

# Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 13 No. 10

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

October 2010

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

**October 8, 2010**

**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 2010 edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is October 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- October Education Evening is October 21 at 7:00PM, TBD.

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*dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio*



United Lodge 66  
Hall and  
Union Office  
is  
**SMOKE FREE.**

## Employee Assistance Program

*by Dave Russell, Lodge Trustee*

I recently was privileged to attend the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center for the Employee Assistance Program class. This class was by far the best class I've attended. We learned a great deal about resources and information available to guide people who are in need of help.

We discussed the many things that can impact our lives, from Drug and Alcohol issues to Financial problems. As a part of the class, I had the opportunity to attend either an AA meeting or Al-Anon meeting. I went to the Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. I could see how helpful a group like this could be to people who were recovering alcoholics. The meetings are structured so no matter where someone would go to attend a meeting, nor what stage of recovery a person was in, help and support would be available. The group was welcoming, enabling a person seeking help to fit in and understand the recovery process.

During the class we also did a lot of role-playing. That was interesting, as we got to hear what other people had experienced and understand the different types and levels of problems our friends, coworkers and neighbors can face. It made me realize that even before attending a class like this, each of us have somehow been able to extend a helping hand to someone in need.

I would like to thank the Local Lodge 66 Executive Board and the Membership for sending me to this class.

(EAP continued on page 2)

## Retirement

*by Doug Curler*

A year ago I did announce that this would be my last term as your secretary treasurer. Because of the changing circumstances and with the mailing for the district's election of Directing Business Agent, this gave me the opportunity to retire a bit early and move on into another phase of our lives. I will officially retire on January 31, 2011.

I have enjoyed the office for which I have been elected since 1993 and even more so being editor/producer of our *Badger Lodge News* for 14 years, missing only one month, as well as our website, youtube site and of course the monthly emailing to our members.

Whether we agree on all or any issues I have felt it your right and the Lodge's obligation to communicate to as many members as we can.

If organized labor does not fight for or protect the rights of all workers, no other organization will or has the ability. To fail will put us back to the slave labor we were prior to the legalizing of Unions.

In Solidarity,



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

## Union Veterans Committee

By Doug Curler

The Union Veterans Committee had a chance to meet with Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary Department of Veteran Affairs. She spoke at the American Legion National Convention being held in Milwaukee, August 23 through 31, and took time to speak to Union Veterans.

She spoke about the increased funding for the Veterans Administration and Homeland Security which has taken place under President Obama. The prior administration was not that friendly in providing support for veterans after their return.

She did listen to us and concerns regarding the local Veterans and how to improve the services they receive.

Tammy Duckworth was a helicopter pilot during the Iraq War and lost both legs during combat. She later ran for a congressional seat in Illinois and was viciously attacked by the other party who challenged her patriotism. Shame on them willing to send Americans into harm way and not take care of them when they return.

If you want to be involved with the Union Veterans Committee contact Mike Balistriere at 414-771-9829 or [mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net).

Another local resource is Dryhootch, 1030 E. Brady Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202, 414-763-2785; "helping the veterans who survived the war, survive the peace." [www.dryhootch.org](http://www.dryhootch.org).



*Union Veterans Committee with Tammy*

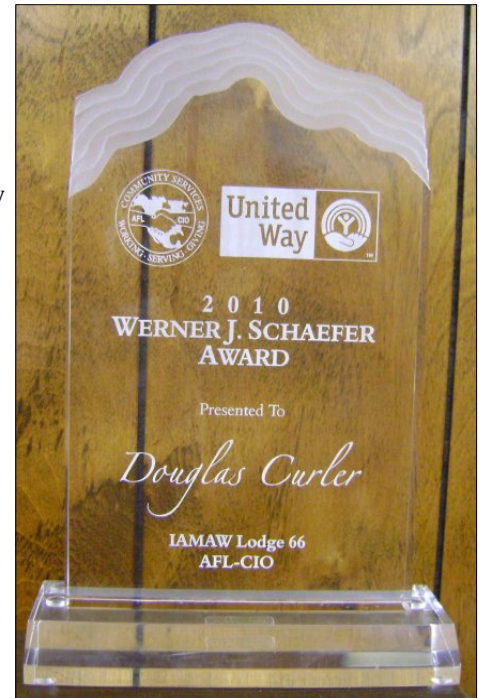
## Werner J. Schaefer Award

by Doug Curler

At the September 16, 2010 Labor Kick Campaign for United Way, I was 'blind sided' as the recipient of the 2010 Werner J. Schaefer Award.

This community services award is given out to a Union member or group providing distinguished service. It is named in the honor of an active labor and United Way leader and is chosen by a committee formed by the AFL-CIO Community Services.

I appreciate this recognition and the opportunities my Union has given me.



*(EAP from page 1)*

I learned a lot and now have a better idea how to assist people to find the help that they need. I will be working with the Executive Board to put something together so that our Lodge will benefit from the things I learned and my services will be available for anyone who needs help in finding assistance for various problems.

Often, companies offer EAP programs, which can be very helpful, but not all companies offer this, and this is where I hope to be of help. I welcome the opportunity to give back to the Membership who made this education possible for me.

## 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.



# Fast Fix Nation

by James Cobb, Lodge Communicator

Netflix commercials portray an American family named the WrightNows. An album entitled "Give Me Convenience or Give Me Death" was released in the 1980's by the band The Dead Kennedys, and journalist Eric Schlosser called America the Fast Food Nation.

We are indeed an instant gratification culture. We want what we want when we want it, as the success of McDonald's and Taco Bell attest. Pizza commercials, instead of priding themselves on their flavor, brag about delivery to your door in 30 minutes or less. We order our movies On Demand, and we want the fastest internet with the quickest downloads.

So it's no surprise that when we elected a President with a different agenda than the last disastrous fellow, we expected him to fix the economy instantly. Obama's been in office for two years, and people are already complaining that he hasn't yet brought about prosperity and economic recovery.

What people are forgetting is that the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that he signed into law during his first month in office were actually passed through Congress during the previous administration. It's not a perfect solution to our problems, and under a Democrat-controlled Congress, it might have looked a bit different.

But it's what we're working with, and as the Dow is inching up and some bailout money is starting to find its way into the Main Street economy, Republicans and those in the tea party movement are shouting loudly about returning America to the policies of the past.

Incredibly, Americans are buying it.

We didn't get the instant prosperity we wanted, and now we're griping like someone who waited 40 minutes for a pizza delivery. Here in Wisconsin, with Federal funds earmarked for high speed rail, Scott Walker vows he'll cancel the train and use the money for other things. Unfortunately for Walker, if the money is refused, it will go to other states who want high speed intercity rail. The money won't be spent in Wisconsin.

This is truly a time to put aside instant gratification and stay the course, both within Wisconsin and nationally. Jobs will be created during the building of the railway and the stations, and businesses serving the passengers will spring up along the route. There are plans in Madison for a City Market to be built near the terminal, and commuters between the two cities are already looking forward to leaving their cars at home and enjoying the rail travel between the cities the way Hiawatha riders do now.

A return to the fiscal policies of a Republican-controlled Congress, such as the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1997, which allowed deregulation and promoted irresponsible investment structures - which some leading economists see as being a large contributor to the 2007 Subprime mortgage crisis - would be a drastic mistake at this point in our economic recovery.

Like a severely wounded person recovering from major surgery, our economy needs time to heal and rebuild its strength. Recovery won't happen without hard work and commitment to the change in management we voted for two years ago. A backwards step towards the policies of the past means that a lot more people will be going hungry for a lot longer.



President Obama at Laborfest

Photo by James Cobb

# 2011 Scholarship Competition

by our International Machinists Union

(online version, click on the above title)



## Education Services:

This scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children throughout the United States and Canada under procedures and rules of eligibility.

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.

Awards to members are \$2,000 per academic year. They are granted for a specific period from one to four years to enable the member to earn a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to Children of Members are: College - \$1000 per academic year. All rewards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained up to a maximum of four years. Vocational/Technical School - \$2000 per year until certification is reached up to a maximum of two years.

An Eligible Applicant Must Be Either:

- An IAM member or;
- The son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an IAM member.

A Member Applicant:

- Must have two years of continuous good standing membership through the closing of the competition which is February 25, 2011;
- May apply either when entering college or vocational/technical school as a freshman or at a higher level with some college credits already completed;
- May apply as a full time or part time student; and
- If not a winner, may apply again the following year.

**This is a brief summary.** The pamphlet of all the information can be sent to any member or you can [click for the online version at www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org).

**The deadline is February 25, 2011.**



Although post-high school education is becoming more and more important to success, it is also becoming more difficult for working families to afford. That's why Union Plus offers a full range of benefits to help you gain the advanced education you want and need—if you belong to a union household. By visiting [UnionPlus.org/Education](http://UnionPlus.org/Education), you can find information and support to help turn your dreams for advancement into reality and to help your sons and daughters achieve their higher education goals.

**Union Plus Scholarships.** Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship program has provided more than \$2.8 million to help fulfill the educational dreams union members, their spouses and children. Unlike most programs, Union Plus Scholarships are not only open to those who want to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees, but also to those who want to attend trade and technical schools.

**Union Plus College Savings Grants.** College savings grants are available to help you start saving for your child or your grandchild's education. Grants of \$500 are available to union members or retirees who open a new 529 tax-free college savings or pre-paid tuition account and contribute at least \$1,000 to it. Also, the age of the 529 account beneficiary must be 12 or younger.

Save 15% - 60% on **college and graduate school test preparation** courses from The Princeton Review. Includes classroom, online and private tutoring for the SAT®, ACT®, GMAT®, LSAT®, GRE®, MCAT® as well as college affordability and admissions online courses. Visit [UnionPlus.org/CollegePrep](http://UnionPlus.org/CollegePrep) or call 1-888-243-7737.

**Union Plus National Labor College Scholarship.** Union Plus provides funds to enable union members to earn BA or MA degrees in Labor Studies, Public Administration and Legal and Ethical Studies. Students can also earn trade and green workplace certificates.

If you are a union member with dreams of getting an advanced education, or if your sons or daughters are aiming to continue their schooling after high school, now's the time to start making progress toward your goal. Visit [UnionPlus.org/Education](http://UnionPlus.org/Education) to learn about the benefits available through Union Plus Education Services.

## Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegate to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: October 6** in 2010. All meetings start at 6:30PM.
- **United Lodge 66 Education Evening for October 21, 2010 at 7:00PM** is TBD.
- The United Lodge 66 building is **smoke free**.
- **Nominations for Secretary Treasurer of United Lodge 66** as well as Directing Business Representative for District 10, **November 12, 2010 at 7:00PM**.
- **United Lodge 66 Education Evening for November 18, 2010 at 7:00PM** will be on Veterans Benefits.
- If necessary there is the **election for Secretary Treasurer of United Lodge 66, December 3, 2010 from 9:00AM to the close of the Business Meeting on this date**.
- **United Lodge 66 Education Evening for January 20, 2011 at 7:00PM** will be on Your 2010 Taxes by Joanne Reuss.
- **Machinists Union leaders wanted** for the nomination and election of officers and executive board members for United Lodge 66 covering the years of 2012 through 2014. There will be several openings at your Union. The nominations are in November 2011 and **election of officers in December 2011**.





## Reimbursement of Lost Time for Committee Person

While you will be reimbursed for lost time it may not be as fast as you would like if proper procedure is not followed. Please be aware reimbursement will only be done as stated in the letter from District 10 to Financial Officers dated January 23, 2009.

This must happen or be on file at the Lodge office:

- W4 must be completed by you and on file at the LL66 office. This needs be done only once.
- Properly complete the Lodge 66 Reimbursement Form.
- Lost time must be approved by your business agent at District 10.

Since October 2006 all lost time is paid by ADP payroll. Payroll is done only twice a month. If you miss one payroll date then it will have to wait until the next. Lost time reimbursement forms must be into the LL66 office before the Monday of a payroll date.

**Payroll dates are listed on the Calendar Page of our Lodge website at:**  
[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org).

dwc

## Applications for new members

It is the responsibility of each shop chair to make sure new employees fill out the Machinists Union Membership Application. **This needs to be done before the Union Security clause date** and then: (a) one copy is kept by the new member; (b) one copy goes to your payroll department; (c.) one copy is sent to United Lodge 66.

dwc

## Deceased Members

Our request is for shop chairs to immediately inform the Lodge when a member passes away.

The Lodge does offer a bible to the family of a deceased member but we need to know their faith.



dwc

## Initiation Fee

Per the Lodge 66 Bylaws: **“The Initiation fee will be the applicable monthly dues for the respective shop of employment for all members.”**

This was changed in 2001 and remember this is a fee not a due.

dwc

## 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.

dwc

## Organizing Incentives

**Worth \$800.00 to you**

The Organizing Lead sheet is available from your Union office or can be downloaded from the home page at [www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org). They are simple to fill in. Just talk to your friends and find out if they want to have a voice at work and stop being an Employee at Will.

**We can only do it with your help.**



## Seniors Corner

### Alliance Rejects Rep. Paul Ryan's Medicare Voucher Plan

A Medicare op-ed in The Washington Post, on 8/13/2010, by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) available at <http://bit.ly/8ZSY43>, has generated attention in the nation's Capital. In response, Ms Easterling said, "Turning Medicare into a voucher program that all seniors can no longer count on is not a solution to the nation's fiscal problems. Rep. Ryan's plan would send us backward, into days when seniors would have shorter life spans and uncertain health care in their golden years. I urge Alliance members who care asked about this plan to remind their friends and neighbors that Medicare is a success because it is a program that helps millions, not a select few."

### Alliance Activists Defend Social Security Against Threats

Writing in the leading blog Huffington post, Alliance president Barbara J. Easterling commented on Republican House Minority Leader John Boehner's support for increasing the retirement age to 70 (<http://huff.to/9uJnLV>). "Can you imagine working until 70? In jobs like construction, manufacturing, and the service sector, I just don't see how you can," Easterling wrote.

**President Obama** devoted his weekly radio address (<http://bit.ly/dr7MDi>) to lauding the success of Social Security and arguing that privatization, which is currently being advocated by some Republican congressional candidates, is "an ill-conceived idea while tying your benefits to the whims of Wall Street Traders and the ups and downs of the stock market."

### Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53213  
414-771-9511

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

### Alliance for Retired Americans

888-16th Street, NW Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497  
Fax 202-974-8256

[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

# Car Pooling

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



## 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/iamawll66, afl-cio

## 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

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union  
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November 2, 2010