

Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 17 No. 11

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

November 2015

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

November 10, 2015

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.**
- The deadline for articles for the December 2015 edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is November 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists

by Ron Simmelink, Delegate to State Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board along with my Local Lodge brothers and sisters for sending me to the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists fall conference. The conference was held in the city of Rothschild, WI which is near Rib Mountain and Wausau. I need to tell you that if you ever are in the area it is well worth your time to visit Rib Mountain State Park. It is a beautiful area for pictures along with a pretty neat observation tower to climb...



Ron

As for the conference it began on Thursday September 24th with check-in followed by a dinner. Our speaker was the Co-Director Legislative & Political Dept. of the IAM (Rick de la Fuente). Rick mentioned that the Koch brothers have put Scott Walker "up for sale". He mentioned that Wisconsin is now the 25th Right to Work (RTW) state. We need to keep the potential of National RTW legislation on the radar. National RTW would suppress all wages in the country. Rick went on to say that the Koch brothers have these RTW states bought and paid for, along with the Supreme Court Justices paid for as well. Rick reported candidly that the Democrats have "no shot at taking back the House". He reminded us that the IAM still does not support "OBAMACARE" because of the (Excise Tax) which is a 40% excise tax on high end plans above \$10,200 for individuals and \$27,500 for family coverage starting in the year 2018. Rick went on to say the Hillary Clinton is against this excise tax.

Rick stated that the IAM has already endorsed Hillary Clinton for Presidency. He said that Bernie Sanders "can't win" because he is against defense spending. Our members hold many jobs tied into "defense spending" areas of which Bernie Sanders doesn't support. Rick reminded us that Hillary Clinton is also an "Honorary Member of the IAM". The IAM is not going to support any Democrats who have supported fast-track for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. He also said that Bernie Sanders is also against the (Export-Import Bank). This Bank is a federally backed financial institution which makes and guarantees loans. The EX-IM Bank also "offers insurance to American companies so they can do business overseas." The bank guarantees loans for Companies that create jobs for Machinists Union Members.

Our next speaker was WI State AFL-CIO President (Phil Neuenfeldt). Phil started by mentioning the many contributions Russ Krings has given to the state of Wisconsin. Russ Krings then received a standing ovation from the delegates. For those of you that don't know, Brother Krings has retired from his job as DBR District 10 prior to the writing of this report. This writer would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege working with Russ and I wish him well as he progresses to the next chapter in his life. His heart has always been for the workers under his care and he will be missed. Mr. Neuenfeldt went on to say that state republicans have done everything they can to come after workers but WE ARE NOT QUITTING! The Wisconsin labor movement is in "transition". We need to do more internal organizing

continued on page 3

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



The IAM's unioNation Band gathered at the Winpisinger Center to write, practice and perform 21 original labor songs. From left: David Riggs, Local 457; Billy Broughton, Local 1553; Mack McKinney, Local 2210; Jeffrey Jaspers, NFFE-IAM Local 1919; Brad Seefried, Local 1857; Antonio Rivera, Local 1957; Scott Peters, Local 2003; Donalyn Goodloe, Local 778; Tony Cruz, Local 2297; Andre Pipe, Local 692; Steve Eckery, Local 612; Henry Bagwell, Education Representative; Bill Kent, Local 2323; Michael Wiegert, Local 612; Mark Pietrofere, Local 709; Shelley Cooper, NFFE-IAM Local 2052; Michael Reilly, Local 2600; Eddie Pavon, Local 2600; Carol Tindall, American Federation of Musicians (AFM); Dustin Fountain, Local 1781; James Neureuther, Local 330; Dannette Jones, NFFE-IAM Local 1919; George Tindall, AFM; and Pepe Oulahan, Local 66.

I cannot thank United Lodge 66 enough for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the second round of unioNation held at the Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in October. It was by far the most inspirational and energy filled union program I have ever attended.

The week started on Saturday with 24 Machinist musicians, singers and songwriters from across the USA and Canada meeting each other for the first time. Then we received our assignment: write, learn, rehearse and otherwise prepare an hour and a half of labor related music to be performed on Thursday.

We were then informed that a video of the concert would be delivered to the IAM Executive Committee for review. And, based on their evaluation a decision would be made as to whether we would be invited to perform at the 2016 Grand Lodge Convention in September. No pressure right?

I have to admit that I, like many others there, had doubts that it could be done. But, within the next four days the group broke into individual ensembles, worked hard and delivered a concert that featured 19 original songs, garnered high praise from those in attendance and left me feeling tremendously privileged to have been a part of this amazing effort.

Begun in 2012, the first wave of the unioNation band has produced a two disc CD and performed at several union events including the Grand Lodge Convention in Canada.

I am anxiously waiting to hear if we are chosen this time around. I am very glad to have represented our Local in unioNation. I would also like to give a special note of appreciation to W3 Instructor and unioNation Chairperson Henry Bagwell for having the vision and skill to organize this program intended to create a new labor music history.

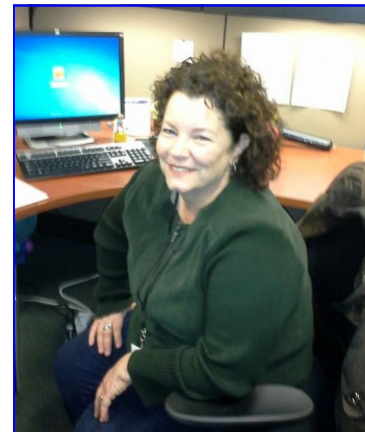
<http://www.unionation.com/>

The unioNation CD is available [Click HERE to get it!](http://unionation.com/store/)
(<http://unionation.com/store/>)

New LL66 Recording Secretary Committed to Keeping Unions Strong

by Pepe Oulahan

Sister Liz Falkowski was appointed to the position of Recording Secretary for LL66 at the Executive Board Meeting in October.



Liz

Falkowski will replace DiAnn Fechter who left the position to assume her new duties as business representative for IAMAW District 10. Falkowski will serve as an appointee until the Lodge can run an election for the position, most likely at the beginning of next year.

Falkowski, works for the State AFL-CIO Labor Education and Training Center (LETC) and the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP). Prior to this she was a long-time UAW Member at Delphi Corporation in Oak Creek, WI.

Born and raised in Milwaukee Falkowski's family has roots in Flint Michigan, the automotive industry and the UAW. "I have been a strong supporter of unions my whole life."

Falkowski's first experience with unions was when as a young woman she worked for a while at a non-union grocery store. She then landed a job in an organized store and her pay doubled, she had guaranteed benefits and access to health insurance.

"I have always supported my Union. I feel it is important to attend meetings and stay involved. I accepted this appointment because I feel that now more than ever we need to step up to the plate and make sure our Unions stay strong," said Falkowski.

and member education. Since RTW only a small amount of workers have left the UNION, this is because of the hard work of Stewards and Union Leadership. Our focus is on solidarity round tables, accountability with our elected officials. We need to ensure that local politics/boards are more “labor friendly”, and we need to continue to organize both internally and externally. Phil said that “union leaders can’t just talk the talk; we have to walk the walk”. According to polls 60% of all people support unions. We must educate, motivate, mobilize, and organize...

Friday Sept. 25th began with Grand Lodge Rep. (Marty St. Peters). Marty asked all Veterans to stand and be recognized for their contribution to this great country! He reminded us to let our members know that the IAM has a disaster relief fund available to help members in need of assistance. Guidelines do apply but members need to know the benefit is there. The next Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Chicago. There will be a raffle of (one pound of Gold) coming up to help with the fundraising. Marty said we need change the mindset of non-union employees who think (“I don’t get those benefits and neither should you”, to that of asking the question (“how can I have the same benefits as you?”)

The MNPL has contributed more money to the Midwest Territory than this area has contributed. IAM has recognized the attacks on workers in this area. Before the MNPL contributes and funds to potential candidates a few things need to happen...we need to have a meeting between the local lodge/district and the candidate. We then need to let them know OUR ISSUE and see what the candidate’s position is on that issue. We then file a report on that meeting so that we can hold that candidate accountable.

Secretary-Treasurer of WI State AFL-CIO (Stephanie Bloomingdale) was our next speaker. She thanked Russ for his leadership and support and wished him well in retirement. She informed the delegates that John Boehner has decided to resign as “Speaker of the House”. She reminded us of the importance that we stick together as Union Brothers and Sisters. She said that “Americans work best when Americans work together!” This is not the philosophy of Scott Walker who chooses to divide and conquer. That is the very opposite of what unions are about.

Attorney Steve Kluender of The Previant Law Firm which sole mission is to represent individuals in labor was our next speaker. He spoke to the delegates about the Worker’s Compensation Advisory Council. This council is made of 5 members hand-picked by Labor and 5 members handpicked by Employers. The council provides a vehicle to provide recommendations to the Workers Compensation Laws. Steve stated that the current council is politicized. He said the management proposals would ensure that management/employers along with insurance companies win and the injured workers would lose. Steve provided us with a copy of these proposals which I will have available at the Local Lodge.

Our very own brother Brian Goode of Union Financial was our next presenter. He has a passion for helping Union members prepare for “retirement readiness”. He showed a cute little clip about what it’s like to be a financial advisor and the challenges that they face. If you do not currently have a financial planner that you trust I personally would recommend Brian Goode and Union Financial. The service he provides to see where you stand currently on your road to retirement is NO COST TO UNION MEMBERS. Brian will then help you develop a plan/strategy to help you in achieving your goals so that you can retire successfully. I honestly cannot think of a good reason for any member not to take the time to speak with Brian or any member of Union Financial and let them help you.

Assistant Minority Leader, Representative 71st Assembly District (Katrina Shankland) spoke with the delegates about the consequences of RTW. She says our economy is lagging while Minnesota is thriving. We have no funding for our roads, and no funding for our education. No republicans are willing to support her proposal that the state be reimbursed for Gov. Walker’s personal travel. She touched on the failings of WEDC and the attack on the open records law.

Wisconsin Senator (Julie Lassa) of District 24 met with us on Saturday. She said that “good news is in short supply in Madison”. She says that RTW doesn’t work and isn’t right for our State. She says that the prevailing wage law is the next target for Republicans. People are slipping from the middle class in Wisconsin faster than any other state. As far as WEDC she said that 6000 fewer jobs were created than last year while they spent \$90 million dollars more. Julie says republicans will continue the war on workers. We must keep fighting! Keep contacting your legislatures! Hold your elected officials accountable and GET OUT AND VOTE!

The following was provided to the delegates and I found it interesting to say the least...

I hate Unions.

Therefore, I hate all the gains Unions have won through the years...decent wages, paid holidays, paid vacations, pensions, sick leave, seniority, overtime pay. I believe my foreman should be allowed to fire me if he wants to give my job to his cousin.

I hereby authorize the company to deduct from my check each week the full amount of any wage increase won by the Union and donate it to the American Red Cross.

Your Signature

IAM Applauds Secretary Clinton's Opposition to the TPP

The Machinists Union welcomed the announcement by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that she will oppose the deeply-flawed and secretly-negotiated Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"Secretary Clinton has once again demonstrated her strong support for American workers and businesses by expressing her opposition to the deeply flawed Trans-Pacific Partnership," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "By any measure, the corporate-driven TPP would expedite the offshoring of American jobs and put continued downward pressure on the wages of struggling working families."

Representing nearly 600,000 active and retired members across North America, the IAM was the first major industrial trade union to endorse Secretary Clinton for President.

"The IAM looks forward to working with Secretary Clinton, and others, who want to craft trade agreements that create jobs, raise wages, protect the environment, and ensure the safety of our food. Global trade agreements can be beneficial, but only if such agreements put the interests of ordinary Americans over those of multinational corporations," said Buffenbarger.

Membership Reminders

As the seasons change it is a good time to update any membership information that may have changed (name, address, phone, email, employment). It is very important to keep your membership information up to date with your Union. The companies as a rule do not forward information to the Union.

There are many times when members need to report membership status. You are responsible to keep the union informed of your status. Some examples are laid off, sick leave, and contact information is always necessary. If you leave your job for some reason, there are withdrawal application forms available, Retirement forms, Transfer forms they need to be requested by you as a member. You can ask your committee people or call the hall (414) 671-3800.

Every new member has to fill out a membership application. They are available from committee persons or at the hall. This also goes for reinstatement forms. If you get a withdrawal card or lapse you membership you have to fill out the same form when you begin employment with the same company you left or go to another shop represented by the Machinists Union.

The most important thing to remember is *YOU ARE THE UNION*. Your involvement is crucial to have good contracts, representation and benefits. The Machinists Union is a very Democratic Union in all off the Officers and Representatives are elected by the Membership. Do your part and be active for a rewarding membership experience.

In Solidarity,

Ivan Collins

Secretary-Treasurer IAM Lodge 66



Ivan

Know Your Legislators and



Just to complain at work, at home, at church, at a bar, or anywhere does no good if you do not express your opinion to your elected representatives. A simple note sent to him/her really means something. Here is how you can find out who is your state representative.

To find them online: <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov>. Once this is up you choose assembly or senate in the upper left corner. Then you type in your address in the search field located in the upper right hand corner.

Or you can call 1-800-362-9472. You will need to give your address; then ask who is your state senator and or assembly person; and ask what district you are in.

Once you get the contact information go ahead and give them your opinion but be polite.

public benefits

Maybe take a little time and see if your family may qualify for public benefits and services to help cover the costs of food, utilities health care and medicine.

Try this quicklink from AARP and it will only take you a few minutes.

www.aarp.org/findbenefitsnow.

After you have read the hard copy from our **Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Conference** and the **Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans Luncheon**, remember there are videos at the following locations:

- www.unitedlodge66.org
- www.youtube.com/badgerlodge
- www.facebook.com/unitedlodge66

Redistricting or Excessive Right Wing Gerrymandering? Fair Elections Group Takes Question to Court

Gerrymandering is defined as manipulating the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favor one party or class. The word's origin dates back to 1812, when Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry drew up a legislative district map so obviously designed to favor his party that it resembled a salamander.

Why is it that in 2012 Democrats won 53.5% of the vote in Wisconsin yet hold only 39% of the seats in the Wisconsin Assembly? According members of the bipartisan group Fair Elections Project Wisconsin it is the result of a gerrymandered map created by republican leaders. In a lawsuit filed in the US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin the group claims the map is constructed to so excessively benefit republican candidates that there are close to zero percent chances that Democrats will win a majority under it's ten year life.

Adding to the suspect circumstances surrounding the design of this map is that during its creation Republican legislators were only allowed to view their own district lines. And, in order to do so they had to sign a pledge that they would not divulge information about the map to anyone. According to the lawsuit 17 Republican Senators and 58 Republican Assembly Members signed this document. No Democratic legislators were allowed to view the map until it was formally introduced.

The Ugly Perfect Storm

As fate would have it the election of Scott Walker and his Tea Party cohorts in 2010 coincided with the ten-year U.S. Census. Every census creates the data that enables each state to redraw legislative maps to include updated population information. The Supreme court has ruled that these maps must reflect the concept of "one person one vote", meaning that each person's vote should count as much as every other individual vote. In addition the maps are required to include roughly equal numbers of residents, be relatively compact and not discriminate against particular demographic groups such as ethnic or racial minorities.

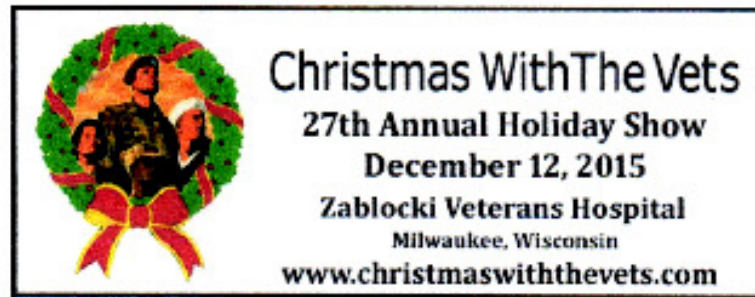
Every ten years state legislators are required to re-draw their legislative boundary lines in accordance with the census information and have it signed by the Governor. This has only happened once in Wisconsin in the last 30 years due to the Governor and legislators failing to agree on a fair map. When this happens the courts step in and draw the maps.

It is not unusual for maps re-drawn under administrations with Governors and legislative majorities from either party to result in an efficiency gap that favors their party. However the extent to which the Wisconsin map favors Republicans is excessive. "We are so out of the norm," said Attorney Peter Earl, one of the attorneys involved in the case.

Looking at 786 state legislative maps since 1972 it was determined that only 4% had resulted in an efficiency gap similar to the 12% now found in Wisconsin. "Democracy has been eroded by this excessive partisanship," stated Wisconsin Representative Fred Kessler.

So, once again we see more evidence of Scott Walker and his administration aggressively moving to place Wisconsin in a power lock, shrouded in secrecy, while they busily chop away at worker rights all things controlled by the public.

The one thing people who engage in this type of power mongering count on is that we (the public) are not paying attention. When election time comes they rely on us to concern ourselves with one, often emotionally charged, issue while they walk away with more and more of our hard fought-for rights. This is why it is so important that we bring these issues to light and talk about them. Whether you agree or don't agree is not nearly as important as having the conversation. Remember, solidarity is not built in silence!



Christmas With The Vets

27th Annual Holiday Show

December 12, 2015

Zablocki Veterans Hospital

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

www.christmaswiththevets.com



Bringing Christmas to our Soldiers - Sailors - Airmen - Marines

This event is only for our Veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center

ITEMS WE NEED FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Cookies - Cakes - Doughnuts - Pies-Brownies - Kringles - Ear Muffs
Cheese/Sausage trays - Fruit Trays - Deli Trays - New Insulated Shirts L-XL
New Gloves - New Beanie Hats - New Sweat Socks - 24 Qts of Juices - 12 Gallons
2% Milk - Pen/Paper Sets - Oranges / Apples - Door Prizes - Beef Jerky Sausage
Links - Chips - Pretzels - Muffins-All Flavors - All Types of Nuts - Disposable
Razors - 3 foot Sub Sandwiches - Thermal Tops (Lg / XL) Lap Blankets - Plastic
Forks / Spoons - 12oz Plastic Cups - 12" To Go Containers

Cash Contribution's
For Bingo - Vets Events
Vets Christmas Cash
Appreciated

Checks Payable To:
Jeff Dentice / Vets Christmas Show
Please Send To:
JEFF DENTICE
S108 W19843 Red Oak Court
Muskego, WI. 53150
Please Put:
Xmas VAVets 2015
On The Check Memo Line

We Will Make Pickups
December 11th Last Day
8am - Noon
Jeff Dentice: 414-218-3030
docdentice@wi.rr.com

**We
Have
Enough
Volunteers
At This
Time
Thank
You**

Non Perishable Items

Start October 1st

Fresh Food Items Start

Dec. 7th

Last Minute Contributions Dropoff Info

December 12th from 11:30am to 12:30pm
Enter from 44th National Ave.
Drive up to the East hospital doors.
Volunteers will take your contribution.
Cash - Check - Note In Envelope
With Your Name & Address
Attention: Jeff Dentice On The Envelope

Vets Christmas Collection Points

All Non-perishables items
Nov. 15 - Dec. 10 9am - 4pm
Food items - Dec. 7 - 10 9am - 4pm

PARATECH AMBULANCE
94th Brown Deer Road
Milwaukee

EDWARD JONES
S72W16484 Jancsvilee Rd.
Muskego

Wisconsin Alliance of Retired Americans Senior Power Luncheon

by Dan Bell

Brothers and sisters, I want to thank you for sending me to the WIARA Senior Power Lunch on Oct. 12, 2005. As you know the WIARA is a non-partisan, benevolent advocacy that looks out for the interests of our seniors, retirees, pensioners, workers, families, children, disabled and Veterans. And just like our Amalgamated Lodge, there are many contributing agencies that participate in the advancement and well-being if its success.

As a retired IAM Union Chairman and present WIARA executive board member, it's easy for me to see the symbiotic relationship and synergistic assimilation between our Union Brothers and Sisters and our retired workers. Together we are exponentially stronger and it's in everybody's best interest to advocate strength in each other for the propulsion of a better future as a whole. God willing, present hard working men and women become well deserved retirees.

One of the best ways to advocate for all is to become involved. The WIARA tries to stay in front of proposed and pending legislation that affect our loved ones by identifying what entities drive proposed legislation and what its outcome would mean if passed. That's why the guest speakers at their functions are usually dynamic "shakers" of interpreted legislation, such as Supreme court Justices, Senators, Congressmen/women, the Heads of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to name a few.

This past WIARA Senior Power Lunch guest speaker (Monday Oct.12) was Congressman Mark Pocan who gave an emotional and impassioned personal testament to his own mothers' struggle while trying to survive on her \$1300 a month Social Security as a sole source of income. Her modest home in Kenosha was paid -off decades ago while owning a 1999 car that she rarely drives today. As they poured over her bills and her austere life style, he realized that there was no more anything to trim and she could no longer make ends meet. THIS, as the Republican legislators announced today that there will be no cost of living increase for Social Security recipients because "the cost of gasoline is on the rise" ??? An ironic conundrum as she no longer drives.

Born into a "Blue collar" family he was raised with a moral and ethical code embedded into his sense of pride, honor, dignity and integrity that all of you share. These are intrinsic factors that are born to the humble that the indigenous wealthy can never know. Congressman Pocan also spoke of the pending Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) that will put even more power into (my words) the insatiable gapping maw of greedy corporations that will sell-out America's workers to third world accomplices for higher profits at the expense of our economy and struggling middle class families. (this topic was discussed heavily by the Democratic debates last night, with both Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton denouncing the legislation as terrible for the working middle class and America). Congressman Pocan urges everybody to call their representatives at 202 225 3121 and have them say no to TPP.

We can oust the stooges for the wealthy and turn our politics away from the corruption and impunity that their large donations from clandestine sources generates anonymously. Protect our GAB (government accountability board) from the attacks to dismantle the GAB from its role to oversee clean politics as the Republicans try to remove campaign contribution limits.

Hearings are being held as we speak by proposals AB388/SB294 (Gutting the Government Accountability Board: to eliminate independent oversight over politicians and elections) and

AB387/SB292(Campaign finance law overhaul: increases amount of money in elections and removes our rights to know who is spending money to influence elections.)

Seek out the information that affects your families and react. Talk to your co-workers friends and family, explain the detriments of these proposed changes and how it will alter their lives if not understood and fought against. Know that you argue from a position that is beyond reproach because you fight, not for yourself but for a better future for all, while the selfish/greedy only have themselves.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent the IAM at the WIARA Senior Power Lunch. My soul is renewed when I see our members at the 66 Union meetings, trying to gather information to share with their Brothers and Sisters back in the shops.

Stay together, stay strong and try, try and try.

The promise of a new horizon is within grasp.

In Solidarity

PS See you at the next meeting and bring a new brother or sister with you.



Mark Pocan

Our Governor Working For Wisconsinites

Remember or be informed that during his first term Scot Walker had the legislature change the rules where *he has the final say on any proposals of any of the departments.*

Conservation and our Natural Resources

As was reported in late September 2015 that a land owner, in Sawyer County, wants permission to permanently position a floating bog near his land on the Chippewa Flowage. The problem started with prevailing winds which has pushed the bog near his land sometimes blocking the lake access. He hired a tugboat, to the lake to push it back. The only problem is that it floated back.

Now this is not any land owner but Richard E. Uihlein, CEO of the Uline Corporation and who has contributed \$3,000,000 to the political campaigns of Scott Walker.

He wants to permanently move the bog away from his land and anchor it to the lake bottom with 50 pilings but sticking 15 feet above the Chippewa Flowage.

This would all have to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources, over which Walker has the final word.

Editors note: most of us lucky to live on a lake and having those floating bogs just have to live with it and not damage nature!

Changing Civil Servants to Indentured Servants

Wisconsin in 1885 passed the first civil service laws. This was first meant to develop a merit system for Milwaukee's police and fire departments. It went on to forbid bribery and other corrupt practices in state and local government hiring practices.

While Walker took away all collective bargaining rights of public employees with Act 10, at least those most important **now he want to decimate the civil service rules.**

His proposals, at least what is known, would:

- Drop the exams that job candidates for state government are often required to take in favor of a resume system.
- Define 'just cause' for firing employees so the state can immediately dismiss for showing up to work drunk, being physically violent, engaging in sexual harassment, stealing taxpayer goods or not showing up to work for three days in a year with no notification.
- Shorten the appeals process by more half for employees being disciplined or fired..
- Put in place a single employee discipline system across nearly all state agencies.

This would mean that any elected official could give preference to persons they know even over a more qualified applicant. The days of cronyism would return.

There is also the threat, since Walker has already done it, to check the recall petition and see if you signed it!

Balanced Budget? Not His 71 Day Presidential Run

It seems Walker spent money faster than it came in and he has a \$1 million deficit. The campaign spend \$1.9 million on payroll for 80 staffers with several at a rate of \$200,000 per year.

Walker even put his two sons, Matt and Alex, on payroll and each were paid \$1,540 a month, collecting a combined income of nearly \$10,000 during the campaign.

Wisconsin taxpayers paid \$125,000 for Walker's security yet Walker has not reimbursed Wisconsin \$67,280 back to the state.

Building Own Pathway on State Land

Now the Mrs. Elizabeth Uihlein, as also reported in mid September, wants to by some 1.75 acres of state land on Rest Lake, in Vilas County. Her reason is that she owns a condo complex adjacent to this land and wants free access to the lake.

She could not wait and 'modestly' cut and removed about 500' of vegetation and brush to complete a footpath through this state property!

Any sale of state land would have to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources, over which Walker has the final word.

Editors note: anyone who spends time outdoors and utilizes public land knows it is illegal not to cut a branch!

Government Accountability Board is Scrapped

This bi-partisan board was developed to oversee elections, set standards of ethics and hold our elected representatives. It was developed because of the state corruption of 10 years ago.

Republicans and Walker feel they were unfairly treated during the 2011 and 2012 treatment.

Part of Walker's claim was, "GAB wanted to consider Mickey Mouse and Adolf Hitler as valid signatures on recall petitions. #reformGAB."

Politifact Wisconsin determined there is no evidence to support that.

**Power Corrupts;
Absolute
Power Corrupts
Absolutely**

Attn: High School Students

Wisconsin Labor History Society
Announces 2015-2016 ...

Win Cash Prizes!

Labor History Essay Contest

Win cash prizes up to \$500

For essays of about 750 words on the topic:

***"Unions have been important to my family and my
community because ..."***

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its High
School Essay Contest for the 2015-2016 School Year.

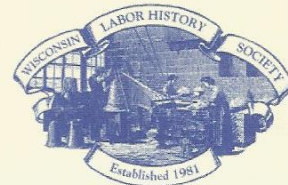
Wisconsin high school students (grades 9-12)
are eligible to participate.

Students are urged to interview family members, neighbors,
friends or others for their stories about work and unions.
Teachers are urged to assist students in their efforts.

*(For more information, including examples of past winning essays, go to our web-
site: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org)*

TOP PRIZES!

- ◆ First Prize: \$500
- ◆ Second Prize: \$300
- ◆ Third Prize: \$200
- ◆ Honorable Mention:
\$100 (Up to five
awarded)



Rules: Essays should be approximately 750 words in length. They will be judged on understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on white paper. Two copies must be submitted (One may be a photocopy.) Please be sure to provide the following information on the cover sheet: Your name, address, home telephone number, your grade in school, name and address of your school, and, if you were encouraged or assisted by a teacher, the teacher's name. (Also, list your family's union membership, if applicable.) If you have any questions, contact: Harvey J. Kaye (920-465-2355 or kayeh@uwgb.edu). **Submissions must be postmarked Feb. 13, 2016 or before.**

Send completed essays to:

**Prof. Harvey J. Kaye, Center for History and Social Change
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay WI 54311**

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Democrats rule out entitlement changes in budget talks

from politico.com

By Burgess Everett

10/15/15

Democrats are drawing an early line in the sand for this fall's budget negotiations, saying they will reject any effort to make changes to entitlement programs as part of the talks, according to a source familiar with the discussions.

The declaration effectively limits the scope of the budget talks to a small-ball deal to fund the government for one year, possibly two. Republican senators said in a series of interviews they're more likely to agree to higher funding levels if they can slow down mandatory spending on Social Security and Medicare.

But congressional Democrats are making clear that there will be no changes to those benefits as part of a deal intended to eliminate the threat of a government shutdown from the presidential primary season, as well as stave off budget cuts from sequestration, which are restricting both military and domestic spending.

Democrats do not believe there is a realistic scenario to find more than about \$80 billion in new spending for the military and domestic programs, potentially restricting budget negotiators to a deal that does not last through the election. That would mean lawmakers would have to strike another spending deal in the fall of 2016.

Congressional Republicans want budget cuts or fee increases to pay for any increases in spending, and wringing billions out of the budget for a spending bill is always a difficult exercise. Republicans said they were still optimistic there might be a broader deal.

continued by

By Katie Glueck

The negotiations have been complicated by Boehner's impending resignation as speaker and have now been mostly decoupled from the battle to raise the debt ceiling. The current funding bill runs out on Dec. 11, but the debt ceiling must be lifted by Nov. 3, according to the Treasury Department. That makes it very likely that the spending package and debt limit increase will move independently of each other.

As part of a possible budget deal, Republicans had floated cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security and raising Medicare eligibility, which was first reported by CNN. But Democrats say that's outside the bailiwick of the talks.

"If there's going to be any cuts and savings in Social Security it will be kept in Social Security so that the program will last longer," said Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.). "It isn't as if we are going to transfer money out of Social Security to cover our budget needs."

Congress finally agreed on a permanent change to Medicare payments to doctors in the spring after such an agreement eluded them since the 90s, raising hopes among Republicans that entitlements would again be on the table this fall. And, for the budding budget talks, the problem with avoiding entitlements is it creates much less incentive for fiscal conservatives to go along with a budget deal, Republican senators said.

"We've got to get into mandatory spending, those are the cuts, the savings that stick. And most of us would trade higher discretionary spending to do it," said Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

Instead Democrats are open to revenue raisers like spectrum sales or the grab bag of money in the Senate-passed highway bill. But Republicans said Thursday that they were unlikely to raid the carefully crafted transportation bill to pay for other domestic spending.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/10/house-democrats-budget-entitlements-214862#ixzz3oxPRMkMi>

Your Assignment!

We can not trust any elected official to do what is right for us but we must communicate to them what we need and then hold them accountable.

While watching your favorite show (or even in your best deer blind) write two or three paragraphs to your representative and tell them you want and request written answer.

Share your answer with us (me), to be printed in a future newsletter.

Thanks,
Doug Curler, *editor*
dougcurler@gmail.com, to which to send your communications.

Send Your Thoughts, *To those who should be working for you!*

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Seniors Corner

SSA Announces 0% COLA in 2016, Triggering Major Cost Increases for Medicare Beneficiaries

Social Security Administration (SSA) officials announced on Thursday that there will be no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security beneficiaries in 2016.

The announcement is particularly troubling because it triggers a premium spike and a major increase in deductibles for Medicare beneficiaries. If Congress does not act soon, the Medicare Part B premium could increase by 52%, to \$159 per month, for 30 percent of people with Medicare. Deductibles could increase to \$223 for every person with Medicare.

“We are extremely disappointed about the Social Security COLA announcement,” said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance. “We will take immediate action to limit the damage by addressing the effect the news will have on Medicare beneficiaries.”

The Alliance has already begun taking action to deal with the issue as it relates to Medicare. A petition urging Congress to address the matter has gathered more than 100,000 signatures. Alliance members are also asked to contact their Members of Congress directly and urge them to support the Medicare Premium Fairness Act of 2015 (S. 2148 and H.R. 3696), recently introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (OR) and Rep. Dina Titus (NV).

[Click here to email your members of Congress and tell them to support the Medicare Premium Fairness Act of 2015, which would prevent massive Medicare increases in 2016.](#) This bill will prevent next year’s massive spike in out-of-pocket Medicare expenses for seniors and people with disabilities.

Virginia Alliance President Ron Thompson is quoted in a [New York Times story](#) about the issue. It’s just the third time in 40 years that payments will remain flat, and all three times have come since 2010. The main reason for no increase next year is low gas prices. For more information about how this may affect you, watch this previously recorded [online chat](#) that the Alliance, Medicare Rights Center and Social Security Works held on Thursday to address the issue.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

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IAM 2014 Newsletter and Website Contest

Best Feature - Newsletter

Local Lodges

United Lodge 66 was awarded: 2nd Place: Local 66, Milwaukee, WI, Badger Lodge News, Doug Curler, Editor, “Why Should I Care About Helping Others Form a Union.” A quick look at the benefits of Union membership vs. non-Union employment. The piece reminds us how the IAMAW strives to improve the lives of members.

This is a copy of the piece submitted to our Communications Department for this contest and it was in the January 2014 Badger Lodge News

Why Should I Care About Helping Others Form a Union?

by Larry Morrow

First look at what a benefit belonging to a Union gives to its Members.

- On average Union members make 30% more than their counterparts doing the same job. This done through the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) that clearly establishes pay rates for jobs.
- A true Grievance Process that addresses workplace issues. Giving true representation through your Union with the Company.
- Elimination of pay inequity. Same pay for the same job for everyone doing the job.
- Benefits Package
- Health Insurance (medical, dental, vision)
- Guaranteed pensions

The list can go on but this should give a general idea of what you gain with a Union. Now look at what a Non-Union Worker has.

- On Average makes 30% less than a union worker.
- No true grievance process.
- Usually the final decision is dictated by upper management as final and binding.
- “At Will” Employee.
- Can be let go at any time. No reason need be given.
- NO Wage Guarantees.
- Wages can be changed and no equal pay for equal job needs to be addressed.
- One person makes \$20/hr. while another person doing the same job \$15/hr.
- No True Benefit package.
- Health Insurance that can be arbitrarily changed by the Company without any discussion or agreement with the employees up to and including total dismissal.
- “Pension”. Usually a 401k plan that the Company can match or not and can change the matching amounts up to including no match without discussing with the employees. Usually fees and charges are passed along to the employee.

As you can see the advantages of being in a Union outweigh those of being a non-union worker (At Will employee).

The Machinists Union has always strived to help and improve our member’s lives. We have stood up to corporate greed, over reaching rules and regulations and greedy self-serving politicians and groups. We have fought for the unorganized. We have fought for their safety, welfare and fairness in the workplace.

Here are Five Good Reasons why workers need to unite to form a Union:

1 - By Working together, they strengthen their ability to win better wages, affordable health care, retirement package and safe workplaces.

2 - According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Union members are much more likely to have health benefits and pensions.



is

continued on next page

3 - For minority workers, the Union impact is even greater. Women workers who are Union members earn nearly \$9,000 a year more than their non-union counterparts. For African-American workers, the Union differential is also about \$9,000, and for Latino workers the yearly advantage is more than \$11,000.

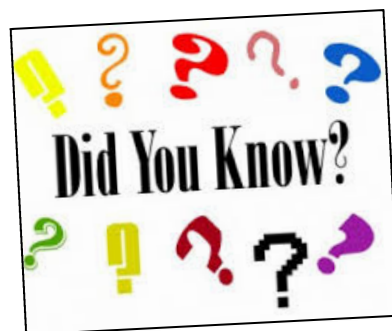
4 – Along with helping workers win better wages and benefits, unions help all workers by giving working families a stronger voice in our communities, in the political arena, and in the global economy.

5 - By joining together, we can build the strength to hold elected officials accountable, stop the "race to the bottom" by employers who cut wages and benefits in favor of bigger profits, and win improvements such as affordable, quality health care for all.

Are you starting to see why it is important that we all work together to “organize the un-organized”? We all need to help educate the non-union worker of what they can gain by belonging to a Union. As you talk to people about the Union stay positive. You do have what they want. Get their name and phone number. Tell them that we have someone they can talk to confidentially that can give them more information concerning the joining or forming a Union. Have them call Local Lodge 66 at (414) 671-7015. In a couple weeks after you talked to them call them and see if they have any more questions and ask if they contacted the Local.

Did you know that labor Unions made the following 36 things possible?

1. Weekends without work
2. All breaks at work, including your lunch breaks
3. Paid vacation
4. Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
5. Sick leave
6. Social Security
7. Minimum wage
8. Civil Rights Act/Title VII - prohibits employer discrimination
9. 8-hour work day
10. Overtime pay
11. Child labor laws
12. Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA)
13. 40-hour work week
14. Workers' compensation (workers' comp)
15. Unemployment insurance
16. Pensions
17. Workplace safety standards and regulations
18. Employer health care insurance
19. Collective bargaining rights for employees
20. Wrongful termination laws
21. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA)
22. Whistleblower protection laws
23. Employee Polygraph Protection Act (EPPA) - prohibits employers from using a lie detector test on an employee
24. Veteran's Employment and Training Services (VETS)
25. Compensation increases and evaluations (i.e. raises)
26. Sexual harassment laws
27. Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
28. Holiday pay
29. Employer dental, life, and vision insurance
30. Privacy rights
31. Pregnancy and parental leave
32. Military leave
33. The right to strike
34. Public education for children
35. Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011 - requires employers pay men and women equally for the same amount of work
36. Laws ending sweatshops in the United States



Activities for You and Your Family

- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council** delegate meeting: **November 4, 2015** at **6:30pm**, new location at Juneau Complex, in auditorium, 6415 W. Mount Vernon.
- Redesigned Website and compatible to cell phone and tablet—**TRY IT!**
- Videos are at www.youtube.com/badgerlodge.
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** class schedule for 2015 is available (<http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/courselist>) or at your Union office. Or come to any Union meeting and just ask. This center is open to all members, you just need to be active and want to be the future leader at your worksite or at United Lodge 66.



million people in this country illegally are working.' This is one good fact to keep in mind since those workers pay taxes.

Another statement in the article was that according to the Pew Research Center that most live in six states: California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey and Illinois. And that half are Mexican.

From this I could almost assume the reactionary half baked idea of Scott Walker to build a wall at the Canadian border may do some good!!!

In a October 25, 2015 Milwaukee *Journal* from Politifact Wisconsin looking into Senator Ron Johnson claim that 'some 8.1 million of the estimated 11 to 12

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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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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

**Business/Membership Meetings are -
2nd Tuesday, 7PM each month.**

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