

Badger Lodge News



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



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

March 2012

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 9, 2012

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 2012** edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is **March 24**.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- **Education Evening is on March 15**, starting at **7PM**

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Jobs or Jeopardy: Finding a Balance

As a machinist, you're familiar with safety glasses and steel-toed boots. In a noisy shop, you wear ear plugs to protect your hearing and respirators when working with chemicals.

Welders wear thick gloves to protect their skin from heat and shaded goggles to protect their eyes from the piercing glare of the electric arc.

Back in the good old days, workers were regularly poisoned by exposure to industrial chemicals. Whirling machinery snatched hair and clothing, pulling workers to their death or dismemberment. 146 garment workers died in the Triangle fire of 1911 because of inadequate fire escape routes, and it took a lawsuit in the 1920s by women dying of exposure to radium paint to call attention to the dangers of working around unsafe chemicals with inadequate protection.

So it's kind of surprising that many people are angry at President Obama for delaying the creation of the Keystone Pipeline.

It could create an estimated 20,000 jobs. If it leaks, it could contaminate the Ogallala Aquifer, which provides water to eight states. Over two million people get their drinking water from the Aquifer, which also provides water for \$20 billion worth of American agriculture.

Obama doesn't oppose the pipeline, but he wants further study and assurances that the pipeline will be safe. He's got good reason to be cautious.

There's a device called a PIG - a pipeline inspection device. It runs down inside a pipe, using various technology - usually ultrasonic or magnetism - to check the pipe for corrosion, cracks, pitting or other problems. The PIG is only as good as the software controlling it, and there have been allegations that the sensitivity can be dialed back to overlook potential problems to keep repair costs down.

Mike Klink, a civil engineer who worked for Bechtel Oil, Gas & Chemical, a subcontractor used on the Keystone Pipeline, was terminated from his job after repeatedly raising safety concerns. He claims that rebar materials were manufactured to the wrong specifications, but used anyway. Additionally, he claims that TIC of Wyoming, another subcontractor, worked hard to make sure that mistakes made by the company were not disclosed to the US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, a Federal agency overseeing the project.

1 million gallons of crude oil spilled from a Canadian-owned pipeline into the Kalamazoo River near Marshall, Michigan in July of 2010. Crude oil contains benzene, a carcinogenic chemical that is hazardous to people and wildlife, and is extremely difficult to clean up.

Klink has filed complaints with OSHA under the whistleblower provisions of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act, but OSHA ruled against him. Klink is appealing the decision.



United Lodge 66
Hall and
Union Office
is
SMOKE FREE.

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

Social Security Planning for Your Future

As you plan for your retirement, are you sure you understand what you need to know about social security to make the right decisions? Come join Financial Representative with the Union Alliance Team of Principal Financial Group, Inc. Brain Goode as he explains the basics of social security benefits and how to best plan for yours and your family's retirement at the next:

IAMAW United Lodge 66 Education Night

March 15, 2012

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2609 West Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, 53215

United Lodge 66 Leadership strongly encourages your participation in this important meeting.

Snacks, refreshments and door prizes will be available.

This meeting is open to the public so please bring family and friends



Nominations for Delegates

The **Official Call** for the **38th Convention** of the **Grand Lodge of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers** has arrived.

The convention will be held

September 9th– 15th, 2012 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Delegates must be members in good standing for at least (1) year prior to their nomination.

They must have or obtain a passport prior to the convention dates.

Ron Simmelink the Lodge 66 Recording Secretary will have copies of all qualifications required to attend the Conference.



Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegates to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: March 7, 2012.** All meetings start at **6:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Business Meeting** is Friday, **March 9, 2012 at 7PM.**
- **Delegates to District 10: March 12, 2012.** All meetings start at **7:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Education Night : Thursday, March 15, 2012** will start at **7PM.**
Topic : Social Security Planning for Your Future
- **Nominations for Delegates for Grand Lodge Convention** are in **April 13 Business Meeting at 7pm.**
- **Elections for Delegates for Grand Lodge Convention** will be in **May 11, 2012 Business Meeting at 7pm.**
- The class schedule for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office and can be viewed at any of the meetings.

Fighting for Frank

By Pepe Oulahan, Educator, IAMAW United Lodge 66

It was about this time last year that Scott Walker's true plan for Wisconsin was fully unveiled. Under the guise of a special session on job creation he brought forward legislation to gut needed programs and education for the poor and middle class, hand over large sums of money to his out of state billionaire corporate contributors, assign unilateral power to his office regarding important state purchasing and other policies and outlaw the right of public sector workers to bargain collectively. Oh, and by the way, it should be noted that not one job was created from this session.

As we all know this all out attack on the working class has been met with considerable resistance. In fact on January 17th of this year Wisconsin citizens delivered over one million reasons (recall signatures) for Mr. Walker to reconsider his right wing power grab. Instead he has decided to sidle up to his billionaire friends like Maurice Greenberg of AIG scandal fame and bring his message of money over people to out of state hate mongers like Rush Limbaugh.

There are many, including myself, who see the recent events in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and other states as the most dangerous threat to our freedom that we have faced in decades. I therefore am fully committed to donating every free hour I can afford to the efforts to recall Mr. Walker and restore our state government to one that demonstrates the respect for the working people of Wisconsin that we deserve.

As any of us who have been active in this movement will tell you – it is not easy. The energy and stamina we will need to successfully defeat this extremely well funded attack on the working class will be tremendous. In order to maintain this level of commitment I find it useful to keep in mind the image of my late father in law, Frank Galbawy.

Frank was born in Milwaukee to parents who migrated here from Eastern Europe. These were tough times and he began working at an early age to help his family with the bills. Then the depression of 1930 hit and threw his family into near economic disaster. Unable to find work Frank signed on with a program instituted as part of the "New Deal" called the Civilian Conservation Corps or "CCC" as it was commonly known. This program utilized public dollars to employ over two million young Americans to conserve our natural resources.

As part of this program Frank went off to northern Wisconsin to work in forestry. Frank often spoke very highly of this experience. The relief of being able to send much needed money to his parents coupled with the feeling of doing valuable work "made all the difference in the world", he said.

Upon completing his work up north Frank was offered a choice of skills training courses. He chose welding. After then serving a tour of duty in World War II, he came home and eventually became an Iron Worker for the City of Milwaukee, and a proud member of Iron Workers Local 8.

In our many discussions while I dated and later married his daughter (my wife) Frank would tell me of his support for his Union. He told me that he understood the role that organized labor had played in pressuring the government to create the CCC and to provide the training that allowed him to retrieve his families' dignity through hard meaningful work. He also showed me his union card with pride pointing out all the meeting attendance punch holds it had.

My memory of Frank is that of a very hard working, humble man, whose only concern was his families' well being. I remember coming to his moderate, affordable house on Sundays in the summer and finding him in the back yard working on some project and listening to his team the Milwaukee Brewers.

I would wave to him on my way in, and as he turned to return the greeting I could see a seriousness in his eyes that comes from a life of hardship and struggle. But, I also noted a definite sense of contentment. A sense of contentment that came from knowing that he had worked hard and in return his family was safe and well taken care of. That after all the hard times he had faced in his life, he

continued

had triumphed. He wasn't rich, he wasn't poor; he was working middle class.

So as I hit the streets this winter to collect signatures and as I continue to do the hard work that stands before us I keep in mind that I am not doing this for myself. I am doing it for my daughters and those who will hopefully come after them. I keep in mind that life is not just about getting rich and making money, it has to do with freedom and opportunity for all. I keep in mind that the struggles of working people are not forgotten in a haze of manipulated media messaging. They live on in me, my family and in the more than a million of those who I join with in this historical grass roots undertaking.

I know that in fighting to recall Scott Walker I am fighting for economic justice, and the dignity of the common man. In short I am fighting for Frank.



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.

February Education Night Focuses on Preserving Social Security and Medicare

On February 16, Janet Witt from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare spoke to Lodge 66 members about the current political threats to these important programs, what is being done on a national level to preserve them and what we can do to join in the fight.

"Social Security and Medicare are not entitlements as some say they are," stated Witt. "These programs belong to the people who have worked hard all their lives, paid taxes and contributed to the programs," said Witt.

Responding to some of the other more popular myths used by proponents of privatizing retirement benefits she pointed out that:

- Social Security money belongs to us – not the government
- Social Security is not responsible for any of our current federal budget deficit, and in fact the program has been used as a source of funding for other projects and is now owed \$2.6 trillion from the government, and
- Social Security is currently able to pay benefits through 2036 with no changes at all
- There are several solutions to make Social Security viable beyond 2036 without privatizing or giving up the program as we know it

Witt also encouraged members to educate ourselves on The Affordable Care Act of 2010, or "Obamacare" as it is commonly known. Emphasizing some of the major improvements contained in the law Witt told members that by 2015 this new law will extend healthcare coverage to over 30 million uninsured Americans, eliminate denial of insurance coverage due to pre-existing conditions and eliminate lifetime caps on coverage. Debt from health care costs is the number one cause of bankruptcy in this nation, said Witt.

Polling shows that the Affordable Care Act is gaining support as it is implemented and more Americans learn of the benefits of the program. This may have something to do with why opponents are in such a hurry to repeal it, said Witt.

In closing Ms. Witt strongly encouraged members attending the presentation to get involved. This can be done by contacting your Congressional Representative or Senators to tell them to preserve Social Security and Medicare, writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper with a personal story of how these benefits helped you or joining the National Committee for the Preservation of Social Security and Medicare.

For information on the NCPSSM you can call **1-800-998-0180**.

Speaking to the reason she and the National Committee are so dedicated to keeping politicians accountable on issues of health-care and retiree benefits Witt stated that there are two kinds of fairy tales, those that begin with, "Once upon a time," and those that begin with, "If elected I promise."



WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL FEBUARY 2012

By Mike Pietrzykowski Lodge 66 President

On Sunday February 26, the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists was honored to hear from Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congresswoman Gwen Moore. Congresswoman Baldwin started out with the announcement that she would be running for the office of U.S. Senator, the office that is being vacated by long term Senator Herb Kohl. Baldwin started with an overview of her voting record and political position.

While her record is clearly on the side of labor, a few items stood out. Congresswoman Baldwin was one of the few to oppose the Iraq war and a constant supporter for bringing the troops home. She spoke of her time on the picket lines as well as her support of workers' rights in Madison. Baldwin told delegates that there seems to be an underlying agenda by the Republican Party to divide the working class by classifying some workers as money grubbing, self-centered, lazy workers that only want to take the taxpayer's money and give nothing back.

In closing, Congresswoman Baldwin noted that there is a bill that has been introduced in Congress, and endorsed by Warren Buffet, that would require all people making over 1 million dollars per year to pay a more equitable tax. Guess who's fighting it. Not the working man.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore began her presentation with a very sincere thank you to District 10 and to all the Machinists. Moore reminded us that Wisconsin is still a strong manufacturing state despite the efforts of Scott Walker. Wisconsin has always been a leader in the area being progressive ideas; it was Wisconsin that started Unemployment Insurance. Workmen's Compensation and many of the ideas from Roosevelt's New Deal were born in Wisconsin. Congresswoman Moore went on to say that Democracy is the power of the People, and when we say "the People," we should be reminded that a million strong People said we will recall Scott Walker.

Moore went on to say that the People have won the first battle in the war against worker rights and now we must win the war at the ballot box. She reminded us that Walker has killed jobs in Wisconsin; we are one of only six states that have had continuous job loss since July 2011. He has stripped millions from education and health care for the old and poor, at the same time changing the tax code so business in dual status states will not have to pay any tax in Wisconsin if they pay in the other state. (And there is now a one week waiting period before you may receive an unemployment check. Thanks, Scott.)

The message from these Congress-women is clear. The working people of this great democracy do not have the deep pockets of the Koch brothers, but can still prevail by getting out the word to educate others, and to remind them that Wisconsin is not for sale. Scott Walker and Paul Ryan, who says that the elderly, poor, sick, and unemployed are weakening the system by living on "entitlements" such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other programs are trying to set us against each other. We should remember that we pay into these programs with every paycheck; they are an investment we make in our futures and in the futures of our fellow citizens. As long as we are fighting with each other, they have free rein to invoke bad laws, while the real issue is jobs.



Let's keep our work in this country. Let's save the Wisconsin paper industry, and stop unfair trade policies. Governor Walker sent a letter to Congress encouraging them to pass the trade bills with Korea, Panama, and Colombia and requesting that all other trade bills be put on the fast track. These bills are so bad that they would make it illegal to promote Buy Wisconsin or Buy American as an unfair trade policy.



Lodge 66 Wants All Members to Be Informed

The Lodge 66 Executive Board wants all members to be informed about Lodge business as well as current events and how they impact our Union. With the cost of printing and postage going up, the easiest way to stay informed and the least costly is to use email. We will be sending two emails a month. The Lodge does not share or sell your email address with anyone. If you would like to get your Lodge information

by email, please contact us at lodge66@gmail.com with your correct email address

For those members who don't have internet access or a computer, we do send hard copies of the Newsletter once a month. If you are not on our mailing list, or have changed your mailing address, contact the Lodge at **414-671-3800**.

If you would like to be a distributor of newsletter at your work site let us know.

The lodge has a website which is now updated and should be checked twice a month

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>
www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

The Union Sportsmen 's Alliance Raffle

The Lodge 66 Union Sportsman Alliance Raffle will take place at the March 9th after the Lodge 66 Business meeting.

You must be a member of USA to participate in the raffle.



See you at the meeting and good luck.

IAM Photography Contest

Photographers dust off your cameras and lenses for the **2012 IAM Photography Contest.**

It is open to all members in good standing.

Photos may be film or digital format.

Your entries should catch IAM members at work in unposed photos.

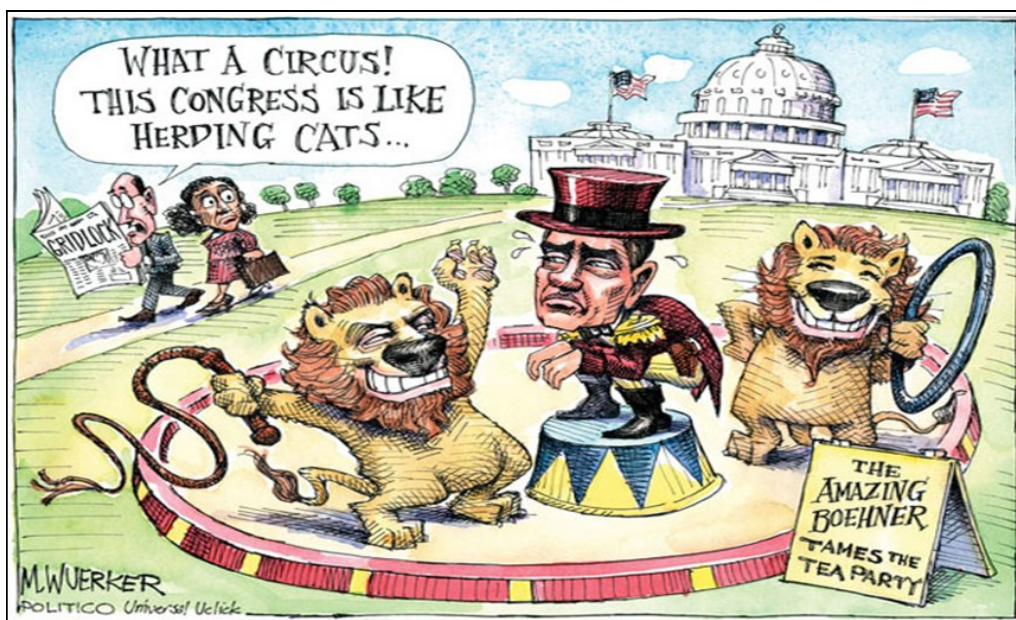
Winning entries will appear in the **2013 IAM Calendar.**

You can find the complete contest entry package online by going to

<http://www.goiam.org/photocontest>



United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
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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>

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
Greg Pursell	24
Janice DeSmidt (Organizer)	15

Car Pooling

From Kenosha:

Want to carpool to Union Meeting?
 Contact Brother 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: Ron
 Simmelink, 920-627-0325, from
 Kieffer & Company in
 Sheboygan.