

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 11 No. 6

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

June 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

June 13, 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 July edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is June 17.

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dwc/iamawill66, afl-cio

Are You Better Off Than 8 Years Ago?

by doug curler

Who we vote for and the basis of our vote is a private choice but if Machinists Union members continue to vote against their own economic interest and expect a different outcome then something needs to change. Either members need to lower their standard of living and plan to leave less to their children or they must change their priorities.

United Lodge 66 offers all members many opportunities in educational advancement or political involvement. Educational opportunities of help better represent our members and political involvement to protect what we negotiate. We can not force your involvement in either areas. The opportunities are there. *It is solely up to you.*

Politically all members need to be involved! At least vote. Any social benefit was politically obtained by activists of the past. No matter what you think, without Unions, YOU would not have it today: eight hour day, our safety laws, minimum wage, health care, our schools, vacations, off on holidays, whatever social benefit. Prior to the 1920's workers did not have these. Companies did not freely give benefits to workers because they wanted to be good employers. We fought employers and politically elected the right individuals. Workers changed their own lives by getting involved.

It is time for you to get involved. Volunteer for three activities during the next year and be part of the solution. No matter where you work or live we can get you in contact with other activists.

414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com

News Item: Huge Sinkhole forms in Texas
Swallowing Everything in Sight...



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 Y O U R Level of Activism in OUR Union."

Retiree Group

by tom gadowski

As we go through our work life we sometimes forget that life does not stop after working. To continue this cycle we are trying to reform a retire group for United Lodge 66 which may be District 10 wide. Nothing has been formulated and the initial meeting to discuss what we need to do will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 10:00AM. This meeting will be held at District 10, 1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215.

My cycle of working at Miller, as United Lodge 66 president and now a retiree has a void which I some what created when I realized a failure on my part for not keeping our retiree group alive. What I enjoy as a retiree needs to be watched over and to include some recreational activities among other Union members.

Come join us on this date. If you have any questions feel free to call be at home: 414-761-2347.

Your Personal Choice but Do What Is Right for Your Family

While the Democrats are still in a tight race for who will become their presidential nominee, the Republicans have all but made it official: John McCain will be the 2008 Republican nominee for president. Sen. McCain has been in Washington a long time, but what do we know about where he stands on the issues that impact our lives?

We have done some research and found that the reality of McCain's record does not match up to his image as an independent thinker. He supported President Bush's position 95 percent of the time in 2007, according to *Congressional Quarterly's* voting study. He supports making Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, supported Bush's failed plan to privatize Social Security and voted for Bush's plan to privatize and outsource hundreds of thousands of federal jobs.

McCain said he doesn't really understand the economy and that he doesn't believe we're headed into a recession. He missed the vote on the crucial economic stimulus package, even though he was in Washington at the time.

McCain also has a very troublesome record on trade and outsourcing. McCain voted for NAFTA, for CAFTA and to allow China to enter the WTO despite evidence that the United States has lost more than 1 million jobs because of NAFTA and 1.8 million jobs since China entered the WTO. McCain supported tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and voted to weaken and waive Buy American laws that keep jobs at home.

Also, McCain's proposal will jeopardize our health care. 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.

We know that how you vote is a personal decision. As this campaign season goes on, take the time to go beyond

the rhetoric and learn about the candidates' positions. Working families will make a huge difference in these elections; we should seriously consider who will fix the anti-worker policies implemented over the last eight years and who will continue them.



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.
- LaborFest will be on Monday, September 1, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM.

Let Us Get Serious About Health Care Reform

by david newby, President Wisconsin AFL-CIO, 414-581-0942

“Consumer - driven health care”, “medical tourism” - remember those words. Because this is the future of health care in this country if the conservatives get their way.

Consumer - driven health insurance is high deductible insurance with incentives to “shop” for the best health care deals we can find, to save money. And now we hear that these health care “plans” will soon want us to shop for health care not in our own communities but in low wage countries abroad for the best deals!

That is the ultimate in consumer driven shopping for health care: fly patients to India or Thailand or some other medical low cost country in search of surgical procedures that cost less than they do in the U. S. Perhaps that is the logical extension of shipping the jobs of blue collar manufacturing workers and call center workers and lower end computer jobs to low wage countries. I suspect that American surgeons and other skilled medical personal will not be too happy. But then maybe the highly skilled surgeons can do what millions of middle class blue collar and service sector white collar workers can not: force our government to adopt a sensible set of rules for international trade.

But I digress. Back to our health care crisis.

While the drug industry warns us against importing cheaper drugs of supposedly uncertain quality from abroad (and the Bush administration makes it illegal), health care “reform” leaders now think “medical tourism” will solve our crisis.

Do not import the drugs but export the patients!

Not the absurdities of trying to save significant costs of flying American patients to other countries: the rights of long flights complicating medical conditions. Exposure to diseases most Americans have no immunity to. Questions regarding accurate certification of medical facilities abroad (especially in third world countries). Uncertainties in the event of complications. The lack of legal protection in the event of malpractice or medical error.

Why not just fix our own American health care system?

CEO John Torinus regularly uses his weekly column in the Journal Sentinel to promote these consumer driven health insurance plans. A few weeks ago, Torinus said he might go to Ireland for his next hip replacement (and spend his recovery time in a pleasant Irish pub). He could do this, he says, and still save money. First of all, note that Irish wages are close to those in the U.S. Second, how instructive that he would choose a country with Universal Health Care, a system that guarantees quality health care to all its citizens at a little over half what we pay in the U.S. Could it be that Ireland has a better and less expensive health care system than we do because they have adopted health care for all? (The World Health Organization ranks Ireland’s health care system the 19th best in the world; the U.S. rank is 37th).

Contrary to Torinus’s claims, there in fact is no “stampede” toward, consumer driven plans in this country. According to the authoritative Kaiser Family Foundation, only 5% of workers with health insurance are in such plans. And the numbers are not rising quickly.

By promoting consumer driven health care Torinus is a cheerleader for a team that is not playing. We know that we can provide decent health care for all in America, so why be so insistent on avoiding the obvious?

“Healthy Wisconsin,” re-introduced in the Legislature two months ago, has demonstrated that we could provide quality, comprehensive health care for everyone in Wisconsin and still pay less than we do now. How? By eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic overhead required by our current fragmented insurance system. By bargaining with drug companies for discounts on behalf of over five million people in Wisconsin. By simplifying our medical billing system with a standard, comprehensive health care plan. And by promoting preventive care and better quality medical practices.

Let us stop coddling (and paying off) the health care/health insurance special interests and do what is right, what is efficient, and what benefits everyone: provide straightforward, comprehensive, quality health care for all.

Visit the [Real McCain website](#).



Buy American

McCain No Friend of Yours

While your Union and other manufacturing Unions have tried to improve federal Buy American statutes there is an indifference and outright hostility on Capitol Hill. Ironically Senator McCain stifled a 2004 effort to strengthen the requirement that all Defense Department acquisitions should have at least 65% of final components made in the United States. McCain authored an amendment that cancelled those requirements.

(source: March/April 2008 edition of Label Letter)



Gas prices are up, and so is the volume of advertising for "gas-saving" products. When gasoline prices rise, consumers often look for ways to improve fuel efficiency.

Shifting Gears: Real Money-Saving Steps

There are numerous no- or low-cost steps you can take to combat rising gas prices. The most important place to start is at the gas pump; buy only the octane level gas you need. All gas pumps must post the octane rating of the gas under the FTC's Fuel Rating Rule. Remember, the higher the octane, the higher the price. Check your owner's manual to determine the right octane level for your car.

Consider buying a fuel efficient vehicle

Deciding which vehicle to buy may be the most important fuel economy decision you make. The difference between a car that gets 20 MPG (miles per gallon) and one that gets 30 MPG amounts to \$4,300 over 5 years, assuming gas costs \$3.50 per gallon and you drive 15,000 miles a year.

Union-made hybrid vehicles currently eligible for the Alternative Energy Vehicles Tax Credit are:

- Chevrolet Silverado,
- GMC Sierra,
- Mercury Mariner and
- Ford Escape.

Visit www.fueleconomy.gov for more information. You'll find gas mileage estimates and other data from EPA for 1985-2007 model year cars.

Here are some additional tips from the EPA to help you get better gas mileage.

Drive more efficiently

- *Stay within posted speed limits.* The faster you drive, the more fuel you use. For example, driving at 65 miles per hour (mph), rather than 55 mph, increases fuel consumption by 20 %. Driving at 75 mph, rather than 65 mph, increases fuel consumption by another 25%.
- *Use overdrive gears.* Overdrive gears improve the fuel economy of your car during highway driving. Your car's engine speed decreases when you use overdrive. This reduces both fuel consumption and engine wear.
- *Use cruise control.* Using cruise control on highway trips can help you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, reduce your fuel consumption.
- *Anticipate driving situations.* If you anticipate traffic conditions and don't tailgate, you can avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration, and improve your fuel economy by 5 to 10%. In city driving, nearly 50% of the energy needed to power your car goes to acceleration. Go easy on the gas pedal and brakes. "Jack-rabbit" starts and sudden stops are wasteful.
- *Avoid unnecessary idling.* Turn off the engine if you anticipate a lengthy wait. No matter how efficient your car is, unnecessary idling wastes fuel, costs you money and pollutes the air.
- *Combine errands.* Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- *Remove excess weight from the trunk.* Avoid carrying unneeded items, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk reduces a typical car's fuel economy by one to two percent.

Maintain your car

- *Keep your engine tuned.* Studies have shown that a poorly tuned engine can increase fuel consumption by as much as 10 to 20% depending on a car's condition. Follow the recommended maintenance schedule in your owner's manual; you'll save fuel and your car will run better and last longer.
- *Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned.* Car manufacturers must place a label in the car stating the correct tire pressure. The label usually is on the edge of the door or door jamb, in the glove box, or on the inside of the gas cap cover. If the label lists a psi (pounds per square inch) range, use the higher number to maximize your fuel efficiency. Underinflated tires cause fuel consumption to increase by six %.
- *Change your oil.* Clean oil reduces wear caused by friction between moving parts and removes harmful substances from the engine. Change your oil as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

(continued on page 5)



Seniors Corner

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road,
Milwaukee, WI 53213

414-771-9511

dues are \$10/year

<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

"When you hear the name VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars], you know a certain type of work is being done -- honorable, decent, and faithful to the nation's highest ideals."

-- President Bush, [8/22/05](#)

"On Wednesday, Mr. Bush even found himself in opposition to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a group that has generally supported him. The group's national commander, George Lisicki, emerged from a meeting with the president expressing strong support for the [21st Century GI Bill]."

-- New York Times, [5/22/08](#)

(continued from page 4)

- *Check and replace air filters regularly.* Your car's air filter keeps impurities in the air from damaging internal engine components. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter improve your fuel economy, it also will protect your engine. Clogged filters can cause up to a 10 % increase in fuel consumption.

"Gas-Saving" Advertising Claims

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns you to be wary of any gas-saving claims for automotive devices or oil and gas additives. Even for the few gas-saving products that have been found to work, the savings have been small.

Be skeptical of the following kinds of advertising claims.

- "This gas-saving product improves fuel economy by 20%. Claims usually tout savings ranging from 12 to 25%. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has evaluated or tested more than 100 alleged gas-saving devices and has not found any product that significantly improves gas mileage. In fact, some "gas-saving" products may damage a car's engine or cause substantial increases in exhaust emissions. The gas-saving products on the market fall into clearly defined categories. Although the EPA has not tested or evaluated every product, it has tried to examine at least one product in each category. See "Devices Tested by EPA" at the end of this brochure for category descriptions and product names.
- "After installing your product on my car, I got an extra 4 miles [6.4 kilometers] per gallon [3.8 liters]." Many ads feature glowing testimonials by satisfied customers. Yet, few consumers have the ability or the equipment to test for precise changes in gas mileage after installing a gas-saving product. Many variables affect fuel consumption, including traffic, road and weather conditions, and the car's condition. For example, one consumer sent a letter to a company praising its "gas-saving" product. At the time the product was installed, however, the consumer also had received a complete engine tune-up - a fact not mentioned in the letter. The entire increase in gas mileage attributed to the "gas-saving" product may well have been the result of the tune-up alone. But from the ad, other consumers could not have known that.
- "This gas-saving device is approved by the Federal government." No government agency endorses gas-saving products for cars. The most that can be claimed in advertising is that the EPA has reached certain conclusions about possible gas savings by testing the product or by evaluating the manufacturer's own test data. If the seller claims that its product has been evaluated by the EPA, ask for a copy of the EPA report, or check www.epa.gov for information. In some instances, false claims of EPA testing or approval have been made.

Additional Resources for your car:

- [Union Plus Auto Insurance](#)
- What will your car insurance rate be? In part, it depends on your credit rating. [Get your credit score, credit reports, more, at a special, union-only discount.](#)
- [Union Plus Auto Buying Service](#)
- [Union Plus Motor Club](#)
- [Union Plus Car Rental Discounts](#)
- [Union Plus Goodyear Discounts](#)

www.unionplus.org - visit for other 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.

Car Pooling from Kenosha and Swearing In New Members

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

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

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Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or

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Video: www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

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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.

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