

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 10 No. 3

March 2007

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 9, 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;** 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 edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is March 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- **Education Evening is March 15, 2007 at 7:00PM**

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Communicator for United Lodge 66

Brother James Cobb has been appointed Communicator for our Lodge by President Elizondo. He has worked at Badger Meter as a machinist for the last eight years. Prior to that he worked in the California Aerospace Industry. As a member of Lodge 66 he has been a steward on third shift and this year was elected to the bargaining committee. Besides his own on the floor experiences he has attended and is going through the Leadership Series of Classes at the Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Technology and Education Center in Placid Harbor, Maryland. We welcome him and hope when called upon shop committees give him their total support.

A big thanks goes out to Don Burmester who has served this Lodge well as the prior communicator.



James

Employee Free Choice Act

Our right to negotiate better working conditions is governed by the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. While this was the strongest pro worker legislation to pass and thereafter had the biggest growth in Union membership and the middle class it did not last long. The problem was **activist judges**, neo-conservative or reactionary judges, who put their own interpretation on the law. The law went from one of right for workers to protecting the employer and to disenfranchise any organizing.

The see-saw could be balanced with the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, HR 800. This law would allow Union representation if more than 50% of workers sign cards backing a Union. Therefore the employer would not be able to threaten and intimidate workers during an election process. This would negate the harm done by **activist judges**.

This bill will also impose federal mediation and binding outcomes if the Union and company can not agree on the first time contract. Right now a company can drag negotiations out and discourage a first contract.

There would also be stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers want to form a Union and during the first contract negotiations.

dwc



Union Made In America clothing & MORE; call 262-373-0777. Located at N35 W21100 Capitol Drive, Pewaukee, WI

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

Photography Contest for Machinists Union

Each year the Machinists Union (IAM) runs a photography contest for pictures to be spotlighted in our Machinists Union calendar. The photo should catch a Machinists Union member at work in an un-posed photo.

A member can only submit one photo. The complete set of rules and entry form is on the IAM Website or your lodge can send them to you.

The deadline is June 15, 2007.

We encourage all members to submit a photo and send a copy to the Lodge for use.



“You are either with us or against us in the fight against terror,” stated Bush on November 6, 2001.

Americans, “are now fighting the war at home,” Bush continued.

How does he support those troops who are fighting his war?

(source cnn.com)

Bush Administration plans to cut funding in the VA health care in two years even as badly wounded troops continue to arrive from Iraq. Bush says, “he is using the cuts to help fulfill his pledge to balance the budget by 2012.”

The VA medical needs has risen every year for the last two decades and 83% in the six years since Bush took office!

Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans represent almost 5% of the VA’s patient caseload and many are returning with grievous injuries requiring costly care.

(source: AP and Milwaukee Journal, 2/13/2007)

Election Day Off?

Representative Zepnick (9th Assembly District) is re-introducing legislation to permit all employees to have the day off on election day.

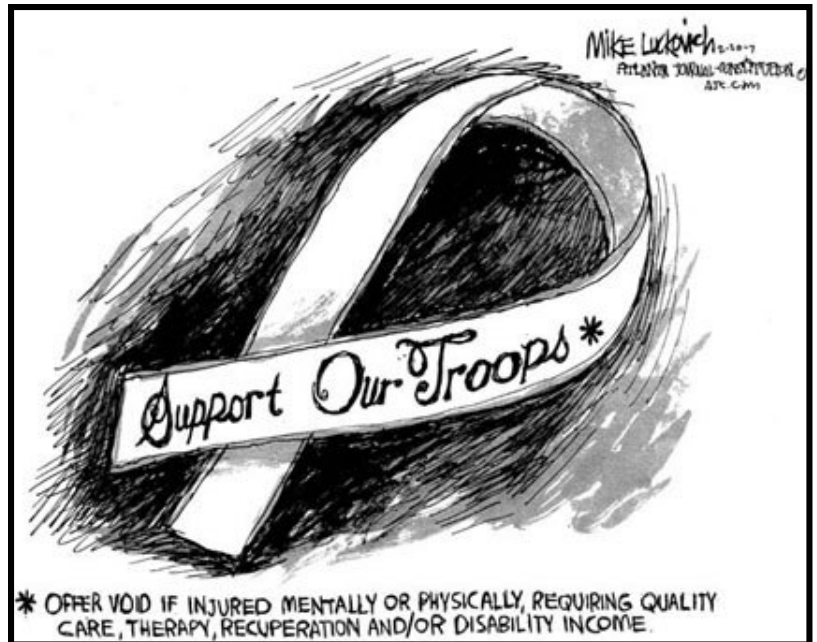
While this will not solve all issues on our right to vote it will be a step in the right direction.

This would take away the long lines and allow more time for any issues to be settled.

Let Representative Zepnick know if you support such a law. Here is contact information for him: 888-534-0009

(toll free); 608-266-1707; 608-282-3609 (fax);

Rep.Zepnick@legis.wi.gov.



Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening is March 15, 2007.** Kerry Malak from the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will do a presentation on hearing loss (*focusing on workplace hearing loss*) and technology options for the hearing impaired. This evening is *open to all members, their family and bring your neighbor*.
- **Steward Training**, is on **March 22 to April 19, 2007** from 5:30PM to 8:00PM, five Thursday evenings. At the MATC West Campus, 1126 S. 70th Street, West Allis. **This is open to ALL members.** The Lodge will reimburse the registration fee for members who complete the class. Contact your Lodge for details.
- **Placid Harbor Leadership Classes** and you can take your family and share the Union learning experience. These are open to all members but you need to apply through Lodge 66.
- **Bay View Massacre** event will be held on **Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 3:00PM**. At the corner of Russell and Superior Streets, Milwaukee. Save the date. More information to follow. See video at meeting.



Reliable Medical Info?

- www.aarp.org/health; info on drugs, insurance and staying healthy at 50+
- www.familydoctor.org; straight forward information from the American Academy of Family Physicians
- www.healthfinder.gov (English and Spanish)
- www.kidshealth.org; children's health through adolescence including special area for teens
- www.mayoclinic.com; tools to help guide treatment decisions
- www.medem.com; a partnership among medical societies to foster doctor patient communications including an online medical library
- <http://medlineplus.gov>; national library of medicine's comprehensive health informational portal
- www.webmd.com; for profit news and information with interactive activities

HR 800 - Employee Free Choice Act

This bill will never become law if you do nothing. Members need to take the time right now and contact their elected representative and urge passage of HR 800.

One way to contact your elected federal representative is my email. Go the Home Page, www.unitedlodge66.org, and use the link on the upper right side.

Better yet send them a short hand written note. For sure Representatives Ryan and Sensenbrenner are against any rights for working families. They need to be contacted.



Representative Ryan

1113 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515-4901
202-225-3031
202-225-3393 (fax)

Representative Sensenbrenner

2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4905
202-225-5101
202-225-3190 (fax)

Compassionate Conservative

Who knows how it would have turned out but the *decider* made choices after Katrina devastated New Orleans.

Now 1.5 years later:

- The population of New Orleans is only 191,000 from the 444,000.
- 107,000 citizens applied under the Federal "Road Home Program," (which was funded with

\$4.6 billion) to help rebuild their homes. Only 630 have received any aid.

(source: Cox News Service, 2/26/07)

Seniors Corner

President Bush: Caught Telling the Truth?

On page 58 of his 2008 Budget he calls for allowing states "to use private sector management techniques to leverage greater discounts through negotiations with drug manufacturers." Is Bush trying to have it both ways? He is flip flopping!

Bush Budget Takes a Bite out of Medicare and Medicaid

Bush's proposal to Congress will take away \$101.5 billion from these programs over five years. He would eliminate the annual inflation adjustment of the income thresholds for higher Medicare Part B premiums. "This would in turn raise costs for middle and lower income seniors who depend on it," said Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the ARA. Bush would also make permanent the cutbacks in payments to hospitals and nursing homes, so they would never received full updates due to inflation. This will shift costs to states.

Veterans/Badge Night at United Lodge 66

Your night will be on June 2, 2007. At this event a members continuous years of membership in the Machinists Union will be honored. It starts out at 15 years and in five year increments up to 50 years of membership. This year will be bigger than ever with the merger of three other Lodges. Our list for this year is for just under 1200 members of which 105 will be receiving their 50 year pins and gold cards.

The list is based on continuous membership prior to June 1, 2007. The list is provided by the Grand Lodge. Members on this list will be receiving an invitation.

More than ever the RSVP is necessary to plan this event and make it successful.

The event includes a buffet meal and numerous door prizes. This is done by members of your Executive Board, who volunteer their time. Any member can volunteer. If so interested let us know now!

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.



Caps available from Lodge 66 for \$11.00 each.

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

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>

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 Business Meeting or Education Evening Meeting.

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

www.unitedlodge66.org

dwcfiamwll66, all-cio

When I give food to the poor they
call me a saint. When I ask why the
poor have no food, they call me a
communist.
Dom Helder Camara