

Badger Lodge News

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

Chartered: November 30th, 1895

Vol. 26 No. 3

www.unitedlodge66.org

March 2024

United Lodge 66

Business Meeting

March 12th at 7:00 PM

1650 S 38th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53215

414-671-3800

**All lodge members are
encouraged to attend**

Congress Urges Delta Air Lines to Stop Union Busting Campaign

from goiam.org

146 members of Congress [signed a letter](#) confronting Delta Air Lines over its anti-union practices. They strongly urged the airline to adopt a neutrality agreement to ensure a fair and unbiased union organizing campaign.

This letter comes after the Congressional Labor Caucus recently heard from Delta workers during the IAM's visit to Capitol Hill.

Delta Air Lines is the only U.S.-based mainline carrier where a union does not represent flight attendants, fleet service, and mechanics – only 20 percent of Delta workers are unionized. Unionized Delta pilots recently endorsed the joint IAM, AFA-CWA and Teamsters campaign to organize Delta workers.

Delta Air Lines management has threatened employees with termination for union activities. It hosts an anti-union website and distributes literature threatening workers seeking to organize. Delta also spent approximately \$38 million to oppose a flight attendant union campaign in 2010. Its anti-union activities have caused brand damage, including broad media coverage of a 2019 anti-union flier that told employees to spend money on video games instead of union dues.

“A neutrality agreement would simply free Delta workers from intimidation and allow them a pathway to join a union and collectively bargain if they wish,” said IAM International President Brian Bryant. “It would ensure that employees decide to unionize without undue pressure or interference from Delta management.”

Since November 2022, Delta employees, including flight attendants, fleet service workers, and technicians, have been actively working to form a union. The company's resistance to unionization efforts has sparked concerns about workers' rights and fair labor practices.

See 'Union Busting on page 3

Contents:

**Pages 2 & 3: Past Sacrifices,
Future Victories: Grover
Shoe Factory Disaster**

**Page 4: Seniors Corner: Tell
Congress to Oppose Fiscal
Commission Legislation**

Page 5: We Want You!

Page 6: Contact Information

Office Hours:

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

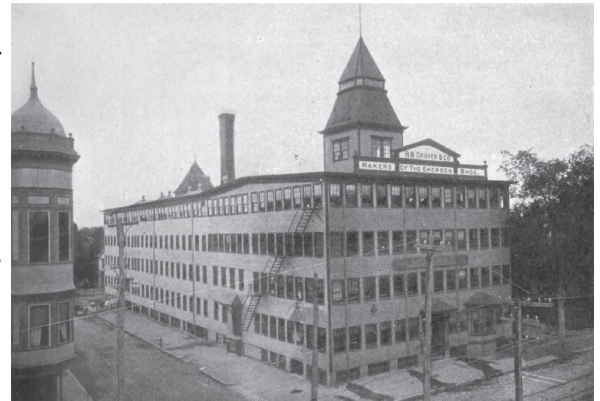
**All Contract issues must be
settled by your Business Rep
at District 10. See Last Page**

Past Sacrifices, Future Victories: The Grover Shoe Factory

Disaster

March 20, 1905 started off like every other Monday for workers at the Grover Shoe factory. Roughly 300 employees started their work day producing shoes when around 7:50 the factory's back up boiler exploded, shooting it through the roof of the 4 story building and into neighboring houses. The boiler took out the factory's water tower as well as its sprinkler system. The falling roof collapsed each floor underneath it as the weight increased with every floor as it fell. Workers were trapped under the falling debris and ultimately 58 workers lost their lives and an estimated 150 were injured.

In the weeks leading up to the explosion the Grover plant's boiler system was in need of maintenance. They had 2 boilers in the facility, one which was installed in 1891 and a newer boiler installed in 1903. The old boiler was taken out of service and was no longer needed but left in place as a back up. After the long, cold winter of 1905 the new boiler was in need of routine maintenance. As the new boiler was to be shut down, the old boiler was needed to ensure heat for the factory. The chief engineer, David B. Rockwell had maintained the old boiler and it had been inspected about a year earlier and it was rated for an operating pressure of 90 pounds per square inch.



The R.B. Grover Shoe Factory before the explosion

Early on Sunday, March 19th Rockwell ordered the fires to be lit on the old boiler so the plant would be heated in time for Monday's production. When he came to work Monday morning, Rockwell was pleased to see the old boiler working properly, and had it set to run at 80 pounds of pressure, 10 pounds below its maximum rating.

Everything seemed to be going to plan that morning but there was a problem with the older boilers design. The boiler was designed with a lap joint shell which had a joint of two pieces of steel that overlapped each other. While cracking within a boiler is expected and repairable, cracks under these joints would be nearly impossible to detect. That is exactly what caused the boiler to explode that morning, as the boiler tore away and shot through the factory, through Rockwell's own home and ended up in the house next door.



The boiler where it came to rest in a neighboring home

When the boiler shot through the 4 floors of the building, it knocked over the water tower that led to the roofs collapse. Then, like dominos each floor fell as the weight from the above floors were too much for them to withhold. The falling floors also started on fire as coals from the boilers fire pit were thrown throughout the debris, being fed by broken gas lines and wooden floors that were treated nightly with linseed oil to keep dust down. About 100 workers were able to escape unharmed and 150 were injured and 58 died.

As a result of the explosion the Boot and Shoe Workers union would pay out more than \$100,000 in benefits to the families of those that died. R.B.

See 'Sacrifices' on page 4

'Union Busting' from page 1

A neutrality agreement would require Delta to refrain from engaging in any activities that could influence the outcome of unionization efforts. By committing to neutrality, Delta would demonstrate a commitment to respecting the voices and rights of its employees. Neutrality agreements are a common practice in industries where unionization efforts are underway.

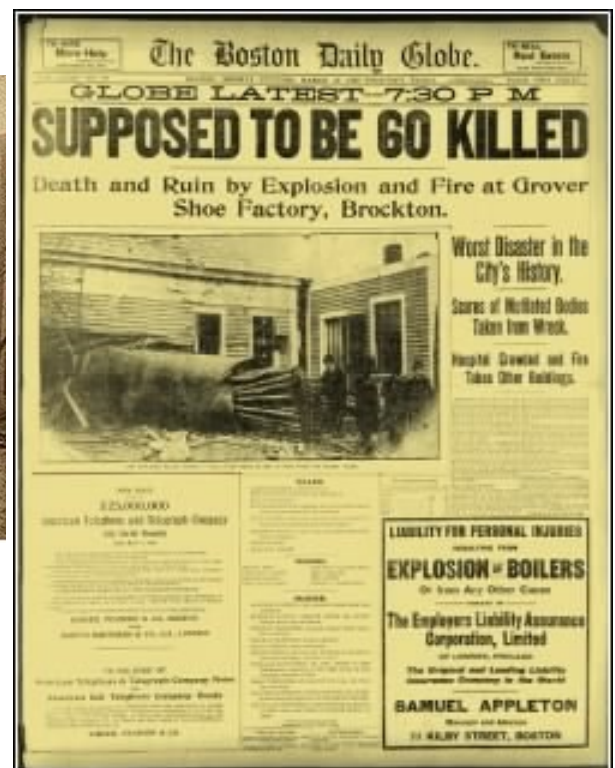
"A neutrality agreement consists of an employer agreeing not to engage in pre-election activities that influence workers' freedom to form a union," reads the letter from members of Congress. "Your commitment to neutrality would ensure that management does not pressure workers into voting against unionization or delaying the election process. We believe a neutrality agreement is the bare minimum standard that Delta should meet in respecting workers' rights and comply with the Railway Labor Act's directive to not "interfere... influence or coerce" its employees in their choice of representative."

"The IAM applauds members of Congress for taking a stand against anti-union tactics and for providing support in amplifying the voices of workers in Delta Air Lines," said IAM Air Transport General Vice President Richie Johnsen. "We are asking other elected officials to add their voice to the call for justice and join the movement demanding Delta Air Lines respect the rights of its employees."

Congress's call for Delta to embrace neutrality is critical in this stage of the organizing campaign. As the debate over workers' rights and fair labor practices continues across the country, Delta Air Lines has the opportunity to allow its workforce the freedom to organize.

'Sacrifices' from page 3

Grover's company would declare bankruptcy but he would go on to raise money for the fire victims. This explosion as well as another explosion at the Preble Box Toe Company would lead to stricter regulations with the creation of The Board of Boiler Rules in Massachusetts that set the table for national passage of boiler safety code.



Aftermath of the boiler explosion (above) and The Boston Daily Globe reporting the disaster (right)



We Want You!!!

To share your stories with us!

Have you just won a grievance/arbitration? Have you ratified a new contract? Have you done or witnessed a fellow union member do extraordinary things?

Submit your stories, or story ideas via email to: lodge66@gmail.com

We can help turn your ideas into stories for publication here in The Badger Lodge News and on our website, www.unitedlodge66.org

Seniors Corner: Tell Congress to Oppose Fiscal Commission Legislation

from actionnetwork.org

Social Security and Medicare could be on the chopping block if we don't act now.

Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI) and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) in the House and Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Mitt Romney (R-UT) in the Senate have introduced bills to create a "fiscal commission." The commission would be tasked with recommending cuts to programs like Social Security and Medicare with no amendments or proper debate. There is no requirement that the commission's deliberations would be open to the public, allowing politicians to fast-track cuts to these critical benefits behind closed doors.

Send a message [here](#) to your members of Congress to demand that they oppose H.R. 5779, the Fiscal Commission Act; S. 3262, the Fiscal Stability Act; and any other legislation calling for a "fiscal commission."



Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

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

<u>District 10 Office Directory:</u>	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	
<p>107 Warren St. Suite 2 Beaver Dam, WI 53916</p> <p>Call 920-219-4919 followed by the extension for you Business Rep</p> <p>Alex Hoekstra 1 Nick Bednarek 3 Jeremy Terlisner 6 Todd Humleker 5 Joe Terlisner 7 Hunter Scott 8 Justin Bader 9 Anne Wiberg, Organizer: 414-305-8486 or annewiberg@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>President Joe Biden (D)</u> 1600 Pennsylvania Ave Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-5323 https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/</p> <p><u>Senator Ron Johnson (R)</u> 328 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-5323 https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator</p>	<p><u>Governor Tony Evers (D)</u> 115 East Capitol Madison, WI 53707 608-266-1212 https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/governor/voice-an-opinion</p> <p><u>Senator Tammy Baldwin (D)</u> 141 Hart Senate Office Building Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-5653 https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback</p>
<p><u>Officers of Local Lodge 66</u></p> <p><u>Machinists Union</u></p> <p>President Mike Oettel Vice President Mike Stark Recording Secretary .. Jon Zancanaro Secretary/Treasurer ... Kenny Mullan Conductor/Sentinel Adam Duedenhofer Trustees: Don Aiello, Thomas Schaab and Liam Maltz Communicator Jon Zancanaro Educator Mike Stark Editor Jon Zancanaro</p>	<p><u>State Rep. Bryan Steil (R)</u> 1st District of Wisconsin 1408 Longworth HOB Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-3031 https://steil.house.gov/contact</p> <p><u>State Rep. Gwen Moore (D)</u> Wisconsin State District 4 2252 Rayburn House Office Building Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-4572 https://gwenmoore.house.gov/contact/</p>	<p><u>State Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R)</u> Wisconsin State District 3 1513 Longworth H.O.B. Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-5506 https://vanorden.house.gov/</p> <p><u>State Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R)</u> Wisconsin State District 5 1507 Longworth H.O.B. Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-5101 https://fitzgerald.house.gov/contact</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Visit us on the web: www.unitedlodge66.org www.YouTube.com/badgerlodge</p>	<p><u>State Rep. Glen Grothman (R)</u> Wisconsin State District 6 1427 Longworth H.O.B. Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-2476 https://grothman.house.gov/contact/</p>	<p><u>State Rep. Tom Tiffany (R)</u> Wisconsin State District 7 451 Cannon HOB Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-3365 https://tiffany.house.gov/contact</p>