

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 10 No. 10

www.unitedlodge66.org

October 2007

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

October 12, 2007

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 Education Night Meetings or by mail.
- **CHECK** the answering machine for hours, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is October 18 at 7PM.
- The deadline for articles to November edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is October 17.

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President's Direct Line

All members who have issues 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 Elizonda

Why Unions?

All too often workers feel and believe what benefits they have were given freely by the company and they have no need for a Union or their Union. The Union is not a third party. It *is* the workers. It *is* you, it *is* me, it *is* all of us. Without the Union Movement there would be no eight hour day, no vacations, no holidays, no medical insurance, no pensions, there would not have been an end to child labor, there would be no safety standards, you would be any employee at will and not have just cause for termination. If any individual who thinks otherwise, do your own research and find out the rights or status of workers prior to our Labor Movement. If you wonder why our standard of living is regressing it goes no further than those we elect to public office and the laws or 'rule to law' they pass.

At our October Education Evening we had the organizer and a worker from Capitol Returns (GENCO). This employer is right in Milwaukee and they, Doug and Desiree, told us why they want to form their own Union. Desiree told us about their working conditions. The Lodge did hope more members of United Lodge 66 would attend and then reflect on their own workplace.

Capitol Returns does process and dispose of the unused medications no longer wanted by places like Walgreens and Wal-Mart. Many of the substances are not identified and handled by pregnant women. The make up of the workforce is single minority females, many coming off W2. They can not refuse such a job. Jumpsuits are provided but they may not be clean, have been and worn by other workers. You never know what type of substance medication is on the outside of your clothing.

You are searched prior to admittance to the shop floor and all personal items must be in a see through baggy. When you take any breaks you will be searched when you return to your work area. If you go to the bathroom you will be searched. If a pill better not fall in the cuff of your jumpsuit, you may be fired. The bathrooms are not always useable, they are plugged, and you are not allowed to use those in the office area.

One women had a miscarriage during the Christmas Break and could not stand after returning, had to take off two more weeks. Chairs are not allowed in the workplace? Being off for the two additional weeks gave her eight attendance occurrences and she was fired!

How could all this happen? There is no Union and the workers have no rights. They are employees at will.



Doug and Desiree

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

2008 Scholarship Competition

This scholarship is from our International and open to Machinists Union members and their children. It is made possible by donations from Machinists Union Lodges.

The scholarship makes possible the attainment of a Bachelor's degree or a two year vocational/technical certification.

Awards to members are \$2000 per academic year and awards to children of members are \$1,000 per academic year.

The applicant must be a Machinists Union member or the son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of a Machinists Union member.

The closing date of the competition is February 22, 2008.

Complete rules and the application request can be obtained from United Lodge 66 or by writing to:
IAM Scholarship Program
9000 Machinists Place
Room 117
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

The logo for the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Union, featuring the text "IAM UNION" in a stylized blue font with a white outline.

Scholarship Program of United Lodge 66

This program is meant to assist two high school seniors that are children of United Lodge 66 members. Listed below are the criteria for the Scholarship Selection:

1. Two (2) \$500 scholarship annually.
 2. Only seniors in high school that are children of Machinists Union United Lodge 66 members and that are seeking post high school education are eligible.
 3. An essay must be written and **must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and community** to be considered for the scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. **Please note, "Essays written from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., will NOT BE ACCEPTED."**
 4. Essays must be sent to: United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Essays will be given to the Scholarship Committee to review.
 5. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above.
 6. One half of the scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester (fall 2007) in which the individual is enrolled. The second half will be paid during the second semester (spring 2008) and also sent directly to the school. Selections of essay winners will take place at the December Lodge Meeting. **The essays must be in at United Lodge 66 office by November 30, 2007 or postmarked November 30, 2007 Absolute, no entries will be accepted past this date.**
 7. Notification of availability of scholarship will be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website, and posted in all plants.
- (>>>Please note this is very late and is meant for children who were seniors in the spring of 2007<<<)*

The selection committee will be executive board members. We urge all Union parents in United Lodge 66, with high school seniors in their family, to encourage their children to enter this contest for consideration of a scholarship.

All entries become the property of United Lodge 66 and winning or any entries will or may be published in the *Badger Lodge News*, our Website.

Activities for You and Family

- **Collective Bargaining** a five week class from October 16 to November 13, 2007, Tuesday's from 5:30PM to 8:30PM, 9620 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis. The fee is \$49.05 and the Lodge will reimburse any member who completes the class. **This is open to ALL members.** Call us for any of your questions.
- October 18, 2007, **Education Evening**, 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, is at 7:00PM and is open to your family. Steve Kwaterski, National AFL-CIO, will give a presentation on Labor 2008 and what we need to do.
- **William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is open to all members. The complete schedule of classes was sent to all committee persons and **we will send it to any member.** The Lodge does pick up your lost time. The air fare and accommodations is from our International. Take advantage of this educational opportunity and make our Union even better. To learn more about our center visit: <http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/> and then talk to us.

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference

This conference is a meeting of Machinists Union Lodges from throughout our state. We meet twice a year with delegates discussing contractual and political issues affecting our lives and the financial officers meeting to update us on the regulations of the Department of Labor as well as those expectations from our International Union. This fall we met from September 13 to 15 in La Crosse.

At the delegate meeting was our Grand Lodge General Vice President Rich Michalski, Representative Ron Kind and Representative Tammy Baldwin.

Rich Michalski gave a report for the International on our membership status. Even though we are organizing more our membership continues to decline because of plant closings. Because of plant closings, the M16 casing American's use in the Iraqi civil war are being made in China! Some of the Democrats running for president have agreed to support us on trade policies, to support fair trade, and revisit and revise those already passed which has allowed the easy movement of jobs to foreign soil.

Tammy Baldwin spoke of our health care crisis. Believe it or not universal health care was first proposed in America in 1943. Until family friendly representatives are elected nothing will change. In the present Congress 31 separate plans have been proposed and in the last 62 plans were proposed. Everything is partisan and not in the workers best interest. Our present health care system started during WWII since wage increases were not allowed but the offering of employer based insurance was. This needs to be changed to a single payer universal plan.



*Richard Michalski,
Machinists Union General Vice President*

For the financial officers we had a packed agenda including IRS updates, DOL updates, getting our semi-annual audits in, percap reports, average hourly earning reports (which help determine the dues for 2008), as well as information covering the VFO and ADP and VLM updates. The most important and timely discussion is a proposal from the International to change our dues structure. The last time this was done was in 1977. While this will not be voted upon until the 2008 International Convention, the ideas from the International were provided and they are looking for opinions. **What I was told and the discussion we financial officers had will be explained at the October 12, 2007 Lodge Business Meeting.**



*Mike Pietrzykowski and Patricia Elizondo,
Lodge 66 delegates to the conference*

explained at the October 12, 2007 Lodge Business Meeting. It is very important that representatives from each shop be in attendance at this meeting. Nothing is set in stone and the delegates to the 2008 Machinists Union Convention must approve any change. This is your time to hear and voice your concerns. There may be more information in future months, but it is too late after the vote has been taken at the convention. **Make the time to attend this Lodge Meeting.**

\$500 Billion Spent??

So far the Iraq civil war **has cost YOU** \$500 billion as well as another \$191.7 billion being requested for 2008. American lost 3800 lives, had 27,000 injured, Black Water corruption and total instability in Iraq.

This money was spent elsewhere, yet we have 47 million Americans with no health insurance. **Where are the White House priorities?**



Representative Baldwin Page 3

Delinquent List and Drop List

Each month Lodge 66 does send out the appropriate list to all shop chairs. This is something which has been done for more than 30 years. The **delinquent list** shows anyone from a shop who was missing from a monthly dues deduction. If not paid then the dues arrearage continues to be carried forward. This is our communications to shop chairs regarding members at their location.

The **drop list** is for members who get two (2) months in dues arrearage and have lapsed their Machinists Union membership. It is not something we have done. It is the result of the member ignoring communications from the Lodge.

At each sending out of the delinquent list or drop list, the member has received a post card from the Lodge indicating a non-payment. We ask the member to communicate their work status to us.

The drop list is also sent to the business agent and the directing business representative at District 10. This is all in accordance with our Lodge Bylaws and at the request of the District 10 DBR.

As Secretary Treasurer I am willing to meet with any and all shop committees to explain the procedures. This will be at a time and location of your choice. These procedures are a part of our Bylaws and the International Constitution.

dwc

W-4 is Needed!

Each member must have on file at the Lodge 66 office a W4 form before any reimbursement of lost time or committee person compensation can be made. We have mailed this form to each committee person and have made them available at the Lodge Business and Education Evening Meeting. **It is up to you to complete and return the W4 to the Union office.**

dwc

Christmas Celebration Changes

Please be advised that the Local Lodge 66 Christmas celebration will be changing this year. Due to several factors, we will not be having the traditional sit down dinner as we have had in the past. Last year's party had over 300 guests and it is extremely difficult to find a facility on a Saturday to hold more people without having to purchase catering services. Even if we did have a hall that could accommodate 300-500 people without catering, we are never certain how many members will attend so planning food for a large group is hard for the handful of members that volunteer to do the shopping and preparation.

Members have inquired about a Christmas party for children, having the party on a Saturday, holding the event at a different location, etc. The Executive Board has discussed different options and, although final plans have not yet been made, it looks like we will be having a Christmas party for children during the day on Saturday, December 15th with an open house for members later in the day along with the annual raffle drawing in the evening. Please watch for further information in the newsletter and on our website. **Volunteers are needed and welcome!**



Patricia

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; and organization by which ordinary people do extraordinary things.



Withdrawal Card

"Any member who leaves the trade because of illness, or obtains employment outside the trade or industry or obtains a supervisory position . . . May be issued a withdrawal card by and with approval of the LL in which membership is held."

There is a \$1.00 fee and will only be issued if, "dues are paid in full to date of application."

Contact your Lodge for application by calling 414-671-3800 or email to smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net.

dwc

Organizing Committee

The next United Lodge 66 Organizing Committee meeting is Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 5:30PM at 2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee. Members are encouraged to get involved and attend. If you have conflicts with this date leave a message for Patricia Elizondo at 414-671-6980. Together we need to stop the slide of our standard of living.



The ride may feel good but the landing is rough.

MNPL

On line recipients of the Lodge newsletter go to above link, <http://goiam.org/mnpl.cfm>, and protect your future.



"You know, you need to talk to economists. I think I got a 'B' in Econ 101."

-- **President Bush**, [9/20/07](#), on the possibility of an upcoming recession

"President Bush as an undergraduate at Yale did not in fact receive a grade of B in his economics course. Bush received a grade that would correspond with a C-."

-- **The Huffington Post**, [9/20/07](#)

(source: the Progress Report)

dwc

Labor Day's Meaning

(Beth Shulman's opinion on the editorial page of the New York Times, 9/4/2007)

Anyone who values child labor laws, product safety standards, health and safety regulations and countless other human rights we take for granted ought to be appalled at your Labor Day editorial, which smirks, "if you get choked up on Labor Day, you've probably just been eating too fast."

Imagine reading that on Memorial Day. No major daily newspaper would dare show veterans such disrespect. Yet we've heard so many put downs of organized labor for so long that we hardly notice, let alone object.

Taught to value low prices over fair wages, we've come to believe that our modest portfolios and high prices homes will finance our children's education and our retirement - if those pesky Unions would just stop being so greedy and quit demanding living wages, health insurance and pensions.

Get choked up on Labor Day? You bet. Dead miners, toxic toys and so many layoffs they're no longer news are ample reason. Last century, the labor movement built America's strong middle class, turning bad jobs into good ones, transforming hard working men and women into proud homeowners and financially secure, retired parents of college grads. And they are still fighting that fight today.

Oh, what most working Americans would give for steady jobs with health and retirement plans, paid sick and vacation days and decent hours. At least once a year on Labor Day, let's rise to salute the labor movement's many important contributions to the quality of life in the United States, instead of sinking to sling flip insults that, in the end, belittle us all.



Seniors Corner

Report Card Shows Seniors Pay More Under Part D than Under Other Drug Plans Older Americans in Medicare's Part D prescription drug program are more likely to pay at least \$300 a month more for medicines than those on other plans as reported by a study published in the journal *Health Affairs*. The study found the eight percent of seniors in the government's Medicare plans spent \$300 or more out of pocket for drugs, compared to five percent of those covered by the Veterans Affairs Department or those covered by workplace insurance. "What we have in this report is incontrovertible evidence that prohibiting the government from negotiating lower drug prices has hurt seniors," said George Kourpias, President of the Alliance.

Medicare Part D Late Fees Waived Seniors scored a major victory on 9/27/2007 when Medicare officials waived the late enrollment penalty for low income beneficiaries of the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. In March, Rep. Steve Kagen (D-WI) had introduced HR 1521, the Universal Health Act of 2007: Repeal of the Late Enrollment Penalty in Medicare Part D. The major part of that legislation was made law. Prior to there was a penalty of 1% the monthly premium, forever.

Who you vote for does matter.

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

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.



We deserve better than what our elected officials are doing in Madison. Learn more about

healthy Wisconsin at: <http://healthywisconsin.net/>. Then **contact your elected representative.**

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: 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 |
| 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 smjzer6471@sbcglobal.net

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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.

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