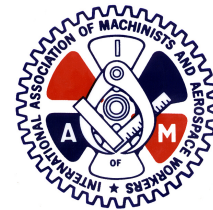


Badger Lodge News



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



Vol. 19 No. 3

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

March 2017

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

March 14, 2017

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 April 2017 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is March 20.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio



Thin skinned trump has no concept of separation of power between the three units of government (Judicial, Legislative and Executive) in our Constitution was clearly shown When

U.S. Judge James Robart emerged from relative obscurity on February 4, 2017 as the first jurist to come under fire from the president since he took

office after his temporary order to lift Donald Trump's immigration ban.

In a reaction that went viral on Twitter, Trump called the 69-year-old Robart a \$b-called judge 'whose fidiculous 'bpinion 'essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country.'

Our founding fathers developed our constitution to prevent a demagogue or tyrant from assuming supreme power.

President donald trump appeared to equate US actions with the authoritarian regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin in an interview released Saturday, February 4, 2017, saying, "There are a lot of killers. You think our country's so innocent?"

trump made the remark during an interview with Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, saying he respected his Russian counterpart.

"But he's a killer," O'Reilly said to trump.

There are a lot of killers. You think our country's so innocent?'trump replied.



We Are Again Grateful to Host:

Honorable Congresswoman Gwen Moore for a Labor Breakfast and Discussion:

Monday, March 6th- 9:00am-10:00am

Milwaukee Area Labor Council- 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee

Please RSVP to emueller@wisafclcio.org and email Emily if you have any questions.

Thanks to Congresswoman Moore, we were able to send our messages regarding TPP and other issues directly to Washington!

We really appreciate our Congresswoman!



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

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

*When Labor's Under Attack!
How Do We Fight Back?*

Building Worker Power!

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., **Saturday, April 8**

Madison Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park St.

36th Annual Conference Wisconsin Labor History Society

Join unionists, scholars, activists and and all others who care about worker justice.

In the past, workers and unions have gained rights against seemingly insurmountable odds. Discuss how future efforts can be guided by history.

Come join in the dialogue!

Keynote Address: Larry Cohen

Past president, Communication Workers of America Current leader of Our Revolution campaign

Historical Perspective

Jon Shelton, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Historian

Winning in Today's Anti-union climate-Panel

- Victory in UAW Strike against Kohler - Dave Boucher, Fin. Sec., UAW Local 833
- How Teachers Unions are Staying Strong in Anti-union Areas - Tanya Lohr, WEAC
- How Building Trades are Fighting Back - To be Announced

REGISTER ON LINE! Go to
www.wislabor2017.eventbrite.com

WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY
SOCIETY | 414-771-0700 ext 20
info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org
www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

...the voice for working families

Phil Neuenfeldt, President
Stephanie Bloomingdale, Secretary-Treasurer

On January 31, 2017, two Republican Congressman, Steve King of Iowa and Joe Wilson of South Carolina, introduced "Right to Work" legislation on the national level. Today, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer stated that President Trump "believes in Right to Work" and Vice President Mike Pence "has been a champion of this as well."

We know firsthand in Wisconsin that Right to Work does nothing to create jobs or help workers get ahead. Right to Work is union-busting legislation designed to give corporations more power in the workplace and tilt the balance even further against working people.

We can't stand silently by while this legislation gets even an ounce of consideration on the national stage. This is a bill that threatens the foundation of the labor movement in all 50 states, and must be stopped.

Call your Congress person to oppose Right to Work.

Right to Work drives down wages for both union and non-union workers. Right to work is an unsafe, unfair and unnecessary government intrusion in the workplace. When you weaken unions, you weaken the last remaining check on corporate power and greed. Right to Work is linked to lower wages and decreased safety levels for all workers in states where it is law.

Pick up the phone today and tell Congress you oppose Right to Work and any attempts to lower wages or erode the freedom to have a strong union in the workplace.

In Wisconsin, Right to Work has already passed and hasn't created one new job or helped any working person. In fact, a PEW study concluded that Wisconsin's middle class is shrinking faster than any other state in the nation. Now, they want to take this bad idea to the entire country.

For working people, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet, the introduction of Right to Work at a national level is a direct attack on our livelihoods and the ability to support our families. The fallout from this policy would be far-reaching. Not only would workers in all 50 states see their wages lowered and our standard of living undermined, but our entire economy and businesses which rely on a vibrant middle class would be adversely impacted.

We know our economy works best when workers have the freedom to stand together as a team in strong unions and negotiate together for better wages, work-life balance and a better life. Strong unions and collective bargaining provide pathways into the middle class for millions of workers and together unions work to leave behind a better workplace for the next generation.

In Solidarity,

Phil Neuenfeldt, President

Stephanie Bloomingdale, Secretary-Treasurer



Wisconsin State Council of Machinists

by Ron Simmelink

I want to take a moment to thank you all for sending me to the WI State Council of Machinists spring conference held in Madison from Feb. 12-14th, 2017. I have attached with this letter 3 issues the WI AFL-CIO had asked us to discuss with our legislatures. One speaks in support of **AB 45 and SB14 supporting the goods and services that are made in the state of Wisconsin.** This legislation sets a modest goal of 20% of public spending on products and services to be from Wisconsin based manufacturers and businesses when possible as opposed to purchasing similar products from outside the state of Wisconsin. An example of this would be if the DNR needed boat motors, why not buy from Mercury Marine as opposed to a Honda motor which would be made elsewhere? Have the state purchase John Deere products when needed as opposed to a lawn mower product made outside of the state of Wisconsin?



A request was made to urge legislatures to oppose AB24. **AB 24 strips local control from municipalities** by removing their freedom to use Project Labor Agreements. This legislation favors a lowest bidder system which does not guarantee that workers with the necessary skill and training will be performing the work. This intern could result in more cost to the taxpayers ultimately in rework. Project Labor Agreements help ensure workers receive fair compensation for the training and skills required for the specific job.

Finally the AFL-CIO is asking for Legislatures to introduce legislation that would **hold Companies accountable when taxpayer dollars are given that is to be used to help create jobs in Wisconsin.** The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ("WEDC") should be allowed to recoup money given to company's who have outsourced jobs instead of keeping these jobs in Wisconsin as intended.

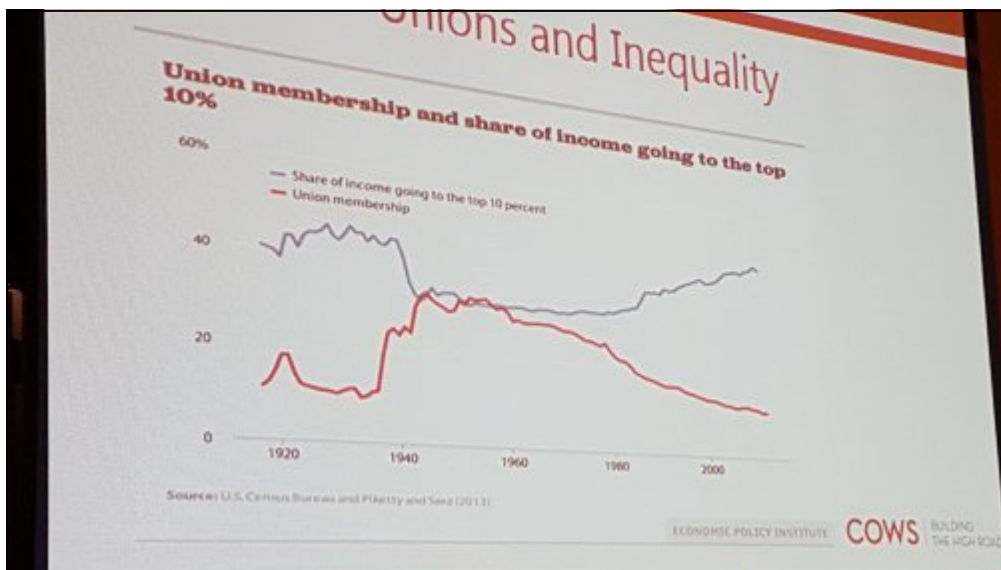
I encourage members to look at the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO website and stay informed of the issues that matter to workers in this state. www.wisafclcio.org

Much of our conference had to do with discussion of the way the IAMAW is making changes to the way members have been serviced in the past and how we are to be serviced in the future. Midwest Territories GVP Phil Gruber along with GLR Marty St. Peters have made a priority to service our members above all else. Our resources are to be spent on servicing and representing members first as opposed to supporting anyone or anything that doesn't do a darn thing for our members. The Midwest territory is prioritizing listening to what the members want and not "telling" them what they believe is best for them. This new initiative has to do with how members were upset that the IAM supported and endorsed Hillary Clinton out of the gate without much discussion from our membership who largely supported Bernie Sanders to represent the Democratic Party. Many of our own members were so upset by this decision that they intern decided not to vote for Hillary and cast their votes elsewhere come election time.

Steve Galloway the Chief of Staff of the Midwest Territory let us know that International President Bob Martinez has committed

to making cuts where needed to help with resources being more available to servicing our members directly. The 2016 Grand Lodge Convention is paid in full. \$200,000 has been forwarded to helping pay for the 2020 Grand Lodge Convention to be held in San Diego, CA. The Midwest territories also gave the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists a check in the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of educating and training our membership! Our future is at stake and we need to continue to organize, train, and educate our members. If we do not make this a priority the future of the middle class will continue to shrink.

Laura Dresser of (COWS) Center of



continued on page 6



BUY WISCONSIN LEGISLATION SUPPORT AB 45 & SB 14

Not too long ago, Wisconsin's businesses and labor worked together to grow our state's economy and create an unprecedented standard of living for working families. Companies enjoyed rising profits while paying their employees family-supporting wages. Workers could afford to buy the goods and services their neighbors produced. This created more demand and with it, a climate for more investment and job creation. This climate helped create strong middle class in Wisconsin, which has come under attack lately.

Despite labor's consistent warnings, trade deals like NAFTA have shipped tens of thousands of Wisconsin jobs overseas. This massive job loss was compounded by recent legislative attacks on our Unions and wages. It is not surprising that these actions have resulted in a poor climate of investment and job creation. Over the past few years, job creation in Wisconsin has routinely been ranked last in the Midwest.

The best way to grow our middle class is to create a demand for the products we make by increasing exports and returning to a cycle in which middle-class consumer spending fuels growth and prosperity. Put another way, if we want a stronger middle class and family-supporting jobs created in Wisconsin, then we should encourage the purchase of goods and materials manufactured, produced, and/or assembled by Wisconsin workers. Similarly, if our state, local, and municipal governments want jobs to be created in Wisconsin, state and local governments should prioritize purchasing goods and services from Wisconsin companies that perform the work in our state.

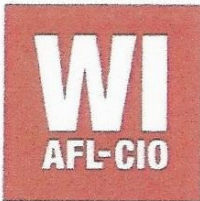
- *Wisconsinites make the best, most high-quality goods*
Wisconsin's workers produce an incredible array of high-quality products. From lawn mowers to cheese to baby products and everything in between, Wisconsin's workers make a huge range of the best products for consumers' every need. The products we make – from heavy machinery to cranberry juice – are exported to every corner of the world.
- *Wisconsin's middle class is shrinking*
The percentage of Wisconsin's families in the middle class has been steadily declining over time as jobs are outsourced and legislative attacks on unions increase. In 2000, almost 55% of Wisconsin's families were in the middle class and in 2016 barely half of Wisconsin households were in the middle class. The best way to grow our middle class is to strengthen unions, increase exports of our manufactured goods, and purchase Wisconsin-made goods and services.
- *Grow the Economy By Supporting Goods & Services Made in Wisconsin*
In Wisconsin, we can support local workers, combat outsourcing, and spur economic activity by purchasing Wisconsin-made goods and services whenever possible. We can also request that our State and local governments prioritize procuring goods and services from state businesses and suppliers.

SUPPORT GOODS & SERVICES MADE IN WISCONSIN SUPPORT AB 45 & SB 14

Support legislation that prioritizes the purchasing of goods made in Wisconsin and the contracting for services provided by Wisconsin labor. These bills set a reasonable goal for the State Department of Administration and any state or local government unit to purchase a percentage its products and services from Wisconsin-based businesses. Local government units should include cities, villages, towns, counties, and school and technical college districts.

Status: AB 45 & SB 14 were introduced in late January. They were introduced by Senator Hansen of Green Bay and Representative Subeck of Madison

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Lobby Day February 2017



STOP OUTSOURCING WISCONSIN JOBS

The American labor movement has long warned of the devastating impacts that unfair trade deals would have on our state and local economies. Despite these warnings, we have seen trade deals for the past 25 years that have incorporated rules that skew benefits to economic elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies. For example, as a direct result of NAFTA, 25,000 jobs left Wisconsin between 1994-2004. Then, as NAFTA was failing hardworking Wisconsin and American families, the federal government normalized trade relations with China. This trade agreement resulted in 68,600 jobs lost in Wisconsin between 2001-2013.

Compounding this dire situation is Governor Walker's decision to use tax dollars as kickbacks to political donors and sweetheart deals, with little transparency and zero accountability. In 2011, Governor Walker created the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ("WEDC"), a privatized entity charged with the mission of creating 250,000 jobs. Recently, there have been multiple reports of companies, which received financial assistance from WEDC, outsourcing Wisconsin jobs. Businesses should not benefit from tax funds while laying off hundreds, if not thousands, of workers. Below are a few examples of this failed agency.

- *Rexnord received \$2.25 million, then outsourced jobs.*
The WEDC gave Rexnord Corp. \$250,000 in November 2011 and then \$2 million in July 2015. Two months later, it outsourced over 100 jobs.
- *Eaton Corp received \$1 million then outsourced jobs.*
The WEDC gave Eaton Corporation \$1 million in 2011. Two years later, 93 Wisconsin workers' jobs were outsourced.
- *Plexus received a combined \$8.9 million, then outsourced jobs.*
The WEDC gave Plexus a combined \$17 million in 2011 and 2012. Immediately, in 2011, Plexus outsourced over 100 Wisconsin jobs.

The Wisconsin labor movement sounded the alarm almost 9 years ago about the Trans Pacific Partnership ("TPP") and has not stopped since. In 2008, corporate powers from countries that line the Pacific Ocean began negotiating the TPP in secret. When the details leaked out, the labor movement led the fight against it. While the United States signed on to the TPP in February 2016, Congress still must ratify it. The TPP will not create jobs, protect the environment or ensure safe imports.

WE CALL ON LEGISLATORS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO HOLD COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE WHEN TAXPAYER DOLLARS GIVEN TO CREATE JOBS IN WISCONSIN

Legislation must be introduced to stop the outrageous practice of state funds being used to outsource or reduce employment in Wisconsin. Legislation should require any business that receives a loan, grant, or tax credit from the WEDC to report job losses or the outsourcing of Wisconsin jobs to WEDC within seven days. Legislation should also allow the WEDC to include relevant sanctions in its contracts and agreements with businesses to recoup any money given when jobs are then outsourced.

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Lobby Day February 2017



PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS OPPOSE AB 24

Project Labor Agreements are a tool used by both the private sector and the public sector in construction projects. Project Labor Agreements are voluntary agreements – between owners, contractors, and employees - on the terms and conditions of the work necessary to complete the project. They have fostered a cooperative approach between government, contractors, and workers.

Municipalities have long had the option to use Project Labor Agreements to ensure contractors and employees on a given project agree to the same rules in terms of safety and quality, dispute resolution, hours, pay, schedules of work, among other terms and conditions. These projects are long-term investments in the infrastructure of our communities. True value comes from doing the job right the first time, and that means using skilled and qualified men and women from the local area who are paid an appropriate wage.

- *Project Labor Agreements Build America.*
Project Labor Agreements were used to build Disney World, the Hoover Dam, and the recently-completed Freedom Towers on the site of the 9/11 attacks. In Wisconsin, a Project Labor Agreement was used for the Lambeau Field renovations and for the construction of the Marquette Interchange, a highly complicated project that was successfully completed on-time and under budget. More recently, they were used in Pleasant Prairie for the Amazon Warehouse, in Milwaukee for the Bucks Stadium, and in Superior for various city projects.
- *Project Labor Agreements Protect Taxpayers.*
Project Labor Agreements have shown to be tremendously effective at delivering public infrastructure projects on-time and under-budget. These agreements also invigorate the local economy by providing training and family-supporting jobs for people who live in those same local communities. This is why Project Labor Agreements provide pathways into the middle class for so many Wisconsinites.
- *Project Labor Agreements Protect Workers*
Project Labor Agreements ensure that workers are receiving fair compensation that is set for the training and skills they bring to the job.

OPPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS OPPOSE AB 24

Oppose legislation that strips local control from municipalities by removing their freedom to use Project Labor Agreements. This bill will put taxpayers' investments at risk by favoring a system where work will be performed by the lowest bidder, with the least-qualified and lowest-skilled workers, at the greatest cost to taxpayers. This bill needlessly damages our ability to have a strong middle class.

Status: AB 24 was introduced on January 17. One week later, on January 24, the Assembly Labor Committee held a public hearing on the bill. The Committee passed the bill (AB 24) on a party-line vote on February 9. The full Senate passed an identical bill (SB 3) on February 8. The bill now goes to the Assembly. If passed, the final step is to go to the Governor for his signature.

Wisconsin State Council of Machinists Lobby Day February 2017

continued from page 3

Wisconsin
Strategy

(www.cows.org) discussed with the delegates the current state of Wisconsin and its workers. She showed us slides that supported that labor productivity is at an all-time high, but the average wages and compensation to workers is barely rising. Output has quadrupled while wages remain stagnated. She said family incomes are struggling across the entire state of Wisconsin. In 15 years the number of children qualifying for reduced or free lunches in the public schools has doubled because of stagnant wages. In 2001 (1 in 5 children qualified for these benefits). In 2014 (2 in 5 children qualified for these benefits).

Laura reminded us of the importance of communities with strong union density. A strong union density means better wages for all workers both Union and non-union. In communities that have little to no union density the wages across the board are much lower. (UnionStats.com).

This report in no way covers everything that was discussed at the conference. Rick de la Fuente the political director of the IAMAW gave his report on the current political situation across the nation. He reminded us that it is in the best interest of our nation that we do want President Trump to succeed in saving jobs in this country. He also reminded us that the MNPL is non-partisan and money is given to candidates from both political parties. The IAMAW is committed to not supporting politicians that don't do a damn thing for our members! We will hold those politicians accountable.

Here is the executive report...

\$500 in support of the MNPL Education fund.

\$500 to support the 9th annual Spirit of the Midwest rides for guides rally.

Continue sustaining membership with WI Alliance of Retired Americans (WIARA) \$5000.

Send 2 people to the 2017 Legislative council.

Purchase add for D10 Guide Dog golf outing \$200

Cover MNPL calendar raffle costs.

Purchase a State Council banner not to exceed \$150.

ENDORSED Stephanie Bloomindale for President of the WI State AFL-CIO.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Simmelink

Delegate LL66

Higher Ed, Lower Debt Act

In the Wisconsin State legislature State Senator Dave Hansen and Representative Cory Mason have just introduced the Higher Ed, Lower Debt Act, a plan to create a state authority to help Wisconsin student loan borrowers refinance their loans, just like you can with a mortgage. The bill would also provide consumers with more information and expand an existing state higher education tax deduction to include student loan debt payments.

Right now there are nearly one million Wisconsin borrower with federal student loans that total roughly \$19 billion. And under current law, they can't refinance these federal student loans with the federal government. That doesn't make any sense.

Now, with the Higher Ed, Lower Debt Act there's a state-based plan that could help both student loan borrowers and our state economy. So we're asking you to call, write or email your state legislator and urge them to support the it.

These borrowers took on the personal responsibility to pay for their education and they worked hard to get it. They're not asking for a bailout, but they ought to be treated fairly. Being able to refinance student loans, just like you can with a mortgage, means borrowers can save money with lower interest rates. And that means more new business start-ups, more families saving for their children's education or retirement and more money being spent in our economy.

You can find out who your state legislators are and get contact information at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

Ask the governor what he is doing for students?

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

Give a Man a Fish...

By Pepe Oulahan

In late January the new top official of our nation called leaders of several construction trades unions to the Whitehouse to discuss potential infrastructure investment. Wow! What a new idea, right?

This meeting resulted in a number of positive statements about the new administration coming from union leaders.

Don't get me wrong, I am, and always have been, a fully vested supporter of government investment in infrastructure. And so was the last president.

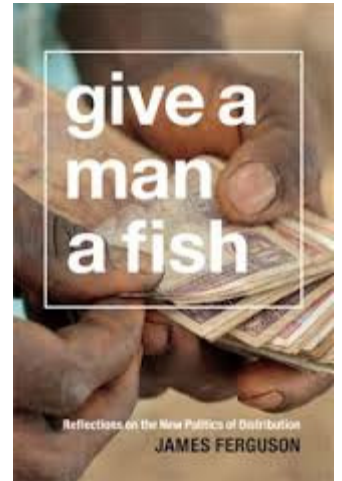
However, two weeks after this meeting, Senator Steve King of Iowa and Joe Wilson of South Carolina introduced "Right to Work" legislation on a national level. Shortly thereafter, Whitehouse Press Secretary Sean Spicer stated that the president "believes in right to work", and that Vice President Pence "has been a champion of this as well".

If you live in Wisconsin, this might seem familiar. As we hear much talk of creating jobs by one side of the mouth of the new administration, we need to be vigilant about what the other side of the mouth is saying. Could it be saying, "divide and conquer?"

Remember, while still campaigning for his new position our new president engaged in a fight to reject a union certification ruling by the NLRB at his International Hotel in Las Vegas. And when questioned about paying prevailing wage for these proposed infrastructure projects, the president said he knows how the law works, but would not commit to anything on that issue.

As Union members we need to be careful not to jump at offers of shiny trinkets. In the spirit of the ancient proverb: Give a man a fish, he will eat for a day, ensure that he keeps his union, he will eat for a lifetime.

PS: Please call your Congressional Representative and Senators and voice your opposition to any R to R legislation!



Republicans Having Internal Problems Deciding How to Handle Medicaid

Many Obamacare provisions helped people all across the country, but whether to embrace the expansion of Medicaid was decided on a state-by-state basis. Some Republicans, like Ohio Governor John Kasich, accepted federal funds, and he credits Medicaid with providing essential care for 700,000 Ohioans, including thousands of seniors.

Mick Mulvaney, the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), has proposed cutting Medicaid and sending states a fixed amount of money that would ration care. However, a repeal of the ACA would leave the states on the hook if the federal government no longer funds the expansion. Recently, some administration officials have said that the President is on board with these drastic cuts. This would represent a departure from a major campaign promise that he would not cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.

Kasich has criticized Republicans for planning to undo the expansion, calling it "a very bad idea." Officials from states like Nevada and West Virginia, where the Medicaid expansion has been popular, want to see it continued. Splits such as these within the party could prevent repeal of the ACA from moving forward in Congress.

A Note of Thanks from unionNation

By Pepe Oulahan

I really can't find the words to express the level of my appreciation to the members of Local Lodge 66 for allowing me to participate in the second round of the IAMAW **unionNation** Labor Music project. So let me just say, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

During the first weeks of January IAMAW musician, songwriter, and rapper members from all over our nation and Canada gathered at the IAMAW Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Maryland to prepare, rehearse and record the second CD of original Labor music produced as part of the **unionNation** Labor Music Project. With your help, I had the honor of representing our local as one of them.

Having met before in October of 2015, it was great to see my union musical friends again. I am indebted to those who helped me to make my labor songs come alive and to all the others who supported each other as union brothers and sisters do.

I want to give a special mention of gratitude to W3 Instructor Henry Bagwell for his commitment to this project and to Bill Kent who coordinated and produced this CD. His professionalism and love of music and union resulted in a quality product.

The New CD should be available sometime in March. I will keep you informed.

Here is a sample of the lyrics from one of the songs I recorded during this session. Strangely enough, I wrote it in 2015, and yet it seems to fit as well if not better today than it did then.



Back to the Fight

Mr. one percent-er
We all know who you are
We know you won't be satisfied
Until you own every cookie in the cookie jar

You work to outlaw our unions
Block our vote and our voice
You put us down, you push us down, you put us down
Until you leave us no choice, we're going

Back to the fight,
Back to the fight again
Back to the fight
Back to where it all began, oh yeah

Polluted politician
Kneeling at the money gate
Spreading words of division
Words that poison, words of hate
You serve your new robber barons
Content to leave the rest behind
So don't look so surprised when suddenly you find, we're

Back to the fight...

Masters of confusion
Masters of the deal
Tell the people what you want us to hear
Don't matter what is real
Hide what is wrong
Deny what is right
But, even in the darkest moment
They say, yes they say, there will surely, come a light



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

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

President Trump

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

Senator Ron Johnson, Republican

386 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-5323
www.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

Social Security Expansion Act

Senator Sanders and Representative DeFazio announced the introduction of the Social Security Expansion Act, H.R. 1113 in the House, which protects and expands Social Security and eliminates the cap on payroll income above \$250,000. It also applies a 6.2% Social Security tax on investment income for high-income households. Social Security payroll taxes would not be paid on income between \$127,200 and \$250,000.

Earlier in February members of the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus demanded that the next House budget cut Social Security and Medicare. The Freedom Caucus has seen its influence grow, and caucus Chair Mark Meadows (R-NC) said he thinks President Trump will be open to “reform” of the programs as long as benefits for current beneficiaries are not diminished.

“The extremists in the House of Representatives still want to raise the retirement age beyond 67 and cut benefits for anyone who isn’t already retired,” said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance. “We think letting millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share makes a lot more sense.”

“Members of the far-right Freedom Caucus made it clear this week that they are coming for our earned Social Security benefits and they think President Trump is on their side,” said Mr. Fiesta. “The members of the Alliance will continue to push Congress to make the right choice and ensure a secure retirement for all Americans.”

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

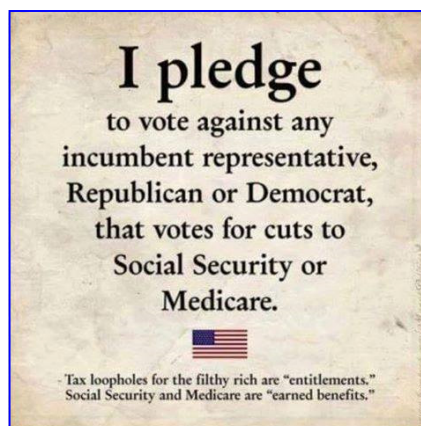
- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council** delegate meeting: **March 1, 2017** at **6:30pm**, is at 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee.
- **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** class schedule is available (<http://winpisinger.iamaw.org/courselist>) or at your Union office. Or 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.

Republican ACA (Obama Care) Replacement Plans Include Higher Premiums for Older Americans

In their effort to repeal and replace the ACA, Republican leaders are considering increasing health insurance coverage costs for older Americans to bring down costs for younger people. This would lead to a large premium spike for those in their 50s and 60s. Premiums for older Americans can increase drastically through the removal of age-banding, a restriction on how much insurers can charge older Americans compared to younger Americans.

The ACA currently has a 3-to-1 ratio, meaning insurers cannot charge older Americans more than three times the amount they charge younger Americans. The GOP is considering changing these restrictions. One proposal by Speaker Ryan would increase the ratio to 5-to-1, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price has favored eliminating the ratio restrictions completely, so insurers could charge any amount to older Americans. Estimates show that average premiums could rise between \$3,000 and \$4,200 annually if insurers were allowed to charge any price to seniors. This would force hundreds of thousands to drop their health insurance.

“Instead of pitting older and younger Americans against each other to cut costs, Republicans should be working to make health care a right, not a privilege for everybody. That should be true no matter what your age or income level may be,” said Joseph Peters, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance for Retired Americans.



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**Business/Membership Meetings are -
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