

# Badger Lodge News

Newsletter for United Lodge 66, Machinists Union, AFL-CIO

Chartered: November 30th, 1895

Vol. 23 No. 12

www.unitedlodge66.org

December 2021

United Lodge 66

Business Meeting

December 14th at 7:00 PM

1650 S 38th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53215

414-671-3800

**All lodge members are encouraged to attend**

## **IAM EAP and Addiction Services Program Available to Membership and Their Families During Holiday Season**

*From www.goiam.org*

The IAM recognizes the holiday season can be a stressful time for many Machinists members, staff and family members.

At any time, anyone can encounter problems associated with, but not limited to; substance abuse and addictions, mental health, stress, anxiety, depression, financial hardship and socioeconomic issues.

These are serious matters that cause problems by worsening the situation and negatively impacting the quality of life for many of our members.

If you're feeling depressed, alone or just need to talk to someone, your IAM Employee Assistance and Addiction Services Program stands ready to assist members, staff and their families 24/7.

IAM EAP Services can be accessed by emailing [iameap@iamaw.org](mailto:iameap@iamaw.org) or by calling 301-335-0735.

IAM Addiction Services can be reached by calling 1-888-250-4IAM (4426).

Your IAM EAP and Addiction Services program provides confidential assistance services to IAM members, staff and family members.

We stand ready to assist with prevention, intervention, assessment, directed care and follow-up services so our members can resume and maintain their quality of life and work.

Learn about the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, as provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Please take care of yourself, family, sisters, brothers and friends during the holiday season and remember, the IAM EAP and Retirees Department stands ready to help. We're Here!

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### **Office Hours:**

**Suspended until notice due to Covid-19 guidelines. See pg. 2**

**All Contract issues must be settled by your Business Rep at District 10. See Last Page**



## **United Lodge No. 66**

of the

**International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO**

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215 • Phone 414-671-3800

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>

### **Lodge 66 Operations during Covid-19 Situation**

The Executive Board of United Lodge 66 has made some decisions to protect the Membership and Office Staff of Lodge 66.

First of all we would like to encourage our members and their families to stay safe during this health crisis. Following the recommendations from the Federal, State and Local Governments is advised.

To protect our members and staff the office will be closed for drop-in traffic.

The office telephone will forward to Secretary-Treasurer Ivan Collins phone. The phone number for Lodge 66 is (414) 671-3800. The Lodge email is [lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com). The lodge address is 1650 S 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee WI 53215. Mail can be put in the mail slot at the office. Members are encouraged to do as much as possible through the mail. Emails and communications will be monitored. If an appointment needs to be made we will try to accommodate on an Individual basis. Several of the offices within the Machinists Organization will be staffed with reduced workforce. During these critical times we want to express to the membership that we will serve to the best of our ability and you are our main concern. The Brothers and Sisters of the Machinists Union will get through this challenge. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this major event.

In Solidarity,

*Hunter Scott*

United Lodge 66 President



YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE UNITED LODGE 66

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

food | fellowship | refreshments | raffles

*Saturday, December 4th*

*6 pm to 10 pm*

*Christmas Cash Raffle at 8:30 pm*

*4 \$500 and 27 \$100 cash prizes*

*Ticket purchase is required to  
win and you need not be present  
to win*

*Lodge 66 Hall*

*1650 S. 38th St. Milwaukee, WI*


*53214*




1650 S 38TH ST. MILWAUKEE, WI  
53214



# LODGE 66 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



RSVP by November 9th at the  
monthly meeting or by calling  
414-671-3800. Please leave  
your name, the attending  
children(s) name(s), age(s) and  
the company you work for



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DEC. 4 • 10AM TO 1PM



YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN  
(12 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER) MUST  
BE PRE REGISTERED AND WE ASK  
THAT ALL CHILDREN BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY NO MORE THE 2  
ADULTS,

**Attn: Wisconsin High School Students**

## **Cash prizes offered for essays on Wisconsin's labor and worker history**

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its **Kenneth A. Germanson Essay Contest** for the 2021-2022 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 could win cash prizes!**

**First place - \$500    Second place - \$300    Third place - \$200**

**Honorable Mention (up to five) \$100.**

### **What to write about . . .**

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](http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org)) for resources and other ideas.

### **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 submitted by email in Microsoft Word or as PDF file. Submissions must include a cover sheet with the following information: 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 at [kayeh@uwgb.edu](mailto:kayeh@uwgb.edu).

**Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2022.**

**Send your essays to the following email address: [info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org).**

**Put “essay contest” in subject line.**

### **SPONSORED BY: WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY**

(Affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society; endorsed by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO)

6333 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213

email: [info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org](mailto:info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org) website: [www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org)

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## **Seniors Corner: Medicare’s Open Enrollment Is Open Season for Scammers**

*By Susan Jaffe from www.khn.org*

Finding the best private Medicare drug or medical insurance plan among dozens of choices is tough enough without throwing misleading sales tactics into the mix. Yet federal officials say complaints are rising from seniors tricked into buying policies — without their consent or lured by questionable information — that may not cover their drugs or include their doctors. In response, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has threatened to penalize private insurance companies selling Medicare Advantage and drug plans if they or agents working on their behalf mislead consumers.

The agency has also revised rules making it easier for beneficiaries to escape plans they didn’t sign up for or enrolled in only to discover promised benefits didn’t exist or they couldn’t see their providers.

The problems are especially prevalent during Medicare’s open-enrollment period, which began Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. A common trap begins with a phone call like the one Linda Heimer, an Iowa resident, received in October. She won’t answer the phone unless her caller ID displays a number she recognizes, but this call showed the number of the hospital where her doctor works.

The person on the phone said she needed Heimer’s Medicare number to make sure it was correct for the new card she would receive. When Heimer hesitated, the woman said, “We’re not asking for a Social Security number or bank numbers or anything like that. This is OK.”

“I can’t believe this, but I gave her my card number,” said Heimer. Then the caller asked questions about her medical history and offered to send her a saliva test “absolutely free.” That’s when Heimer became suspicious and hung up. She contacted the 1-800-MEDICARE helpline to get a new Medicare number and called the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline and the Federal Trade Commission.

But later that morning the phone rang again and this time the caller ID displayed a number matching the toll-free Medicare helpline. When she answered, she recognized the voice of the same woman.

“You’re not from Medicare,” Heimer told her.

“Yes, yes, yes, we are,” the woman insisted. Heimer hung up again.

It’s been only two weeks since Heimer disclosed her Medicare number to a stranger and, so far, nothing’s gone wrong. But armed with that number, scammers could bill Medicare for services and medical supplies that beneficiaries never receive, and the scammers could sign seniors up for a Medicare Advantage or drug plan without their knowledge.

In California, reports of deceptive sales practices for Medicare Advantage and drug plans have been the top complaints to the state Senior Medicare Patrol for the past two years, said Sandy Morales, a case manager for the group. The patrol is a federally funded program that helps seniors untangle insurance problems.

Nationwide, the Senior Medical Patrol has sent 74% more cases in the first nine months of this year than in all of 2020 to CMS and the Health and Human Services Inspector General for investigation, said Rebecca Kinney, director of the Administration for Community Living’s Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at HHS, which oversees the patrols. She expects more complaints to come in during Medicare’s open-enrollment period.

*See ‘Scammers’ continued on next page*

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### *'Scammers' from previous page*

And last month, CMS officials warned the private insurance companies selling Medicare Advantage and drug plans that federal requirements prohibit deceptive sales practices.

Kathryn Coleman, director of CMS' Medicare Drug and Health Plan Contract Administration Group, said in a memo to insurers that the agency is concerned about ads widely promoting Advantage plan benefits that are available only in a limited area or to a restricted number of beneficiaries. CMS has also received complaints about sales information that could be construed as coming from the government and pressure tactics to get seniors to enroll, she noted.

Coleman reminded the companies they are "accountable and responsible for their marketing materials and activities, including marketing completed on a MA plan's behalf" by sales representatives. Companies that violate federal marketing rules can be fined and/or face enrollment suspensions. But a CMS spokesperson could not provide examples of recent violators or their penalties.

If beneficiaries discover a problem before March 31, the date the three-month disenrollment period ends each year, they have one chance to switch to another plan or to original Medicare. (Those who choose the latter may be unable to buy supplemental or Medigap insurance, with rare exceptions, in all but four states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York.) After March, they are generally locked into their Advantage or drug plans for the entire year unless they're eligible for one of the rare exceptions to the rule.

CMS this year spelled out another remedy for the first time.

Officials can grant a "special enrollment period" for people who want to leave their plan because of deceptive sales tactics. These include "situations in which a beneficiary provides a verbal or written allegation that his or her enrollment in a MA or Part D plan was based upon misleading or incorrect information ... [or] where a beneficiary states that he or she was enrolled into a plan without his or her knowledge," according to the Medicare Managed Care Manual.

"This is a really important safety valve for beneficiaries that clearly goes beyond just the limited opportunity to switch plans when someone feels buyer's remorse," said David Lipschutz, associate director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy. To use the new option, beneficiaries should contact their state's health insurance assistance program at [www.shiphelp.org/](http://www.shiphelp.org/).

The option to leave is also available if a significant number of plan members are unable to access the doctors or hospitals that were supposed to be in the provider network.

Nonetheless, the scams continue around the country, experts say.

A misleading television commercial in the San Francisco area has enticed seniors with a host of new benefits including dental, vision, transportation benefits and even "money back into your Social Security account," said Morales. Beneficiaries have told her group that when they called for information they were "erroneously enrolled into a plan that they never gave permission to enroll into," she said.

In August, an Ohio senior received a call from someone telling him Medicare was issuing new cards because of the covid-19 pandemic. When he wouldn't provide his Medicare number, the caller became angry and the beneficiary felt threatened, said Chris Reeg, director of the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program.

Reeg said another senior received a call from a salesperson with bad news: She wasn't getting all the benefits from Medicare she was entitled to.

*See 'Scammers' continued on next page*

*'Scammers' from previous page*

The beneficiary provided her Medicare number and other information but didn't realize the caller was enrolling her in a Medicare Advantage plan. She found out when she visited her doctor, who did not accept her new insurance.

In western New York, the culprit is an official-looking postcard, said Beth Nelson, the state's Senior Medicare Patrol director. "Our records indicate ... you may be eligible to receive additional benefits," it says, enticingly. When Nelson's client called the number on the card in September for more details, she provided her Medicare number and later ended up in a Medicare Advantage plan without her consent.

Heimer's scammer was persistent. When the stranger tried to reach her a third time, Heimer said, the caller ID displayed the phone number of another local hospital. She told the woman she had reported the calls to CMS, the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline and the FTC. That finally did the trick — the woman abruptly hung up.

## 5 P's of Scam Warning Signs

### PRETEND

Scammers may use a real organization name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare or even a made up, official-sounding name. They may pretend to be from a company you know, like a utility company, tech company, or a charity. They may use caller ID spoofing, which changes the phone number that shows up when they call.

### PROBLEM

Scammers may rely on a fake problem - you're in trouble with the government, you owe money, someone in your family had an emergency, or there's a virus on your computer.

### PRIZE

On the other side of "PROBLEM" is "PRIZE," where the scammer lies and says you've won money or a sweepstakes that you can only access after paying a fee.

### PRESSURE

Scammers may rely on threats of arresting, suing, or deporting you, of taking your driver's or business license away, or of corrupting your computer right then and there. The goal is to have you act in the moment, under pressure.

### PAY

Scammers may insist on a specific payment method - such as a money transfer company or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back.

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

**Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting**  
 Wednesday, November 3rd  
 at 6:30 PM  
 Milwaukee Labor Temple  
 633 S. Hawley Rd.  
 Milwaukee, WI

**District 10 Organizing Committee Meeting**  
 Tuesday, December 13th  
 at 10:30AM AND 5PM  
 Local Lodge 66  
 1650 S. 38th Street  
 Milwaukee, WI

**District 10 Business Meeting**  
 Monday, December 13th  
 At 7 PM  
 Satellite Meeting @ Lodge 66  
 1650 S. 38th Street  
 Milwaukee, WI

**Lodge 66 Business Meeting**  
 Tuesday, December 14th  
 at 7 PM  
 Local Lodge 66  
 1650 S. 38th Street  
 Milwaukee, WI

**Deadline to submit articles for the next Badger Lodge News is December 18th**  
 Submit articles by email:  
**lodge66@gmail.com**



**District 10 Office Directory:**

107 Warren St. Suite 2 Beaver Dam,  
WI 53916

Call 920-219-4919 followed by the extension for you Business Rep

- Alex Hoekstra ..... 1
- Di Ann Fechter ..... 3
- Jeremy Terlisner ..... 6
- Todd Humleker ..... 5
- Joe Terlisner ..... 7
- Greg Pursell ..... 8
- Brandon Mortenson ..... 9
- Anne Wiberg, Organizer: 414-305-8486  
or [annewiberg@gmail.com](mailto:annewiberg@gmail.com)

**Officers of Local Lodge 66**

**Machinists Union**

- President ..... Hunter Scott
- Vice President ..... Frank Riedijk
- Recording Secretary ... Michael Oettel
- Secretary/Treasurer ..... Ivan Collins
- Conductor/Sentinel .....  
Adam Duedenhoefer
- Trustees: Don Aiello, Doug  
Staniszewski and Kenny Mullan
- Communicator ..... Jon Zancanaro
- Educator ..... Mike Stark
- Editor ..... Jon Zancanaro

The views and opinions expressed by the various writers in this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the editor, Lodge 66 Executive Board or the Membership of Lodge 66. The Editor reserves the right to publish, edit or exclude publication of any article submitted to the Badger Lodge News. Any member may contribute articles for publication by sending them to United Lodge 66, 1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53215 or via e-mail to [lodge66@gmail.com](mailto:lodge66@gmail.com).

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[www.unitedlodge66.org](http://www.unitedlodge66.org)

[www.YouTube.com/badgerlodge](http://www.YouTube.com/badgerlodge)

**Do you have any concerns, complaints or congratulations you would like to bring up to those representing you in Government? Give them a call or send them a note and let your voice be heard**

**President Joe Biden (D)**

1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington D.C. 20510  
202-224-5323

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

**Senator Ron Johnson (R)**

328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
202-224-5323

<https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator>

**State Rep. Bryan Steil (R)**

1st District of Wisconsin  
1408 Longworth HOB  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-3031

<https://steil.house.gov/contact>

**State Rep. Gwen Moore (D)**

Wisconsin State District 4  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-4572

<https://gwenmoore.house.gov/contact/>

**State Rep. Glen Grothman (R)**

Wisconsin State District 6  
1427 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-2476

<https://grothman.house.gov/contact/>

**Governor Tony Evers (D)**

115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707  
608-266-1212

<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/governor/voice-an-opinion>

**Senator Tammy Baldwin (D)**

709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
202-224-5653

<https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback>

**State Rep. Ron Kind (D)**

Wisconsin State District 3  
1502 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-5506

<https://kind.house.gov/contact>

**State Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R)**

Wisconsin State District 5  
1507 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-5101

<https://fitzgerald.house.gov/contact>

**State Rep. Tom Tiffany (R)**

Wisconsin State District 7  
1714 Longworth HOB  
Washington D.C. 20515  
202-225-3365

<https://tiffany.house.gov/contact>