

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 9 No. 9

www.unitedlodge66.org

September 2006

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting September 8, 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 Night Meetings or by mail. **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- **Education Night Evening** is Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:00PM.
- The deadline for articles to October edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is September 17.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at D10. See last page.

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United Lodge 66 Nomination (11/10/2006)

and **Election** (12/8/2006) for Vice President. Watch for official mailing and more in next months newsletter.

Scholarship Recipients for United Lodge 66

*By Kellie Schneider
Attending University of Kansas
(parent is member at Frank Wells)*

Thinking back to my grade school years, I have fond memories of Christmas. I can vividly remember going to sleep Christmas Eve with the anticipation of Santa Claus coming during the night to deliver what would seem like an endless stack of colorfully wrapped gifts for my sister and I. The thought of waking to this was almost too much for a little girl to fall asleep without waking up with every noise thinking it may be Santa and I just might catch a glimpse. I cannot remember a Christmas that my sister and I felt we were deprived of anything.

One year when I was around 5 years old, my parents told my sister and I that my dad was going on strike. To a five year old this didn't mean too much until they explained that it meant we would not have extra money to do things for a while.

(continued on page 4)

*By Heather Shea
Attending Concordia College
(parent is member at Badger Meter)*

I wish I had the resources to get first hand knowledge from a grandparent, but they have passed away. I feel they would have been able to explain how the Unions first came in and how it changed things. I feel we the teenagers of today do not hear much about Unions and how they work and what they have done in insure jobs for my generation. My dad is in a Union and has also been part of management without a Union. **He does feel his job is safer in the Union.** He says the Unions have set policies in place to protect him from being let go without strong reasons. His Union guaranteed him a raise each year and most important in a time where a lot of companies are trying to cut out benefits such as health insurance the Union helps protect against it.

(continued on page 4)



Kellie

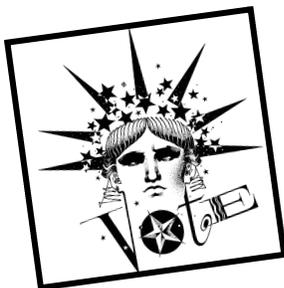


Heather

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

Activities for You and Family

- **Laborfest is September 4, 2006 from 10:00AM to 5:00PM.** Lodge 66 will provide T-shirts for all marchers for Lodge 66 and some tickets to supplement the cost of refreshments and food at the Summerfest Grounds. Entrance to the grounds is free at which there will be music, games for children, free drawings for children's, an Union show, car show and more. *You must have pre-register yourself or family for the T-shirt.*
- Vote in the **Primary Elections** on **September 12, 2006** and take your children.
- **Union Member to Union Member Walk in Racine, September 13, 2006, 4:00PM to 6:00PM,** Racine Union Hall, 1840 Sycamore Avenue, Racine; *contact Sue Ledbetter, 414-526-3781 or sledbett@aflcio.org*
- **Labor Kick-Off Rally for United Way Community Campaign** is Thursday, **September 14, 2006, 6:00PM** at Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee.
- **Union Member to Union Member Walk in Milwaukee** is on Saturday, **September 16, 2006 from 9:00AM to 1:00PM;** at Milwaukee County Labor Council, 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee. **We must fight for working families.** For more information call Sue Ledbetter at 414-476-2896 or sledbett@aflcio.org.



"We've got to do more to protect worker pensions. [Source: White House Web site]", 8/7/2002

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/08/20020807-1.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A32547-2002Dec9?language=printer>

"Just four months after touting pension security, Bush's Treasury Department announced plans to propose new rules that would allow employers to resume converting traditional pension plans to new 'cash balance' plans that can lower benefits to long-serving workers. Such conversions are highly controversial. Critics contend that they discriminate against older workers in violation of federal law." - Washington Post, 12/10/02"

Solidarity

Respecting our proud tradition.
Rewarding union workers.

SAVE on Goodyear Tire and Service. Claim a 5% union discount on all Goodyear tires as you support union members who make them. Get oil, lube, and filter service for just \$18.96 and a 10% discount on services other than oil changes.



SAVE at Powell's Bookstore. Check out the bargain prices and great selections of new and used books at the largest unionized Internet bookseller. Great source of textbooks for students!



ConsumerReports.org

SAVE on Cingular Wireless Phones and Service. Take an additional 5% off the regular monthly rate of any individual or family calling plan. Save up to \$100 on local and long-distance service. From the online wireless company that proclaims they are proud to be union!



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SAVE on a Hawaiian cruise with NCL America. Take a dream cruise through Hawaii's main islands on US-flagged, all-union ships. Norwegian Cruise Line America cuts your cost with union-member discounts of up to 5% every day savings and up to 30% off selected sailings.



To learn more about **Union Plus** programs and **discounts** available to your union, visit
www.UnionPlus.org



Union Made—07/06
 Not all programs are available to Canadian members who may be eligible for the Canadian Union Advantage benefits. Visit www.unionavings.ca

Labor Day Message

from David Newby, President Wisconsin AFL-CIO

Labor Day: A Time for Honor and Reflection

Labor day is a time to honor those who do the work and actually create the real wealth of this country: working people! It should also be a time to reflect on what Unionism is all about: **Solidarity - an injury to one is an injury to all.** That is the basic principle of the Labor Movement, the understanding that we're all in it together.

Without romanticizing the past, that understanding also used to be a fundamental value among the vast majority of Americans. It was the way we related to each other as neighbors and as co-workers. It was the basis of community.

But today that sense of community has been weakened - in fact it's under systemic attack.

The core question we face as a country today is this: Are we going to recognize that we really are all in this together, and we need to support and take care of each other? Or are we going to repudiate that value and any mutual obligations and say instead it's everyone for themselves?

Jared Bernstein from the Economic Policy Institute summed it up well in a recent article, saying it's **YOYO ("You're On Your Own") vs. WITT ("We're In This Together")**.

For years the Right Wing has been promoting a **YOYO vision** for America. The entire Bush domestic agenda is based on the **YOYO principle**.

YOYO underlies Bush's attempt to privatize Social Security and leave our retirement income to the mercy of the stock market.

YOYO underlies the Right Wing solution to our health care crisis: not universal, quality, affordable health care for all, but high deductible policies that expect us to "shop" for the lowest cost health care providers and which stress "personal responsibility" for our health - as if we could all become mini doctors and could have complete control of our health!

YOYO also underlies the corporate shift from "defined benefit" guaranteed pensions to "defined contribution" pensions or 401k's - which, like privatized Social Security, do not provide a guaranteed income, but an income based on how lucky we are in the grand casino called the stock market.

The fundamental goal of **YOYO policy** is to shift all economic risk to individuals and our families. Those currently in power call it "personal responsibility" but in reality it means we're on our own, there's no common safety net. And if our health fails or our job is outsourced and we're not rich enough to survive on our own, then that's too bad, it's our own fault. We've obviously failed in our "personal responsibility".

The Union movement has a completely different philosophy. Recognizing that "we're all in this together", we want to share risks and pool our resources. So that everyone, at a minimum, has the health care they need. So that all our kids have a good public education. So that everyone has work - and that work pays a living wage. So that everyone can retire in dignity. So that we have a floor beneath which no one fails.

Combined with Bush tax policies that are shifting vast amounts of wealth from working families to the super-rich (who can afford to be on their own), **YOYO'ism** sums up the policy agenda of this Administration and its Right Wing Congressional majority. These anti-worker policies are rapidly eroding the economic foundation for the middle class as well as rolling back the protections we all need by undermining everything from environmental standards to health and safety protections in the workplace.

So on this Labor Day 2006, let's think a bit about the **basic principles of the Labor Movement: Solidarity - an injury to one is an injury to all.** An let's remember why our government was formed: "... to promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." These are precisely the principles we all need to follow in order to meet the needs of the vast majority of Americans and put America back together again.



David

W-4 & the completed United Lodge 66 Reimbursement Form is Needed!

Each member must have on file at the Union office a W4 form *before any reimbursement of lost time can be made.* We have mailed this form to each committeeperson 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.

The reimbursement form just be completed and signed. **Incorrect forms will be returned.**

dwc

(Kellie, continued from page 1)

My mom was in college at this time so my dad had the only income. Even though the words were spoken, I didn't give it much thought. I do remember thinking it was kind of cool having my dad home more. I also remember going to the picket line with my dad and getting to hold a sign.

As Christmas approached, my mom would drop hints that Santa may not be able to bring much this year. With a bit of worry in my mind, I was sure my mom was wrong, after all, I had asked Santa to bring me something special that I had been really wanting (although now, I have no idea what I HAD to have that year).

Christmas morning my sister and I woke up and ran to the living room as we did every year. Mom was wrong! There, once again, was that endless stack of gifts. But on top of them was a note for sister and I. That letter I will never forget. My mom read it to us and it said how Santa went to the land of misfit toys that no children wanted and his elves worked hard to fix these toys and make them special for my sister and I. He knew we would love them and make them feel welcome and give them a good home. By the end of the letter, we were in tears saying, we will love these toys! I remember the toys from that year better than any other year. We each got a pair of one blade ice skates with red and white pom poms on them. We didn't know for years that my mom bought them at a rummage sale, polished them until they were shiny, white, cleaned the rust off the blades, and made the pom poms out of yarn. To us they were brand new. We also got a "My Little Pony" stable with lots of ponies. We had so many toys that year and never realized everything was second hand.

My dad remained on strike until March. During that time, my life really didn't change much and it wasn't until I got older and talked to my parents about it that I realize the true impact this had on our lives. **It gave me such a respect for Unions and how they protect my family.** If it had not been for the support of the Union during that time in my dad's life, he could have ended up with a salary that would have not allowed my family to live a comfortable life or worse yet he could have lost his job. Looking back, the brief struggle my parents had while my dad was on strike could have been a way of life for my family if my dad was not a Union employee.

What I graduate from college and enter the work force, I hope that I will be fortunate enough to work for an employer who is Union. **Job security is important to give a family peace of mind that they can live a comfortable life with having to worry.**

IAMUNION

(Heather continued from page 1)

My dad has also seen the other side of Unions being a manager at a plant. There if the company took action against an employee and the employee did not agree they had the option of taking it before the Union. It was almost like a court only the Union decides if the company acted within the Union Contract rules. He feels that when he was a manager there wasn't anything to stop upper management from just letting him go or switching his job just because they felt like it. Now being back in the Union he feels there is some protection.

I feel that Unions maybe something companies want to do without. Without the Union large companies could make cuts and let employees go without any reason or without any compensation for the years they have worked for the company. His father also was a Union member. The one story he did tell me his father was part of the railroad Union and when they wanted to cut some of the older employees and replace them with younger and cheaper guys the Union was there for them. The Union helped them get a very nice severance package where he was able to take the early retirement making both parties winners.

I also feel employees need to be reasonable in their demands. My dad's Union contract was up for renewal and I remember him being very concerned about some of the demands employees wanted to make to the company. He says he pays a very low premium for health insurance compared to most companies. When they had Union meetings to discuss the new contract some of the employees didn't want to pay any more health insurance. He felt that some employees were blind to what has become a very hot discussion that being the price of health care. He felt the company wasn't make that big of an increase. But some of the employees were willing to go on strike over it. I feel that a strike should only occur in extreme measures and although the Union gives strike pay for walking the picket line, most families are in debt and would lose a lot without a weekly income. That's where the Union heads can reason with employees letting them know what is reasonable to ask for and what is never going to be excepted.

Unions have helped my family and community by guaranteeing jobs and fair employment practices. I feel even with all the talk of there being no jobs there are jobs to have and **Unions have set standards that companies follow and make the work place a safer and fair place to work.**

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.

Labor Day FAQs

Q: When is Labor Day?

A: Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September. In 2006, Labor Day will fall on Sept. 4.

Q: Why do we celebrate Labor Day?

A: Labor Day honors the contributions of working men and women to America's social and economic life.

Q: When was Labor Day first celebrated in the United States?

A: On Sept. 5, 1882, when about 20,000 working people marched in New York City to demand an eight-hour workday and other labor law reforms. In a parade up Broadway, sponsored by New York's Central Labor Union, they carried banners reading, "Labor Creates All Wealth" and "Eight Hours for Work, Eight Hours for Rest, Eight Hours for Recreation." About a quarter million New Yorkers turned out to watch.

Q: When did Labor Day become a national holiday?

A: After the first Labor Day in New York City, celebrations began to spread to other states as workers fought to win workplace rights and better working conditions and wages at a time when they had little power. In 1893, New York City workers took an unpaid day off and marched around Union Square in support of a national Labor Day. The following year, 12,000 federal troops were called into Pullman, Ill., to break up a huge strike against the Pullman railway company and two workers were shot and killed by U.S. deputy marshals. In what most historians call an election year attempt to appease workers after the federal crackdown on the Pullman strike, shortly after the strike was broken, President Grover Cleveland signed legislation making the first Monday in September Labor Day and a federal holiday. Cleveland lost the election.

Q: Who founded Labor Day?

A: That's a matter of dispute among historians. Some say Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, first suggested a day to honor workers. Others credit Matthew Maguire, a machinist who served as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

Q: Is Labor Day just about unions?

A: No. The U.S. Department of Labor describes Labor Day this way: "It is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country."

Q: What international holiday is Labor Day's closest relative?

A: May Day. In 1889, a workers' congress in Paris voted to support the U.S. labor movement's demand for an eight-hour workday. It chose May 1, 1890, as a day of demonstrations in favor of the eight-hour day. Afterward, May 1 became a holiday called Labor Day in many nations. It resembles the September holiday in the United States.

(source: aflcio website)



Seniors Corner

White House Pushes to Cut Medicaid, Despite Lack of Support

As the White House takes aim to reduce Medicaid payments to hospitals and nursing homes, governors and members of Congress from both parties are preparing to fight against the planned cuts. Medicaid helps 50 million low income people pay for health care through funding from both the federal government and the states, and seniors in nursing homes are the greatest number of Medicaid beneficiaries.

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

Privatizing Social Security Still on Bush's Agenda

The Bush administration and its extremist Republican cronies on Capitol Hill have not given up their obsession to privatize Social Security - a move that would create huge windfalls for their Wall Street friends while cutting working people's benefits and placing their retirement security at risk.

Quotes in recent weeks indicate that Social Security privatization will top the legislative agenda:

- Last month Treasury Secretary Paulson said he was under orders from Bush to pursue Social Security reform.
- On June 27, "If we can not get it done this year I am going to try next year. And if we can not get it done next year, I am going to try the year after that because it is the right thing to do. Now is the time to solve the problems of Medicare and Social Security," stated Bush.

(source: aflcio Now, 8/18/2006)

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.

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(11/10/2006) and **Election**
(12/8/2006) for Vice President.
Watch for official mailing and more in next months newsletter.

HIRE CENTER

Help In Re-Employment
816 W. National Avenue, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 414-385-6920
'Dislocated Worker Program'

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
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	23
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	18
Keith Smith	16

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Conductor Sentinel. Bunny Brown-
ing

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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

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Daytime Office Hours are Tuesday thru Friday or

Business can be done by mail; dropped in the mail slot; or the night of a Lodge or Education Evening Meeting.

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