

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 19 No. 8

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

August 2017

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

August 8, 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 September 2017 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is August 19.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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dwc/iamawll66, afl-cio

Lodge 66 Organizing Committee Up and Running

by Pepe

Members attending the Lodge 66 Organizing Committee meeting on July 18 came full of energy and ideas about how to grow our union and move the cause of worker power through active unionization forward. Along with the 9 members at the hall we were also joined by Brother Ron Simmelink from Sheboygan via Skype.

By unanimous consensus, the committee agreed that an important part of growing our union is making sure that our members and our communities know how important unions are to the well-being of all working people, and that it is up to workers like ourselves to educate each other. "Lots of young guys just coming in to the shop don't know the history behind the wages, benefits and rights that they have," said Justin from Lakeside Manufacturing.

Members agreed that revitalizing our organizing efforts will take a long-term commitment and will not be easy, but can also be mixed with coming together to enjoy a good time.

Some ideas for first steps to get things started include:

- Immediately get the word out to as many Lodge 66 shops to come and march with our lodge on Labor Day this year. Members agreed to distribute flyers and make a presentation at the August Union Meeting. The committee also agreed to spread the word through the local lodge website, newsletter and through individual social media.
- Plan a "Union Night" at the Union Hall in October of this year. This event would be a pot luck evening with entertainment, speakers and information regarding the importance and the history of unions in this country. This event would be open to the public. Committee members committed to doing outreach in their shops, contacting other members from other Lodge 66 shops and passing flyers about the event at public events such as festivals.

It was also suggested that Lodge 66 begin a legal clinic one of two evenings a month where workers could come and meet with lawyers regarding work related issues such as worker's compensation. This would provide a method for identifying bad employers and would also serve to deliver the message to our community that Unions stand for all workers.

Lastly, it was suggested that our committee develop an organized outreach effort to connect with friends, neighbors and others who may be struggling at their workplaces and would be interested in forming a union. Sister Bunny Browning reminded members that there are monetary rewards available through our union for organizing leads.

The committee meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All 66 members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please call Pepe at (414) 736-7287.

Picture on page 4



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

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

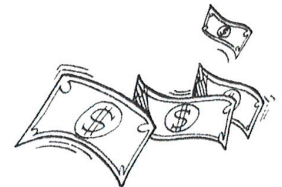
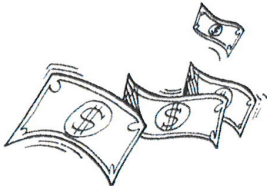
Celebrate with us at Laborfest Get your RAFFLE TICKETS

\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

CALL THE LABOR COUNCIL AT 414-771-7070 OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL UNION TO GET YOUR TICKETS

GRAND PRIZE

****Brand New HARLEY DAVIDSON* - IRON 883***



Additional cash prizes!

You need not be present to win!!!

Lic. #R0012990A-11221

The drawing will be held at 'Laborfest'
Monday, September 4, 2017

11:00 am – Parade Downtown

12:00 noon – Summerfest Grounds

(free admission)

Live music / Childrens activities / Union Industry Display

AND MUCH MORE

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LABORFEST



CRUISE & CAR SHOW

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
LABOR DAY - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

ASSEMBLE AT 4TH ST. (BETWEEN WISCONSIN & WELLS)
DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE
9:00 - 10:45 AM

LABOR CRUISE TO THE LAKEFRONT AT 11:00 AM SHARP

Car Show at the Henry Maier Festival (Summerfest) Grounds
Open to all American-Made pre-1997 Automobiles
Dash Plaques to the first 100 Cars



Free Admission to LABORFEST at the Summerfest Grounds

- Live Music
- Bring the Family
- Games and Activities for Children
- Live Professional Wrestling
- Food and Beverages Available

NO CARRY-INS PLEASE
IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY WE ASK THAT CARS NOT BE MOVED BETWEEN 12:30 PM & 4:30 PM

RELEASE FORM

The undersigned does hereby unconditionally release and discharge the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO and all its respective officers, employees, representatives, members and all others connected with the presentation LABORFEST AT THE LAKEFRONT CRUISE AND CAR SHOW from any and all known and unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgments and/or claims from any cause whatsoever the undersigned may suffer to his/her person or property.

LABORFEST CRUISE AND CAR SHOW

Labor Day - September 4, 2017

Name: _____ Address: _____

Car Year: _____ Model: _____ City & State: _____

Signature: _____ Zip Code: _____

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00. Amount enclosed: _____

PLEASE NOTE - ASSEMBLY AREA - ENTER 4TH ST. OFF WELLS

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PRIOR TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017 TO:
MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO, 633 S. HAWLEY RD. SUITE 110, MILWAUKEE, WI 53214



rl/opcit 9 afl-cio

Please join the Milwaukee Area Labor Council on Tuesday, August 8th, at 9 am to help stuff back packs with school supplies for the Freshmen at Bradley Tech High School. We will be meeting at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee

and Waukesha County, 225 W. Vine St., Milwaukee, 53212, at 9 am to fill 250 back packs.

Please consider joining us as we help the students at Bradley Tech get off to a good start. Bradley Tech is one of the MPS "Early Start" schools this year and students will begin classes on August 14th, 2017.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Jay Reinke for any further details. 414 771 7070, ext. 16 or

jay@milwaukeealabor.org



Retiree Dan Rokowski with food for the Bay View Community Center collected by United Lodge 66 members.



Organizing Committee for United Lodge 66 only needs YOU!

Two Wolves

An elder Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me; it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

"This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, too," he added.

The grandchildren thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied -- "The one you feed."

Full Employment: What Happens Now?

Contributed by: Brian Goode, Financial Advisor with Union Financial, Inc. Brian is a dues paying member of IAM Local Lodge 66. Brian is available to assist all IAM members with their retirement / 401K planning. He can provide a no cost financial plan. He can assist you in providing solutions for becoming financial secure. PH: 262-835-9111, email: goode.brian@princor.com, In Home or Union Hall Appointments available www.unionplanning.com

Full Employment: What Happens Now?

In April 2017, the nation's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4%, matching a 10-year low last seen in May 2007. To put this in perspective, the last time the unemployment rate fell below 4.4% was in May 2001, the end of the dot-com boom, when the U.S. economy grew by more than 4% annually for four straight years and the federal government ran a budget surplus.¹⁻³ Just as noteworthy, another measure called the underemployment rate — which includes “discouraged workers” who have given up looking for a job and those who are working part-time but would prefer to work full-time — fell to 8.6%, the lowest level since the beginning of the recession in December 2007. At its height in 2009–2010, this rate stood at 17.1%.⁴

These rates may drop further but not by much. Zero percent unemployment is impossible — there will always be job churn — and the lowest rate during the past 60 years was 3.4% in the late 1960s. The underemployment rate has more room for improvement, but with 5.7 million job openings, it seems clear that we are near “full employment” — when everyone who wants a job can find one.⁵ So why isn't the economy growing faster?



Jobs vs. Good Jobs

U.S. employers have added 16.3 million jobs since February 2010, an average of almost 200,000 jobs per month. Economists believe that the United States requires about 145,000 new jobs per month just to keep up with labor force growth. Still, the job expansion has been solid and steady, with gains for 79 consecutive months.⁶⁻⁷

Unfortunately, many new jobs have been in low-paying, low-skilled occupations. For example, almost 3 million jobs were added in the leisure and hospitality industry, with another 1.5 million in retail sales.⁸ New jobs that do pay well require a college degree and/or specialized skills. A 2016 study found that more than 70% of new post-recession jobs went to workers with a bachelor's degree or higher, and most of the rest went to those with some college education.⁹

This shift in the labor market has left many less-educated workers out of the recovery and resulted in persistent pockets of high unemployment in regions that have depended on manufacturing and other blue-collar occupations.¹⁰ Despite efforts to bring manufacturing back to the United States, many of these jobs are lost forever due to automation and the simple fact that American workers cannot work for the same low wages paid to foreign workers.

Though a more highly skilled workforce is needed, college alone is not the answer. By 2020, there will be an estimated 1 million more computing jobs than qualified workers to fill them as a result of the small number of computer science graduates — a gap that might be filled by targeted training programs.¹¹

Stagnant Wages

Wage stagnation has been a persistent issue, but this may be changing as the labor market tightens and employers compete for workers. In 2016, the average hourly wage rose by 2.9%, the highest gain since the recovery began. Although still low, it is made stronger by low inflation, which was just 1.7% for the year. The best news is that these gains are filtering down to lower-wage workers; the leisure and hospitality industry saw wages rise by 4.4%.¹²

Early in the year, economists predicted 3.5% wage growth in 2017, but the rate was lower through April.¹³⁻¹⁴ With inflation beginning to rise, the big question is whether further tightening of the labor market will push wages up quickly enough to outpace inflation.

The Productivity Problem

Despite job gains, the U.S. economy has been mired in slow growth mode for a decade. Real gross domestic product (GDP) rose by just 1.6% in 2016 and ran at a 1.2% annual rate during the first quarter of 2017. The last time GDP growth exceeded 3% for a full year was in 2005.¹⁵

There are many reasons for slow growth, including economic weakness overseas, lagging consumer

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spending (due in part to low wages), high health-care costs, and the reluctance of U.S. corporations to invest their profits. Some factors are already shifting in a positive direction, but there is one fundamental drag on the economy that will only worsen: the aging of the U.S. workforce and the resulting loss in productivity.

The labor force participation rate — the percentage of the civilian labor force age 16 and older who are working or actively looking for work — peaked at 67.3% in early 2000, not coincidentally the last time GDP grew by more than 4%. The participation rate has dropped steadily since then; in April 2017, it was 62.9%. This reflects lower birth rates, increased college enrollment, and men in their prime working years dropping out of the labor force. But more so, it is a result of the huge baby boomer generation who are reaching retirement age. Baby boomers are working longer than previous generations, but this can't offset the demographic shift.^{16–17}

Put simply, a nation's potential GDP is a product of the number of workers times the productivity (output) per worker. With the U.S. workforce shrinking in relation to the total population, a large increase in worker productivity would be required to push the economy to a sustainable annual growth rate of 3% or more. In the long term, the shrinking labor force — even at full employment — may hold back the U.S. economy.¹⁸

1, 4–6, 8, 16) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016–2017

2, 14–15, 17) Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2017

3) Congressional Budget Office, 2017

7) The Wall Street Journal, April 7, 2016

9) Georgetown University, 2016

10) The Wall Street Journal, May 17, 2017

11) USA Today, March 28, 2017

12–13) The New York Times, January 6, 2017

18) The Wall Street Journal, May 15, 2017

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United Lodge 66 President Mike Pietrzykowski with members holding Proud Union Home signs at July 11 meeting.

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

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202-224-5653
www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

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www.paulryan.house.gov

Representative Ron Kind, 3rd District, Democrat

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Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, 5th District, Republican

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www.sensenbrenner.house.gov

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Representative Sean Duffy, 7th District, Republican

1208 Longworth HOB
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202-225-3365
<https://duffy.house.gov>

Governor Scott Walker,
Republican
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Seniors Corner

Americans Keep their Health Care as Repeal Bill Fails in Senate

In a major victory for older Americans concerned about health care costs, the Senate failed to pass a partial repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) early Friday morning. Republican Senators Susan Collins (ME), Lisa Murkowski (AK), and John McCain (AZ) joined all Democratic senators in voting against the legislation, defeating the bill 51-49.

The partial repeal of the ACA, dubbed the “skinny repeal,” was a last resort for Senate Republicans, who narrowly approved the motion to begin debate on health care Tuesday. The bill would have destabilized the insurance market by repealing the individual and employer mandate for health insurance. Expanded waivers would have allowed states not to cover some essential health benefits currently covered by the ACA. The Congressional Budget Office found that the skinny repeal would have left 16 million more uninsured and caused premiums to increase 20%.

“We applaud all those who voted against such a harmful and deadly initiative,” said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the Alliance. “We are now calling on all elected leaders to come together and commit to a thoughtful, bipartisan deliberation on a bill that will improve health care and make it more affordable for all Americans.”

Earlier in the week the Senate rejected a version of the health care bill, 43-57 (60 votes needed for passage) that included the controversial “Cruz Amendment” from Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX). This would have allowed those with pre-existing conditions to be separated into plans with much higher premiums. On Wednesday, the Senate rejected another version of the bill 45-55. That version would have repealed the ACA with no replacement but with a two-year delay, giving GOP senators more time to create a replacement system.

Many Republican senators said they were opposed to the skinny repeal, but wanted to use it as a way to get to negotiations with House Republicans on a final health care bill.

“Thank you very much to everyone who called their senators or governors, signed a petition, attended a rally or protest, wrote a letter to the editor or spoke out against attempts to unravel our health care system,” President Roach continued. “You helped make this victory possible. But we must remain vigilant and protect our health care.”

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

6333 W. Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-771-9511

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

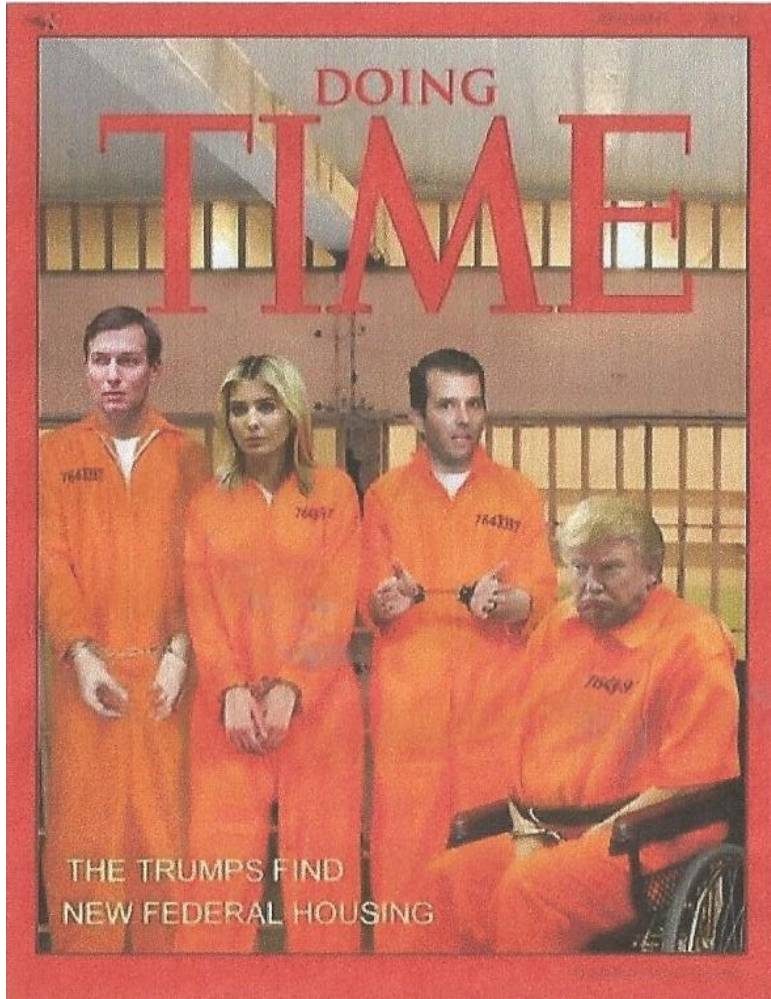
Alliance for Retired Americans

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: is **August 2, 2017**, 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.



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<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

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;
 dial 414-643-4334, 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	118
Larry Morrow (Organizer)	115

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