

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 11 No. 5

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

May 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

May 9, 2008

7:00 PM

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

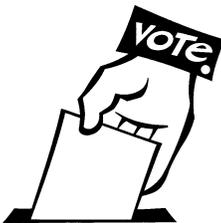
*All Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.*

- **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 May 15 at 7PM.
- The deadline for articles to May edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is May 17.

CONTENTS

Awards	Pg 2
Activities	Pg 2
Fairer Tax System	Pg 3
CEO Pay & Our Economy	Pg 4
Senior Corner	Pg 5

dwc@iamawill66, afl-cio



for the United
Lodge 66 **delegates to this
years Machinists Union
Grand Lodge
Convention**

held in September. Voting is from 9:00AM to the close of the meeting on **Friday, May 9, 2008**. The location is 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee.

2008 – An Important Election Year for Working Families

by Patricia Elizondo

I know – we hear it every election cycle – “this is the most important election year for working families”. Well, it’s time for us to wake up because it is. Working families and labor have suffered under the Bush administration for the last eight years and we need to make the suffering stop. The rich get richer and the middle class will soon be a thing of the past if we don’t start putting people in office that support our issues.

Back in 2001, I attended Leadership 1 at the Machinist’s WWW Education and Technology Center in Placid Harbor, Maryland. I was in a class taught by Chris Wagoner, and although I don’t remember the name of the class, during that week I learned an important lesson. Brother Wagoner gave us a list of about ten things that affect working people and asked us to prioritize them, with ten being the least important. I remember having legislation and politics way at the bottom of that list. Needless to say, Chris and I had a discussion that opened my eyes to what bad politicians and legislation can lead to. The situation that working families face right now is a result of the wrong people being in office.

This year I went to Placid Harbor again. Actually, it was my ninth visit and I was in the Political Education class. It was a great experience. We learned how to run a political campaign. We had fund raisers, produced flyers, did press releases for our candidates and had to get endorsements. We also participated in a radio talk show, lobbied elected officials, produced a political campaign ad for television and some of us participated in a little mudslinging.

We had two political parties. There were the “Demorats” and the “Repulsivecans”. I was assigned to campaign for the Repulsivecan candidate and, although our team won for best campaign resulting in our candidate winning his election, it was extremely difficult for the thirteen people on my team to promote the right wing agenda! There were many times when we had to remind each other that the Repulsivecans were NOT the party for working families.

As members of the IAM, we need to keep ourselves educated and informed on the working family agenda and do whatever we can to be sure that we don’t continue on the path we have been on for the last eight years. Get active in campaigning for the candidates that support our issues. There are many opportunities for you to volunteer to phone bank, knock on doors, talk to Union members and get involved. Contact the Union office or visit our Lodge 66 website for events that are scheduled from now until the election in November.



Patricia

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

National Labor College

by Bob Paar
(while at the school)

I signed up for the National Labor Colleges (NLC) BA program and I attended my first week on in-residency the week of March 17. This is an awesome program and every member should avail themselves of this opportunity. I have never attended college before and did not know what to expect when I got at Placid Harbor. The instructors are top notch, the classes and assignments are demanding and the other brothers and sisters are very supportive. I had my first night and last night were the only times I got to bed early, at midnight. I was getting to bed at 2:00AM the other nights. While it is so demanding it is also very rewarding. My personal goal is to complete this program, get my Bachelors of Arts Degree and use it to expand this great Union of ours! I am volunteering to be on the educational committee of the lodge in hopes of helping other members who are interested in this program. I can answer questions and help guide members through the process.

A little about the program. You sign us for classes and they start you out online four weeks before the in residency week. Then you go back home and finish up online. I am taking educational planning, introduction to labor studies and English 3001.



Annual Newsletter and Website Competition of the Machinists Union

We took a few awards in the 2007 competition. They were:

- Newsletter Best Feature for Local Lodges, 3rd Place for a article on Bay View in the 1886 Fight for the Eight-Hour Day. Reminds readers of the role workers in Milwaukee and the nearby village of Bay View played in securing the eight-hour day more than 120 years ago. The Bay View uprising overshadowed by the infamous Haymarket Square Massacre in Chicago, save five workers and a young boy killed by militia bullets. Well research and written the article serves as a reminder of the precious price paid by workers to gain the right to an eight-hour workday.
- General Excellence for Local Lodges, a 3rd place and it read, easy to follow, good use of artwork, boxes, classic layout. Heavy on content.

Shop Chairs

Remember we are willing to attend your shop meeting to discuss information and activities within Lodge 66; or talk to your shop committee on key points within the Lodge Bylaws and Grand Lodge Constitution. This is all up to you. As always the Lodge can be contacted at: **414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com.**

Activities for You and Family

- **Member to Member walk** in Milwaukee area on **May 10, 2008**
- **May 15, 2008, 7:00PM, Education Evening**, 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee.
- **Member to Member walk** in Kenosha area on **May 17, 2008.**
- The 6th Annual **African American Summit, Saturday, May 17, 2008**, Laborer's Local 113 Union Hall, 6310 W. Appleton, Milwaukee starting at 9:00AM. For more information contact Jay at 414-771-9828.
- **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. (*corner Superior and Russell Streets in Milwaukee, Bay View area.*)
- **Grand Lodge Convention is week of September 7, 2008.** The election for delegates to the convention will take place on Friday, May 9, 2008, from 9:00AM to the close of the regular Lodge Business Meeting on this day.

Prosperous Wisconsin: Fighting for a Fairer Tax System

By Phil Neuenfeldt, Secretary Treasurer, Wisconsin AFL-CIO

Wisconsin has many traditions that we enjoy: tailgate parties, Labor Day parades, community festivals and fish fries. But there is a new tradition that we don't enjoy at all - the state budget debates that ask which public services to cut and by how much.

It is a lose - lose political battle that pits senior citizens against kindergarten pupils, working people against the unemployed, technical college students against small business owners. In the end, we all lost because a strong economy requires quality public structures and a skilled workforce.

Local Governments - cities, towns, villages, counties, school districts - get less money from the state every year (in inflation adjusted dollars) while the cost of maintaining roads, operating schools and ensuring public safety goes up. Take this winter for example, a real winter with lots of snow removal costs that have unexpectedly drained many local budgets. Yet, the potholes now need filling, the trucks need maintenance, the workers need to be paid and fuel costs are rising faster than expected. Some legislators respond with a family budget analogy if a household is short of money they do not go shopping. But the services, education and protection that people rely on from their state and local governments are not optional like a shopping spree. Even families do not choose to cut off food for their kids, they look for ways to bring in more money.

And that is what the state should be doing. A big reason Wisconsin is in a financial pinch is that our revenue collection system is out of date. Our tax system was designed for an economy of small farms and locally based factories. Today our economy is dominated by multi state, multi national corporations that make more money then we can imagine.

Fortunately some state leaders are looking to modernize how the state collects revenue which will make the tax system fairer to working families.

They are looking at closing tax loopholes that hide corporate profits. Over 60% of the largest corporations in the state pay no income tax, ZERO. They employ armies of shrewd lawyers and accountants who look for ways to minimize costs and maximize profits, like moving Wisconsin profits to their subsidiaries in the tax free states of Nevada and Delaware. At the same time, they attack Wisconsin as a tax hell. It is a tax haven for them! But the system is elaborate corporate tax loopholes.

If corporate giants would just pay their fair share, our state would collect an additional half a billion dollars! The state would send more aid to local communities for education, police and fire protection, snow removal and other vital services which will relieve the burden on the property tax.

Big corporations and their political allies use scare tactics to confuse this issue. They pretend that business is overtaxed and threaten to leave the state and take jobs with them if we reform our tax system. How can they justify paying ZERO in corporate income taxes when they, too, benefit from our highways, courts, parks, schools, transit, police and fire protection, waste disposal, snow removal and much more? Firms such as Microsoft, McDonalds, Sears and the drug company Merck that pay nothing now won't stop selling their products in Wisconsin if we collect fair taxes on their sales.

So what is a citizen to do? Tell your elected officials that you want this new tradition of cutting basic public services to end. Tell them that the public deserves to know who is and it not paying corporate taxes so we can pinpoint the abusers and close the loopholes.

It is time to rebuild the old valued Wisconsin tradition that invests in communities and rewards work, while being fair to all.

Where Is My Lost Time?

The payment of lost time is not automatic and the first step is to get it approved by your business agent. This approval by your business agent must be in writing and the only form acceptable is a member reimbursement form. Also on this form is five functional categories and a member needs to put in the percentage. The member needs to sign this form by "applicant's signature." If any of this is not done then the form will be returned to the member.

Also before any payment is made a member needs to have a W4 form on file at the Lodge office. This only needs to be done once. We keep your signed form for years.

All payroll is done by ADP but entered into their payment system by United Lodge 66. This is done only twice a month. It is only done twice because there is a cost. If you happen to miss one pay day then you will be paid on the next cycle.

When are the payroll cycles? This is listed on the calendar page of our website, www.unitedlodge66.org.

This seems like a lot but is required since your Lodge has to follow these rules set down by our International and the Department of Labor. If properly done you will be paid on time or the next payroll cycle.

dwc



MNPL

On line recipients of the Lodge newsletter go to above link, <http://goiam.org/mnpl.cfm>, and protect your future. This is the only way the Machinists Union gives to a political candidate. By voluntary donations from members. **Anyone who says your dues dollar is contributed is a LIAR.**

CEO Pay Watch: How CEO Pay is Undermining Our Economy

By David Newby, President Wisconsin AFL-CIO

This year's site drives home how outrageous CEO pay is not just a moral issue for America's working people, it is a financial one. When CEO's are paid obscene amounts to make bad decisions, it hurts average Americans who hold mortgages, have bank accounts, and who are invested, such as through their pensions.

Through seven case studies, the 2008 AFL-CIO Pay Watch, www.paywatch.org, shows how compensation packages create incentives for CEO's to gamble on risky ventures, in hopes they will lead to short term increases in stock prices, but at the expense of the long term future of their companies and shareholders.

Another problem is the CEO pay packages are often linked to performance measures such as revenue growth, or return on equity, that do not take account the risk taken on by the company.

This year's Pay Watch also helps workers and homeowners to make their voices heard on this issue. The site provides a letter that visitors to the website can sent to their representatives in Congress calling on them to support legislation that includes:

- An immediate short term moratorium on home foreclosures
- A conversion on the low, "teaser" interest rates on home loans to the standard 30 year fixed mortgage.
- Expanding Chapter 13 bankruptcy court protection to enable homeowners to shield their primary residences from foreclosures.

The AFL-CIO launched the Executive Pay-Watch website in 1997 to draw attention to runaway CEO pay packages and the widening gap between the compensation of corporate chieftains and workers. In 1980, CEO's of large US companies made 42 times the wages of the average worker; by 2006 the gap had widened to more than 364 times.



David

Health Care!!

The per capita health care spending per citizen in 2004:

- United States was \$6,037
- Canada was \$3,191

Yet in the United States we have more than **47,000,000 citizens with no health care.**

In Canada **ALL citizens** are covered with health care.

While we as citizen taxpayers have not quarantees of health insurance what do you think President Bush will have all the rest of his life (*yet he wants you to go it alone and shop as you would for banana's!*).

Your vote is a personal choice but it should be in your best economic interest.

(source: Kaiser Family Foundation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Republicans Kill Equal Pay Bill

On April 23, 2008 the Senate Republicans refused to allow a vote on a bill which would have removed the time limits upon which workers could sue their employers for pay discrimination. All 52 Republicans voted against allowing a vote on this measure. Previously the House of Representatives did pass this bill by a vote of 225 to 199.

dwc



I AM UNION

- www.youtube.com/badgerlodge
- www.goiam.org
- <http://milwaukeeelabor.org>
- <http://wisafclcio.org>

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less than perfect credit,
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sell or refinance— con-
tact us.

.....
Give us a call at
1-800-848-6466

or visit our website at
unionplus.org/mortgage



WEB-12/03

Seniors Corner

McCain Medicare Plan Targets Seniors in Favor of Drug, Insurance Companies

On April 15, Senator McCain released a plan that would charge many seniors higher prices for their prescription drugs and jeopardize the long term future of Medicare by means testing the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program. Such a scheme would erode the viability of Medicare as higher premiums could lead many to opt out of these health plans. Moreover it would weaken the universal social insurance nature of Medicare. While McCain proposed charging many seniors more for their prescriptions, he ignored the opportunity to finally end the pharmaceutical industry's sweetheart deal prohibiting Medicare from negotiating bulk discounts from drug manufacturers. **"This plan, when paired with the Senator's recent comments in support of a privatized Social Security system tied to the whims of Wall Street, should be of great concern to current and future retirees,"** said Edward Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Senator Baucus Speaks Out Against Social Security Privatization

In response to a report on Social Security reform released last week by the Treasury Department, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Baucus reiterated that privatization is still not a solution. The Bush Treasury Department report is available at www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/reports/ss_issuebrief_no.4.pdf (or your Lodge can send one to you). This report details proposals that would divert a portion of current workers' Social Security payroll taxes into private accounts. **"President Bush's private accounts plan would increase debt held by the public (editors note: here we go again with those tax and spend Republicans!) by \$5 trillion over the first 20 years in operation,"** said Baucus. "I am convinced that private accounts are a bad idea and examining this report only confirms my view. I will do everything I can to make sure that private accounts are not enacted into law." Added Ruben Burks, Secretary Treasurer of the Alliance, "Americans have spoken loudly and clearly against privatization. We have **defeated Bush's plan** once and will ensure Social Security remains the reliable safety net that it was intended to be."

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

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 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 and Swearing In New Members

Want to carpool? Then, contact Vice President Bob Paar for more information: 262-914-1777 or bpaarosckenosha@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

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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.

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