

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 12 No 5

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

May 2009

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

May 8, 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 Meeting or by mail or dropped into the mail slot at 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue.
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles to June edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is May 17.
- **Education Evening** is **May 21, 2009** at 7:00PM.

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dwe/amawll66, afl-cio

Seeking the 8 Hour Day

123rd Commemorative

There's an old saying in Wisconsin – if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it'll change. But this May 3rd, whether you are firing up the grill or the snow blower, Union members in Wisconsin and everywhere should take a moment to remember the brave men, women and children who marched on a May morning in 1886, risking – and for seven people, losing – their lives so that the rest of us have worker's rights today.

A general strike had begun that spring over the need for an eight-hour workday. By May 1 most of Milwaukee had shut down, but the North Chicago Rolling Mills, a steel plant in Bay View, was still working. On that May 4, 15,000 people – men, women and children – held a rally at 5th and Mitchell, and then marched toward the Mill. At Bay Street, troops called out by Governor Jeremiah Rusk were given the order to fire on the marchers. Seven people – one, a retired worker, and one a child – lost their lives.

At the intersection of Russell and Superior Streets is a small memorial park. The peaceful green spot overlooks the lakefront near the Coast Guard Station and the new Lake Michigan Ferry.

The workers of 1886 were not successful that day nor for the next few intervening years, but eventually they prevailed. Union or not, the eight hour day is standard, and safe workplace rules, vacation policies and benefits are the norm, not the exception.

There've been a lot of changes to Milwaukee in the intervening years. Milwaukee is a city where people buy Fair Trade coffee at local coffeehouses and Fair Trade goods at stores like Future Green and The Outpost. The eight-hour workday is standard, and people voice their opinions in newspapers, over radio waves and blogs without fear of being shot by the government.

But those that would oppress are still out there. There are sweatshops overseas. Pirates still patrol waters off the coast of Somalia, ready to profit off the labor of others. Anti-Unionists seek to defeat legislation in this country that would give workers the right to Unionize without fear of losing their jobs; they do this with intimidation and misinformation.

This May 3rd we would do well to remember the words of John Cronen, Third Engineer on the Maersk Alabama, the ship that repelled pirates in the Indian Ocean. **"We're American seamen. We're Union members. We stuck together and we did our jobs. That's how we did it."**

In solidarity James Cobb

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.

Bay View Tragedy

Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 3PM

State Historical Marker Grounds: E. Russell Avenue at S. Superior Street, Milwaukee. ***Bring your family and friends to this event.***

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

Organizing Incentives

Worth \$800.00 to you

- **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 the District.
- **Organizing Drive** is worth \$200.00. This goes to the same member if the lead progresses to an Organizing Blitz.
- **Election** is worth \$475.00. A member will receive this if the Organizing Blitz leads to an election.

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.



dwc

Populist Tom Watson *on the relations between white and black farmers in Georgia*

"You are kept apart that you may be separately fleeced of your earnings. You are made to hate each other because upon that hatred is rested the keystone of the arch of financial despotism which enslaves you both. You are deceived and blinded that you may not see how this race antagonism perpetuates a monetary system which beggars both."

Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening**, Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00PM.
- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council**; May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- The veterans/badge night for United Lodge 66 is Saturday, June 6, 2009 and letters have been sent for all members involved in our 2009 celebration.
- The 2009 Laborfest Day Event is Monday, September 7, 2009 from 9AM to 5PM.



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!

The USA is one of a kind, hunting and fishing association of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and its trade Union partners, exclusively for conservation minded Union members, retirees and their families that hunt, fish and appreciate the outdoors.

For members of United Lodge 66 who are members of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance we will be holding a gun raffle at our September 2009 meeting. To be raffled off will be a: (a) Made in USA Beretta 3901- 12 gauge semi automatic shotgun; (b) Union Made in the USA Remington 770 rifle with scope, 30.06 caliber.

The winner will be responsible for a processing fee and must be willing to have a lone photo of the winner or a ceremonial hand off photo taken.

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.



United Lodge 66 *Part of Milwaukee History*

In 1897 the AFL renewed the drive for a reduction in the workweek and the Machinists Union was called upon to lead. It took until 1900 to reach an agreement called, the Murray Hill Agreement, providing for a nine hour day effective on May 20, 1901.

Corporations went to the nine hour day but cut pay by 10%. **The Machinists Union repudiated this and ordered a nation wide strike on May 20, 1901.** Our minutes reported 'the members of Lodge 66, 300 and 301 all heeded the strike call. All Machinists walked off the job at Filer and Stowell; Kempsmiths; Pawling and Harnischfeger; Browning Pfeiffer and Smith; Milwaukee Harvester; 99% were out at Lutter and Giess; 90% at E. P. Allis and Milwaukee Electric; and 75% at Nordberg Manufacturing and Kearney and Trecker.

This strike only lasted eight weeks while not successful did not end the fight for a reduced work week.

(source: The Labor Movement in Wisconsin, by Robert W. Ozanne.)

Scholarship Program of United Lodge 66

This program is meant to assist two high school seniors that are children of a United Lodge 66 member. Listed below are the criteria for the Scholarship Selection:

1. Two (2) \$500 scholarship annually.
2. Only seniors in High School that are children of Machinists Union United Lodge 66 Members and those that are seeking post High School Education are eligible.
3. An essay must be written and **must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and community** to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. **Please note, "Essays written from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., will NOT BE ACCEPTED."**
4. Essays must be sent to: United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Essays will be given to the Scholarship Committee to review.
5. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.
6. One half of the Scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester (fall 2009) in which the individual is enrolled. The second half will be paid during the second semester (spring 2010) and also sent directly to the school. Selections of essay winners will take place at the September Lodge Meeting. **The essays must be in at United Lodge 66 office by July 31, 2009 or postmarked July 31, 2009 Absolute, no entries will be accepted past this date.**
7. Notification of availability of Scholarship will be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website, and posted in all worksites.

The selection committee will be executive board members. We urge all Union parents in United Lodge 66, with High School Seniors in their family, to encourage their children to enter this contest for consideration of a Scholarship. All entries become the property of United Lodge 66 and winning or any entries will or may be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website.



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

Retirement

Shop chairs need to let us know when a member retires. Once we have received the retiree or exempt card from our International it is sent to the retiree with: (a) current newsletter from the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans; (b) a nine page handout from our Retiree Department on, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Part D Prescription Plan, Dental, Vision and hearing plan, long term care insurance, and low cost prescription drug program.

Please do it right away at the members end of employment and keep us informed.

Seniors Corner

Obama Addresses Medicare, Social Security in Economic Speech

In a speech at Georgetown University last week, President Obama assessed economic recovery efforts, linking health care costs to broader economic problems and speaking of the need for health care reform to reign in the expenses of Medicare and Medicaid. He also called on Congress to "get serious" and stop postponing difficult decisions in order to accomplish health care reform this year. Laying out his vision for America's economic future, the President restated the role of Social Security as part of a secure retirement, speaking of a need to focus on the program's long term stability after health care is achieved. "The high cost of health care in this country is not just emptying the pockets of retirees," said Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance. "By eliminating wasteful spending like overpayments to private insurance companies for Medicare Advantage plans, we can take the first step toward getting our economy back on track and having quality, affordable health care for our citizens."

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



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 bpaaroskenosha@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
Website: 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 Business Meeting or Education Evening.

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