

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 14 No. 11

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

November 2011

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

December 2, 2011

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, 8AM to 4:30PM;** 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
- January 2012 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is December 23.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. ***See last page.***
- **Education Evening is on January 19, 2012 starts at 7pm**
Topic : Tax Changes 2012 with

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Eight Year Old Takes Miller Challenge to Heart

Eight year old Alexis Goodwin is taking the Miller High Life challenge, and it's perfectly legal.

Miller-Coors, in conjunction with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), has launched their "Give Veterans a Piece of the High Life" campaign for the second year in a row.

For each Miller High Life and High Life Lite bottle cap or can tab collected, Miller will donate ten cents to IAVA. The money will fund a variety of experiences for Veterans, from tickets to Major League ball games and NASCAR races to concerts and fishing trips.

Alexis isn't drinking any beer herself, but she's enlisting friends, family and neighbors in a campaign to collect the beer tokens for the Veterans. The granddaughter of Lodge 66 president Bob Paar feels a special kinship with Veteran's issues because her grandfather was a serviceman. Bob was in the US Army from 1985 to 1989.

To date, Alexis has collected 1100 beer tokens, and she's still going. She wants all of us to do the same. The tabs and bottle caps can be turned in to participating retailers and bars, or simply drop them off at the Lodge and we'll do the rest.

Now, if an eight year old girl can collect that many beer tokens with out touching a drop of beer, how can we resist pitching in and making sure the IAVA / Miller program is a success? Cheers, Alexis. I'm drinking a toast to you this weekend, and then carefully saving my beer tab for the Vets.



United Lodge 66
Hall and
Union Office
is
SMOKE FREE.

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

2011 Human Rights Conference

I would like to take a moment to thank my brothers and sisters of Local Lodge 66 for sending me to attend the Inaugural International Human Rights Conference in Florida from Sept. 1st thru Sept. 5th, 2011. The theme for this event was "Embracing Diversity in the House of Labor." I must admit, I never have attended a seminar, conference, or school like this before and didn't really know what to expect. I arrived somewhat apprehensive and left feeling both uplifted and proud of what I believe our Union was trying to accomplish by this event.

The event started out with a Town Hall meeting about preserving Human Rights through Political and Community Activism. The keynote speaker of the event had to be the Reverend Al Sharpton. He reminded us that we are in a battle, and for a battle to be won you need warriors. He stated that it is time for the "cute folk to get out of the way, and to let the warriors do their job!" He

reminded us that the idea of "trickle-down economics" just doesn't work. He warned us to be on guard so that we do not embrace our enemies and run from our friends. The Reverend also reminded us that when we don't always agree with each other we need to settle the matter behind closed doors, and not out in the front lawn for the entire world to see. It is very important to show the world that we are united.

We were reminded by President Tom Buffenbarger that our IAM Executive Council is the "most diversified in all of the AFL-CIO today." We are made up of Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and Caucasians. He says that it is important that our leadership reflects the membership. The diversity in the IAM is a strength and not a weakness. We need to eliminate discrimination across the board at all levels. This means from the small machine shop to the Local Lodge to the International. He reminded us of the importance to achieve **equality in the workplace**, and our responsibility to help those who cannot help themselves.

Another reminder was that our rights are not guaranteed. Our rights often come under attack. We must always fight to protect our rights. There are constant attempts by the other side to attack the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board). If the NLRB is crippled we all will suffer. The famous quote "an injury to one is an injury to all" was used.

I attended a variety of workshops that included History (learning from the past), Working Families, Organizing and Diversity, and Social Media. I will be presenting some of this information at an education meeting in the coming days. My final thought is this: Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Workers Rights are really one and the same. It is a battle that we cannot turn away from. Equality and respect in the workplace and in our community should never be sacrificed.

In Solidarity,
Ron Simmelink



Lodge 66 Wants All Members To be Informed

The Lodge 66 Executive Board wants all members to be informed about Lodge business as well as current events and how they impact our Union. With the cost of printing and postage going up, the easiest way to stay informed and the least costly is to use email. We will be sending two emails a month. The Lodge does not share or sell your email address with anyone. If you would like to get your Lodge information by email, please contact us

at lodge66@gmail.com with your correct email address.

For those members who don't have internet access or a computer, we do send hard copies of the Newsletter once a month. If you are not on our mailing list, or have changed your mailing address, contact the Lodge at **414-671-3800**. **If you would like to be a distributor of the newsletter at your work site let us know.**

The lodge has a website which will soon be updated and should be checked twice a month

<http://unitedlodge66.org>



Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegates to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: January 4, 2012.** All meetings start at **6:30PM**.
- **United Lodge 66 Business Meeting** is Friday, **January 13, 2012 at 7PM**.
- **Delegates to District 10: January 9, 2012.** All meetings start at **7:30PM**.
- **United Lodge 66 Education Night** : Cancelled for December
- **United Lodge 66 Children Christmas December 10, 2011** from **10am to 1pm** and **Buffet Dinner** with door prizes and raffle drawings from **6pm to 10pm**.
- The class schedule for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office and can be viewed at any of the meetings.



Meet the Lodge 66 Educator

My name is Joe Oulahan. I am also known by my nickname "Pepe." I have been a member of LL66 for the past 14 years working with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Labor Education and Training Center.

For the last three years I have served as shop Chairman for my unit. Prior to this I was a member, steward and bargaining committee representative for what is now the United Steelworkers of America at Briggs and Stratton Corporation, and a servicing representative for Unite HERE for three years.

In September of this year I was appointed by former president Pat Elizondo to the Position of Educator for our Lodge. I am honored to be given this position and I take it very seriously. I have always felt that educating ourselves at the rank and file level regarding the history and issues related to our union and the labor movement in general is the most valuable investment we can make in the future growth and strength of our organization. This feeling is only accelerated by the current aggressive attack on unions and the working class we are now experiencing in Wisconsin and our nation.

A few members have contacted me about offering Education Nights that provide helpful information regarding issues such as personal finance, social security and tax preparation. I have begun working with them to make sure these sessions are scheduled. At the same time I am developing an educational agenda to present to our executive board that includes issues related to the economy, politics and history as they relate to our union and the broader struggle for worker rights. Hopefully these sessions will help to prepare and activate our members to face the huge challenges we face in the greed-driven political environment in which we currently find

ourselves.

I thank the leadership of this Lodge for providing me this opportunity and I hope to see all of you, your families and your friends at the next Education Night.

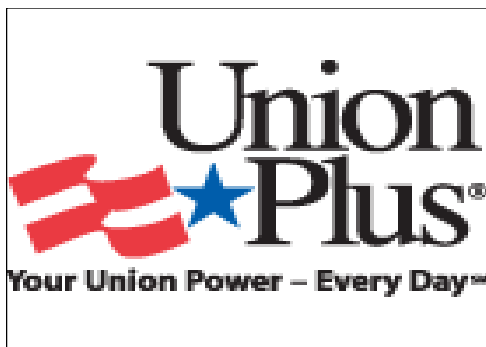
The New Voter Photo ID Law

Are you ready for the new voter photo ID Law?

Wisconsin voters starting in February 2012 will be required to show photo ID before receiving a ballot for any election from this date forward.

Those voters 18 years old and older without a valid photo ID, such as a drivers license with a **correct or current address**, passport, student ID, or a state issued or federally issued ID can request a **Free** ID for voting, but you'll need a birth certificate and other documents get the Department of Transportation ID. This free ID process should be started early to clear all the hurdles to get your ID before the election time.

If you have a computer follow the Link, <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/publications/act/2011/act023-ab007.pdf> Or visit the Government Accountability Board website <http://gab.wi.gov> And you can call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or TTY 1-800-94473529.



What is a Union?

An organization of workers joined together for a common purpose, for mutual aid and protection, to engage in concerted activity and collective bargaining, to elevate their conditions of life and labor; an organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.

New Members

Application:

Shop Committees should have updated [Membership Forms for Initiation & Reinstatement](#). The only [Initiation & Reinstatement](#) forms acceptable are the multi page forms. Please indicate on the form if it is an initiation or reinstatement. Payment of initiation or reinstatement should accompany the form. If the fee is being paid through dues check off please indicate that on the form.

The pink copy goes to the member, yellow copy for the company, and front page to Local Lodge 66.

Other forms that are available are [Retirement](#), [Withdrawal application](#), and [Armed Forces Withdrawal Application](#).

If forms are needed contact Ivan Collins at the Lodge 66 Office phone [414-671-3800](tel:414-671-3800), or Email at ivan.collins74@gmail.com.

Honorary Withdrawal Card

There is a \$1.00 Fee - It Is Not Free

There has always been a fee for the withdrawal card. All too often a member sends in the application for the card and expects one at no cost.

Withdrawal cards are allowed if:

- Left the trade because of illness
- Obtained employment outside the trade or industry.
- Furthering education.
- Obtained a supervisory position above the rank of working foreman.
- Because of circumstances over which I have no control, am compelled, as a condition of employment, to join another labor organization.

In order to get the withdrawal card a member must obtain such within two months of paying dues.

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LL66 Machinists Union Officers

President Bob Paar
Vice President . . . Ron Simmelink
Recording Secretary Mike
Pietrzykowski
Secretary Treasurer . . Ivan Collins
Conductor Sentinel . Bunny Browning
Trustees: Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,
Dave Russell
Communicator James Cobb
Educator Pepe Oulahan
Editor James Cobb

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

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**Directory for
District 10 Office,**
1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;
dial **414-643-4334**, then extension for
your Business Agent:

Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O’Connor	17
Scott Parr	16
Greg Pursell	24
Janice DeSmidt (Organizer)	15

Car Pooling

From Kenosha:
Want to carpool to Union Meeting?
Contact Vice President Bob Paar for
how it can be done: **262-605-0436**
or
bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com



From Sheboygan:
From Sheboygan or picking members
up in Port Washington call: Ron
Simmelink, **920-627-0325**, from
Kieffer & Company in
Sheboygan.