# **Badger Lodge News**



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



Vol. 18 No. 1

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

January 2016

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting January 12, 2016

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 February 2016 edition of the "*Badger Lodge News*", is January 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page*.

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# Tom Buffenbarger Talks Retirement, New IAM Leadership

During his most recent conversation with host Ed Ferenc on America's Work Force Radio, IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger talked about his upcoming retirement, incoming IAM President Bob Martinez and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. With less than a



Tom & Bob

month remaining as president of the IAM, Buffenbarger made his regular call to Ferenc's show and took the time to tell listeners about the experience and skills the new international president will bring to the IAM.

"Bob has been a representative of our union from almost the day he stepped into the plant in Fort Worth," said Buffenbarger. "So coming on board is a guy who is very well-rounded, very experienced, and I think I can say from the reactions we've been getting, they are as excited for Bob as I am."

To listen to the entire radio show, <u>click here.</u> (<u>http://awfradio.com/todays-show-</u><u>11-24-15/</u>)

Buffenbarger, who turns 65 in December, explained the union's constitutional requirement that he step down at the end of the year.

"Bob fills the remainder of my term and, in 2017, the IAM exercises its election cycle," said Buffenbarger. "We are elected by general referendum of the membership. Every member has an opportunity to participate in the election of the officers of our union, and that's been the case since day one of the Machinists. And we are very proud that the members of our union still get the final say."

Buffenbarger is the 13th president in the IAM's history and has served in that position longer than anyone else.

"For an old union, only 13 of us, now soon to be 14," said Buffenbarger. "It says a lot about the stability of the Machinists. It says volumes about the great support we get from our members."

He also explained that after he retires he will continue the fight for North American working families by working to elect Hillary Cinton for president, repeal the socalled "Cadillac" excise tax on health plans and defeat the anti-worker Trans-Pacific Partnership.

WATCH: The IAM Announces the New International President

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

## **IAM International Pension Trust Retiree Convention**

November 15-19, 2015 *by Dan Bell* 

I want to thank my brothers and sisters of Lodge 66. I am truly honored to have been asked to represent them and District 10 as a delegate to the IAM Pension Retiree Convention.

Like most of you, I was quietly introduced to Unionism through the jobs that I held as a young person and the stark reality of unfairness in the workforce that my Union predecessors fought against and that we all have seen or felt firsthand throughout our working years. For me, that first summer after graduation was spent in a foundry. 120 degrees at the two SPO's that I oscillated between. They were preheated and when the whistle blew you better start putting the cores you made on the line. You were timed and when the whistle blew again 2 ½ hours later, you got your first 10 minute break. That's right, 10 minutes. Barely enough time to replenish the sweat that drenched my filthy clothes and soaked the insides of my brand new steel toed boots. Water, the most basic of necessities, was barely attained as we stood in line at the "bubbler" and ran back to our stations before that damn whistle blew again. But hey, I was making \$2.37 an hour, woo hoo and I could almost pay for the gas and insurance for my 11 year old Dodge that took me there. Lucky me. However, I was doing better than most of my friends at the age of 18. After a few months, I grabbed at another job that I heard about. It was at the



Dan

Railroad and I would be working as a Machinists Helper (The Milwaukee Road CMSTP&P). Nepotism was an accepted practice back then and it took two years of scrubbing parts bare-handed in Kerosene and Carbon- tetrachloride, before I was asked by the Machinists Union if I would want to be "tested" for a Machinists Apprenticeship. (An 8 hour IQ test conducted at MATC). (Note: Unions in general fought hard to remove the practice of Nepotism). I jumped at the opportunity to take the test being offered and my "aptitude" was deemed high. I became an Indentured Machinist Apprentice to the State of Wisconsin and The Milwaukee Road (thanks to the IAM). On the first day of Trade school, the instructor at MATC had all the apprentices stand and state their name, who they worked for and how much they were paid. When I told him how much I was paid he said "sit down and shut-up, Liar." Wait, what? I was a first year apprentice and paid \$3.52 an hour. I didn't realize it, but apparently most of those in class worked for Falk which a non-Union company was paying their apprentices less than \$2.00 per hour at that time. I had to bring in a copy of my pay stub to prove I was telling the truth. To his credit, the instructor apologized in disbelief. One of the best cases for Unionism that I've ever experienced and it certainly got the other Apprentices in class thinking. (Thank you again, IAM.) Upon finishing my apprenticeship four years later, I was a "bona fide card carry'n" IAM Journeyman Machinist and took my skills, pride all the accolades through the gates of the "pursuit of happiness". I applied at a company that was said to pay the top wages in the State of Wisconsin for Journeyman Machinists, a "Union" company and part of the Fighting IAM Machinists. I was told by the Gentleman, which eventually became my boss, that there were nearly 2,000 applications for the one opening. I worked there for the next 31 years and retired as an IAM Machinist Chairman for LL66, District 10. (Thanks again IAM)

As most of you know, there is a tremendous amount of strength afforded in knowing that you have "the Union" at your back. But it also allows you pride, dignity and a sense of honor which in the end becomes your integrity. It allows you the fortitude and voice to speak out when you see wrongs being done, to stand in front of those that are unable to speak-up or defend themselves as they are punished for perceived or alleged insignificant errors and verbally beaten down by those in power that do so simply because they can and with a zeal to assert their lordship. Yes, and we have all been there as we watched in awe as someone defended us while we were too young, innocent or naive to stand on our own wobbly little legs. On my very first day as an apprentice, the Machine Shop Superintendent, Walter, casually handed me a "G" job, to machine a "light cut" on a cylinder that somebody else had welded together. He was talking to our resident Steward at the time. (lucky for me) Upon machining through the weld, the cylinder fell apart and the Superintendent started yelling at me and accusing me of purposely ruining his cylinder. The Steward at the time was a young man named Danny Bigalke and he said "Walter you idiot, you gave that kid a job that was butt welded and not "V" grooved. It had to fall apart when he machined it. You're lucky he didn't get hurt." And then Danny came over to me and put his hand on my shoulder and asked if I was alright and quietly told me that Walter was a damn fool and that it definitely wasn't my fault. Danny of course moved on through the years and became a Union Committeeman, Union Chairman, ADBR of District No.10 and was an officer of LL66, IAM. (Thanks Danny and Thanks again IAM.)

We were all defended at one time or another by those with the courage, strength and confidence bolstered and derived by the knowledge that they were in the right and that they had the Union behind them. An inspiration that was perhaps the impetus for us to speak on behalf of others who wouldn't or couldn't speak for themselves when the time came down the road. But it's all good because we came to understand that they are the same people that also fought for better wages, benefits, healthcare, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, pensions and with a watchful, dutiful oversight of newly proposed and pending legislation that would surely affect us all...It's ok because now we understand what it took for those that went before us and paved the way and the sacrifices that they made so that we and our families had a chance at a little Happiness too. (Thanks again to the men and women of the IAM).

Like all of you I worked hard through the years, long hours for decades. We didn't have tax attorneys finding loopholes and shut-

tling our millions to the Cayman Islands. No, we were just proud to be able to pay our fair share into Federal, State, and Local taxes, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. They didn't "have" to "take it" off my pay check, I would have gladly given it for the blessings I was bestowed... but I also knew that there were those that wouldn't have paid into "the system" on their own. Selfish, "me first and what have you done for me lately" type of guys, so it had to be that we were all held accountable and it had to come off our pay checks. Right? I'm good with that, but I'm not so good with and may never understand why our large corporations don't seem to feel that same sense of duty, loyalty, and allegiance to this country anymore and why our Corporate CEO's are so indifferent to any needs other than the bottom line of the shareholders. Have they grown so far and away from us? Has their wealth put their nose so far in the air that they can no longer see the needs of their own at their feet? How did that morph into the symbiotic allegiance assimilated into foreign corporations that take our resources and technology to third world labor for the sake of the CEO, shareholders, and tax breaks? Who holds these foreign investors accountable for neutralizing the benevolence of our country with no thought of a sustaining infrastructure? Who holds the wealthy and the corporations accountable to pay "their fair share" anymore? How come it was never "automatically taken off from their paycheck?"

Is it only the men and women of Unions and the thoughtful, involved Retirees to those Unions that see the need to fight for a fair share for working people and the middle class, to enhance the social infrastructure that advances society and civilization through the convoluted metamorphosis to better the greater good for all of mankind? Where are the other defenders of truth and the American way? Where are the other Dedicated involved overseers of our cherished Medicare, Social Security and Pension programs?

As our social services are marginalized by the extreme Right and the entranced drones that sit in their living rooms every day, following the non-stop rhetoric and the one issue "talking heads" sound bites paid for by "the out-of-state wealthy" that manipulate our politicians and voters through propaganda, as they sit nodding their heads, should we not try to yank their bags of Twizzlers and Doritos from their sticky, salt-encrusted orange fingers and pull them off the couch potato merry-go-round that hypnotizes them through FOX and Rush Limbaugh? The services that we paid into our whole lives are being casually vaporized, and as legislation after legislation by "the right in the middle of the night" seems to overwhelm and inundate the prospects for a respectable future for our children and grandchildren, I hear some of our brothers say that "when the younger workers realize what's happening to them they will turn out and vote in record numbers, there will be a revolution to demand better wages, pensions, healthcare and social security". These, my friends, are the essence of happiness that We (you and I) know and that Our generation knows but that young people today, our children and our grandchildren may never know if we can't stop the hemorrhaging of rhetoric, disinformation and contextimony by the extreme right. The Labor Movement is barley a side note in the history books that they see. They have no concept of how child labor laws, the eight hour work day, pensions and healthcare, etc. came about. It's more likely than not, that the younger generation will never know how their world became less and less. They may never know that the corporations are shipping the industrial jobs out of the country to sustain the CEO's viability to the shareholders. They may never understand why they all work for service industries that provide less and less service for less and less pay as the technological resources are sold for nothing more than cheaper corporate taxes off shore. They may never understand that the anti-trust laws were broken down through legislators being lobbied and bought on behalf of the wealthy. And that the loop holes are garnered through one issue item sound bites that spew non-stop rhetoric and propaganda backed from out of state sources that no longer have to be made known who "they" are and where "their" funds come from.

As the information from the IAM Pension Retirees Convention came to permeate our being and we strained to absorb every morsel of hope from the wisdom of words put forth from Mr. Buffenbarger and Mr. Roach and many other dynamic speakers, as well as the questions and concerns that the Delegates asked of them and amongst themselves through-out the week. I realized that the depth of those concerns from these sincere, compassionate people was not for themselves, but for the legacy that they hope to leave behind. They want the younger people to have it better than they did and protect them from those that would take that hope away. They seek to find the pathways to impart their knowledge of strength through Unionism and standing together to a disillusioned younger generation of voters that may be becoming more indifferent as their hopes dim. But, the candle of hope and enlightenment still burns brightly through our retirees. They are the torch bearers of hope that illuminate the way as the family Matriarchs and Patriarchs have always done. That the light is still bright as long as the fire still lives within them and they continue to strive to share their invaluable lessons. Sure the candle may flicker from the foul breath and rhetoric of the extremists as those blow-hards of history have always done.

Rest assured, We are still here and We are still the tangible light and their best hope. The hope that our children will always have as long as we keep trying to light their lives and their pathways with our words.

As I found better jobs through-out the years and through-out the industry, I realized early-on that there are direct correlations between the respect I received on the job, my pay and my benefits to the strength of my Union.

I'm proud to have been involved with Unions for 48 years, but especially very proud and thankful to have been involved with the IAM for 46 of those years...thank God.

In Solidarity my Brothers and Sisters, Highest Regards Danny Bell, Retiree IAM



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# Machinists Members Stand With UAW Brothers and Sisters against Kohler Co!

by Ron Simmelink

Today Dec. 11th I had the privilege of supporting Union members of UAW Local 833. Four brothers of Local Lodge 66 joined me this morning picketing alongside the hard workers of Local 833 who are currently into the 4th week of a strike against Kohler Co. The fight is mainly about an unfair "two-tier" wage system that the company currently is unwilling to part with. Senior members are standing up for future generations in an attempt to get a contract that would be fair to all workers. The prior contract consisted of 5 years with no increases in pay along with the membership accepting the 2 tier system which the company said was necessary during the struggling economy at the time. Members agreed to the contract with the understanding that when things turned around the two-tier system would go away. Unfortunately that is not the case in the eyes of Kohler Co.



Pictured above from left to right...Brian Wiegand, Ron Simmelink, Steve Robinson (dark glasses) and Andy Hainzinger (holding IAMAW sign), along with members of UAW Local 833.

The media has reported that contract talks have once again resumed in an effort to put an end to the strike. After talking to the workers on the line, it seems the meeting consisted of about 15 - 20 minutes in which the company presented once again the exact same offer of which 94% of the workers voted down 4 weeks ago.

Moral continues to be high as the workers dig in and stand strong. Support continues as the community continues to support their efforts. They were very appreciative of our picketing with them and appreciate any financial support that they receive. They are receiving clothing, food, and toys as well should anyone want to help contribute. Please visit <u>uawlocal833.org</u> for more information.



Pictured left to right...Andy Hainzinger, Steve Robinson (rear dark glasses), Ron Simmelink, Joe (Pepe') Oulahan, Brian Wigand, along with members of UAW Local 833.

"Together we stand, divided we fall".

# From Wisconsin AFL-CIO

*The Strike has been settled*. The families of UAW Local 833 at Kohler were on strike since November 15. UAW Kohler workers were on the front line of negotiating for fair wages and benefits for middle-class families and we stand strongly with them in the struggle.

Kohler workers took a moral and necessary stand for equal pay for equal work, fighting back against an unjust two-tier wage system that pays workers different wages for the same job and traps lower tier workers in a cycle of low wages.

You can donate non-perishables, essential items like diapers, baby wipes and cleaning products, and monetary gifts to the families of UAW Local 833 at: Kohler UAW Local 833 Workers Relief Fund Emil Mazey Hall 5425 Superior Avenue Sheboygan, WI 53083

## **Christmas Party of United Lodge 66**

December 12, 2015

12-14-2015 Pay to the UAW Local 833 \$620.50 Order of UAW Local 833 \$620.50 Six Hundred Twenty and 50/100 Dollars for: Strike Assistance Solidarity Local Lodge bb

Donation for the families of UAW Local 833. This total represents \$200 from United Lodge 66, money collected from members in attendance at the Christmas Party & Brother Dan Bell donated \$100.

Children's Christmas Party Went from 10am to 1pm







Larry Morrow, in red shirt, ran the children's event as well as that for the adults held later in the evening.

There was food, refreshments, some signing as well as a visit from Santa.

# Children with Santa, only a portion













# **Adult Christmas Party**





Our Christmas Party would never be possible without the help of these members, spouses and significant others; who have given year after year.







Our Wonderful Membership always willing to enjoy a good time at the Union Hall.







#### December 23, 2015

Letter to the Editor Antigo Daily Journal 612 Superior Street Antigo, WI 54409

Our elected representatives are proposing rule changes which could deny seniors and blue collar workers the use of public lands while subsidizing the land Barrons with tax benefits (welfare) with changes to the Managed Forest Law.

Right now the MFL gives landowners a very low property tax in return they agree to make the land available for certain timber harvests and also leaving some of the land open to the public. This allows hunters access to land they normally could not afford. There are some 50,000 plots of land or 3,000,000 acres in the MFL.

The legislators are proposing to take off any cap on the amount of land that can be closed off for public use. This could mean that any land you may have had the chance to hunt on, because it was in MFL, would be closed to any public use or recreation. The present FML only allows a land owner to only close off 160 acres in each town in the state.

Right now the FML land that is open for public recreation is taxed at \$2.14 per acre and at \$10.68 per acre on closed MFL land. The legislators are proposing that the closed land would still be taxed at the \$2.14 per acre rate.

Not only would this deny public access and give the land owner a tax benefit but it would also take money away that is now used as a forestry fund mangaged by the Department of Natural Resources.

Also noted is that landowners could encircle public land with the private closed land and thus denying citizens access to state public land.

The land owners would still be given the tax break and allowed to close off their land but they would also be allowed to lease this land to others for private hunts!!!

There is another part of the bill to limit the DNR's ability to intervene and manage some endangered species on MFL lands.

This legislation is in the early stages and if you are concerned then let your opinion known by contacting the authors of this legislation. Our northern legislators supporting/proposing the changes are: State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst), 608-266-2509 or sen.tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov; State Representative Jeffrey Mursau (R-Crivitz), 608-266-3780 or rep.mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov; State Representative Mary Czaja (R-Irma), 608-266-7694 or rep.czaja@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Shame on these legislators who seem to be working against the many and only for the few. Who you vote for is very important because of the harm they accomplish once elected.

Thank you,

Doug Curler Langlade County Alliance for Retired Americans N6521 Moersch Lane Deerbrook, WI 54424 715-623-2253



# 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.

#### Letter to Editor,

Opposite columns is example that any member, member going to Machinists Union Leadership Classes, or officers should be writing to make

sure our opinion is heard. If you do not take the time it can never be rejected!





The Winpisinger Center teaches what it is to be a trade unionist. By studying labor history and the role unions play in our society, students learn that unions are more than service organizations. We are part of a larger movement toward economic and social justice with dignity on the job.

This is a benefit for all Machinists Union members who want to be better informed and further their education in the Labor Movement; to become better activists at work, in United Lodge 66 and in their community. **The 2016 Schedule is now available at :** https://winpisinger.iamaw.org/





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# Send Your Thoughts,

To those who should be working for you!

### **President Obama**

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500 www.whitehours.gov

### Senator Ron Johnson, Republican

386 Senate Russell Office BuildingWashington, DC 20510202-224-5323www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

#### Senator Tammy Baldwin, Democrat

1 Russell Courtyard Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5653 www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

### Representative Paul Ryan, 1st District, Republican

1233 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-3031 www.paulryan.house.gov

### Representative Ron Kind, 3rd District, Democrat

1502 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5506 https://kindforms.house.gov/contact

### Representative Gwen Moore, 4th District, Democrat

2245 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-4572 www.gwenmoore.house.gov

### Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, 5th District, Republican

2449 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-5101 www.sensenbrenner.house.gov

## Representative Glen Grothman 6th District, Republican

501 Cannon Office Building Washington, DC 20215 202-225-2476 https://grothman.house.gov/contact/email

# Representative Sean Duffy, 7th District, Republican

1208 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-3365 https://duffy.house.gov

**Governor Scott Walker, Republican** 115 East Capitol Madison, WI 53707 608-266-1212

# **Seniors Corner**

#### Trans-Pacific Partnership Text Proves Seniors Are Right to Worry About Higher Prescription Drug Prices

After months of secret negotiations, the Obama Administration released the text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal on Thursday.

"Now that the final wording has been made public, we know that seniors are right to be worried about the agreement's effect on prescription drug prices," said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Prescription drug prices grew by 13% in the United States last year even without this impediment to affordability."

The deal provides numerous opportunities for drug firms to contest medicinal purchasing and pricing decisions. It would keep lower cost generics drugs off the market while also lining the pockets of pharmaceutical industry executives.

"Alliance for Retired Americans activists will join with others fighting this bad deal, including working families, public health advocates and environmentalists, to defeat the TPP," Fiesta added.

#### Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter 6333 W. Bluemound Road Milwaukee, WI 53213 414-771-9511

http://www.wisconsinara.org

### **Alliance for Retired Americans**

888-16th Street, NW Suite 250 Washington, DC 20006 202-974-8222 or 888-373-6497 Fax 202-974-8256 <u>www.retiredamericans.org</u>

# Activities for You and Your Family

- Milwaukee Area Labor Council delegate meeting: January 6, 2016 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 <u>www.youtube.com/badgerlodge</u>.
- Machinists Union William W. Winpinsinger Education and Technology Center class schedule for 2015 is available (<u>http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/</u> <u>courselist</u>) 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.



United Lodge 66 Machinists Union 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438 414-671-3800 www.unitedlodge66.org www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

# Officers, LL66 Machinists Union

President Mike Pietrzykowski
Vice President Larry Morrow
Recording Secretary Liz Falkowski
Secretary Treasurer Ivan Collins
Conductor Sentinel Pepe Oulahan
Trustees: Tim Schwartz,
Bunny Browning, James Cobb
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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 lodge6@gmail.com http://www.unitedlodge66.org http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

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

## **District 10 Office Directory**

2.50.100 10 011100 211		
1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;		
dial <b>414-643-4334</b> , then extension for		
your Business Agent:		
Ben Elizondo	20	
Patrick O'Connor	17	
Scott Parr	16	
Greg Pursell	24	
Alex Hoekstra	26	
John Rolbiecki	25	
Joe Terlisner	19	
Di Ann Fechter	17	
Larry Morrow (Organizer)	15	