

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 13 No. 3

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

March 2010

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 12, 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 April 2010 edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is March 17.
- **Education Evening** is March 18, 2010 at 7:00PM with the topic of **Safety and Health at Your Worksite.**
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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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

Unions?

You Be The Judge

By Doug Curler

Besides having some rights at work and having a Democratic say in the wages, hours and conditions of employment at your worksite the January 31, 2010 edition of the Milwaukee Journal had a glaring example of why some of us say 'Union Yes.'

The article was on the front page, "**Delphi retirees take pension hit, bankruptcy trims up to 70% from salaried workers' checks.**" This article did show what happens at the same worksite and the different outcomes for those represented by a Union and those who are 'employees at will.' With a down turn in the automotive market there was a collapse for many suppliers to the Big Three as well as all those foreign automobiles now made in the USA. Delphi, in Oak Creek, was one of those forced into bankruptcy.

In 1999, when General Motors spun off Delphi, part of the agreement with the UAW, a Union, was to 'top off the hourly employees' pension if the plan ever fell short.

For the 20,000 salaried retirees, those working at the same worksite there was no such agreement. General Motors, or any company, did not have to negotiate with their 'employees at will.' Why? Because if you chose to be or work as an 'employee at will' you are just that. 'Employees at will' must take what an employer is willing to give you. 'Employees at will' do not have a Voice@Work, they have no Union, no contract!

Gil Putt, one the salaried employees in the article, stated, "It will not be pretty. I could lose between 45% and 70%." He also stated, "The real kicker is that the UAW workers are going to receive their full pensions, health care and life insurance. They also were turned over to the PBGC but they had an agreement with General Motors so that whatever the PBGC did not pay, GM would make up the difference."

What also came out of this were some of the other Unions which represented smaller portions of workers at the same location were not part of the agreement which topped up the pensions of the UAW and Steelworkers. Know your contract and develop one to protect your rights as Union workers.

This shows the real difference between having a contract and being an 'employee at will.'

(source: January 31, 2010 and February 22, 2010 Milwaukee Journal)

Republican Denies Unemployment Extension!

As of Friday, February 26, 2010, Republican Senator Bunning (KY) objected to each attempt to bring a 30 day extension to unemployment benefits to a vote on the Senate floor. This would allow more time to agree to a greater extension. If not 27,000 laid off Wisconsin workers are about to lose their benefits on February 28, 2010. (On 3/2 he finally stopped objecting to the unemployment extension)

'You are either for us or against us,' said Ex-President Bush.

(Source: Milwaukee Journal, February 26, 2010)

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

Get Your Cameras

The Machinists Union has kicked off its 2010 IAM Photography Contest. This is open to all Machinists Union members. These photos will be picked and used for the 2011 Machinists Union Wall Calendar.

There are some rules to follow whether you are shooting film or digital cameras. Your chairperson will be able to give you a copy of the rules and entry forms. Members can also get a copy from your Union Office.



All types of work and job assignments in your daily routine should be considered.

Let us get out there and show the International what we are doing in Milwaukee.

James Cobb
Lodge 66 Communicator

Census 2010 Jobs

For those members looking for temporary employment here is a good way to earn some money. **Be a Census 2010 worker.**

The Job:

- For the 2010 Census on a temporary basis.
- Interview those who fail to fill out the Census questionnaire.
- Work in your own neighborhood.
- Work 20 to 40 hours per week.
- The work is for about 2 months.
- It pays \$15.00 per hour.

The Requirements:

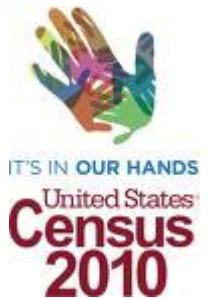
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Able to work legally.
- Have a basic knowledge of English.
- Males, 18 or older, must be registered with the Selective Service System.

Your Next Step:

- Come in and take our exam (in English or Spanish).
- Seven days after the exam you will receive a call from one of the offices with your test results. You can also retake the exam for better test results.

In order to take the exam call one of the area offices and see where you need to go to take the exam: 414-944-0650 is for a greater portion of Milwaukee County; 414-203-3860 is for a select area within the City of Milwaukee; 262-842-1620 is for Waukesha, Jefferson, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha Counties; 920-456-8020 is for Ozaukee and Washington Counties.

A practice exam is recommended and is available online at www.milwaukee.gov/2010census.



Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council:** March 3 and April 7 in 2010. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- **Union Veterans Committee** meets, **March 10, 2010, at 4:00PM** to discuss our participation in the Memorial Day Parade as well as other activities taking place this year.. We need to more than wave a flag for our returning veterans.
- **Education Evening** on **March 18, 2010, 7:00PM** will be on **Health and Safety at Your Worksite.**
- **Steward Training**, Thursday evenings from **5:30pm to 8:30pm from March 11 to April 1**, see postings in your shop or call your Union Office for more information. This is open to all members and registration fee is reimbursed by Lodge.
- **Understanding Immigration**, Saturday, **March 13 from 9:00am to 3:00PM**, see postings in your shop or call your Union Office for more information. This is open to all members and registration fee is reimbursed by Lodge.
- **Employment Law Training**, Saturday, **March 20 and April 10 from 9:00am to 3:00pm**, see postings in your shop or call your Union Office for more information. This is open to all members and registration fee is reimbursed by Lodge.
- **Workers Memorial Day**, **Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 5:00PM** at Zeidler Union Square Park, 4th & Michigan Streets, Milwaukee. On this date 46 years ago the Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed and we remember those workers who have lost their life the previous year due to worksite accidents or illness.
- On **Sunday, May 2, 2010, 3:00PM**, the Wisconsin Labor History Society will be hold the **124th Anniversary Commemoration of the Bay View Tragedy**. This is at the Bay View Rolling Mills Historical Marker Site, at South Superior Street and East Russell Avenue, where the Wisconsin State Militia open fired and killed workers and one child who were promoting the eight hour day.
- 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.
- 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.

Tax Evader or Just Playing By The Rules?

By Doug Curler

Terrence Wall, a real estate developer, is running for U. S. Senator of Wisconsin in November 2010. His millionaire worth is somewhere between \$58 to \$130 million. Last year he reported income of between \$2.3 to \$14.2 million. On all this wealth he has not paid any Wisconsin state taxes for the last 10 years. All this is very legal.

How can anyone person or political party not say that Wisconsin does not have a good business climate?

(source: February 16, 2010, Milwaukee Journal)

Health Care . . . \$\$\$\$\$\$

The debate on health care reform continues and it seems the side which yells enough will win and working families will continue to pay. One thing is for certain is the present employer based system will continue to cost workers more.

From 2000 to 2009 the profits of the largest 10 health insurance companies increased 250% which is a lot more than inflation or the pay increases negotiated. In 2009 alone the nations 5 largest health insurance companies profits increased by 56%.

Other the other side of the health insurance issue the premiums paid for our health care increased anywhere from 16% to 56%.

For Social Security retirees taking the private for profit Medicare Advantage program, retirees will have increases in 2010 from 14% to 31%.

Don't you just love the American Way!

I bet you will not see such a increase in the government funded Medicare Program.

(source: www.healthreform.gov/reports/insuranceproposers/index.html and blog.aflcio.org/.../2009/09/29/tell-your-health-care-insurer-its-time-for-real-reform)

Don't Count Out the Unemployed

The American workforce has taken a huge hit lately. Between the jobs lost to outsourcing over the past several years, and the current recession, 31 million Americans are out of work. That's a heck of a lot of unemployed people.

Imagine how powerful a Union of 31 million people could be. Union of Unemployed is a group dedicated to promoting the idea that the unemployed can comprise a powerful lobby when they work together. The UCubed initiative (Useful - Unique - Unified) proposes that people connect with other unemployed people in their area to form alliances, network, share resources and skills, and contact their government representatives to demand passage of legislation for such initiatives as jobs bills and training programs.



Jobs creation legislation is one part of the solution, but a sea of change needs to happen within the business sector in our country as well. America used to be good at making things, but when goods are produced in Latin America or China using underpaid and exploited labor, the end result is a cheaper product. The cost of that cheap product is good jobs lost here at home and exploited workers - often children - abroad.

Again, through networking, people can remind each other to buy American made goods. Letter writing campaigns to remind businesses that people want domestically produced goods can be organized through a site like U Cubed. And businesses don't have to go it alone. Incentives for business to keep manufacturing in the country is something that worked in countries like Germany, Brazil and South Africa, it raised the standard of living, and it can work here too.

The Union is a powerful tool, as our history has shown. Reminding our legislators that the unemployed have a voice and a vote can be an effective strategy for change.

Whether you are unemployed, underemployed, or have job security, get involved. If you know someone who is unemployed, send them to www.unionofunemployed.com. Join a group and let your Congressional Reps know where you stand on jobs creation, initiatives for rewarding businesses that keep jobs here in the United States, and fair trading practices overseas. When you are shopping, turn over the items you are looking at and choose the ones that say "Made in USA" and let the stores know what influenced your choices.

When the American workforce comes together, as we have in the past, we can make a difference. The Union of Unemployed can be an effective activism strategy. . . **and wouldn't it be nice if it eliminated the need for its own existence?**

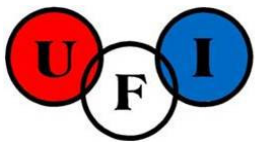
By James Cobb
Lodge 66 Communicator

Unemployment Benefits

Even after **Republicans** in the US Senate blocked the 30 day extension for unemployment benefits Wisconsin State Officials stated that few would lose their benefits. "Almost nobody goes off overnight," said Hal Bergan, administrator of the unemployment insurance division of the state Department of Workforce Development.

It seems our state has different rules and there could be an automotive 13 week extension.

(source: Milwaukee Journal, February 27, 2010)



Union Financial, Inc.

New members of IAM Local Lodge 66

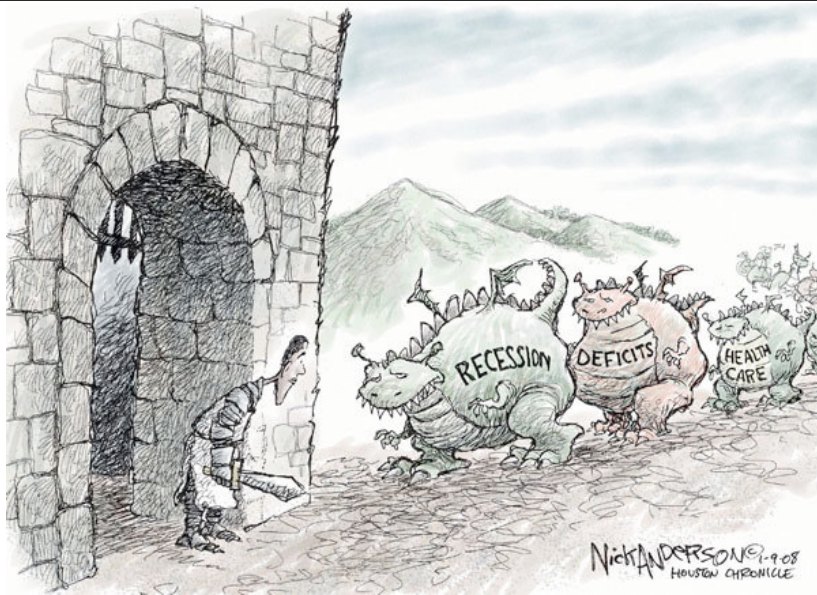
Who: Union Financial, Inc. District VP & Financial Advisor: Brian Goode & Labor Liaison Dave Margelofsky

What: Members of lodge 66 now have a resource to go to for free advice on their 401K investments, retirement planning and income distributions. We also can be an option to turn to for 401k rollovers and asset management when retired

Where: We can do home visits, office visits or meet at a place of your choice.

Why: The Team Members of Union Financial, Inc. know planning for retirement can be a challenge. We have a dedicated team that is set up to assist union brothers and sisters in planning for their retirement and the unexpected along the way. Union Financial is organized under IBEW Local 965 and IAM local lodge 66 we have an intimate knowledge of the benefits that are provided through your locals. We take pride in making sure everything is done right the first time. By working with the companies of the Principal Financial Group®, we are able to help union members find a financial strategy that fits their needs and budget. We work diligently to make sure all clients, no matter their needs, are taken care of in an honest and professional manner.

When: Call Brian Goode personally @ 262-930-5059 to set up an appointment and with any questions you have about our services. I can provide you free retirement planning and make sure your 401k is correctly allocated per your risk tolerance. Check us out on the web www.unionplanning.com



Car Pooling

From Kenosha: Want to car-pool to Union Meeting? Contact Vice President Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com



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

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

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 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.

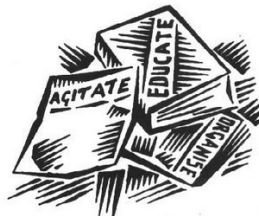
In order to get the withdrawal card a member must obtain such within two months of paying dues.

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

President Establishes Debt Commission to Look at Social Security and Medicare

Alliance Executive Director Edward Coyle stated, “retirees fully support President Obama on the critical need to reduce our nation’s budget deficit. Older Americans have always been uncomfortable with large debt, both in government and in their own families. We are, however wary of the objectivity that Commission Co-Chair Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming) will bring to this important assignment. As a Senator, Simpson referred to older Americans as ‘greedy geezers’ and launched bitter and protracted assaults against advocacy groups for seniors. Social Security benefits would have been cut under his plan to change the statistical formula used to calculate Cost-of-Living Adjustments”

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

Machinists Union Apparel

Your Union office has a complete list of all the Machinists Union clothing available from our Internationals Stockroom. Recently we did receive a colored page showing Women’s Merchandise. Stop in at your office or at the Union Meeting to look it over and order the merchandise you need at your convenience.

Visit www.iamstore.org and order right from your home.

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, large or X-large
- \$11.50 for XX-large or 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.



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/iama1166, afl-cio

Directory for District 10 Office,

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

Bill Christianson	24
Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	16

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 Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438
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