# **Badger Lodge News**



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



Vol. 18 No. 11

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

November 2016

## United Lodge 66 Business Meeting November 8, 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 December 2016 edition of the *"Badger Lodge News"*, is November 19.
- Contract Issues **MUST be settled** by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page*.

## **CONTENTS:**

Social Security & Medicare Update	Pg. 2
Student Load Crisis	Pg. 3
Grand Lodge Convention	Pg. 4 & 5
Union Schools	Pg. 6
High School Essay Contes	st Pg. 7
Retiree News	Pg. 8 & 9



## PLEASE POST

UNITED LODGE 66 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



It's that time of year for the United Lodge 66 Christmas Party and the Christmas Cash Raffle to be held on **December 10th** There will be a Children's Party from **10am to 1pm**.

The children must be under 13 years old.

• Your children or grandchildren <u>must be pre-registered</u> with the Lodge this year. Call the Lodge 414-671-3800 with your name, the attending child's name, age and the company name where the member works.

#### The deadline for signing up is November 18th, 2016.

• We must restrict the children to be accompanied by only 2 adults. The Children's Party is for the children.

The Adult Christmas Party will be held the evening of **December 10th from 6pm 'til 10 pm.** There will be refreshments and a buffet set up by the Executive Board.

Door prizes will be awarded every hour and the Christmas Cash Raffle will start at 9pm (you do not need to be present to win but you must purchase a ticket to win.)

Come and celebrate the Holidays with fellow Union brothers and sisters and take a chance on walking away with one or more of the thirty-one \$100.00 cash prizes! See you there.

IDC/iamawl166 / afl-cio

dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio



https://www.facebook.com/United-Lodge-66-793718930726922/

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

## Social Security and Medicare Update:

#### 2016 Trustees Reports

The fiscal challenges facing Social Security and Medicare have been well publicized, but many Americans may not be aware of the facts behind the headlines. Each year, the Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds release detailed reports to Congress on the current financial condition and projected financial outlook of these programs. Here is some background on the trust funds and key projections from the most recent reports, which were released on June 22, 2016.

#### What Are the Trust Funds?

The Social Security program consists of two parts: the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) program, which provides benefits for retired workers, their families, and survivors of workers; and the Disability Insurance (DI) program, which provides benefits for disabled workers and their families. Each program has a trust fund that holds the payroll taxes that are collected to pay benefits, as well as reimbursements from the U.S. Treasury's General Fund and revenue from income taxes on benefits.

**Contributed by:** Brian Goode, Financial Representative with Union Financial, Inc. Brian is a dues paying member of IAM Local Lodge 66. Brian is available for a no cost retirement / financial consultation for all Lodge 66 members.262-835-9111 email: goode.brian@princor.com

In Home or Union Hall Appointments available www.unionplanning.com

Medicare also has two trust funds. The Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund pays for inpatient and hospital care under Medicare Part A. The Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund comprises two accounts: one for Medicare Part B physician and outpatient costs, and the other for Medicare Part D prescription drug costs.

By law, money that is not needed to pay current benefits and administrative costs is invested in special-issue Treasury securities that earn interest. As a result, the Social Security and Medicare HI trust funds have built up reserves that can be used to cover benefit obligations if payroll tax income is insufficient to pay full benefits. (SMI Trust Fund accounts are automatically balanced through premiums and revenues from the General Fund, which provides about 74% of costs, effectively subsidizing coverage.) **Social Security Projections** 

*Editors note:* Scrap the Cap, part of this years election debate: <u>https://ssworkswa.org/scrap-the-cap/</u> (copy and paste)

To help assess the Social Security program (OASDI) as a whole, the Trustees provide theoretical projections based on the combined trust funds. In fact, under current law, the trusts are separate, and one program's taxes and reserves generally cannot be used to fund the other. However, a partial reallocation of payroll taxes from 2016 to 2018 has helped extend the life of the DI

#### Trust Fund.

Combined OASDI costs have exceeded non-interest revenue since 2010, but the trust fund reserves will increase through 2019 due to the interest payments. Beginning in 2020, annual costs are projected to exceed total income, and the Treasury will start withdrawing reserves to help pay benefits.

If there is no congressional action, the Trustees project that the combined reserves will be depleted in 2034, the same year as projected in the 2015 report. Starting in 2034, payroll tax revenue alone should be sufficient to pay about 79% of scheduled benefits, with the percentage declining gradually to 74% by 2090.

The OASI Trust Fund, considered separately, is projected to be depleted in 2035. Payroll tax revenue alone would then be sufficient to pay 77% of scheduled OASI benefits.

The DI Trust Fund is expected to be depleted in 2023, seven years later than projected in last year's report. Once the trust fund is depleted, payroll tax revenue alone would be sufficient to pay 89% of scheduled benefits.

## **Medicare** Projections

Annual costs for the Medicare program have exceeded tax income since 2008, although the Trustees project slight surpluses in 2016 through 2020 before a return to deficits thereafter. The HI Trust Fund is projected to be depleted in 2028, two years earlier than estimated last year. Once the HI Trust Fund is depleted, tax and premium income would cover 87% of estimated program costs, then decline slowly to 79% in 2040 and gradually increase to 86% by 2090. COLA and Premiums

The Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and Medicare premiums for 2017 will not be calculated until October. The Trustees reports project a small 0.2% COLA, which would result in a similar Part B premium increase for about 70% of beneficiaries — primarily current beneficiaries who have Medicare premiums deducted from their Social Security benefits. For these beneficiaries, a "hold-harmless" provision limits the dollar increase in the Medicare Part B premium to the dollar increase in their Social Security benefit.

The remaining 30% — new enrollees, wealthier beneficiaries, and those who choose not to have premiums deducted from their Social Security payments — may see a higher Part B premium increase. The monthly base premium for these beneficiaries could rise from \$121.80 in 2016 to \$149.00 in 2017. Beneficiaries subject to income-related premiums would also see increases. **Call to Action** 

The fiscal challenges facing Social Security and Medicare are a result of the aging U.S. population and increasing health-care costs. Both reports urge Congress to address these challenges in the near future so that any solutions will be less drastic and may

be implemented gradually, lessening the impact on the public.

Although a variety of potential solutions have been on the table for some time, there has been no political consensus and little effort to take action. As the reports make clear, Social Security and Medicare are not in danger of collapsing entirely, but the clock is ticking on their ability to pay full benefits. It remains to be seen whether the next Congress will address the future of "America's safety net."

U.S. Treasury securities are guaranteed by the federal government as to the timely payment of principal and interest.

(The information in this newsletter is not intended as tax or legal advice, and it may not be relied on for the -purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek tax or legal advice from an independent- professional advisor. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. Prepared by Broadridge Advisor Solutions. © 2016 Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions, Inc.)

## First Lady Michelle Obama live in Manchester, New Hampshire

Copy and paste: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ45VLgbe\_E</u>

## Governor Walker's Solution to the Student Loan Crisis? Call a Bank.



For six years, Republicans have refused to meaningfully address the crisis of student loan debt in our state - and the press

stunt they held this week has not changed that trend. Instead of addressing the student loan debt crisis with a real plan, Gov. Scott Walker took the moment to promote the big banks that continue to profit off the backs of Wisconsin borrowers. Walker is complacent with the student debt everyday Wisconsinites face and is unwilling to support legislation that allows borrowers to refinance their student loans at a lower interest rate, just as an individual can do with a mortgage. Without that support many young people cannot buy a home or a car, which not only helps them but also helps our economy.

It's time for Wisconsin lawmakers to put the future of the next generation before their greedy special interest pals who inappropriately make money on the backs of Wisconsinites. It is wrong and there is no acceptable reason for not allowing students to negotiate their loans like we can with a mortgage. Instead of pandering to their special interest pals, Republicans should focus on helping the more than one million Wisconsinites burdened with over \$19 billion in student loan debt.

We need Democratic leadership in Madison that will put the needs of Wisconsin's borrowers first instead of big money interests. Democrats believe that earning a degree shouldn't result in a lifetime of debt. No one should be punished for trying to get a good education and neither should our economy.





#### by Scott Hunter (works at Ocean Spray)

I would like to thank everyone for electing me to go to the grand lodge convention. While I was there I met a lot of interesting people that shared the same struggles as we do. On Tuesday night, Brother Mike Oettel and I decided that we were going to do something out of the norm and try to meet some people that don't hang out at the same places we hung out for the first 2 days that we were there. I asked Brother Mike if he would like to hang outside the elevators and hand out cold beverages to people coming off of the elevators and see if we can get to know them better.

It was a great night we talked to about 15 people that night from all over the country. The next night Brother Mike went to bed early and I was down stairs in front of the hotel when a group of IAM people I didn't even know said "hey you would you like to come with us"? I thought to myself, why not they are just more people I haven't talked to yet. So we walked to the south loop and sat at a table and talked for a while. I told them what Brother Mike and I did the night before and one person, Sister Helen Mary Lynch said "that's a great idea. We could do this as a fund raiser". When I woke up the next day I was standing outside the hotel with Brother Mike before we went in to session and told him what happened and he said, "Cool. Count me in".

Later we met up with Sister Helen and made a plan to procure some 12 oz. beverages and a cooler for the fund raiser. In session, Helen made an announcement that we would be on the 15th floor outside the elevators at 7pm raising money for The Guide Dogs of America and we would be handing out 12 oz. gifts for stopping by.

After session, we talked to Brother Alex Hoekstra, our directing business agent to see if he could help us out with the small problem of the 12oz gifts. He said "I have plenty of 12 oz. gifts. Take as many as you like and this cooler to keep them cold. This is a great cause".

At 7pm, we sat on the couch and waited for the people to start coming off the elevators. The first one opened and it was empty. Sister Helen said "well if we make 2 or 3 hundred dollars this would be great". I said "it sure would if anyone shows up". About 7:15 pm they did. One elevator after another people showed up. We even had IP Robert Martinez show up and take pictures with us.

After the pictures, I need to step away and get some fresh air, so I went outside and told more people about the fund raiser on the 15th floor. When I returned, the IAM band was playing guitars on the couch. More people showed up, along with most of the teachers from the Winpisinger center. The later it got the more people that showed up. Around midnight, a very nice lady that asked not to be named came up to me and said "you guys are doing a great thing here. But it is getting a little too loud for this part of the hotel. We are not going to shut it down so I got you a banquet room to move to. Just clean up when you guys are doine and have fun".

When we moved down to the banquet room we had about 50 people. About an hour later, we filled the room. At the end of the night, we all counted the money and came up with over \$2500 dollars to give to the Guide dogs of America.

The next during session, Sister Helen and I got to the mic and waited for our turn to talk. I was nervous. When it was our turn to talk, Sister Helen said "we would like to give the money we raised to Brother Martinez in exchange for his tie and a hug." I added that "my lodge would like Brother Phil Gruber's tie." Brother Martinez said, "Come on up brother and sister and thank you both for the great work."

The thing I learned most out of this is that when people come together and share ideas we can make anything happen as long are we work together. We had many people that helped on this event and it would not have been possible for us to do this without them. I would like to thank them all for helping out.

## **Greetings Brothers and Sisters,**

by Mildred Navedo

I would like to thank you all for the honor and privilege of representing IMAW Local Lodge 66 in this 39th Convention in Chicago. It was an amazing experience to see and be a part of the decision making by all the delegates and committees that fight to improve our union and the laws of our nations.

Many subjects where brought to our attention with a bit of laughter. But the main message was the reality of a political rude awaking. Like when a speaker from the UK stated that they also had a candidate who ran for office that they thought was a huge jokester. People thought he could never prevail, and then lo and behold, after 10 years of listening his crap the person is now in office representing their country.

I loved the respect that was given to the body of this convention. As members came to the mics requesting a point of privilege to share their views and opinions with the group, President Bob Martinez and the other leaders on the stage gave their full attention.

There were other enjoyable moments for me personally, like watching Doug Curler from Lodge 66 - District 10 accept several awards for our newsletter, and hearing of the efforts to save the beloved bell.

I also enjoyed selling raffle tickets and seeing young union activists stepping into leadership roles. Like when members of our local initiated a fundraiser that resulted in union leaders contributing their ties to the cause. Of course that came to an end when at one point some-



**President Martinez and Mildred** 



Mildred and one of her activities for clean water

body pointed out that they liked President Martinez' shoes.

In all I have to say that my favorite moment was greeting President Martinez at Navy Pier at our "Welcome celebration",.

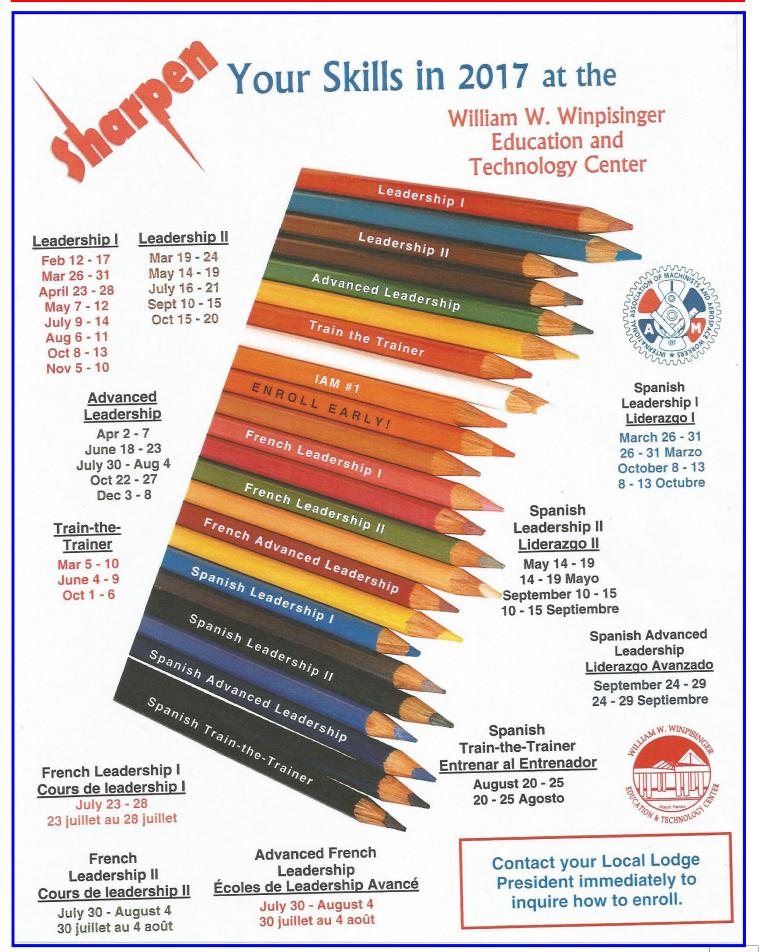
There is just too much to report on from my convention experience. But, if you really want to know how it feels, you will just have to get involved in your union and run as a delegate to the 2020 Conversation in California.

Thanks again for this great experience, *Mildred Navedo* 



Mildred with Wisconsin AFLCIO President Phil Neuenfeldt

## To get application form for the WWW Center ... call United Lodge 66 at 414-671-3800 and request.



WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

Preserving and promoting the study of worker history

## High School Students! Win Prizes In Labor History Essay Contest

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its Essay Contest for the 2016-2017 School Year for Wisconsin high school students (Grades 9-12).

Win cash prizes up to \$500. Write essays of about 750 words on the topic:

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

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.

Up to eight students could win cash prizes: First place, \$500; second place \$300; third place: \$200; honorable mention (up to five) \$100.



#### LOTS TO LEARN ABOUT WISCONSIN'S WORKER HISTORY!

One of the memorable moments in the state's history occurred in 2011 when massive rallies involved thousands of workers and their families in protesting the enactment of legislation that would end collective bargaining rights for public employees.

More information about this and other important events in Wisconsin's worker history can be found on our website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

**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 email address, 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 <u>Feb. 15, 2017</u> 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.



WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

6333 W. Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee WI 53213 Phone: 414-771-0700 (Ext. 20) E-mail: info@wisconsinlaborhistory. org. Website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org



#### Russ Feingold Pledges to Protect Social Security Leon Burzynski

Throughout our working careers, all of us who are now retired knew that Social security would be there for us when we reached retirement. Over the years, Republicans broached some form of dismantling the program but those proposals quickly died when the public got wind of them.

With the election of George W. Bush, dismantling proposals were pushed more forcefully, as many employer supported pension programs were being cast aside. To their shame, Wisconsin voters elected a U.S. Senator, Ron Johnson, who campaigned on dismantling the Social Security program. Johnson has continued his efforts to gut the program, calling it a Ponzi scheme. Johnson has clearly illustrated his disregard for the needs of retirees.

Throughout his public service career, beginning in Wisconsin legislature and going forward to the United States Senate, Russ Feingold has remained true to the needs of his constituents, especially Wisconsin's seniors and retirees. He has continually supported the WIARA as we pushed to improve Social Security and Medicare.

The main thrust of the Republican presidential primary race consisted of which candidate could be more outspoken about getting rid of Social Security. **Brothers and Sisters, the threat is** real!

The WIARA, in coordination with the Wisconsin Coalition for Retirement Security, developed a pledge "to protect the guaranteed benefit of Social Security" and to "oppose any attempts to privatize Social Security." They asked Russ Feingold and Ron Johnson to sign

Throughout his public service the pledge. Russ signed it immedicareer, beginning in Wisconsin legislature and going forward to the position clear.

The full statement of the pledge, in the picture below, reads:

"Social Security is an open, transparent and widely popular system that 96% of Wisconsin residents over the age of 65 rely on. This generation of retirees and senioes paid into the Social security Trust Fund throughout their working years and deserve the financial security and peace of mind that Social Security provides.

"If honored by the people of Wisconsin with election to the United states Senate, I hereby pledge to protect the guaranteed benefit of Social Security and will oppose any attempts to privatize Social Security."

Simply put, Russ Feingold cares about us; Ron Johnson does not.



WIARA Board member, Mary Land (front, 3rd from right) with UAW retirees at the Racine Labor Temple present a copy of the pledge to protect Social Security, signed by Russ Feingold.

## Who you vote for is important:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZQlbtlErLo ..... Copy and paste into your browser



October 2016 Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans Power Luncheon



Persons representing United Lodge 66 and District 10, Machinists Union





Dan Bell, United Lodge 66, staffing a video camera.

**Pledge signed by Russ Feingold** to support and protect Social Security and refuses to privatize Social Security.

**Senator Ron Johnson has refused** to sign this pledge. He has been asked for over a year to sign this pledge. He is part of the political party which would privatize Social Security. Most likely invest in stock market, which means you will be on your own ... like in 1929.



## 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

## **Seniors Corner**

## Alliance Addresses the Tiny 0.3% COLA Increase for Social Security Beneficiaries

Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance, issued a statement regarding the government's announcement that there will be just a 0.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of Social Security beneficiaries, disabled veterans and federal retirees next year.

"The Alliance for Retired Americans is deeply disappointed by the announcement today that there will be a minuscule 0.3% benefit increase for millions of Social Security beneficiaries in 2017," said Mr. Fiesta, "For the average retiree that means just a \$5.00 per month increase, not enough to keep up with the cost of their prescription medications." To read Mr. Fiesta's entire statement, click here.

The small COLA increase also triggers massive Medicare Part B premium hikes for the 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries not currently covered by the "hold harmless" provision, which prevents premiums from increasing by more than the dollar increase in an individual's Social Security benefit. Low-income beneficiaries, whose deductibles are paid by Medicaid, public sector retirees not receiving Social Security, new Medicare beneficiaries and high-income beneficiaries who already pay higher premiums are the affected groups.

Without a solution, these people will be forced to shoulder the entire burden of all beneficiaries' Medicare Part B's increases, and their monthly premiums will rise 23%, from \$121 to \$149 each month.

Congress last year voted to extend the hold harmless provision to cover all Medicare Part B beneficiaries whenever there is no cost-of-living adjustment. However, this provision does not apply when there is a small COLA, as there will be in 2017.

"The Alliance will absolutely be working to make Congress pass a legislative fix for this large premium increase," said Mr. Fiesta.

## 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 www.retiredamericans.org

## Activities for You and Your Family

- Milwaukee Area Labor Council delegate meeting: November 2, 2016 at 6:30pm, new location at Juneau Complex, in auditorium, 6415 W. Mount Vernon.
- Machinists Union William W. Winpinsinger Education and Technology Center class schedule is available (<u>http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/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.

<u>Trump</u>: "Hillary Clinton wants to abolish the **2nd Amendment**" - NRA event 5/20/16

<u>Truth</u>: Repealing a constitutional amendment requires a 2/3 vote by Congress and ratification by <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the states.

The President gets no vote. The Supreme Court cannot repeal.

Trump is counting on you not knowing that.

## **Rescuing Religion from Republicans**

## 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	
Communicator Doug Curler	
Educator Pepe Oulahan	
Editor Doug Curler	

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 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**

<i>1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;</i> dial <b>414-643-4334</b> , then extension for		
your Business Agent:		
Alex Hoekstra	113	
Ben Elizondo	120	
Patrick O'Connor	116	
Scott Parr	125	
Greg Pursell	124	
Joe Terlisner	119	
Di Ann Fechter	117	
Jeremy Terlisner		
Larry Morrow (Organizer)	115	

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