

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 9 No. 5

www.unitedlodge66.org

May 2006

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

May 12, 2006

7:00 PM

2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800

*All Lodge Members are
encouraged to attend.*

- There are **NO DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS**. Business can be done at the Business or Education Night Meetings or by mail.
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is May 18, 2006, 7:00 PM.
- The deadline for articles to June edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is May 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at D10. See last page.

CONTENTS

Moral Values?	Pg 2
Bay View Tragedy	Pg 3
Activities for YOU	Pg 5
Senior Corner	Pg 5

Tune in
and listen
to a talk
show
about
working
life in
America.



Growth, Recognition & Transition

By Ben Elizondo, president

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support I received in the December Lodge elections. I would also like to say thanks to the outgoing members of the board, Communicator Nancyanne Patesel and Trustee Rean Ruszkiewicz for the time and dedication they put into making Lodge 66, in my opinion, one of the top Lodges in the Midwest Territory. Finally, a special thanks to President Tom Gadowski who guided the Lodge through some difficult times. His experience and foresight made him not only a good mentor, but also a friend. I can say without hesitation, we are a better Lodge because of his leadership.

It was my intent to have an article at least bi-monthly but time goes by quickly and here we are in April with a lot of changes happening in Lodge 66.

New Members

I was notified in late February that the International was considering merging some of the Lodges within District 10 into Lodge 66. This has now, in fact, taken place and I would like to welcome all of our new members, approximately 1400, from Lodge 34 in Kenosha, Lodge 437 in Racine and Lodge 1493 in Burlington to Lodge 66. As you might well imagine we are all going through a time of transition. There are things that were done in these Lodges that have never been done at Lodge 66 and it is the intent of the Executive Board to make this transition as smooth as possible. Hopefully these new members will play an active role in the development, progress and success of Lodge 66.

While the best scenario for any Lodge would be to grow from organizing, the fact remains that these are difficult times for labor and Unions and mergers are a necessary evil. The members at Lodge 66 can be proud that we were a Lodge the International felt would be able to handle the task of accepting new members.

Lodge 66 was chosen for many reasons, which include the fact that we are on solid financial ground. We pay our bills on time, all the time. We have an award winning newsletter and website, thanks largely in part to the efforts of Financial Secretary Doug Curler. We have been active in political activities, helping to make sure we elect people who will stand up and fight for labor and working family issues. Lodge 66 has been active in organizing campaigns, helping to upgrade the lives of the unrepresented.

(continued on page 5)



Ben

www.americanrightsatwork.org

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

Labor VIDEO

is the topic of our May Education Evening

**May 18, 2006
7:00PM**

This is open to all members, their family and friends.



“So when you hear the . . . Hear me talk about reducing individual tax rates, the American people have got to understand, that means capital infusion into the small businesses of America. (source: White House Web site, 6/16/2003)

“President Bush’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2005 would severely cut loans to small businesses and reduce funding to the Small Business Administration by over 10 percent.” (source: Washington Times, 2/3/2004)

<http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20040203-124022-5670r.htm>

dwc



Steward Training Break time

Sue Boinski, Racine County;
James Cobb, Badger Meter; and
Ed Lewis, Midwest Educator,
“Union training is best with the asking and sharing”

These Are The Moral Values of Those in Power?

- 37 million people now live below the poverty line; 12.9 million of those are children
- The official poverty line is an income of \$19,157 per year for a family of four
- A single parent working full time for minimum wage makes \$10,712 a year
- 3.9 million families had at least one member go hungry because they can not afford enough food
- 1.6 million jobs have been lost since 1/1/2001
- 48 million people lack health insurance
- 1.7 million VETERANS, including some Iraq War Veterans, have no health insurance
- 750,000 Americans are homeless, 250,000 of them are veterans.

National debt is \$8,313,466,453,435.43.

Your share is \$27, 906.81.
\$3.3 trillion will be added to the national debt by extending Bush’s tax cuts for the wealthy. (as of 4/30/2006)

dwc

Activities for You and Family

- **4th African American Labor & Community Summit, “Milwaukee: The Hidden Katrina”** is on Saturday, **May 6, 2006** from 8AM to 4PM, Laborers’ Local 113 Union Hall, 6310 W. Appleton, Milwaukee. There is a \$15.00 registration fee and **Lodge 66 will reimburse members.** For more information contact Sheila Cochran, Secretary Treasurer Milwaukee County Labor Council, 414-771-7070.
- **Bay View Memorial**, Sunday, **May 7, 2006**, 3:00PM, at the Historical Marker at S. Superior Streets and E. Russell Avenue, Milwaukee. This is in remembrance when seven citizens (one was a 12 year old child) were killed by the Wisconsin Militia in a city wide strike in support of the eight hour workday. **Bring your children to this event!**
- **25th Annual Conference for Wisconsin Labor History Society, “Unions and Wisconsin’s Progressive Vision.”** It is held on Saturday, **May 13, 2006** from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th Street, Milwaukee. Registration forms are available from you shop chairperson or online at www.unitedlodge66.org. **Lodge 66 will pay the registration fee for members.**



IAMUNION

Bay View in 1886 and the Fight For the 8 Hour Day

Are today's workers throwing it away because of apathy?

(source: Milwaukee Reader, April 1986 and Ken Germanson, director of communications, Allied Industrial Workers of America)

Often overlooked in the history books was the involvement of Milwaukee workers in the eight hour day struggle of the mid-1880's. As workers throughout America began striking for the eight hour day, Milwaukee's participation was as intense and complete as that of any of the industrial communities throughout the nation.

Although the Knights of Labor (the major labor organization of the day) failed to approve striking for the shorter work day, many of the local lodges and other Unions and workers did. Indeed, some 340,000 workers across the nation were estimated to have taken part in the eight hour day strikes during the spring of 1886.

The marches culminated in two tragic events: the Haymarket Affair of May 4, 1886 in Chicago in which four strikers and a policeman were killed and seven labor leaders were later convicted of murder; and the Bay View Uprising of May 5 in which six Milwaukee workers and a young boy were killed when militia fired on marchers.

In the publicity that followed, Chicago's Haymarket Riot became widely know, while the Bay View uprising has largely been forgotten by historians and labor people alike. Indeed, none of the basic labor history books (except those dealing with Wisconsin) mention the Bay View event. Yet, the Bay View uprising was a tragic symbol of the difficulties workers had in trying to improve their conditions.

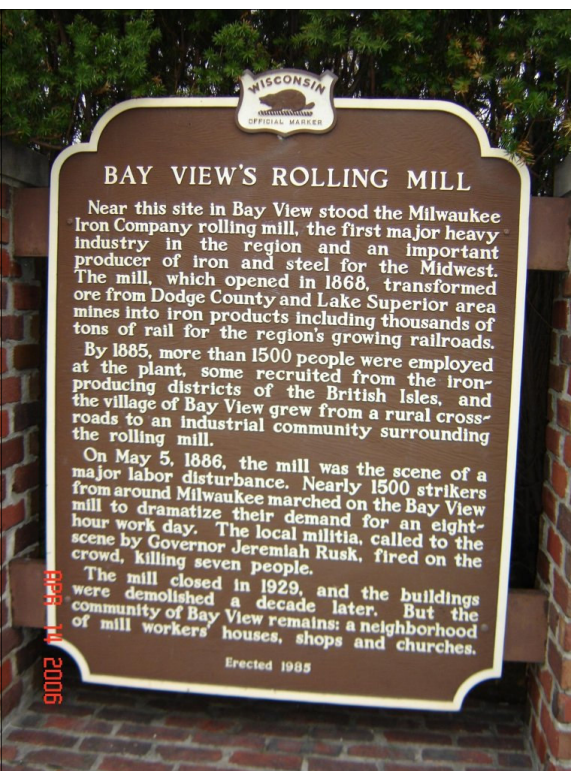
In the week that preceded the Bay View event, the eight hour day strikers had virtually turned the situation into a general strike. As Bernhard C. Korn wrote in "the Story of Bay View":

By May 1, the strike movement had gained such momentum throughout Milwaukee that it was estimated a total of 12,000 men were on strike in the area. On May 2, striking laborers paraded through downtown streets and rallied at the Milwaukee Gardens. Here, they heard inflammatory speeches by Paul Grottkau (leader of the Central Labor Union and editor of Arbeiter-Zeitung) and others . . .

An additional 4,000 workers walked out on May 3, and only a few large manufacturers remained in operation. The Sentinel commented that "there is no city in the country . . . where the labor alarm has been so loudly sounded and so generally responded to."

On May 3 groups of workers assembled in the vicinity of St. Stanislaus Church at South Fifth and West Mitchell streets and marched to those plants that were still open. Eventually, the marchers were able to get all of the major plants in the city to shut, except for Bay View's rolling mill, then the largest plant in the area.

Bay View was still an independent village in 1886, with much of its life centering around the rolling mills. Built by industrialist Eber Ward, the Milwaukee Iron Company opened in 1868 and re-rolled rails which were then made of iron and would get bent out of shape in two or three years. Under Ward, the rolling mill became one of the most advanced metal factories anywhere, expanding its products to steel rails and various iron and steel products. After Ward died, however, the company were bankrupt and was reorganized under the North Chicago Rolling Mills in 1878.



The marchers, some 700 strong, marched on May 4 to the rolling mill and were able to send in a delegation to meet with plant management. The company's officials even attempted to speak to the group, but were shouted down. The marchers asked to be able to send a delegation into the plant to talk to the workers, who were members of the National Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, but the request was turned down. The executives argued that their workers were paid by the ton, not by the hour, and they refused to agree to an eight hour day.

By the end of the day, reports indicated that the authorities were clearly alarmed. The Milwaukee Police added to their numbers those of the Sheriff's Department. Wisconsin's governor, Jeremiah Rusk, was waiting in temporary headquarters set up in the Plankinton Hotel. Perhaps because they had received word of the events at Chicago's Haymarket Square earlier that day, Rusk and the Milwaukee authorities called out the militia to augment the protection for the rolling mill.

"Five clear taps were sounded on the fire alarm bell in the city and the local militia hurried from every quarter to answer the call," Korn wrote.

(continued on page 4)

Steward Training - held at United Lodge 66 on April 8, 2006



Steward Training Class developed by Ed Lewis, our Midwest Educator, along with District 10. Participants were from Lodge 66, 437, 510 and 2560.

(Bay View - continued from page 3)

The militia was put on a North Western train and dropped off at the Bay View station, adjacent to the rolling mill, on the evening of May 4. Some 350 militia members stayed the night in the mill, their supplies, ham, sausage, fruit, clay pipes, tobacco and lemonade, provided by tugboats, from the lake side.

The morning of May 5 dawned warm and clear and the strikers assembled again at the St. Stanislaus Church, even then a prominent Polish parish. By 6AM there were some 1,500 marchers, and they made their way through the Kinnickinnic valley, down South Bay Street, assembling before the bridge and the rolling mill.

Meanwhile, the militia had positional itself on the hill at the entrance to the rolling mill. According to a number of sources, the militiamen were given the order to shoot to kill in the following words:

Don't lose your head but wait for the order to fire before you pull the trigger. And when you do fire, take an aim, pick out your man, and kill him.

As the marchers approached the plant, the militia commander ordered them to stop, saying he would fire on them unless they dispersed. The marchers halted momentarily, then moved on. When they were within 200 yards of the militia, the militia fired into the approaching marchers.

The volley killed seven, including a 69 year old former mill workers who lived in the area and was struck as he left his house to get water, a 12 year old boy who had followed the marchers out of curiosity, and five marchers.

The death toll might have been worse, but it was obvious that many of the militiamen (who included the Kosciuszko Guard) had friends and neighbors among the marchers and therefore disregarded orders and shot over the heads of the marchers. The marchers had not fired any guns during the altercation.

The Bay View Affair ended with the arrest of 37 marchers, including Grottkau and other leaders, over the next two weeks. Most were convicted and sentenced or fined.

Governor Rusk held firm to his action: "I seen my duty and I done it." he promised to protect property and scabs in the future, "if I have to shoot down every law violating striker in the city."

The public's response was one of hysteria, most of it directed against labor Unions. The immediate reaction was to stop the eight hour day movement in it tracks; the Milwaukee City Council repealed the eight hour day ordinance it had passed earlier in 1886, for example.

Many workers, however, saw that the Milwaukee general strike and the eight hour day movement nationally offered on of the best methods by which workers could improve their conditions, wages and hours. The tragedies of Haymarket Square and the Bay View Rolling Mill would stand as monuments to what workers faced as they tried to improve their work situation.

(continued from page 1, Growth, Recognition & Transition)

We have an Education Evening Night where we are constantly trying to educate our members on important issues. In fact **Patricia Elizondo**, Lodge Educator, was given the *Midwest Territory Educator of the Year award for 2005*. Along with that, we are very active in sending our members to Placid Harbor and other labor training venues. A new Lodge Communicator has been appointed and we are working to find a better way to more effectively communicate with our members. We have our annual Badge Night to recognize our member's years of service and a Christmas party as a social event to bring our members together. This is just a short list of the accomplishments of this Lodge and we should, and can, hold our heads up high and say, "I am proud to be a member of the IAM & AW Lodge 66".

As you can see, things at Lodge 66 are moving ahead and I would encourage all our members to attend the monthly Lodge Business Meeting and Education Evening Night meetings. Become involved, our strength is in our numbers. Hope to see you in the near future at one of our meetings. **Please introduce yourself if you are attending for the first time.** It's always nice to see and meet new faces.

Laborfest 2006

is September 4, 2006 (10:00AM to 5:00PM)

On this date 6000 strong (members and family) celebrate our day (Labor Day) at the Summerfest Grounds after marching from Zeidler Union Square, 4th and Michigan Avenue, Milwaukee. This is a family event and **we are looking for members to help carry our American Flag, Machinists Union Flag and our United Lodge 66 banner. Please call the Lodge and volunteer.** All marchers, members and family, will get a T-shirt and tickets to supplement the food cost and refreshments at the Summerfest grounds. **There is a cut off**, mid July, and we do not stock pile the shirts and you could be left out.

dwc

Shop Chairs, Remember Your Shop Meetings To The Membership

Shop Committees should be planning their 2006 meetings for their shops to allow the membership a time to speak out. **Call 414-671-3800 for a date.**

dwc



Seniors Corner

Drug Industry Works to Impede Marketing of Generic Drugs

The brand name drug industry is fighting in Congress, state legislatures, and courtrooms across the country to make the process of bringing generic drugs to market more difficult. As a result discount drug makers may not be able to sell many drugs commonly used by seniors in generic versions as soon as the drugs' brand name patents expire. With several top-selling drugs scheduled to off patent with five years, "brand drug companies are creating roadblocks to possible savings of \$23 billion to seniors and the Medicare system." Slightly more than 53% of all U.S. prescriptions are filled with generics. "There is no need to give brand name drug makers more than twenty years of exclusive rights," said Ruben Banks, secretary treasurer of the ARA. "Twenty is more than enough."

Part D Enrollment Numbers are Underwhelming

Before January 1, 2006, 16 million Medicare beneficiaries lacked drug coverage. As of April 18, 2006 only about 9 million signed up for the Part D Benefit. Beneficiaries who sign up after the May 15, 2006 deadline will face an increase in monthly premiums of 1% for every month past the deadline. This means they will be subject to at least a 7% minimum penalty for the rest of their lives.

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.

AFL-CIO Community Services & Field Mobilization

633 S. Hawley Street, #106,
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Mike, 414-771-9829

Annie, 414-771-9830

Doug, 414-771-9828

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

www.unitedlodge66.org

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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
Steve Nickel	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 Ben Elizondo

Vice President . . Patricia Elizondo

Recording Secretary

Mike Pietrzykowski

Secretary Treasurer . . Doug Curler

Conductor Sentinel . . . Bunny

Browning

Trustees:

Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,

Dave Russell

Communicator . . . Don Burmester

Educator Patricia Elizondo

Editor Doug Curler

Assistant Editor . . . Don Burmester

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>

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

THERE ARE NO

Daytime Office Hours

All Business must be done by mail; or drop in the mail slot; or the night of a Lodge or Education Evening Meeting.

Why Are Your Taxes So High?
"Many of our Republican supporters are not happy because we are spending money like a drunken sailor," Senator McCain (R-Arizona) stated on April 14, 2006 while talking about how his party has total control of Congress and the Presidency.