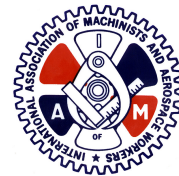


# Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 12 No 3

[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org) & [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)

March 2009

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 13, 2009

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 April edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is March 17.
- **Education Evening** on **March 19, 7:00PM** on the **Employee Free Choice Act**.
- **OFFICE CLOSED** week of **March 2 to 6**.

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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*

**UNION OFFICE IS CLOSED:**  
on all Mondays.

## CHANGE, HOPE and Union

by Bunny Browning

Our Union has known some lean times under the eight years of George W. But now times have changed, Congress has changed and most important of all the President of The United States has changed! President Obama has surrounded himself with a working class friendly administration. President Obama and Vice President Biden believe that workers should have the freedom to choose whether to join a union without harassment or intimidation from their employers. Obama cosponsored and is a strong advocate for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), a bipartisan effort that makes sure workers can exercise their right to organize. They will continue to fight for EFCA's passage and Obama will sign it into law. President Obama will amend the North American Free Trade Agreement, end tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas, reward companies that support American workers... Are you feeling excited?

The Organizing committee of Local Lodge 66 is feeling extremely excited and we would like you to share in our utopia. We have started an incentive program to help grow our union and keep the IAMAW a Strong and Powerful voice for working people. Please join us on at March 13 at 5:30, prior to any business meeting for our monthly organizing meeting and stay to help do the business of Local Lodge 66

### Organizing Incentives

**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 District 10.

**Organizing Drive - \$200.00**

To the member if the lead progresses to an Organizing Blitz.

**Election - \$475.00**

If the Organizing Blitz leads to an election.



*Bunny*

## Our Best

As Union members we go to work, do our job and hopefully enjoy a stable retirement. Brother Dave Konrad is one of those who put in his years and now



*Dave*

volunteers at Edgewood Elementary School in Greenfield. In December he received a Greenfield Chamber Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award. He started volunteering five years ago when his granddaughter started kindergarten and has not stopped. He helps children with their school work, get ready for recess and shoots hoops with them. Dave commented, "they are like my own children and they see me like a grandfather. It makes me feel great."

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

# President Obama Reaffirms Support for Employee Free Choice Act

Article printed from AFL-CIO NOW BLOG: <http://blog.aflcio.org/2009/02/12/obama-reaffirms-support-for-employee-free-choice-act/>

In an Oval Office interview with major newspapers yesterday, President Barack Obama reaffirmed his strong support for the freedom to form unions and bargain. The *Detroit Free Press* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* were among the papers that got a chance to talk to Obama about the challenges facing our economy, and Obama once again offered his support for the [Employee Free Choice Act](#).

According to the *Inquirer*, **Obama discounted the corporate community's argument** that workers' freedom to form unions and bargain would be bad for the economy. The president said that, indeed, workers' freedom to bargain was good for the long-term health of the economy. "I don't buy the argument that providing workers with collective bargaining rights somehow weakens the economy or worsens the business environment. If you've got workers who have decent pay and benefits, they're also customers for business," stated President Obama.

The *Inquirer* also reports that Obama does not want to delay passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. This echoes a January 30 statement by Vice President Joe Biden, who heads the White House's task force on working families. Biden told CNBC the administration hopes Congress passes the Employee Free Choice Act this year. Both Obama and Biden were co-sponsors of the legislation in the Senate. In his announcement of the task force January 30, Obama made it clear he sees unions as essential to a strong economy.



We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests, because we know that you cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement. When workers are prospering, they buy products that make businesses prosper.

The Employee Free Choice Act is critical to the nation's economic recovery, a point made by numerous analysts including former Labor Secretary Robert Reich. Speaking in Florida yesterday, Reich said the bill would open the door for workers to bargain for health care, pensions and fair wages, restoring their economic security and reversing the wage stagnation that has contributed to a weak economy.

Obama and experts agree: Quick passage of the Employee Free Choice Act will improve the economy for working families.

Sources: <http://www.freep.com/article/20090211/BUSINESS01/90211099/1014/Obama+puts+onus+on+U.S.+automakers+to++get+me+a+plan+that+works>; Philadelphia Inquirer: [http://www.philly.com/inquirer/front\\_page/20090212\\_Obama\\_Plan\\_will\\_save\\_millions\\_of\\_jobs.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/front_page/20090212_Obama_Plan_will_save_millions_of_jobs.html); Jan. 30 statement: <http://www.kansascity.com/444/story/1017585.html>; <http://blog.aflcio.org/2009/01/30/obama-reverses-bush-executive-orders-creates-middle-class-task-force/>; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-kuttner/president-obama-wants-you\\_b\\_162975.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-kuttner/president-obama-wants-you_b_162975.html); Speaking in Florida:

## Obama Java

USA Coffee has issued a special label to mark the inauguration of President Obama. This coffee is 100% Union from tree to cup. Check out USA Coffee's web-site for a complete listing of their products.



[www.usacoffeecompany.com](http://www.usacoffeecompany.com)



In President Obama's February 24 Economic Address to Congress and to working families he stated, **"It's not about helping banks - it's about helping people."** For the last 25 years and especially for the previous eight years, the neo-con Republican economic philosophy was trickle down. Give money to the rich and they will create the jobs. This has not worked. The rich have more, we have less. Working families have realized this for a long time that we have not benefited from this philosophy and November 4, 2009 was our answer.

In 2005 the neo-con Republican philosophy changed the bankruptcy laws against working families. Your economic problems no longer go away. **BUT we now give money to CEO's for their failures?** And expect things to change! This has to stop. Change the bankruptcy laws for working families.

dwc

## Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening**, Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 7:00PM on **Employee Free Choice Act**, guests are always welcome.
- **Steward Training class** is available to all members, see page 5.
- Membership applications for the Union Sportsmen Alliance is available from your Union Office.
- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council**; March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. All meetings start at 6:30PM.

# The Union Sportsmen's Alliance

*Designed for Union Members, Driven by Union Members*

If you love to hunt, fish and spend time outdoors, you're not alone. These passions are shared by millions of Union members across North America. Whether stalking a buck, reeling in a largemouth or basking in nature, these cherished pastimes define many Union members. They also define the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) – a hunting and fishing club extending union member benefits beyond the workplace to the woods and water.

## **Connecting Union Hunters and Anglers**

The USA is a program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), a coalition of the nation's leading conservation organizations, labor Unions and individuals working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing.

Over the last few years, Unions have become one of the TRCP's strongest allies in its efforts to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage. To date, the TRCP has affiliated with 20 of America's AFL-CIO trade unions that represent nearly five million Union workers across the U.S. and Canada.

The seeds of the USA were planted when an independent survey showed that approximately 3.2 million members, or 70%, of the TRCP's affiliated Unions hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors. The USA utilizes a multimedia program that combines print and electronic communication to connect this community of Union hunters and anglers, allowing them to share their outdoor experiences, exchange ideas and photos, access hunting and fishing information and join together to help protect hunting and fishing in America.

## **Lending Union Members a Voice for Our Outdoor Heritage**

As part of the USA, Union members have an unprecedented opportunity to impact the future of hunting and fishing in America by lending their combined support to the TRCP effort to (a) expand access to quality places to hunt and fish, (b) conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats, and (c) increase funding for fish and wildlife management.

While the USA is strictly a non-partisan, non-political entity, USA members automatically become TRCP partners. By joining together to form a strong, unified voice, members of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance can add their strength to the TRCP's conservation mission and help secure a bright future for the next generation of hunters and anglers.

## **Securing Giveaways and Deals & Discounts and on the Latest Outdoor Gear**

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is continually building relationships with outdoor brands and manufacturers to offer a wide range of benefits for its members. Union members and retirees of the AFL-CIO and their families **can join the 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!*

## **To Join the USA**

**[www.UnionSportsmen.org](http://www.UnionSportsmen.org)**

**1-877-USA-2211 (toll-free)**

Or your Union office has the applications and we can mail one to your home. Call us at 414-671-3800 or email [lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com).

**IAMUNION**



# Do You Hear What I Hear?

February 19, 2009 Education Evening

by James Cobb

February's Education Evening had both current members and retirees show up for the free hearing test and a presentation from Mary Jo Helker, who is an Industrial Engineer, and a Licensed Worker's Compensation Specialist. She works with Johnson Law Offices in Evansville, Wisconsin, with focus on workers impacted by hearing loss caused in the work place. Wisconsin has a model program, but you must have worked in the state over 90 days to qualify for the hearing loss program. Many companies will give you hearing aids, but do not tell you about other benefits available to you.

The Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Program was established in 1911 and has helped two million workers.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and want to learn more about the Work's Compensation Hearing Loss Benefits or have more questions call Johnson Law Offices (608) 882-6571.



photo by James Cobb

## NEW

### Shop Committees

Shop chairs need to keep the Lodge updated, as to any changes in their committees.

Please immediately update any changes to United Lodge 66 so we can keep members informed.

If you wait then information will go out to the wrong persons and those who should know will not.

dwc

## Lost Time

This is outlined in the letter sent to all shop committee persons last month and remember:

- W4 must be on file at Lodge 66
- Reimbursement form needs to be completely filled out as well as dated and signed by your business agent.

We do payroll every two weeks which means a member may need to wait.

dwc

## Put Diesel Into Your Gas Engine?

Most persons would not intentionally put diesel fuel into their gas operated auto or truck but when we ask shop chairs to stop using old new member applications they continue doing such.

If you do not have new member applications with **Form No. MR0001-09** then ask for them and throw away any old forms.

Thanks for your cooperation.

dwc

## Invite Us!!

Patricia Elizondo, Lodge President and I are willing to meet with any shop committees or attend your shop meetings to discuss procedures of United Lodge 66 and the Grand Lodge Constitution. This can not be done if you do not ask. We will also bring along general information from our Lodge Business Meetings and an appropriate video.

We just ask for advance notice and any place or time at your convenience.

*Doug Curler, Secretary Treasurer*



## The Economic Meltdown, Real Solutions for Working People

Attend this seminar and the Lodge will reimburse your registration fee when you turn in your receipt to your Union Office.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 9AM to 3PM.

**WHERE:** Plumbers Local 75, 11175 W. Parkland Avenue, Milwaukee, 53224

- Do you want the low down on our recent economic meltdown? We start with an overview of the economy, what bills have passed and what else needs to be done.
- Would you like to know what you and other folks can do to make a difference in jobs and the economy, fair trade, job and retirement security, health care for all Union organizing, and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act? Workshops on these subjects, and more.
- Would you like to be part of changing this country for the better? Come share your ideas as we discuss and plan how to do it.

A lunch will be provided and there is a suggested registration fee of \$10.00.

Sponsored by: Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Milwaukee Area Labor Council, Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition, School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension.



## Steward Training

Wednesdays on March 4 to April 1, 2009 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

This class will cover the duties, rights and responsibilities of stewards as well as techniques for investigating grievances and presenting them to management.

- What does a Union do?
- The role of the steward
- Rights and responsibilities of the steward
- The grievance procedure and the contract
- Grievance investigation
- Effective writing and presentation
- Union's legal right to info from the employer
- Union's legal duty of fair representation
- Discipline cases - 7 Tests of Just Cause
- Handling issues outside the grievance procedure.

This class is done by the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension at Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals Hall, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis.

There is a registration is to be determined but the Lodge will reimburse **all members** who complete this class and submit to the Union Office their completion certificate and proof of payment.

The deadline for this class is not set yet. To enroll call 608-265-2112 or your Union Office does have the registration forms and your shop should have been posted by your shop chair. Payment only needs to be made on the first night of the class and the check should be made out to MATC.

**ANY DUES PAYING MEMBER CAN TAKE THIS CLASS AND WILL BE REIMBURSED.**

## Seniors Corner

### Why Retirees Should Care About the Employee Free Choice Act

"There is no doubt in my mind that the fate of workers and retirees is undeniably linked. We can not have a solid stable retirement unless we have a solid stable middle class," said George Kourpias, past president of the ARA. By standing together, Union workers fought for and won better wages, health care and pensions, and safety and respect on the job. However there is great concern of what Unions have achieved is crumbling in today's troubled economy. From the National Labor Relations Board some 30,000 workers face illegal employer retaliation for trying to form a Union. "Workers and retirees must fight together to pass the Employee Free choice Act so we can crack down on companies that break the law and block workers from forming a Union.

### 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](http://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
- \$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

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

### 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**

**Video: [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)**  
**Website: [www.unitedlodge66.org](http://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.

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union  
2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438  
414-671-3800

**[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org)**  
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