

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 11 No. 3

www.unitedlodge66.org

March 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 14, 2007

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
- Education Evening Meetings or by mail.
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is March 20 at 7PM. The topic is AFLAC Insurance.
- The deadline for articles to April edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is March 17.

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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 Elizonda

youtube.com/badgerlodge

While we are puzzled at why members do not attend meetings during the year we will be bringing portions to you on a monthly basis at the above site. Members should log on as subscribers so with each new video you will be informed of its addition. That way there is no guess work and you can chose to view when it is convenient to you. **We hope this will make you want to participate in the democratic process in the management of your Lodge.**

This Lodge has 13 members going to our Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Placid Harbor Maryland. Not too many other Lodges can claim that and attendance is only based on your desire. We can not be blamed for not bringing the opportunity to you.

If you know of members who may be in the dark of our communications then have them contact us my email. There is always the hard copy mail for those still not in the computer age. Be the one to inspire those you work with.

dwc

Wisconsin Labor History Society

27th Annual Conference

April 26, 2008

9:00AM to 3:00PM

Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
2311 E. Hartford Avenue, Milwaukee

The subject title is, "*Immigration, Unions and Workers*" an historical perspective. Learn how early ethnic groups were key to the industrial growth and quality of life in Wisconsin and what lessons were offered for today's new immigrants.

There will be four major subject matters: Immigrants and Industries in the 19th Century Wisconsin; The Finns and the Socialist Movement in Northern Wisconsin; Italian Stone Workers in Wisconsin; and Post World War II Immigrations.

There is a registration fee which includes luncheon and materials. A pamphlet was sent to all shop chairs.

The Wisconsin Labor History Society is dedicated to preserving and educating about the stories of workers and Unions in Wisconsin. Membership in the organization is open to all interested persons and organizations.

www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

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

A Voice@Work

On February 20 there was a community rally of support for the workers at Capital Returns. They want a voice@work and an National Labor Relations election for them is scheduled for March 6. The company takes in unused pharmaceuticals and disposing of them. These workers never know what they are touching and are searched when going on breaks or to the bathroom. **Probably something your employer does to you all the time?** I hope not since you are organized.

This is why we need to organize; increase Union density; and need your help and support. Otherwise none of us will have any protection or rights. Asking here may not be the best way but we need organizing leads **from YOU**. It does not have to be in manufacturing. Any workers who want a voice@work and are willing to stand up.

If others at your worksite are complaining how bad it is getting we only have ourselves to blame. Non involvement makes the companies and Union busters bolder. Get Active! There is also the Faith Community for Worker Justice, affiliated with the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. Contact them at 414-771-7541 or mclcfath@ameritech.net.

dwc



There were 50 to 60 supporters standing in 14 degree temperatures showing support for the Capital Returns workers.

*James Cobb,
Lodge Communicator*

Organizing Committee

The next United Lodge 66 Organizing Committee meeting is Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 5:30PM at 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee. Members are encourage to get involved and attend. If you have conflicts with this date leave a message for Bunny Browning at 414-671-3800. Together we need to stop the slide of our standard of living.

Activities for You and Family

- March 20, 2008, **Education Evening**, 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, is at 7:00PM and is open to your family. **The topic is AFLAC insurance** by Frank Sauter.
- **William W. Wimpisinger Education and Technology Center** is open to all members. The complete schedule of classes was sent to all committeepersons and **we will send it to any member**. The Lodge does pick up your lost time. The air fare and accommodations is from our International. Take advantage of this educational opportunity and make our Union even better. To learn more about our center visit: <http://wimpisinger.iamaw.org/> and then talk to us. **Basic Human Rights class is scheduled from May 4 to 9 at our Wimpisinger Center.**
- **Bay View Tragedy is on May 4, 2008, 4:00PM** to commemorate our struggle for the 8 hour day. In 1886, Wisconsin's Militia, under order of Governor Rusk open fired on the strikers killing seven and one child.
- **Grand Lodge Convention is week of September 7, 2008.**

Earmarks?

Most citizens have heard Bush talk about earmarks and how Congress has to remove them from any bills. These are pet projects inserted into legislation but may not have anything connected to the main subject matter. Just an easy way to pass along spending. While the Democrats have continued the process it was the Republicans and their total control for seven years really perfected earmarks.

Anyway Bush has denounced earmarks on one hand but on the other in his budget to Congress Bush has inserted thousands of such pet projects of his own. He has inserted money \$300 million to deal with plant pests; \$800,000 for the Nesoho National Fish Hatchery in Missouri; \$1.5 million for a waterway in Louisiana. **Many of the projects he chided Congress about he has inserted.**



dwc

Your Attendance

by James Cobb

Your Lodge President and I would like to thank you. Yes, *you*. What's that you say, you didn't make it to the last meeting? That's okay.

You see, the bylaws require that we have a quorum for doing Union business. That's 25 members. We pretty much have the same 25 faces show up all the time. That's kind of like dinner in a crockpot – set it and forget it. Like Congress... elect 'em and forget 'em. No further input from you needed.

Brother Curler has brought in videos to share with you. He takes the time to find things that are important to the membership of our lodge. You should be here to see them.

There's a raffle and door prizes every month. If you don't show up, that's less competition the rest of us.

And, after all, those meetings are on Friday night. There's plenty of other things you could be doing on a Friday night. You could go out for fish fry. Of course, there's three other Fridays in a month, but that's okay. We know that fish fry tastes best on the *second* Friday of the month.

Or maybe your Significant Other has a "Honey-do" list for your weekend and you want to get a jump on it. We certainly can understand that. (We just tell *our* spouses that Honeydew Melon is out of season.)

Between the weather, transportation issues, the cold and flu season and the complications of life in general, it can be hard to get to meetings.

Don't come see what we are up to the second Friday of each month at 7 PM at 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, and be sure to stay away from our Education Evening meetings, the third Thursday of each month. (NOT)

Seniors Corner

The following statement was issued today by George J. Kourpias, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans, in response to President Bush's final State of the Union address.

Retired Americans, in a time of great economic anxiety, were looking to President Bush for a sign that he would use his last year in office to address the deepening divide in our economy and in our society. In that context, we were sorely disappointed in his speech. We worry not only about our retirement, but also what the future holds in store for our children and grandchildren.

Medicare Drug Bargaining

Last year the House of Representatives passed a bill that required Medicare to bargain for lower prescription drug prices. The Senate watered down its version of the bill to only permit Medicare to bargain. However 43 Senators blocked a fair up or down vote on this issue. **Who is elected is important for your future.**

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

Would You Know?

As a policy the Lodge does send out to all shop chairs applications for new members as well as self addressed and stamped envelopes. If you ever run short just give us a call or email and more will be sent. We do try to police ourselves but you are the best gate keeper.

What all shop chairs need to do is to make sure the applications are properly filled out. Not only should there be an address but please include the city and zip code.

Most important is put down the company name. We just received one without the company(?) and we can only guess where this person works. There are 45 employers represented by United Lodge 66. Let us all be more careful and help each other out. *Thanks,*

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.

Call Pooling from Kenosha and Swearing In New Members

This will start in April. Contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com

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

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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

Website: www.unitedlodge66.org

dwc/iamaill66, 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.



April 1, 2008
General Spring Election