

Badger Lodge News

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

Chartered: November 30th, 1895

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www.unitedlodge66.org

September 2024

United Lodge 66
 Business Meeting
 September 10th at 7:00 PM
 1650 S 38th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 414-671-3800
All lodge members are encouraged to attend

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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 at District 10. See Last Page

IAM Union Statement on Former President Trump's Visit to Pennsylvania Manufacturing Facility

from goiam.org

Brian Bryant, International President of the 600,000-member International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), released the following statement on former President Trump's visit to an IAM Union-represented facility, Precision Custom Components, in York, Pa.:

"As former President Donald Trump prepares to visit Precision Custom Components, we must remember the hard truths about his record with American workers. The IAM has consistently called out Trump's failures during his time in office.

"When Trump took office, we pledged to call balls and strikes with his administration.

"Unfortunately, he didn't take long to strike out with the IAM. Throughout his presidency, Trump's policies and inaction led to the closure of nearly 48 IAM-represented plants, devastating countless families and communities. Despite our numerous requests for help to save these jobs, Trump remained silent, showing where his true priorities lay.

"From Harley-Davidson in Missouri to Schneider Electric in Indiana, Trump's administration failed to act, allowing U.S. jobs to be shipped overseas and plants to shutter. His "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" was a massive corporate giveaway that did nothing for American workers while benefiting CEOs and shareholders. The so-called tax reform only accelerated job losses eroded the foundation of American manufacturing and devastated the IAM Union.

"Trump's record is a catalog of empty promises and broken commitments. He assured us that 'U.S. workers won't lose one plant' on his watch, but the reality differed. The IAM saw jobs being outsourced and plants being closed,

See 'Trump Record' on pg. 3

Past Sacrifices, Future Victories: Hamlet Chicken Processing Plant Fire



An aerial view of the Imperial Food Product Plant in Hamlet, North Carolina

On the morning of September 3rd, 1991 there was a fire in the Imperial Food Products plant located in Hamlet, North Carolina. 25 people lost their lives and another 54 were injured. There were a multitude of safety violations perpetrated by Imperial Foods and its management that led to the senseless injuries and deaths that day.

Imperial Foods was owned by Emmet Roe and the building that housed its chicken processing plant had been vacant for many years in Hamlet, North Carolina. Once the building was acquired in 1980 there was extensive renovations done to the building, but Roe and his company did not apply for or granted permits for much of the work that was done. The town of Hamlet seemed to have turned a blind eye as there was a shortage of jobs in the area and Imperial Foods was set to be the largest employer. Those decisions would prove to be fatal.

The plant didn't have the best safety record, having logged fires in 1980, 1983 and 1987. One of these fires permanently disabled the fire alarm and sprinkler system and it wasn't replaced. There was no record of management ever holding a fire drill. The plant was also full of flammable materials in chicken grease and fryer oil. It's astounding to think that nothing serious had happened before the fire in 1991.

The morning of September 3rd, 1991 saw the plant maintenance team working to replace a faulty hydraulic hose. The team had asked for the proper replacement but the plant operations manager, Brad Roe, son of Imperial Foods owner Emmet Roe told the team to use a hose that was meant for another machine because the direct replacement would cost too much money. They installed the incorrect hose and it was too long for the application which led the team to shorten it and use an incorrect connector.



The area where the hydraulic hose was replaced

Around 8:15 am the replacement hose was put back into service and it almost immediately broke, shooting hydraulic fluid all over the area. Nearby was a cooker and once the fluid made contact with the heating element the fire erupted. It spread rapidly through the facility and sent the 90 workers on site running. Workers that were close to the front entrance were able to escape unharmed. Workers towards the back of the plant were not so lucky. Plant leadership had locked 7 of 9 exterior doors from the outside to curb theft. One such door was marked clearly inside as a fire exit. Employees were able to successfully kick out one locked door to escape.

See 'Past Sacrifices' on pg. 4

'Trump Record' from pg. 1

all while Trump focused on policies favoring the wealthy and powerful. Trump recently laughed with his billionaire buddy Elon Musk about firing striking workers. He's not even pretending to stand with workers any more.

"In stark contrast, the Biden-Harris administration has shown a genuine commitment to labor and working families. Through initiatives like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act, they have worked tirelessly to revitalize American industry and create good-paying jobs. The Biden-Harris administration's efforts to enforce Buy American provisions and invest in infrastructure have benefited IAM members.

"In September, over 1,000 IAM delegates representing every local and district within our union will gather in New York City at the 41st IAM Grand Lodge Convention to decide on the IAM Union endorsement for the 2024 presidential election.

"We cannot afford to return to the days of Trump's broken promises. The future of our union and our country depends on moving forward, not backward. The IAM Union will continue to fight for leaders who genuinely support labor and protect the rights and jobs of working people.

"Donald Trump had his chance, and he failed us. Our members will choose whether to endorse a leader who stands with labor to build a brighter future for American workers or one who uses workers as props for his press conferences.

The graphic is a yellow rectangular banner with blue and white text and graphics. At the top left is the Milwaukee Area Labor Council logo. To its right, the text "MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL" is written in white. The main text "LABORFEST 2024" is in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. To the right of this is a circular logo with the text "It's Better in a UNION" and a city skyline. Below the main text, a blue banner contains the text "MONDAY, SEPT. 2ND | 11AM - 5PM" in white. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text "HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK" in blue, with "Parade Kicks off from Zeidler Union square at 11am" in smaller blue text below it.

Gather on Everett Street between 2nd and 3rd streets at 8am. Free shuttles begin running from the Summerfest Lots H and P (parking is free in these lots) and Gate 6 and Mid Gate to the parade staging area at 8am.

'Past Sacrifices' from pg. 2

As the fire spread it burnt out the phone lines in the facility which lead Brad Roe to drive to the fire station to report the fire. The Hamlet Fire Department was not large enough to handle the fire and had to call in assistance from nearby municipalities. Curiously, they did not reach out to a volunteer fire department located just 5 minutes from the plant. It is not official but many speculate the Hamlet Fire Chief did not call on them because they were located in a predominantly African-American neighborhood.



Kick marks on one of the locked doors that workers were ultimately able to escape from

In total 25 workers lost their lives that day while another 54 were injured. Emmet Roe would face 25 counts of involuntary manslaughter and plead guilty. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison but was released on parole after serving just 4 years. Brad Roe would not be charged with any crimes. Imperial would be fined \$808,150 but would file bankruptcy and would never pay the fine.

In the wake of the fire the state government in North Carolina would face scrutiny. The governor blamed the labor commissioner for the lack of inspections at the facility. OSHA had to step in and even the Labor Secretary put in a harsh deadline for North Carolina to enact stricter inspection rules.



Memorial at the former Imperial Food Product plant site. It reads:

"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

On the morning of September 3, 1991, A fire erupted in the Imperial Foods Processing Plant located on this site. Twenty-five Lives were lost, fifty-four people were injured and forty-nine children were left orphaned.

This memorial is dedicated to honor and remember those who died, those who were injured and those whose lives were forever changed on that day.

This third day of September, 2003 by the city of Hamlet and it's citizens.



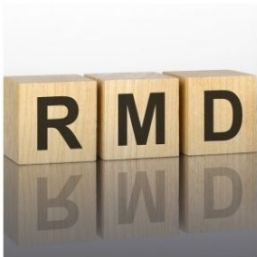
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Required Distributions: Changes You Need to Know

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 (SECURE Act) changed the rules for taking distributions from retirement accounts inherited after 2019. The so-called *10-year rule* generally requires inherited accounts to be emptied within 10 years of the original owner's death, with some exceptions. Where an exception applies, the entire account must generally be emptied within 10 years of the beneficiary's death or within 10 years after a minor child beneficiary reaches age 21. This reduces the ability of most beneficiaries to spread out, or "stretch," distributions from an inherited defined contribution plan or an IRA.

In 2022, the IRS issued proposed regulations that interpreted the revised **required minimum distribution (RMD)** rules. Final regulations have now been issued and are generally applicable starting in 2025. They basically adopt the proposed regulations, while reflecting some changes made by the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 and including certain changes in response to comments received on the proposed regulations. Under these regulations, some beneficiaries could be subject to annual required distributions as well as a full distribution at the end of a 10-year period. Account owners and their beneficiaries may want to familiarize themselves with these changes and how they might be affected by them.



The RMD 10-year rule substantially reduces the ability of most nonspouse beneficiaries to stretch distributions from an inherited defined contribution plan or IRA after the death of the original owner.

RMD basics

If you own an individual retirement account (IRA) or participate in a retirement plan like a 401(k), you generally must start taking RMDs for the year you reach your RMD age. RMD age is 70½ (if born before July 1, 1949), 72 (if born July 1, 1949, through 1950), 73 (if born in 1951 to 1959), or 75 (if born in 1960 or later). If you are still working for the employer that maintains the retirement plan, you may be able to wait until the year you retire to start RMDs from that account. Failing to take an RMD can be costly: a 25% penalty tax (50% prior to 2023) generally applies to the extent an RMD is not made.

The **required beginning date (RBD)** for the first year you are required to take a lifetime distribution is no later than April 1 of the next year. After your first distribution, annual distributions must be taken by the end of each year. (Note that if you wait until April 1 to take your first-year distribution, you would have to take two distributions for that year: one by April 1 and the other by December 31.)

Lifetime distributions are not required from Roth accounts and, as a result, Roth account owners are always treated as dying before their RBD. Prior to 2024, these two special rules for Roth accounts applied to Roth IRAs, but not to Roth employer retirement plans.

When you die, the RMD rules also govern how quickly your retirement plan or IRA will need to be distributed to your beneficiaries. The rules are largely based on two factors: (1) the individuals you select as beneficiaries of your retirement plan, and (2) whether you pass away *before* or *after* your RBD.

Who is subject to the 10-year rule?

The SECURE Act still allows certain beneficiaries to "stretch" distributions, at least to some extent. These **eligible designated beneficiaries (EDBs)** include your surviving spouse, your minor children, any individual not more than 10 years younger than you, and certain disabled or chronically ill individuals. Generally, EDBs are able to take annual required distributions based on remaining life expectancy. However, once an EDB dies, or once a minor child EDB reaches age 21, any remaining funds must be distributed within 10 years.

Contributed by Brian Goode / Union Financial / 1-262-835-9111 / goode.brian@principal.com



Significantly, though, the SECURE Act requires that if your designated beneficiary is not an EDB, the entire account must be fully distributed within 10 years after your death.

What if your designated beneficiary is not an EDB?

If you die *before* your RBD, no distributions are required during the first nine years after your death, but the entire account must be distributed in the 10th year.

If you die *on or after* your RBD, annual distributions based on remaining life expectancy are required in the first nine years after the year of your death, then the remainder of the account must be distributed in the 10th year. Annual distributions after your death will be based on the greater of (a) what would have been your remaining life expectancy or (b) the beneficiary's remaining life expectancy.

What if your beneficiary is a nonspouse EDB?

After your death, annual distributions will be required based on remaining life expectancy. If you die *before* your RBD, required annual distributions will be based on the EDB's remaining life expectancy. If you die *on or after* your RBD, annual distributions after your death will be based on the greater of (a) what would have been your remaining life expectancy or (b) the beneficiary's remaining life expectancy.

After your beneficiary dies or your beneficiary who is your minor child turns age 21, annual distributions based on remaining life expectancy must continue during the first nine years after the year of such an event. The entire account must be fully distributed in the 10th year.

What if your designated beneficiary is your spouse?

There are many special rules if your spouse is your designated beneficiary. The 10-year rule generally has no effect until after the death of your spouse, or possibly until after the death of your spouse's designated beneficiary.

What life expectancy is used to determine RMDs after you die?

Annual required distributions based on life expectancy are generally calculated each year by dividing the account balance as of December 31 of the previous year by the applicable denominator for the current year (but the RMD will never exceed the entire account balance on the date of the distribution).

When your life expectancy is used, the applicable denominator is your life expectancy in the calendar year of your death, reduced by one for each subsequent year. When the nonspouse beneficiary's life expectancy is used, the applicable denominator is that beneficiary's life expectancy in the year following the calendar year of your death, reduced by one for each subsequent year. (Note that if the applicable denominator is reduced to zero in any year using this "subtract one" method, the entire account would need to be distributed.) And at the end of the appropriate 10-year period, any remaining balance must be distributed.

Relief for certain RMDs from inherited retirement accounts for 2024

The IRS has announced that it will not assert the penalty tax in certain circumstances where individuals affected by the RMD changes failed to take annual distributions in 2024 during one of the 10-year periods. (Similar relief was previously provided for 2021, 2022, and 2023.) For example, relief may be available if the IRA owner or employee died in 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 and *on or after* their RBD and the designated beneficiary who is not an EDB did not take annual distributions for 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 as required (during the 10-year period following the IRA owner's or employee's death). Relief might also be available if an EDB died in 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 and annual distributions were not taken in 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 as required (during the 10-year period following the EDB's death).

The rules relating to required minimum distributions are complicated, and the consequences of making a mistake can be severe. Talk to a tax professional to understand how the rules, and the new regulations, apply to your individual situation.



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Seniors Corner: Will Trump Protect Social Security and Medicare?

from urbanmilwaukee.com

A recent flyer mailed out by the Republican Party of Wisconsin aims to reassure voters that Donald Trump would protect Social Security and Medicare—and that Democrat Kamala Harris would “destroy” the two programs. It also illustrates the difficulties that Trump and his MAGA campaign have in developing a consistent message.

The flyer takes the form of a two-sided card. Each side is devoted to one of these two propositions.

The side devoted to attacking Harris starts by describing her as “FAILED, WEAK. DANGEROUSLY LIBERAL,” and accuses her of “DESTROYING SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE.” (The caps are in the original.) As evidence, the card makes three arguments.

The first argument is based on a headline from CNN: “US announces big hike in Medicare premiums.” The card does not give the date of the headline, leaving the impression that the “big hike” is scheduled for 2025. In reality, it was published on November 13, 2021, nearly three years ago. The article quotes government officials as attributing the hike to the pandemic which caused a decrease in economic activity resulting in lower tax revenue. Also blamed was uncertainty over the pricey and controversial Alzheimer’s drug Aducanumab (which has since been discontinued by its manufacturer).

The second argument referred to an article in the July 4, 2024, Michigan Independent that reported that Harris had cast more tie-breaking votes in the Senate than any vice president in US history, blaming her for the subsequent inflation. But officials also noted that for most Social Security recipients the impact would be negligible because they would be receiving a substantial cost of living increase in their payments.

The third argument is the most interesting. It refers to a 2021 study from the anti-immigration Center for Immigration Studies in opposition to amnesty for undocumented immigrants. The study pointed out that “under current law, illegal immigrants are net contributors to Social Security and Medicare.” That is, undocumented immigrants pay Social Security and Medicare taxes but cannot legally receive benefits. Amnesty would transform illegal immigrants from net contributors into net beneficiaries. The study concluded that granting them amnesty, thereby making them eligible for Social Security and Medicare, would cost the two programs roughly \$1.3 trillion in present value.

The second side of the card claims that Trump is in favor of “PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE.” (Again, the caps are in the original.) It points out that protecting Social Security and Medicare is Policy #14 of Trump’s 20 Promises to America.

It’s worth noting that when Trump was president, his administration’s budget proposals included spending cuts to Social Security and Medicare, as CNN has reported. Trump has also made other seemingly unrelated campaign promises this year that could impact Social Security and Medicare.

Specifically, Trump’s Promises 1 and 2 claim he would:

Strengthen Border Controls: Implement comprehensive measures to secure the border and manage immigration effectively.

See ‘Seniors Corner’ on next page

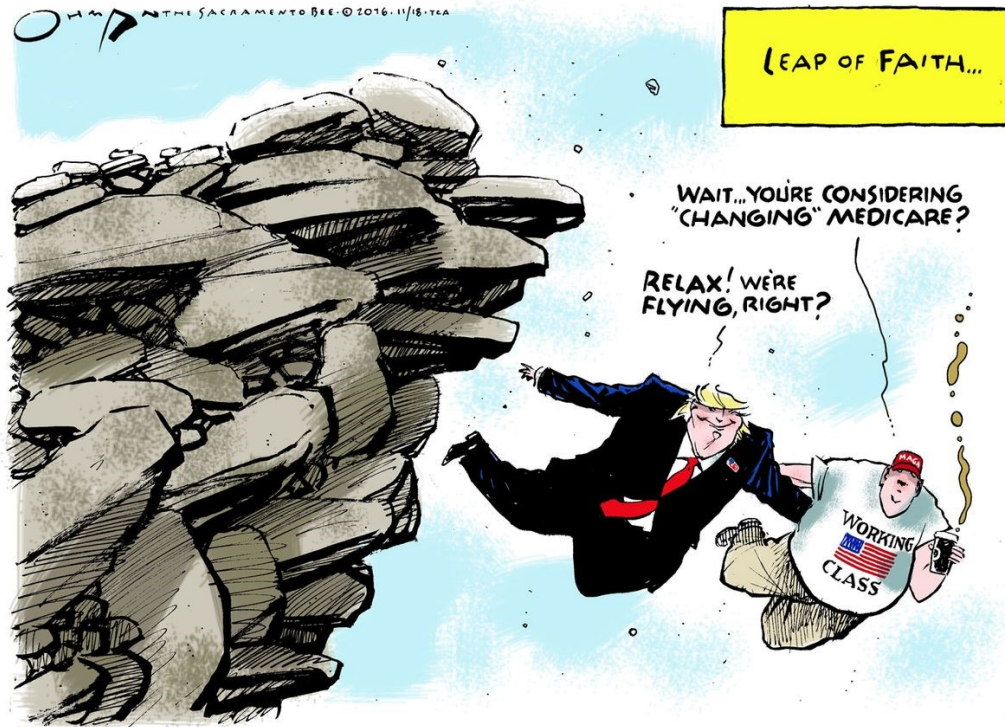
'Seniors Corner' from previous page

Assuming he would be successful in this—a questionable conclusion—this would have the effect of eliminating the \$1.3 trillion subsidy that undocumented immigrants make to Social Security and Medicare, while exacerbating the current labor shortage caused by the aging of the American population. Plus, it would create enormous cruelty to people who are here looking for a better life.

Among Trump's 20 promises are a number that would either increase government costs or reduce government revenues. The Wisconsin Republican Party's card adds another: "Seniors should not pay tax on Social Security!"

Traditionally, the reason that Republican politicians targeted Social Security and Medicare is that they cost a lot of money. Missing from the list of 20 promises is any mention of how these proposals would be funded.

Lacking that, Trump's so-called Platform must be regarded as a hodgepodge of unconnected things chosen in the expectation that they appeal to one or another group of voters.



Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

<p>Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30 PM Milwaukee Labor Temple 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>District 10 Business Meeting Monday, September 9th At 7 PM Satellite Meeting @ Lodge 66 1650 S. 38th Street Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>Lodge 66 Business Meeting Tuesday, September 10th at 7 PM Local Lodge 66 1650 S. 38th Street Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>Deadline to submit articles for the next Badger Lodge News is September 20th Submit articles by email: lodge66@gmail.com</p>
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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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