

# Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 11 No 11

[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org) & [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)

November 2008

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

November 14, 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
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles to December edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is November 17.
- **Education Evening** is **November 20, 2008** at 7:00PM

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dwechiamawill66, 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 Elizondo*

**UNION OFFICE IS CLOSED:**  
November 21 thru December 1.

## Reduce Government?

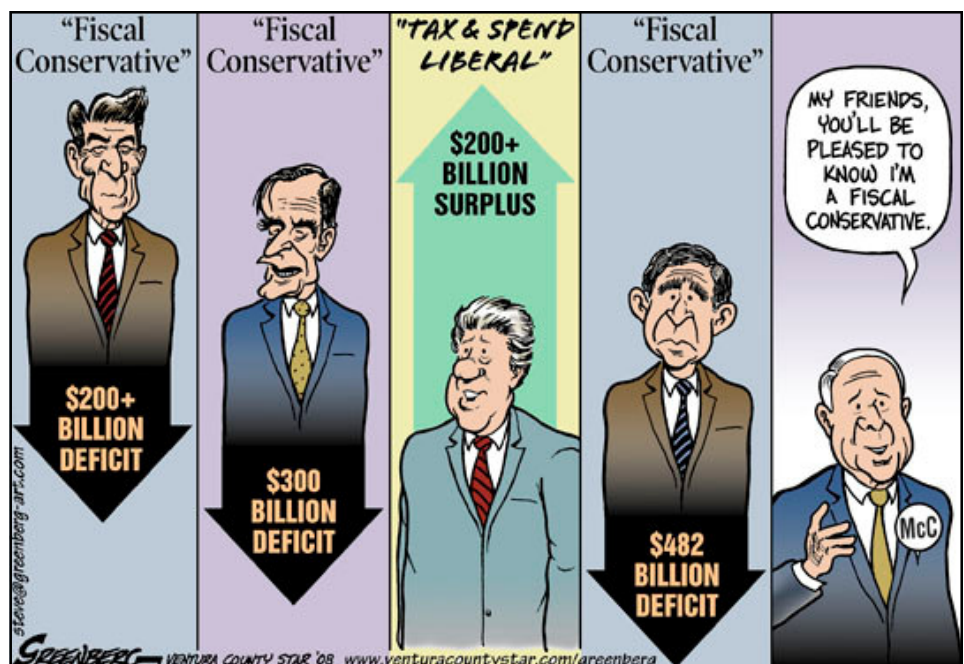
Just as voting is a personal choice and based on a citizens' values we must not be misled by some fancy slogan.

The energy problem of 2008 is not new but has been building for at least eight years. Deregulation throughout our society has not worked. Deregulation started in the Reagan presidency. The energy policy of our federal government has been in control of the petroleum industry for at least the last eight years and started with those secret meetings involving Dick Cheney and petroleum corporations. Remember this administration refused to turn over any minutes from these meetings. They won on the secrecy issue and working families are paying the price.

The cleansing of bisphenol A started when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under this administration. In case you have missed the recent reporting, bisphenol A, used in baby bottles and other hard plastic, has been found to cause health problems, including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hyperactivity, autism and reproductive failure. This administration accepted reviews of this chemical from the same consulting firms employed by chemical makers. We have an administration putting the profits of corporations above the health of the babies of working families.

There has been a pattern since 1/1/2001 and any elected representative who has voted in favor of legislation proposed by this administration, 95% of the time, is just as guilty.

**Government needs to work for working families not for the profits of corporations.**



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

# Grand Lodge Convention Reports

*by Dan Pallen*

I was fortunate to be elected as a delegate to the IMAW 37<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention which was held in Orlando, Florida. The opening ceremonies of the convention were quite impressive and included representatives of the Boy Scouts presenting the colors of both the United States and Canada. They marched in, accompanied by bag pipe players.

The theme of the convention was taken from the Inaugural speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt which addressed the "Four Freedoms". The four freedoms are:

Freedom from fear  
Freedom of speech  
Freedom from want  
Freedom of religion

International IMAW President, Tom Buffenbarger, opened the convention by saying over the next few days over 1500 IAM convention delegates will make decisions, life and death decisions about what kind of Union the IMAW would be.

Guest speakers emphasized the "call for action" in the upcoming Presidential election. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President, Arlene Holt-Baker, echoed President Buffenbarger's importance of the election. Senator Hillary Clinton gave a forty minute speech in which she stated "I believe this country is worth fighting for" and that is why she is fighting to elect Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States.

As delegates, it was our responsibility to vote on proposals that we thought would keep the structure of the IMAW strong and financially secure for the years to come. Our great Union needs to have the ability to work hard for all of our members and to continue attempting to get solid contracts through negotiations.

The Law Committee held hearings for two days to listen to delegates

*by Dave Spengler*

First I want to thank the members of this lodge for giving me the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge Convention. It's always interesting and invigorating to be part of a group this large who, even though they may disagree at times, all have a common goal. From the call to Order and Posting of Colors to the Closing Remarks you could see all the planning and effort that went into making this all come together.

Day one was mainly welcomes from Local Dignitaries, i.e., Executive V.P., AFL-CIO Arlene Holt Baker, Congress Women Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-FL 20th Dist. and Corrine Brown D-FL 3rd Dist. It also included a Harley Riding Father Sinclair Oubre, Catholic Labor Network who had recently returned from a bike trip to Milwaukee for the 105th Celebration.

The theme of the convention was F.D.R.'s speech on the four freedoms, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Speech, Freedom from Want and Freedom of Religion. It included panel discussions on each of these. Guests included Bobby Kennedy's daughter Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Senator Hillary Clinton, former I.A.M.A.W. President George Kourprias, author Patrick S. Halley who wrote Wimpy a book on the IAM'S years under the leadership of William W. Winpisinger and a teleconference with Senator and Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

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*(next column)*

regarding support for the proposed 2% dues structure and to consider alternative proposals. After much discussion, the Law Committee came back to the delegates with a dues increase proposal the delegates thought they could pass and take back to the members they were representing.

Senator Obama also spoke to the delegates via satellite, and assured all

*by Dave Russell*

I would like to thank the members of Local Lodge 66 for sending me to the 37th Grand Lodge Convention in Orlando. It was my first Grand Lodge convention and I was very impressed with everything that had to do with what we did for the whole week, from the Call to Order on Sunday September 7th at 2pm to the Closing Remarks made by our International President Tomas Buffenbarger. During the first day they appointed members for a number of different committee's and Local Lodge 66 had three of our Delegates appointed to committee's.

Each day we had Panel Discussions and guest speakers. The best one in my opinion was when Senator Hillary Clinton talked to the members for about 45 minutes. During her talk she showed she could speak with authority and leadership but still speak softly when needed. She was also given an honorary IAM membership. She is only the third person in the last sixty years to receive such. Senator Clinton then made a call for the Machinists to endorse Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Later in the week we had a live satellite feed with Barack Obama and heard about what he supports.

The week was also full of resolutions and propositions to change the IAM Constitution which took a lot of time but was well worth it.

Again I thank the membership for sending me and I hope to go again in 2012.

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*(next column)*

of us that, if he is elected the President of the United States, he would sign the Employee Free Choice Act, so Unions could organize new members and new members could join without fear and intimidation.

# Grand Lodge Convention Report

by Tim Schwartz

I really enjoyed the convention and the electricity in the atmosphere when Hillary walked on stage, I did go close enough for a picture. It was equally charging when Obama went live on satellite screen. Its hard to explain, but everybody was going nuts. Thanks to everybody for sending me I did represent our local lodge well, thanks again.

## Lodge Christmas Celebration

Saturday  
December 13, 2008  
2609 W. Oklahoma  
Avenue, Milwaukee

Children's' party will  
be at 11:00AM.

### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Open house event will  
start at 6:00PM in the evening.

More details to follow and if you  
want to help out call 414-671-3800  
and leave your name and place of em-  
ployment.



## Workers Can Take Time Off To Vote

This is the law of the land, the law in Wisconsin since 1945. All you have to do is make arrangements in advance with your employer. Your employer can not simply say you can vote before or after your normal work hours. The law says hours must be afforded during the work day if that is what the employee requests.

As a matter of fact, an official of the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce business group regularly reminds business owners of their obligation under the law.

dwc

(source: Milwaukee Journal, October 25, 2008)

## McCain and Bush Want To Privatize Our Social Security! Good Idea?



## The Passing of Time

"You could see people going from being labor people to being Democrats to being Republicans. Benefits that came from organized labor and high wages produced a class of people that thought themselves above the labor class," so spoke Milwaukee Mayor Frank Zeidler.

(editors note: this thought received from Nick Ellioff, shop chair at Stroh)

## Making A Positive Choice

"If you put your mind to it, there is nothing you cannot accomplish." Any American parent worth his or her salt repeats this to their child. As Americans, we believe passionately in making our own destiny. We educate ourselves, create better lives for our children, work together in our unions and our workplaces and our communities to improve the life we and our neighbors and our friends lead.

When my mother was born, women did not have the right to vote. Women marched and petitioned and were ridiculed and beaten and they got up and stood for what was right and just, and on August 26, 1920, the Constitution was amended to give us this hard-won vote.

Forty-three years later, almost to the day, a Community Organizer stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. and spoke to America. He asked us to put aside our differences and look at one another as Americans. He asked us to judge one another, not by the color of our skins, but by the content of our character.

Forty-five years after that speech, we Americans are faced with a choice. A man, whose mother surely told him "If you put your mind to it, there is nothing you cannot accomplish," stands poised to be the first man of African American descent to be elected President. He represents each of us whose parents told us we can accomplish anything. But his color is not important. For he is an American, just as John McCain is an American.

Your choice, when you enter your voting place, should not be based on a candidate's color, because you are an American, and we Americans are better than that. I ask you to look beyond Senator Obama's color and Senator McCain's age, and decide for yourself who will best serve this great nation and lead her through financial and environmental crises. Which one proposes a plan to renegotiate NAFTA and bring jobs back to America, and which one proposes to make you pay taxes the money your employer contributes to your healthcare? Which of them studied Constitutional Law and was the President of the Harvard Law Review, and which of them graduated fifth from the bottom in his class at the Annapolis Naval Academy? Which one chose the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as his running mate, and which one chose a former member of the Alaska Independence Party, a group which advocates secession from the Union?

I would not presume to tell you how to vote, for you are Americans, and you are Union Members, and you know which choice will bring change and improvement to our communities, our workplaces, and our lives.

*Former IBEW Member Anne Chase*

## Machinists Union 2009 Scholarship Competition

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada. The IAM Scholarship Fund was established in 1960.

Scholarships make possible the attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification are determined in competition among eligible applicants that is judged by a special Selection Committee.

The deadline is February 27, 2009.

Your Lodge has more information which will be provided in later months or ask us to send it to you right now.



### Activities for You and Family

- **Nomination for officers and delegates** of United Lodge 66 will take place on **November 14, 2008** during the business meeting. The election of officers and delegates of United Lodge 66 will take place on December 5, 2008 from 9:00AM to the close of the business meeting on this date.
- **Collective Bargaining Class** 5 week class on Tuesday evenings starting November 11. See opposite page.
- **Education Evening** is Thursday, **November 20, 2008 at 7:00PM**. Members are encourage to bring their family and friends
- **Proposed changes to the Bylaws of United Lodge 66** will have the first reading (no discussion) on **November 14, 2008** during the business meeting. The proposed changes are to Article III, Article V and Article VI. The second reading, discussion on the proposed changes and the voting on the proposed changes will take place during the normal business meeting of **December 5, 2008**.
- **Christmas Party** for United Lodge 66 will be on **December 13, 2008**. There will be a children's party during the day and in the evening we will follow the same open house format as last year.





## Initiation Fee? What is the Amount?

Well, it is right in the Lodge 66 Bylaws, Article II, Section 5 (page 3).

“The Initiation fee will be the applicable monthly dues rate for the respective shop of employment for all members.”

**REMEMBER**, I am willing to sit down at a location of your choice and time to discuss the operations and procedures of our Bylaws and the IAM Constitution.

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## W-4 is Needed!

Each member must have on file (only done once) at the Lodge 66 office a W4 form before any reimbursement of lost time or committee person compensation can be made. **It is up to you to complete and return the W4 to the Union office.**

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## Shop Meeting

Members of the Executive Board of United Lodge 66 are willing to attend your shop meetings. We would be bringing information, showing some videos and willing to answer your questions. All this can be done by asking.

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**Union Made In America** clothing & MORE; call 262-373-0777.  
Located at N35 W21100 Capitol Drive, Pewaukee, WI

We would like to inform everyone that **UMA** is having a sale at the end of the month with special hours to better fit the schedules of working men and women. Your Lodge has flyers for hand outs or to be forwarded to anyone who may be interested. **UMA is the only distributor or store in Wisconsin selling the Union line of Carhartt (Union Made in USA)** so let your Union members know.

Thanking you in advance for keeping America working!

by *Rosemarie Brunner*



## Collective Bargaining Class

Tuesdays on November 11, 18, December 2, 9, and 16, 2008 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM.

This class is done by the School for Workers, University of Wisconsin Extension at MATC, West Allis Campus, 1200 S. 71st Street Room 117.

There is a registration fee of \$58.10 but the Lodge will reimburse **all members** who complete this class and submit to the Union Office their completion certificate and proof of payment.

The deadline for this class is November 5. To enroll call 608-265-2391 or your Union Office does have the registration forms and your shop should have been posted by your shop chair. Payment only needs to be made on the first night of the class and the check should be made out to MATC.



**ANY DUES PAYING MEMBER CAN TAKE THIS CLASS AND WILL BE REIMBURSED.**

## Seniors Corner

### Benefits for Social Security Recipients, Federal Retirees to Increase by 5.8%

Following a year of rising food and energy prices, benefits for Social Security recipients and federal government retirees will see a 5.8% increase, the largest cost-of-living adjustment since 1982, in 2009. Although large compared to last year's 2.3% increase, many experts believe the rising prices will exceed the increase in benefits. Nonetheless, if the McCain-supported Social Security privatization initiative of 2005 had not successfully been defeated, seniors would have seen an enormous drop in benefits, not a record increase. Alliance Secretary-Treasurer **Ruben Burks** remarked, "As of this week, the Dow is down 35.33% for the year. If John McCain and George W. Bush had had their way, seniors would have seen a massive reduction in their benefits from Social Security – a far cry from the nearly 6% increase we will enjoy instead."

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or

[lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com)

**Video: [www.youtube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge)**

**Website: [www.unitedlodge66.org](http://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 or  
Education Evening Meeting.

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

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**VOTE:**  
**General Election 11/4/2008**

**No, I'm the decider.**  
**2008**