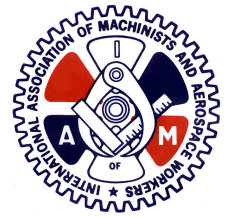


Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 11 No. 10

October 2008

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

October 10, 2008
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 November edition of the “*Badger Lodge News*”, is October 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- **Education Evening is October 16, 2008** at 7:00PM

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Deregulation Has Failed? Socializing Our Economic System was Bush's only Alternative!

The de-regulation of our economic system, started with Reagan and completed by Bush, has proved to be a complete disaster.

Obviously government control is good.

Grand Lodge Convention

September 7 - 12, 2008
Our Union is now 120 years old

Your delegation from Lodge 66 spent the week sifting through changes to our Grand Lodge Constitution. These changes came from the Machinists Union Executive Council and other Local Lodges throughout the USA, Canada and or Guam. Delegates will be giving reports at future meetings and some were given at the September 18, 2008 Education Evening.

The most important change affecting all members is the new dues structure voted upon and passed. Actually any of the old methods, list in the IAM Constitution, went away. There will be discussion and calculations done on dues for 2009. The basics were an increase for the Grand Lodge Per Cap and future increases will be based on the CPI-W. All District and Local Lodges will now have to consider there finances and come up with the appropriate formula.

At the convention Brother Curler was assigned to the Winpisinger Education Committee; Sister Browning was assigned to the Communications Committee; and Sister Elizondo was assigned to the Women's and Human Rights Committee. These committee assignments were at the request of our Midwest Territory General Vice President Phil Gruber.

During the convention Brother Schwartz was interviewed as a first time delegate and his comments should be in the fall issue of the IAM Journal. This magazine is received by all members. Do not discard this important piece of information but take the time to read its content.



Lodge 66 Delegates to Convention:

Dave Spengler, Dan Pallen, Dave Russell, Carmen del Valle, Ben Elizondo, Bunny Browning, Tim Schwartz, Patricia Elizondo, Bob Paar, Joseph Buckley, Doug Curler, Mariano Rosales, Joe Dosemagen and James Cobb.

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

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference

September 18 - 20, 2008

by Doug Curler

The Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference started Thursday on September 18, 2008. The conference is held twice a year. In the spring it is held in Madison to allow members to lobby their legislators. This conference was held in Green Bay and attended by Brothers Pietrzykowski, Curler and Sister Elizondo. The Brother Rick de la Fuente Director of the Machinists Union MNPL Department did speak to us on numerous topics regarding the November 4th elections; not only about races in Wisconsin but throughout the country. He did make an interesting point for Machinists Union members and citizens as a whole. Since 1935 Social Security has been the bed rock of income for most retirees. **We know Bush and McCain want to privatize Social Security.** To privatize Social Security means you are really taking your guaranteed retirement plan and investing it in the Wall Street market. If Bush and McCain had their way and if you did have to retire today what type of retirement income would you have? Look at the stock market today. This is what every worker has to consider. Vote your pocketbook. Vote your retirement. Do you want to have a guaranteed retirement or a gamble? The choice is yours but if you make the wrong choice or vote the wrong way who is to be blamed? **Who is to be blamed?**

Brother de la Fuente did talk about deregulation, which started with Reagan. Maybe some thought it was good when he did it with the airlines. Then there was the banking industry. Remember there are now many types of banks but not all are guaranteed by the FDIC. There are also some 100 insolvent banks in this great country as of last month. 'Get government out of business and let the free market do a better job,' is the cry of some politicians. **Is de-regulation doing a better job?** Voters have to look what is going on with the airlines, the banking industry and even our gas prices. De-regulation? Are we better off? If you think so . . . so be it.

Brother Phil Neuenfeldt, Secretary Treasurer Wisconsin AFL-CIO, spoke to the conference on Friday morning about the elections and the importance for families to vote their economic security. He spoke how the neo-cons blast Unions as a special interest group. We are part of this special interest group when we as a group in Wisconsin: fought for and got the minimum wage increased; fought for the wage lien law to be changed that workers, not banks, come first when a business goes bankrupt; or we wanted the legislature to require the teaching of labor history in our schools. **As a special interest group we want** insurance coverage for all citizens, as our representatives in Washington, DC have; we want all employers to have insurance for their workers so the cost is spread and lower for all; we want a fairer tax system than the present one **where 67% of Wisconsin's corporations pay less taxes than the average property tax payer.** We should not be debating to decrease services for citizens but to spread the burden, as it was 30 years ago. Please remember over the last 30 years citizens have given every tax break possible to corporations to save jobs. They, business and neo-con politicians, lied to us. **Where are the jobs?**



Wisconsin AFL-CIO Convention

September 22 & 23, 2008

by James Cobb

The AFL-CIO turned 50 years old this year. But at our Wisconsin State Convention, held at the Airport Wyndham Hotel in Milwaukee this week, all eyes were focused forward 42 days to the Presidential election on November 4th.

The topics most discussed at the convention were those with the most impact on the American workforce: the rising costs of gasoline and the healthcare crisis, veteran's issues, job losses and the impact of financial industry deregulation. Speakers compared and contrasted the McCain and Obama platforms and the effects of the last eight years on the American workforce, as well as discussing a few changes to the AFL-CIO Constitution.

Speakers from as far away as Texas – Terry Stapleton, from the American Postal Workers Union, and California - Arlene Holt Baker, VP of the National AFLCIO, - Congressional Representative Gwendolyn Moore came together with Wisconsin President David Newby, Margaret Blackshear, President Emeritus of the AFL-CIO and others to welcome delegates to the 25th biannual Wisconsin convention.

This was my first exposure to an AFL-CIO convention, and I wasn't sure what to expect. I was very favorably impressed with all the speakers being able to remain on message and with the professionalism of the way it was run. But beyond that, every speaker relayed a message that resonated on a human level with me. I listened to Leon Burzynski, president of the Wisconsin Alliance of Retired Americans, who stressed that if there is not a change in White House policies, and the current economic crisis is allowed to continue, retired workers will not be able to sustain the current level of their lifestyle, and that workers facing retirement will not receive the same level of retirement benefits that those who are already retired have received.

Equally moving was the speech by IBEW member and Persian Gulf Veteran, Army Reserve Officer Dave Boetcher. Dave described to us how 3500 Wisconsin Reservists are slated to go to Iraq next year. He told us about the Veterans Trust Fund, a fund for supporting military families between the time they leave the private sector and get their first paycheck. That fund has been radically diminished, thanks to the shaky economic climate as well as being strained to the limit by the huge number of reservists being activated in Iraq.

As Dave talked about the ways in which John McCain, a Veteran himself, has sided with policies that leave our armed forces feeling like second class citizens. We as American workers know the pain of outsourcing, seeing jobs go overseas. Dave talked about arriving in Iraq, where most soldiers make a base salary of \$40K, to find their jobs replaced by Halliburton contractors, at three times the salary and none of the restrictions. Soldiers who are ordered to remain in Iraq for long stretches, sometimes spending several months and even years away from home and family watch our government pay top dollar to contractors who can leave when they want, have better pay, and who have their pick of the specialty jobs.

(continued on page 4)

Health Care?

Are your benefits for health care going down?

Are the insurance premiums going up with higher deductibles?

Watch out for that cowboy philosophy to force Americans to go it alone.



McCain's proposal on Universal Health Care is to tax the cost of your employer sponsored health care as income. For the average American worker this means you will be taxed approximately \$2500.00 per year or taxed \$208.00 per month.
Thanks John!

Member Reimbursement Form for Lost Time

All members must use this form to be reimbursed any lost time from United Lodge 66. The form needs to be complete. The member does need to have a W4 form on file at the Lodge. This only needs to be done once and we keep it forever. The W4 only needs to be updated if you change your dependents.

Your business agent needs to sign this form before there is any payment.

There is also a place, "Applicants Signature." The member needs to sign this. Why? By signing you stipulate that the Lodge is reimbursing you for lost time and not your employer. If a member is caught double dipping they will have to repay the money and they will be forbidden from holding any representative position in the Machinists Union. *(per Grand Lodge)*

Activities for You and Family

- **Education Evening is October 16, 2008 at 7:00PM.** This is open to all members and you are encouraged to bring your family and friends.
- **Nomination of Lodge Officers** is Friday, November 14, 2008 at 7:00PM. The **Election of Lodge Officers** is Friday, December 5 from 9:00AM to the close of the business meeting on this date.
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger** leadership classes for 2009 will be out soon. This is open to all members but you need to attend your Lodge Meeting. All expenses and lost time are taken care of . . . just meet the challenge.



Bush and McCain wants ALL Americans to go it along and shop for the best benefits in the open marketplace?

- They can not properly fund Social Security
- They can not give Universal Health Care for All Americans
- They can not fund OSHA for a safe work environment
- They can not properly fund our public schools
- They can not properly fund Medicare

“The American economy is basically sound,” said McCain. Then all of a sudden they can find the money to support their de-regulated fee market economic system to the amount of at least **\$700,000,000,000.00.**



This will cost every American more than \$2000.00 thanks to those tax and spend Republicans.

(Wisconsin AFL-CIO Convention - continued)

Outsourcing is a sore point with me, as it is with most of us. As a Harley owner, I was reminded of John McCain’s photo-op at the Sturgis, SD rally this year. He appeared there, ignoring the fact that he’d voted against legislation which would have required the US Armed Forces to buy only American made motorcycles.

I was particularly proud to see Gwen Moore, my own district’s Congressional Representative give a speech at the convention. Gwen talked about the number of jobs lost in the US and particularly Wisconsin. She talked about the people who were still undecided, in doubt or confused by the issues. She reminded us to tell these people that John McCain had voted against wage increases for the military and most recently absented himself from the vote that improved benefits to Veterans under the GI bill.

Gwen Moore discussed the trend towards privatization of Social Security, which McCain supports. Given the losses in the current market, anyone can see that this is a risky proposition, especially for younger workers. And she made me smile when she talked about the Dixie Chicks, whose CDs she’d gone out and bought after they said that they were ashamed that George Bush was from Texas. She said she’d never heard their music before, and I was proud to know that my Representative, when faced with something she didn’t know, went out and learned about it rather than subscribing to popular opinion.

Health care was a topic which was addressed, as well. Health care coverage is like a hospital gown, according to AFL-CIO Training Director and Universal Healthcare Action Network leader Nick Unger. It exposes you and leaves you uncovered. “It costs too much, covers too little, it excludes too many, and it’s getting worse.” He told us the main concern of most Union Members is healthcare costs. Even the insured are worried about co pays, John McCain’s plan is a smaller hospital gown, he says. 47 million people are without healthcare coverage at all, he went on to say. Is that our problem? Yes. As Americans we need to stop thinking “them” and start thinking “us” and if we start thinking in those terms, we have a true chance of change in this election.

To sum up, the message I took away from the convention was this. We must educate ourselves on the issues, and talk to our friends and coworkers about them.

Too often I’ve heard from someone who can’t look beyond Barack Obama’s color to the substance of his message.

Nomination and Election of Lodge Officers

The nomination process will be on Friday, November 14, 2008 during the normal business meeting.

The election of officers, if necessary, will be on Friday, December 5, 2008 from 9:00AM to the close of the meeting on this date.



dwc

Christmas Party

This years Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 13, 2008 following the same format as last year. There will be something for children and grand children as well as for members in the evening.

More information is coming.



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.

IAMUNION

Communicator of the Year

Brother Curler received “The Robert Kalaski Special Performance Award” or communicator of the year award. The award read, “For distinguished and effective communication promoting the mission of the labor movement.”



Brother Curler accepted on behalf of the Lodge two awards for our newsletter.

The **1st Place Best Feature** article in our *Badger Lodge News* was titled, “Lakeside Manufacturing.” The award read, “well written piece, made what could have been a mundane story interesting. You can feel the workers’ pride.” (editors note: this article was the result of the shop committee at Lakeside lead by Tim Schwartz, chair and written by James Cobb, Lodge Communicator.)

The **3rd Place for our *Badger Lodge News*** read, “news coverage is varied and interesting in a compact format. Provides enough information and photos to keep reader engaged and interested without being overdone.”



Seniors Corner

Wall Street Chaos Shows Dangers of Social Security Privatization

This week's historic turmoil on Wall Street - massive drops in the stock market, the collapse of the giant Lehman Brothers firm, the acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, and the government bailout of AIG Insurance - serves as yet another reminder of the dangers of privatizing Social Security. As advocated by **President Bush** and Senator John McCain, this would take money out of the Social Security Trust Fund and create private accounts tied to the roulette wheel of the stock market. "When you look at what is happening on Wall Street, is this really where you want to put your Social Security savings? The Republican Party has badly mismanaged our economy these past eight years," said Alliance President **George J. Kourpias**. Workers who retired in 2002 would have lost 22% of their retirement savings under privatization plans being considered.

Sen. McCain Defends Private Accounts for Social Security

According to the Associated Press, the Wall Street turmoil has left John McCain scrambling to explain why the fundamentals of the U.S. economy remain, in his opinion, strong. It has also left him “defending his support for privately investing Social Security money in the same markets that had tanked earlier in the week.” “If the economy’s recent struggles have proven anything to Americans, it is that ‘personal retirement accounts’ are unsafe and unreliable for our country’s seniors. But John McCain has yet to accept this reality,” stated **Edward F. Coyle**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter,
6333 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, 53213. (414-771-9511) Yearly dues are \$10.00.

[http:// www.wisconsinara.org](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

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
- \$4.00 for mesh cap
- \$11.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$11.00 for Khaki cap
- \$15.00 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.

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

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

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

dwc/iama1166, afl-cio

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

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>

dwc/iama1166, afl-cio

Look what has happened since Clinton left office:

Unemployment Rate: Clinton - 4.2%...Now - 6.1%(1.9% INCREASE)

Budget: Clinton -\$281B **SURPLUS**...Now -\$357B **DEFICIT**

Debt: Clinton -\$5.7TRIL...Now -\$9.7TRIL



Union Made In America

clothing & MORE; call 262-373-0777. Located at N35 W21100 Capitol Drive, Pewaukee, WI

