

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 14 No. 9

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

September 2011

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

October 14, 2011

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 October 2011 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", Is September 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. **See last page.**
- **October 20, Education Night** Will start at 7 pm.

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Photograph by James Cobb

Badge Night At Lodge 66

Every June, Lodge 66 honors its Union members with fifteen or more years of continuous service. (This is done in five year increments.)

This past June, Badge Night was well attended. We honored four 50-year retirees. They were William Ladwig, Josef Pronnet Sr., Robert Wisniewski, and Donald Koprovic, pictured above with President Pat Elizondo and Business Rep. Ben Elizondo.



Photograph by James Cobb

Pictured above is Ben Elizondo and retiree Danny Bell.



United Lodge 66
Hall and
Union Office
is
SMOKE FREE.

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

We're America, Damn It!

By Kim Sayers

There's a list of proposed Republican budget cuts from May, 2011 circulating in e-mail right now, so I decided to look into a few of the proposed cuts.

You know, it can seem easy to see a list like that one, and simply conclude, without further research, that the programs are a waste of money. I encourage people to look a little deeper, and contemplate the effects. So I looked into the first few of the proposed cuts, to see what they really mean. For example:

Who needs beach replenishment? Easy to cut, right? Except that without it, certain barrier islands like Long Beach Island or North Carolina's Outer banks, might disappear.

Who needs the National Endowment for the Arts? Or the National Endowment for the Humanities? They provide grants for important teacher continuing education—my own daughter studied under a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. Thousands of students in two Colorado school districts, and hundreds of teachers, have benefitted from the training she received through that one grant.

Save America's Treasures? Who needs it? Well, it already lost funding for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, so why it was included in this list of cuts in May of 2011 is a mystery.



Corporation for Public Broadcasting? Well, it's the last source of unbiased news coverage, so I find it valuable.

Legal Services Corporation? That's the Office of the Inspector General. Their activities protect us against govern

mental fraud, waste and abuse, and they investigate whistleblower allegations, things like fraudulent veteran's benefits claims, and other thefts of federal funds.

Amtrak. Really? Bring an end to important infrastructure like Amtrak at a time when we should be expanding it?

The Community Development Fund helps communities to focus on decent and affordable housing, clean and safe neighborhoods, and creating economic opportunities. I don't think I have anything against this. I'd rather do it here than in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's cheaper, and it benefits my fellow Americans.

Essential Air Service. This will affect small airports in rural areas. In my home town, the Waterloo airport is part of the program, though it currently does not have a grant in progress. In future, if Waterloo needs a new runway, or other infrastructure improvements, stopping this funding could affect its ability to stay open. It is expected that it would affect important scheduled improvements in the neighboring Fort Dodge and Mason City airports. And rural airports in 42 other states.

The Davis Bacon Act protects and ensures that fair wages will be paid for people working on federal infrastructure projects. We have already seen many violations of worker rights in recent months. Do we really want to remove these important protections for American workers, in America?

I could go on, but I think that the important thing to remember is that the bulk of these cuts affect the quality of lives of AMERICANS in AMERICA, and will also kill thousands upon thousands of jobs for AMERICANS. I'm not sure I can get behind these penny-wise, pound-foolish proposals. Just my opinion, but I think I'd rather see the income disparity offset by fairer tax rates for the wealthy. Quality of life is very important to me, and I see most of these cuts as negatively affecting my quality of life, and that of my fellow Americans.

We're America, damn it! We're the country of big dreams and magnificent accomplishments. We're the country of vision and strength. These cuts represent small thinking and weak vision, limitations that say we are losing our collective soul. This is a country where we have historically protected the unfortunate and enabled the dreams of the least of us: A civilized society. These budget proposals threaten our status as a civilized people.

Kim Sayers was a wife and mother before working in the software industry for 15 years as a technician, technical writer, and business owner. She is retired and lives in Colorado.

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegates to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: October 5, 2011.** All meetings start at **6:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Business Meeting** is Friday, **October 14, 2011 at 7PM.**
- **Delegates to District 10: October 10, 2011.** All meetings start at **7:30PM**
- **United Lodge 66 Education Evening , October 20, 2011.** Will start at **7PM**

- **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.**
- The class schedule for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office and can be viewed at any of the meetings.

Reader's Corner: Sea Glass

By Anne Chase

As a fragile shard of glass is made more beautiful by the rough treatment of pounding surf, the human spirit is tested and strengthened by adversity and hardship. This is the underlying theme of Anita Shreve's novel, *Sea Glass*.

The book, which at first glance might be classified as "Chick Lit" with an appeal to mostly women readers, has a subplot that makes it of interest to Union members.

Set in New Hampshire, in the months leading up to and following the stock market crash of 1929, the book centers around a young woman whose husband starts out selling typewriters. The couple purchase a house on a beach in a small mill town, thinking it a good investment, but after the crash, and her husband loses his sales job, the economic realities of living in a pre-union labor force hit home.

As a historical novel, *Sea Glass* provides a great insight into the lives of mill workers: the backbreaking work, the six day work weeks, the 12 hour days, the capricious reduction in pay by the mill owners.

During the course of the story, a movement to organize the workers is described and detailed.

For the Union worker today who likes to combine light reading with a bit of historical flavor, *Sea Glass* is an entertaining story as well as a glimpse into the impact of the Depression on the different social classes and the harsh lives led by workers in factories of the era.

Retirees, You Have a Blog

Since retiring, have you ever wanted to get your opinion out on a subject? Maybe one that you have strong feelings about, or a point of view you have wanted to share.

Well now you can! There is an interactive website where you can post your opinions. So come join in the discussions going on at <http://iamretireebloggers.blogspot.com/>

Lodge 66 President Steps Down

We are saddened to announce the resignation of Lodge 66 President Pat Elizondo this month. She has also stepped down from the Educator position, citing her doctor's recommendation for medical reasons.

Pat served for 13 years as our Educator. "My work as Educator was very rewarding," Pat said. "It was great to provide information for our members that they might not have been aware of." Pat was particularly delighted when members brought their children to education night, and enjoyed providing programs and films that were child friendly, such as a Hunter Safety course for kids.

Pat served as President for 5 years. She recalled fondly working with Bob Paar to start programs such as the Children's Christmas party and enjoyed meeting and working with so many wonderful Lodge members over the years.

"We have so many talented members with lots to offer," Pat said, "and I hope they continue to participate in the Union." Pat plans to remain an active member of the Lodge.

Pat will continue to work at the Milwaukee HIRE Center, a community agency that works with laid-off and displaced workers. Given our current environment of poor economy and dwindling jobs, that's been a tough and difficult position lately. Pat has been an Employment Training Specialist for 17 years. The HIRE Center partners with organizations such as MATC, AFL-FIO, United Way and Wisconsin Job Service to provide retraining, education, and on-the-job training.

Joe "Pepe" Oulahan will take over as Educator and Bob Paar will be Acting President until the elections are held in January.

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.

Volunteers Needed for Phone Bank!

President Obama unveiled a bill that encourages small businesses to grow and provide more jobs, much of it funded by tax cuts for small businesses. The bill also stipulates investments in roads and schools. It would also extend a tax cut for middle income Americans, resulting in about \$1500 per year remaining in the pockets of Americans earning \$50,000.

Our government needs to stop fighting along party lines and start addressing the problem visited on us by two unfunded wars, tax cuts for the wealthy and unprecedented natural disasters, among other things.

Organizing For America is hosting a phone Bank effort to get the American Jobs Act passed. The Phone Bank will be held Sunday, Oct. 2 from 12 – 2 PM in Bay View at 723 E. Russell St. Volunteers will be calling people to ask them to contact their Senator and tell them to pass the American Jobs Act.

Even if you can't volunteer, please contact your Senators today and ask them to **support the Jobs Bill**. Sen. Ron Johnson, (202) 224-5323 or (414) 276-7282 and Sen. Herb Kohl, (202) 224-5653 or (414) 297-4451.

New Members

Application:

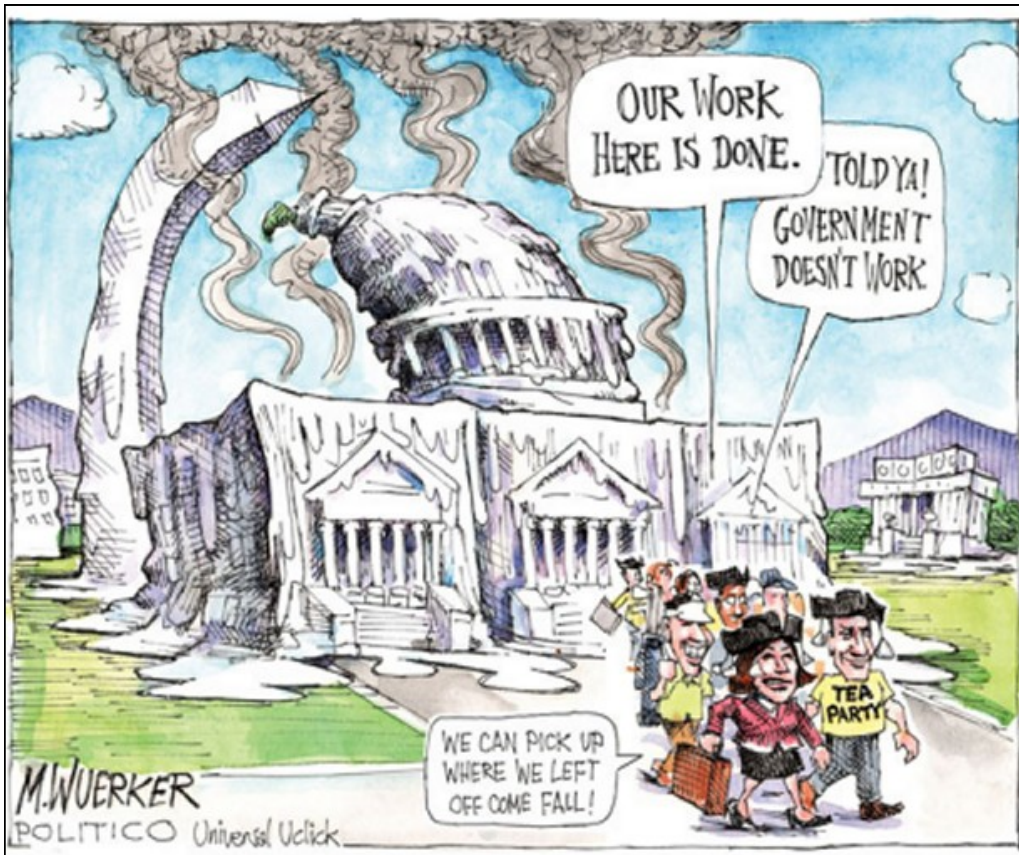
Shop Committees should have updated [Membership Forms for Initiation & Reinstatement](#). The only [Initiation & Reinstatement](#) forms acceptable are the multi page forms. Please indicate on the form if it is an initiation or reinstatement. Payment of initiation or reinstatement should accompany the form. If the fee is being paid through dues check off please indicate that on the form.

The pink copy goes to the member, yellow copy for the company, and front page to Local Lodge 66.

Other forms that are available are [Retirement, Withdrawal application, and Armed Forces Withdrawal Application](#).

If forms are needed contact Ivan Collins at the Lodge 66 Office phone 414-671-3800, or Email at ivan.collins74@gmail.com.

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LL66 Machinists Union Officers

- President Bob Paar
 Vice President . . . Ronald Simmelink
 Recording Secretary . . . Mike Pietrzykowski
 Secretary Treasurer . . . Ivan Collins
 Conductor Sentinel . . . Bunny Browning
 Trustees: Dave Spengler, Darrell Rasch, Dave Russell
 Communicator James Cobb
 Educator . . . Joseph "Pepe" Oulahan
 Editor James Cobb

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

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

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

Car Pooling

From Kenosha:
 Want to carpool to Union Meeting?
 Contact Vice President Bob Paar for how it can be done: 262-605-0436
 or
bpaaroskenosha@yahoo.com

From Sheboygan:
 From Sheboygan or picking members up in Port Washington call: Ron Simmelink, 920-627-0325, from Kieffer & Company in Sheboygan.

