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

And when thousands of Americans gave their lives for this country in Iraq, Mr. President ... "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

and when ten thousand more came home with cruel and debilitating wounds, your Veterans Administration and your military hospitals treated them like second class citizens, Mr. President ... "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

And when the America people voted to end this systemic failure, Mr. President ... "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

But you want to occupy a foreign land and police a civil war, Mr. President ... "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

You want to surge into Baghdad, Mr. President ... "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Then, you have earned the enmity of an entire people – the enmity of the American people, sir!

And you well deserve that special place reserved in history for such colossal failures – you will have earned the dismal distinction of being the worst of the worst, Mr. President! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

And, Mr. President ... ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Mr. President ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

Mr. President ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!"

But the good news is this: you won't be number forty-three for that much longer. On January 20, 2009, your term of misinformation, malfeasance and misfeasance will come to an end. On that day, the first day of a new DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION, you will automatically become the ... single ... worst ... president ... in ... the entire ... history ... of these United States!

And that dubious honor will etched in stone ... For decades, if not centuries, to come, Mr. President!

Union Growth

Over the next few months we will be featuring articles submitted by those Lodge members who attended a Union Growth class at our Machinists Union Training Center in Placid Harbor Maryland. This class was all about organizing. What all members need to be involved in to maintain our jobs, our standard of living. This task can not be left to a few and as Bob Paar did state in the May issue of the Badger Lodge News, “. . . a members responsibility does not stop by simply paying dues.”

Frank Trudeau, shop chair at American Welding, did attend the Union Growth training. While he has been a Machinists Union member for 30 years this is his first time at Placid Harbor. “Recently I had the privilege of attending Placid Harbor for organizing training. While we arrived late Saturday night it was not until Sunday when I realized what a fantastic area we were at. It may have looked like a resort, at waters edge; during the orientation that evening we were told what our week would be like. Our start time was 8:00AM but on several times we did not finish our tasks until 8:30PM.

A variety of classes ranged from labor past to present day Union busting. We had to do a strategic planning for our Local Lodge Organizing Committee. This was done during the week with a complete presentation on Friday.

I was impressed by the instructors; the variety of classes; and the vast amount of information given to us. All the presentations had the message that we must grow our Union through organizing.

We must get out and organize and grow our numbers so we can become strong enough to get people elected who are friendly to the values of working families.

Members need to get active in their Union in any way they can.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN GETTING THE WORD OUT.

ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, AND ORGANIZE.

By Frank Trudeau

(editors note: if not . . . you will lose through the ballot box what you have negotiated!)



Frank

Seniors Corner

Senators Who Weakened Drug Bill Got Millions from Industry

Senators who raised millions of dollars in campaign donations from pharmaceutical interests secured industry friendly changes to the recent drug safety bill, according to public records and interviews in *USA Today*. The bill, which passed 93-1, grants the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to broad new authority to monitor the safety of drugs after they are approved. However the powers granted to the FDA in the bill's original version were pared back, and a measure that blocked an effort to allow drug importation passed, 49-40. The 49 senators who voted "Yes" received about \$5 million in campaign contribution from the pharmaceutical industry since 2001. Senator Burr (R-NC) one of the 49 who voted for the amendment, received over \$500,000 in campaign contributions from this industry, the most of any member of the Senate. "The big drug companies are at it again," said George Kourpias, President of ARA.

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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