

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 9 No. 10

www.unitedlodge66.org

October 2006

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

October 13, 2006

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; business can be done at the Business or Education Evening Meetings or by mail. **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 7:00PM.
- 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 D10. See last page.
- Christmas Party is December 15, 2006 at 6:00PM

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Why Tony Blair Believes So Much In America?

"A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in . . . and how many want out," he recently stated to England's Parliament.

From Your President

By President Patricia Elizondo

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support I received when I moved into the office of President of Local Lodge 66 after President Ben Elizondo was hired as a Business Agent for District 10 on August 1, 2006. I will try my best to continue to bring leadership and guidance to the members of Local 66, as Ben and our past president, Tom Gadowski, have done. I will look to my Executive Board for help and will not hesitate to accept their direction, assistance and constructive criticism. I am extremely fortunate to be part of an Executive Board that has so much experience and knowledge. This is a new and challenging chapter in my life as a Union member, and I ask for your continued support and patience.

Local 66 has a history of being an active and progressive lodge, and I want us to keep on that path. We will have differences of opinions on many issues, but I am confident that by keeping members informed, educated and listening to each other, we can resolve these differences. We need to rid ourselves of our biases and our eagerness to accept statements of some politicians as fact. It is our responsibility to investigate and research all points of view around an issue, and look into our hearts and minds for solutions that will benefit all working people. One of the issues that seems to be dividing labor is immigration reform. I have heard many opinions on the rights of undocumented workers in the United States and will choose this article to give my view.

The theme of this year's Laborfest was "Working in Solidarity". Union members were joined by thousands of immigrant workers in the parade to the Summerfest grounds. The merger of all of these workers on the parade route was sponsored by the Milwaukee County Labor Council and Voces de la Frontera (Voices of the Frontier). Before Labor Day, there were members of several Unions that would not participate in the march because they believed that Labor Day was a celebration of workers and not a day for groups to promote, what they felt, was the specific political agenda of immigration reform.

Laborfest has a history of being an arena for political agendas. I lost count of the numerous politicians that were celebrating with us on Labor Day, asking for the support of labor. It was unusual to talk to a Union brother or sister without having the conversation lead to the topic of politics. For me, witnessing the coming together of union workers and immigrant workers symbolized the fight for justice for all workers. I hope that members of our Local take the time to educate themselves on immigration reform and support the rights of all workers.

(continued on page 2)



Patricia

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

Activities for You and Family

- **Christmas Party is December 15, 2006, at 6:00PM.** The location is change to Paulo's at 5121 W. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee. The change is due to the anticipated increase in attendance. This also the night of our raffle drawing and numerous door prizes. ***Please RSVP your participation.***
- **Union Member to Union Member Walk is on Saturday, October 21 & 28, 2006 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM;** at Milwaukee County Labor Council, 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee. ***We must fight for working families. Committeepersons have list; including Racine area.*** For more information call Sue Ledbetter at 414-476-2896; cell 414-526-3781 or sledbett@aflcio.org.



CLINTON: "I want to know how many people in the Bush administration you asked: Why didn't you do anything about the Cole? I want to know how many you asked: Why did you fire Dick Clarke?"

WALLACE: "We asked — we asked."

--President Bill Clinton responding to Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace, [9/24/06](http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/24/clinton-video/)
<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/24/clinton-video/>

Since 2001, **Chris Wallace** has interviewed the top national security officials from the Bush administration -- Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, Hadley -- 42 times. According to a database search, none of them have been asked about the USS Cole or why Clarke was demoted.

--ThinkProgress.org, [9/23/06](http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/23/fox-clarke-demoted/),
<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/23/fox-clarke-demoted/>
<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/23/wallace-cole/>

dwc

Reimbursement of Lost Time for Committee Person

While you will be reimbursed it may not be as fast as you would like if proper procedure is not followed. Foremost, reimbursement will only be done as stated in the letter from District 10 dated December 20, 2005. This must happen or be on file:

- W4 must be completed by you and on file in the Lodge 66 office.
- Properly complete the Lodge 66 reimbursement form.
- Lost time must be approved by your business agent at District 10.

Starting on October 1, 2006 all lost time will be paid by the ADP payroll. Payroll will be paid out twice a month. ***Time must be in the Tuesday before Friday payday.*** If you miss the first payroll date you will not be paid until two weeks later.

This is a change but part of Lodges going to the Virtual Lodge Finance Office (VFO on the Grand Lodge server) and using ADP.

dwc

Are You Better Off Than 2 to 6 Years Ago?

Some Milwaukee citizens are far worse and it is a disgrace to our community and way of life.

The infant mortality rate for African American children is worse than those infants in Malaysia, Jamaica, Panama, Costa Rica, Chile and even worse than those infants in Mexico and Albania.

The infant mortality rate for:

- Caucasian infants is 5.7 for every 1000.
- Latino infants is 4.9
- **African American infants is 19.4!**

Some may say this is a Milwaukee issue? ***Wrong for those narrow thinkers.*** The statewide mortality rate for African American infants is 19.2. Wisconsin was 11th highest in this less than desired position.

Shame on any political party, who says it is faith based and allows this condition to exist and increase.

(continued from page 1, From Your President)

(On a personal note – I was not born in the United States. I was born in France and although my mother was an immigrant to the U.S., I had United States citizenship because my father was a United States citizen, stationed near Paris, with the United States Air Force. During World War II, Nazis killed my mother's father, a Christian, when it was discovered that he was smuggling Jewish people out of France to save them from certain death. I think it's fair to say that fighting for human rights and for the oppressed, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation, is "in my blood" and I will continue to do so and will encourage our members to do the same.)

Laborfest 2006



On Wisconsin Avenue



Don Griffin & Ben Elizondo, business agents; Patricia Elizondo, Lodge 66 President; Bill Christianson, business agent; John Chisholm, candidate for Milwaukee District Attorney



Milwaukee Avenue towards the Summerfest Grounds



There were many workers, as there should be on any Labor Day event

IAMUNION



*Rosie by Three
Patricia Elizondo
Suzi Larson
Bunny Browning*

Trade Pacts and Your Job!

Your government continues to pass more trade agreements in the name of free trade and exporting your jobs.

Oman Trade Pact (OFTA) was approved by the Senate last week by a vote of 63 to 31 and in June by the House of Representatives by a vote of 221 to 205. Now it goes to Bush who plans to sign his trade bill. OFTA was opposed by labor, religious, consumer, farm and environment groups because it lacks strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards and likely will cost jobs in the United States and lower living standards for workers in Oman.

If Dubai Ports World would set up in Oman and then attempts to acquire a US port operation Congress can not intervene. If Congress does, OFTA empowers Dubai Ports to drag the United States before the U.N. or World Bank tribunals to

demand we compensate the firm for lost profits. **The political party in power knew what they were voting for!**



KORUS is the next trade bill Bush wants to negotiate between America and South Korea. Closed door talks were held in Seattle but many Union activists and allies were arrested in planned protests. This could be the largest trade agreement since NAFTA and just as damaging.

In July 170,000 South Korean Union members staged a general strike in protest against this deal. **Korean workers know this is bad and American workers need to wake up and vote their pocket book.**

dwc

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference

September 21 thru 23, 2006

Machinists Union delegates and financial officers met for the fall conference in Wisconsin Dells. The delegates did listen to guest speakers and the financial officers were instructed in proper record keeping in their local lodge.

Representative Tammy Baldwin was one the speakers. She asked, as we all need to ask: Are you better off than 5 years ago? Is your family better off? Are working families better off? Is our country better off?

She talked about the troubling occurrences of political intervention in medicine and science which needs to stop.

"In American we should be for the collective well being of all citizens and not be on your own to provide good health insurance and a decent pension," she stated.

She went on to talk about **our trade policies** need to be used to develop relationships, **they need to be fair**, and not simply to increase the profits of corporations.

Remember to vote this November in your families best economic interest!

dwc



Tammy Baldwin fielded questions after her presentation with Mike Hornby, District 10 Directing Business Representative at her side.

Christmas Party

Friday, **December 15, 2006**
6:00PM to ??

Paulo's Pizza at 5101 W. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee. There will be a meal provided by Lodge 66, by your executive board; along with beer and soda (**cash bar for other drinks**).

This is night of our raffle drawing and there will be other door prizes given.

We would appreciate an RSVP for your planned attendance so there will be enough food for all.
Call 414-671-3800 or email smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net.



Alternate Resources

Union Plus Credit Card Scholarship. Send a post card request for application to: Union Plus Scholarship Program, PO Box 34800, Washington, DC, 20043-4800 or download application at www.unionplus.org/education/scholarships.

AFL-CIO's Scholarship Guide. On www.aflcio.org there are links to all Unions and Federally funded scholarship programs.

Federal Student Aid Information Center. Call 800-433-3243 for a free copy of "The Student Guide." The website is www.studentaid.ed.gov then link to publications or www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Vocational-Technical Information. The website is <http://www.trade-schools.net> for information on Voc-Tech schools in the US.

dwc

2007 Scholarship Competition

of YOUR Machinists Union (IAM)

The scholarship competition is open each year to members of the IAM and their children. This yearly competition was developed in 1960 and all money is from a separate fund.

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 for college at \$1,000 per academic year. All awards are renewed each year until a Bachelor's degree is obtained or for a maximum of four years, whichever occurs first. Vocational/technical school is \$2,000 per year until certification is attained or for a maximum of two years, whichever occurs first.

To obtain an application send request to:

IAM Scholarship Program
9000 Machinists Place, RM 117
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Application packet information must be postmarked no later than February 23, 2007.

Union Plus Guide to Scholarship

& college planning

Do you or your children need help paying for college? Affordable loans and consolidation loans are a click away.

To speak directly with a Union Plus Financial Aid Counselor, call 1-877-881-102. All calls are answered by Union members in the U.S. because the Union Plus Education Services provider American Education Services (AES) is Unionized through AFSCME Local 1224.

Union Plus Scholarship Program

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their secondary education. Over 1,300 families have benefited from our commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

<http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm>

Education Evening of October 19, 2006, 7PM

Will be a seminar on investment strategies, planning for retirement, effect of inflation on retirement, etc by New England Financial.

Members, family and all guests are welcome.

Seniors Corner

Donut Hole Week: Is the week of September 22 when the average Medicare enrollee falls into Medicare D's donut hole, the massive gap in coverage for those beneficiaries with annual drug costs between \$2250 and \$5100. Many seniors and persons with disabilities were unaware of the donut hole when they enrolled in the new Part D plans. In this donut hole a retiree must pay the premium but gets no benefit payment until after \$5100 prescription costs (*shame on our representatives for passing such a benefit!*).

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

Education . . .

YOUR CHOICE

- **Employment Law**, October 12 to November 9, 5:30PM to 8:30PM, Thursday nights for five weeks.
- **Collective Bargaining**, November 18 and December 2, 9AM to 4PM, Saturdays

Your shop SHOULD BE posted and more information is at Lodge 66. Lodge 66 does reimburse the registration fee, contact us first.

Check Your Credit

Last year a law was passed allowing all consumers to receive a free copy of their credit report. Checking your report annually helps you catch mistakes and become aware of attempted identity theft. For a free report go to www.annualcreditreport.com or call 877-322-8228.



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
- \$15.00 for Denim/Black/Blue cap
- \$15.00 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.

Orange or Green @



Lodge 66 for \$15.00 each.

YOUR Email

The lack of communications regarding opportunities for you and your family is not the result of us not trying. You can pick and choose from the events, at least you are informed, or you can pass on the activities to your friends at work.

Email: smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net

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
Henry Mevis	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 **VACANT**
Recording Secretary
Mike Pietrzykowski
Secretary Treasurer . . Doug Curler
Conductor Sentinel . . . Bunny Browning
Trustees:
Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch,
Dave Russell

Communicator . . Don Burmester
Educator Patricia Elizondo
Editor Doug Curler
Notary Public Doug Curler
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Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

Daytime Office Hours on Tuesday thru Friday

or business can be done:

- by mail;
- or dropped in the mail slot;
- or on the night of a Lodge or Education Evening Meeting.

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
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Crying Liberty at the loss of workers rights.