

Badger Lodge News



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

Vol. 21 No. 1

www.unitedlodge66.org

January 2019

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

January 8, 2019

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 2019 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is January 19.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*

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dwc/iamawill66, afl-cio

Defense Secretary James "Mad Dog" Mattis, a former Marine general, sent the following letter to President Donald Trump on Thursday, December 20, 2018, as he stepped down from his post amid a series of disagreements with the president:

Dear Mr. President:

I have been privileged to serve as our country's 26th Secretary of Defense which has allowed me to serve alongside our men and women of the Department in defense of our citizens and our ideals.

I am proud of the progress that has been made over the past two years on some of the key goals articulated in our National Defense Strategy: putting the Department on a more sound budgetary footing, improving readiness and lethality in our forces, and reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance. Our troops continue to provide the capabilities needed to prevail in conflict and sustain strong U.S. global influence.

One core belief I have always held is that our strength as a nation is inextricably linked to the strength of our unique and comprehensive system of alliances and partnerships. While the US remains the indispensable nation in the free world, we cannot protect our interests or serve that role effectively without maintaining strong alliances and showing respect to those allies. Like you, I have said from the beginning that the armed forces of the United States should not be the policeman of the world. Instead, we must use all tools of American power to provide for the common defense, including providing effective leadership to our alliances. NATO's 29 democracies demonstrated that strength in their commitment to fighting alongside us following the 9-11 attack on America. The Defeat-ISIS coalition of 74 nations is further proof. Similarly, I believe we must be resolute and unambiguous in our approach to those countries whose strategic interests are increasingly in tension with ours. It is clear that China and Russia, for example, want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model — gaining veto authority over other nations' economic, diplomatic, and security decisions — to promote their own interests at the expense of their neighbors, America and our allies. That is why we must use all the tools of American power to provide for the common defense.

My views on treating allies with respect and also being clear-eyed about both malign actors and strategic competitors are strongly held and informed by over four decades of immersion in these issues. We must do everything possible to advance an international order that is

Continued on page 4



Something trump has never been



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

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

CASH PRIZES!

2018-19 ESSAY CONTEST ON LABOR HISTORY

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its Essay Contest for the 2018-2019 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.

Students could win cash prizes:

**First place, \$500; second place \$300; third place: \$200;
honorable mention (up to five) \$100.**

WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT . . .

Here's what winners in recent contests chose to write about . . .

- ◇ An Oregon HS senior's essay traced his family's union background and provided insight on how forces are seeking to weaken labor.
- ◇ A Milwaukee Dominican HS senior wrote about how the passage of Act 10 inspired her family to become active unionists.
- ◇ A Neenah HS discussed how his father's union has become involved in improving their community.
- ◇ A Menomonee Falls HS senior told his family's experiences and the union's value in overcoming racial discrimination.

All Wisconsin high school students have ready access to labor history. Check with parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts. Also, neighbors and family friends. Ask to interview them and then write your essay. Only 750 words. Also you may do independent research on topics of labor history. Check the Wisconsin Labor History website (www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org) for resources and other ideas.

EASY TO ENTER!

CONTEST 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 **Feb. 15, 2019** 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.

SPONSORED BY: Wisconsin Labor History Society

(Affiliated with Wisconsin Historical Society)

6333 W. Bluemound Rd.

Milwaukee WI 53213

414-771-0700 ext 20

info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org

www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

Blanket Drive

BLANKETING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

AFL-CIO Community Services of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County are collecting new and gently used blankets to be distributed to homeless shelters and community agencies throughout the community.

When:

January 2nd - February 14th, 2019



Drop-Off Locations

Milwaukee Area Labor Council
633 South Hawley Road, Suite 110
Milwaukee, WI

**United Way's Johnson Controls
Volunteer Center**
200 West Pleasant Street
Milwaukee, WI

Any City of Milwaukee Firehouse

NOTE: Used blankets must be washed before being dropped off.

AFL-CIO
COMMUNITY SERVICES



United Way
Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County

For more information contact: Jay Reinke at 414.771.7070 ext. 16 or jay@milwaukeeelabor.org

<http://aflcio.org>

Union Bulletin Board

Each of us is a link in this great union chain that stretches around the world. I will try every day to keep my link, united, active and strong.

(Addie Wyatt)

Adversity does not build character.
It reveals it.

Education is the kindling of a flame,
not the filling of a vessel.

(Socrates)

You don't have to be crazy to work here.

We will train you.

Our job is to comfort the afflicted,
and afflict the comfortable.

(Mother Jones)

Teamwork in the leadership.

Solidarity in the ranks.

(Walter Reuther)

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.

(Helen Keller)

Talents are best nurtured in solitude,
but character is best found
in the stormy billows of the world.

(Goethe)

Good Riddance, Scott Walker



Walker spent every day in office actively trying to harm working people. From masquerading his vicious assault on collective bargaining as a budget fix to repealing prevailing wage and project labor agreements to actually comparing working people to “terrorists,” Walker stopped at nothing to try and destroy the labor movement.

Even in his final weeks in office, Walker is still causing chaos, signing egregious lame-duck bills into law that are specifically designed to weaken incoming-Gov. Tony Evers’ power.

But here is the good news: Scott Walker awoke a sleeping giant. The labor movement rose up in the face of his attacks. We showed him—and every would-be corporate crony union buster—what the power of solidarity looks like. And on Nov. 6, 2018—a date that will go down in labor history—we finally showed Scott Walker the door.

Mattis from page 1

most conducive to our security, prosperity and values, and we are strengthened in this effort by the solidarity of our alliances.

Because you have the right to have a Secretary of Defense whose views are better aligned with yours on these and other subjects, I believe it is right for me to step down from my position. The end date for my tenure is February 28, 2019, a date that should allow sufficient time for a successor to be nominated and confirmed as well as to make sure the Department's interests are properly articulated and protected at upcoming events to include Congressional posture hearings and the NATO Defense Ministerial meeting in February. Further, that a full transition to a new Secretary of Defense occurs well in advance of the transition of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September in order to ensure stability within the Department.

I pledge my full effort to a smooth transition that ensures the needs and interests of the 2.15 million Service Members and 732,079 DoD civilians receive undistracted attention of the Department at all times so that they can fulfill their critical, round-the-clock mission to protect the American people.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to serve the nation and our men and women in uniform.

Signed: *James N. Mattis*

Consumer Nation: Can Confidence Drive the Economy?

In October 2018, The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index® reached its highest level since September 2000, despite a steep stock market slide and potential headwinds from inflation and rising interest rates.¹ Another measure, the University of Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment, has also remained higher in 2018 than in any year since 2000.²

Confidence dropped slightly in November but remained at elevated levels not seen since the dot.com boom.³ However, all three major stock market indexes fell into negative territory for the year on November 20.⁴ So it's uncertain how long consumers will remain unruffled by market volatility.

Present and Future Conditions

The Consumer Confidence Index is derived from a questionnaire sent each month to more than 3,000 U.S. households. The survey asks consumers to rate current business and employment conditions in their regions and expectations for future conditions (six months hence) for business, employment, and household income. It also asks about plans for major purchases, but these responses are not included in calculating the index.

The University of Michigan Index is derived from three more detailed surveys that go to a smaller set of consumers and ask questions about overall economic conditions, personal finance, and buying intentions. Some economists consider consumer confidence to be a lagging economic indicator, because consumer attitudes tend to change more slowly than the broader economy. On the other hand, consumer expectations for the future are a leading indicator that may help predict future economic direction.

Jobs and Wages

At the heart of high consumer confidence is a rosy outlook for jobs and wages. The 3.7% unemployment rate in September and October 2018 was the lowest since 1969, and there were a record 7.3 million open jobs in August 2018 — more jobs than unemployed individuals. Wage growth has finally begun to pick up speed, growing at an annual rate of 3.1% in October, the highest rate since 2009. Inflation edged higher to 2.5%, but even so, workers are beginning to see real wage increases.⁵

Consumers may not be studying these statistics, but they express confidence in line with the numbers. In the November Conference Board survey, 46.6% of consumers said jobs were “plentiful,” while only 12.2% thought they were “hard to get.” Looking forward, 21.5% expected increased income in the next six months, while less than 8% expected a decrease.⁶

Spending and GDP

Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), so if consumer confidence leads to higher spending, it bodes well for the broader economy.⁷

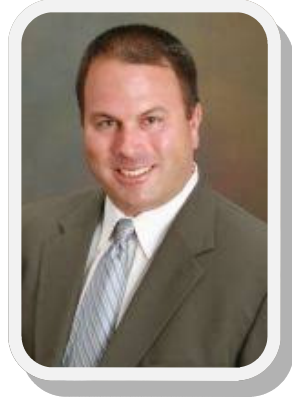
GDP grew by 3.5% in the third quarter of 2018, a drop from the 4.2% rate in the second quarter but still solid compared with previous quarters. Personal consumption expenditures (consumer spending) increased by 3.6%, slightly faster than the broader economy.⁸

The November confidence survey suggested that robust spending may continue. More consumers planned to buy a major appliance in the next six months, and the percentage who planned to buy a new home held steady, despite a slowing housing market and the prospect of higher interest rates.⁹

High consumer confidence is encouraging for the holiday season, the most important time of year for the struggling retail industry. The National Retail Federation projects that retail sales will increase between 4.3% and 4.8% this season (November and December), compared with an average of 3.9% over the last five years. The two-month holiday season accounts for about 20% of all retail sales and as much as 30% for some sectors.¹⁰

A Virtuous Circle

When consumer confidence leads to higher spending, it typically propels corporate revenues, which may prompt businesses to invest in expansion, hire more employees, and/or raise wages. Businesses have been slow to invest and raise wages, but the recent numbers for unemployment, job openings, and wage increases suggest that the economy may have reached a tipping point. If so, the virtuous circle of spending, wage increases, and more spending can be a power-



Brian

Union Side of the Street

(Tune: A Sunny Side of the Street)

Grab your coat and get your hat
Leave your worries on the door step
Just direct your feet
To the Union side of the street.

You can hear that pitter-pat
And the Union tune is your song
Life can be so sweet
On the Union side of the street.

I used to walk in the shade
With those blues on parade
But I'm not afraid
This rover crossed over.

So get yourself a union card
Hit that highway to tomorrow
Please direct your feet
To the Union side of the street.



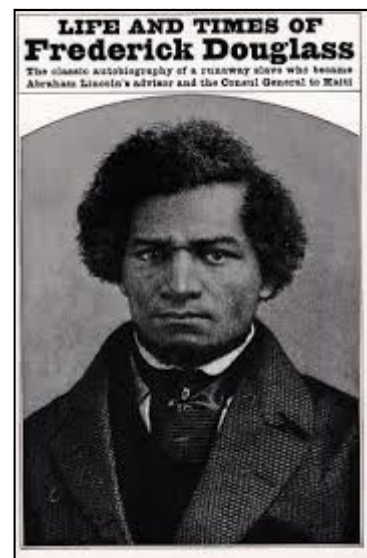
Lyrics by
Viola Hade
and Shirley
Gray

It isn't nice to block the doorway,
It isn't nice to go to jail,
There are nicer ways to do it,
But the nice ways always fail.
It isn't nice, it isn't nice,
You told us once,
you told us twice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.



**302 people arrested in the
U.S. Senate
October 4, 2018**

Frederick Douglass' Call to Action



1817-1895

For it is not light that is needed,
but fire.

It is not the gentle shower,
but thunder.

We need the storm, the whirlwind,
and the earthquake.

Consumer Nation from page 5

ful economic engine.

The danger in this cycle is that it can also drive inflation, which is one reason why the Federal Reserve has been steadily raising interest rates. Rising rates may help control inflation, but higher interest can cut into confidence and spending as it becomes more expensive to borrow. The University of Michigan surveys found that consumers expected both interest rates and inflation to increase but remained upbeat.¹¹

An extended stock market downturn could erode consumer confidence, but jobs and wages may be more important than investments to the average consumer. (And recent losses might be more palatable after the large gains from the long bull market.)

It remains to be seen whether consumer confidence will be strong enough to push through these headwinds. To some extent, that may depend on whether wage increases continue to outpace inflation. For now, confident consumers are one of the greatest strengths of the U.S. economy.

All investments are subject to market fluctuation, risk, and loss of principal. When sold, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. 1, 3, 6) The Conference Board, 2018 2, 11) University of Michigan, 2018 4) The Street, November 20, 2018 5) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018 7-8) U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2018 9) Bloomberg, November 27, 2018 10) National Retail Federation, 2018

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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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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

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Washington, DC 20515
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Representative Gwen Moore, 4th District, Democrat

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202-225-4572
www.gwenmoore.house.gov

Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, 5th District, Republican

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Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5101
www.sensenbrenner.house.gov

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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 Workers and Retirees Struggle with Enormous Backlog due to Years of Underfunding

The Alliance is calling on all members of Congress to support the Maintain Access to Vital Social Security Services Act (H.R. 7146) introduced by Rep. Gwen Moore earlier this week. The bill would require the Social Security Administration (SSA) to hold at least two public meetings and release a written report justifying the closure of any SSA field offices.

Since 2000, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has closed 125 field offices. Shutdowns became more frequent between 2010 and the present, with more than half of all closures happening during that time. Lawmakers also reduced SSA's operating budget by 11 percent and staffing by 10 percent between 2010 and 2017, despite the agency's increasingly high workload.

As a result, beneficiaries encounter long wait times when seeking help at field offices and long hold times when calling Social Security's 800 number. People applying for disability insurance often go through extensive waiting periods before their case is approved or denied. The average wait time for a disability hearing is 600 days. Many go bankrupt, become more sick and frail, or die before their applications are even processed fully.

"Given the incredible difficulties that beneficiaries and employees face, it's clear that we must dramatically increase funding for Social Security," said Richard Fiesta, executive director of the Alliance. "The fact that lawmakers have made it harder for seniors to access the benefits that they earned over a lifetime of hard work is unconscionable."

The Alliance has continued to take steps to stop this underfunding and protect benefits for current and future generations. Members have participated in several Social Security-related events this year, including rallies to protest the closures of field offices in Arlington and Baltimore.

Members also adopted two Social Security-related resolutions at our membership meeting. One of them aims to put a moratorium on field office closings and SSA cuts, set funding for administrative expenses at 1.5 percent of benefits, and expand resources and staffing.

Join the Wisconsin ARA Chapter

1602 South Park Street, #220
Madison, WI 53715
608-556-9521

<http://www.wisconsinara.org>

Alliance for Retired Americans

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Milwaukee Area Labor Council** delegate meeting: is **January 3, 2019**, is at 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee. www.milwaukeeelabor.org
- **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.



**A worker
voting for a Republican
is like a chicken
voting
for Colonel Sanders.**

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The views and opinions expressed by various writers in this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive Board or the LL66 membership. The Editor reserves the right to publish, edit, or exclude publication of any article submitted to "Badger Lodge News". Any member may contribute articles for publication; send to United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438.

Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com

<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
	120
Scott Parr	125
Greg Pursell	124
Joe Terlisner	119
Di Ann Fechter	117
Jeremy Terlisner	118

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