

Badger Lodge News

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

Chartered: November 30th, 1895

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www.unitedlodge66.org

September 2023

United Lodge 66

Business Meeting

September 12th at 7:00 PM

1650 S 38th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53215

414-671-3800

**All lodge members are
encouraged to attend**

New Segment Announcement

by Jon Zancanaro

I have dropped the ball and it's time to make it right. When I took over the communicator role I had envisioned doing a monthly segment on a very important topic and a topic that I enjoy myself: history. Labor History to be exact. I had begun with a thought of highlighting events that happened in the month this newsletter is published and focus on some of the lesser known yet just as important events that helped shape not only our union but every other labor organization here in the states and across the world. Then I lost the motivation and inspiration, which are 2 very important things for me when it comes to writing.

Flash forward to earlier this year after our May business meeting. I was having a conversation with Brian Leffleman, a co worker and steward at ocean Spray. He had brought up the idea of labor history topics here in The Badger Lodge News and it got me inspired. Brian wants to contribute but he admittedly isn't a good writer. I asked if he could send me ideas on events and such and he came through! He's given me a couple of great resources to pull events from and even some ideas on how to expand the segment beyond just events. The part that really got me was his quote of "History is the retelling of sacrifices made for our complacency." What a statement but it is 100% true.

My hope for this segment is to bring your attention to events, people and everything else that have helped shape organized labor and our workplaces today so we don't pay for anything with complacency. I haven't come up with a good title for this segment yet and don't want to simply call it "Labor History." If this article or history segment inspire you to come up with a name for it shoot it via email to lodge66@gmail.com, it would be really cool to have more participation in these pages and this could be a great start to it. Without further ado turn the page and check out our first installment of "Labor History (Better Name to Come in the Near Future).

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Office Hours:

**By appointment only. Call
414-671-3800 or email
lodge66@gmail.com**

**All Contract issues must be
settled by your Business Rep**

Labor History (Better Name to Come in the Near Future)

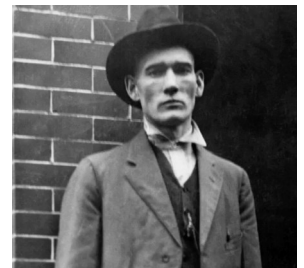
For the first installment of our Labor History segment we're going to cover The Battle of Blair Mountain. It is neither a lesser known event nor did it all happen in September, however after last month's meeting it came up in conversation and a few folks said they hadn't heard about it and I realized I knew about it but didn't know all that much about it either other than basics.

The Battle of Blair Mountain took place from August 25th to September 2nd in 1921 in Logan County, West Virginia. It was a part of the bigger West Virginia Coal Wars which spanned from 1912 to 1921. Perhaps we'll cover that in another segment but for now let's set up the background leading up to the battle.

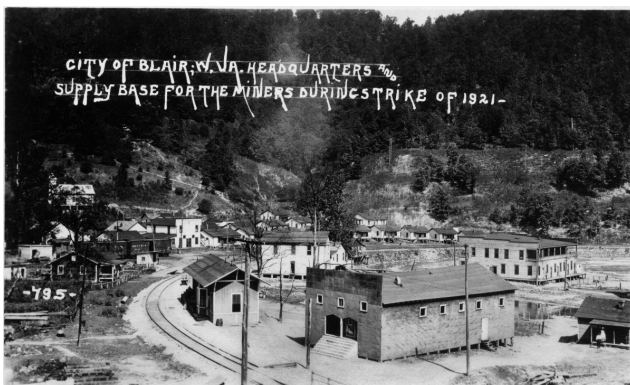
The United Mine Workers Union (UMW) was founded in 1890 but coal mines in Mingo County, West Virginia only hired non union workers, forcing them to sign individual contracts that listed union membership as a cause for termination. Making this even worse was that these workers lived in company towns and houses and termination also meant eviction. The UMW elected a new president in 1920, John L. Lewis and he wanted no more than to end the mine owners union resistance. As Lewis began his efforts, Mother Jones joined in to help and the union was able to get 3,000 new members signed up but they were fired for joining and the mine owners brought in agents from a strike breaker outfit, Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency to evict the workers and families from their homes. The Baldwin-Felts agents were known to use violence to enforce their anti union directives and were witnessed forcing a woman and her children from their home at gunpoint and threw their belongings in the street in the rain.

As a result the Police Chief of Matewan, West Virginia Sid Hatfield, yes of the famous Hatfield and McCoys feud went with miners he deputized to the train station to confront the Baldwin-Felt agents for what they had done. The agents said they had a warrant for Hatfield's arrest in which the Mayor said was bogus. A gunfight broke out and 10 men were killed in what became known as the Matewan Massacre.

Hatfield travelled to McDowell County on August 21st 1921 to face trial in a bombing case. As he and a friend, Ed Chambers along with their wives walked up to the courthouse Baldwin-Felt agents standing at the top of the stairs opened fire killing Sid Hatfield and hitting Chambers multiple times. After Chambers rolled to the bottom of the steps one of the Baldwin Felt agents shot him point blank in the back of the head as his wife Sally watched. Hatfield and Chambers' bodies were taken back to Matewan sparking the miners' anger that the gunmen would go unpunished.



***Sid Hatfield, Police Chief
of Matewan, West Vir-
ginia***



***Script reads: City of Blair, West Virginia Headquarters
and supply base for miners during the strike***

In early August, Mother Jones had given a speech calling on miners that were arming and organizing not to march on the mines with their demands as she feared they would be no match with the Agents. However by August 24th there was a group of 13,000 miners organized and ready to march on the mine owners who set up defense on Blair Mountain with the help of an anti union sheriff and funding from the Coal Operators Association. They had amassed nearly 2,000 men to defend them which was the nation's largest private armed force at the time.

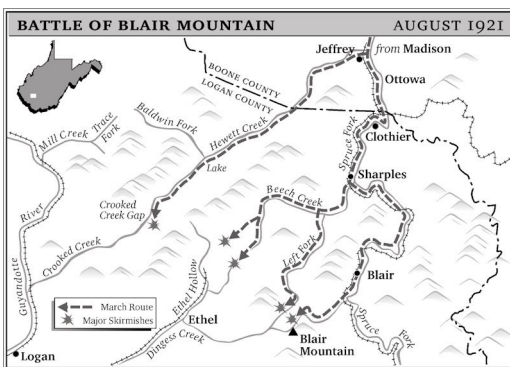
See 'History' on next page

“History” from previous page

The battle began on August 25th and by then President Harding threatened to send in federal troops and Army bombers. The miners were persuaded to return home after a meeting but the battle would be far from over. The Mine owners wanted to put an end to the organizing efforts once and for all. Rumors began to surface the mine forces had shot union sympathizers in a town called Sharples, just north of Blair Mountain. The miners that were headed home became infuriated and turned around to head for Blair mountain, many commandeering trains to get their faster.



Striking miners before the Battle of Blair Mountain began



Map outlining the route the miners took in The Battle of Blair Mountain

By the 29th of August the battle was fully underway. The Mine owners were outnumbered but had the advantage of higher ground. They even hired private planes to drop homemade bombs as well as poison gas and bombs left over from World War 1 on the miners but the miners persisted. There were 50-100 deaths reported on the unions side and 30 on the mine owners side. By September 2nd federal troops arrived to confront the union miners, many who were veterans themselves and they refused to fire on the federal troops and dispersed and headed home.

As a result of the battle 985 miners were indicted for charges of Murder, conspiracy to commit murder, accessory to murder and treason against West Virginia. Some were acquitted but most were imprisoned for years. The last of the miners imprisoned was paroled by 1925.

After the battle union membership declined rapidly with the UMW dropping from roughly 50,000 members to 10,000. It was a hit for unionizing efforts in West Virginia as well as across the country. On the flip side it raised awareness to the atrocities the miners faced in the mines as well as the horrors from the mine owners armed forces.



Striking miners re group after The Battle of Blair Mountain



Washington Times Headlining President Harding's ordering troops to Blair Mountain

While the Battle of Blair Mountain was a short term loss, in the end it was an important event in generating positive public opinions of labor unions. The battle also changed the way labor unions worked by putting an emphasis on political fundraising and backing of labor friendly candidates. This led to one of the largest labor wins in American history when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the New Deal in 1933.

IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. Announces Retirement After Historic Career, as General Vice President Brian Bryant Named Successor

from goiam.org

After nearly eight years leading the union, two decades on the Executive Council and more than 43 years of membership, IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. has announced that he will retire, effective Jan. 1, 2024. IAM Resident General Vice President Brian Bryant will succeed Martinez as the IAM's next international president.

Martinez's historic tenure as the IAM's 14th International President includes forging through some of the most challenging moments in the history of the IAM and the labor movement. He is the first Latino international president of a major American labor union in the history of the American labor movement, the first Latino elected to the IAM Executive Council, and the first international president of color in the history of the IAM.

His leadership allowed the IAM to emerge from the pandemic with financial stability and historic membership growth through robust and innovative organizing, while putting the IAM in its strongest financial position in generations.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Martinez and the IAM led the way to win unprecedented relief for airline, aerospace, defense, railroad and other workers. The quick action, including the airline Payroll Support Program (PSP) and the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program, saved hundreds of thousands of jobs and protected the livelihoods of countless families and communities.

Martinez helped the IAM grow into new industries, including healthcare professionals, gig workers, tech workers, veterinary technicians, museum workers, architectural workers and more. Martinez's creation of an IAM Healthcare Department has allowed the IAM to emerge as a leader in organizing this critical sector. Using new organizing tactics and strategies, the IAM was the leading AFL-CIO affiliate in National Labor Relations Board union election victories from 2018 through 2022.

At Martinez's direction, the IAM also created groundbreaking membership programs that assist members and their families, as well as expanded opportunities for underrepresented groups to advance in the IAM. Martinez commissioned a new department to provide IAM members and their families who are military veterans with VA claims assistance free of charge, as well as an addiction services program and a women's leadership initiative known as the Leadership Excellence Assembly of Dedicated Sisters, or IAM LEADS.

"As I reflect on my incredible journey as the International President of the IAM, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the privilege and honor to serve our dedicated members across North America," said Martinez. "The time has come to pass the torch to the next generation of leaders. It has been an honor to stand alongside our skilled and hardworking members and fight for their rights, livelihoods, and a better future for themselves and their families."

See 'IP Retires' on next page



‘IP Retires’ from previous page

“As I bid farewell to this amazing chapter of my life, I feel proud of our collective work to grow our union and strengthen its foundation built on the spirit of solidarity and justice. My dedication remains steadfast, and I eagerly anticipate our great union’s continued growth and prosperity.”

As a member of the AFL-CIO’s Executive Council, chairman of the AFL-CIO’s Industrial Union Council, and a member of the U.S. President’s Export Council, Martinez has long been a leading voice for domestic manufacturing, especially for defense production. He has led the charge to increase “Buy American” standards and served as a strong voice for workers worldwide as IndustriALL’s global aerospace chairman. Martinez made history by initiating a rank-and-file membership vote for the IAM’s endorsement for U.S. president in 2020. As chair of the 39th and 40th IAM Grand Lodge Conventions, Martinez presided over delegate action to pass a Membership Bill of Rights, greatly expand resources for organizing, increase strike benefits, implement electronic meetings, and launch a Committee on the Future to listen to our members and chart the IAM’s next chapter.

Martinez, a U.S. Naval Air veteran, began his IAM career as an aircraft assembler at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth, Texas. As an educator and safety advocate, Martinez held numerous positions at the local, district and Grand Lodge levels before joining the IAM Executive Council in 2003 as Southern Territory General Vice President. Before his January 2016 installment as International President, Martinez had served since 2013 as the IAM’s Resident General Vice President, overseeing the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, among many other IAM departments at IAM Headquarters.

Bryant, a native of Maine, has exemplified the true essence of unionism throughout his 34 years as an IAM member, advocating for the rights and welfare of workers with unwavering commitment. Starting as a pipefitter, he became an integral part of Local S6 at Bath Iron Works, actively participating in various committees and holding key positions like Shop Steward, Trustee, and President before being elected District 4 Directing Business Representative in 1998.

“I am honored to follow in the footsteps of an amazing leader and educator such as International President Martinez,” said Bryant. “Bob has been a great mentor and has left our union in a great place. I am humbled by the support of my colleagues on the IAM Executive Council for putting their faith in me and I am committed to building upon the legacy of the 14 international presidents who came before me. The time is now to shape a strong, diverse and new future for the IAM, and I look forward to listening to our membership as I travel throughout North America.”

Bryant’s journey with the International began in 2004, joining the IAM Eastern Territory staff as an IAM Special Representative. He has held the positions of Eastern Territory Chief of Staff, Headquarters General Vice President, and General Vice President in the General Secretary-Treasurer’s Office. From a Pipefitter in Local Lodge S6 to holding his latest position of IAM Headquarters General Vice President, Bryant’s career has demonstrated his passion, leadership and deep understanding of the labor movement’s core values. Among other duties, Bryant is currently overseeing the IAM’s Committee on the Future Listening Sessions across North America. The meetings give union members the opportunity to personally give IAM leadership feedback about shaping the IAM’s future.

“Brian is a proven leader who deeply understands the challenges facing our union,” said Martinez. “IAM members should be proud to have someone who will fight tirelessly for them, their families and their communities. His experience in organizing, servicing, and managing staff and finances will serve the membership well. He is the right person to lead the IAM into the future.”

Seniors Corner: Millions Will See Prescription Costs Cut as Inflation Reduction Act Takes Effect

The Department of Health and Human Services released a report on Wednesday estimating that implementation of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act will create millions in savings on prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees.

The report comes on the first anniversary of the law's signing by President Joe Biden. A key part of Biden's "Bidenomics" economic agenda, the law passed Congress on a party line vote in 2022 with only Democratic support. Biden touted the prescription benefits of the law in remarks at the White House, citing opposition to the provisions from major pharmaceutical companies.

"For years, Big Pharma won. Big Pharma blocked us. But not this time," Biden said. "This time, we finally beat Big Pharma. Medicare finally has the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices, like the Department of Veterans Affairs has had the power."

Many of the key provisions of the law affecting prescription drug costs went into effect Jan. 1. The report, released by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, analyzed past data to forecast savings from the new law. It determined that the \$35-per-month insulin cap would have saved a total of \$734 million in costs for people enrolled in Medicare Part D and an additional \$27 million for those in Medicare Part B plans if the new law's provisions had been in effect for all of 2020. HHS estimates that 1.5 million people would have benefited from the new discounts.

The act also eliminated out-of-pocket costs for vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, such as vaccines against COVID-19, Ebola, hepatitis A and B, HPV, influenza, measles, and polio. The study estimated that Medicare enrollees would save \$70 on vaccinations per year when the law is in effect; 3.4 million people received covered vaccines in 2021.

The law caps annual out-of-pocket prescription costs for Medicare Part D enrollees. The cap will be \$3,250 in 2024 and will drop to \$2,000 in 2025. The study projects that spending for more than 18.7 million people covered by the plan will be reduced by about \$7.4 billion per year starting in 2025.

Drug companies have announced price cuts to insulin since the Inflation Reduction Act was enacted.

Eli Lilly announced in March that it would cap its insulin at \$35, and that same month, Novo Nordisk announced that prices for some of its prefilled insulin pens and vials would be cut by 75%.

Republicans have attempted to pass legislation that would rescind the law, including the provisions that provide relief from prescription drug costs.

House Republicans proposed legislation in February that would repeal the entire law, but it has not come to the floor for a vote. Biden criticized the proposal in a February speech and said he would veto it.

In October, Republican Sens. James Lankford (OK) and Mike Lee (UT) introduced legislation that would prevent Medicare from capping drug prices. "Unfortunately, the Democrats' new government drug price control in their so-called 'Inflation Reduction Act' creates even more barriers to effectively bringing down the cost of prescriptions, particularly for senior adults on Medicare," Lankford said in a statement at the time.

The legislation has not been taken up for a vote by the Senate, where Democrats have a majority.

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FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE



LABORFEST

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK | 11AM-5PM

PARADE KICKS OFF FROM ZEIDLER UNION SQUARE AT 11AM

Gather on Everett Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets at 9am

**Free shuttles begin running from the Summerfest grounds to the
parade staging area at 8am**

Happy Labor Day From United Lodge 66



Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 PM Milwaukee Labor Temple 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI	District 10 Business Meeting Monday, September 11th At 7 PM Satellite Meeting @ Lodge 66 1650 S. 38th Street Milwaukee, WI	Lodge 66 Business Meeting Tuesday, September 12th at 7 PM Local Lodge 66 1650 S. 38th Street Milwaukee, WI	Deadline to submit articles for the next Badger Lodge News is September 22nd Submit articles by email: lodge66@gmail.com
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District 10 Office Directory:

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

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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.

Visit us on the web:

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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

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