

Badger Lodge News

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

Chartered: November 30th, 1895

Vol. 27 No. 2

www.unitedlodge66.org

February 2025

United Lodge 66
Business Meeting
February 11th at 7:00 PM
1650 S 38th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800
All lodge members are encouraged to attend

IAM Membership Elects Incumbent Executive Council, Law Committee and AFL-CIO, CLC Delegates

from goiam.org

In an overwhelming show of support, IAM Union members have nominated and elected the incumbent Executive Council members and international officers to a new four-year term, beginning July 1, 2025. For the first time in nearly two decades, there will be no need for runoffs for international officer elections.

“On behalf of myself and the entire IAM Executive Council, we would like to thank all IAM members for again upholding our longstanding tradition of union democracy,” said IAM International President Brian Bryant. “We continue to be proud of the IAM’s ‘one member, one vote’ electoral system that gives all members a voice in our union’s future.”

Nominations were held on Jan. 18, 2025 at every IAM Local throughout the United States and Canada. No candidates other than those elected below received enough nominations to hold a full election. A full nomination listing by Local is being finalized and will be released in the coming weeks.

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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*



ELECTIONS

Newly Elected Executive Council Members

International President

Brian Bryant (Local S6)

General Secretary-Treasurer

Dora Cervantes (Local 2198)

Canadian General Vice President

David Chartrand, Canadian General Vice President (Local 712)*

U.S. General Vice Presidents

David Sullivan, General Vice President (Local S6)
Richie Johnsen, General Vice President (Local 1781)
Craig Martin, General Vice President (Local 470)
Jody Bennett, General Vice President (Local 2771)
Sam Cicinelli, General Vice President (Local 701)
Robert "Bobby" Martinez, General Vice President (Local 933)

Law Committee

Eric Johnston (Local 235)
Ryan Haehnlein (Local 701)
Teresa Peart (Local 774)
Olu Ajetomobi (Local 1781)
Sal Vasquez (Local 311)

Delegates to the AFL-CIO

E. Michael Vartabedian (Local 264)
Sharon Sugiyama (Local 2339G)
Richard Jackson (Local 751A)

Delegate to the Canadian Labour Congress

Christy Slauenwhite (Local 764)*

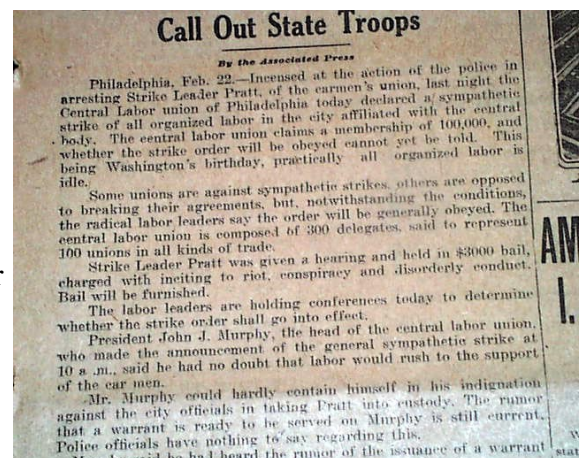
*Elected solely by IAM members in Canada.

Past Sacrifices, Future Victories: Philadelphia General Strike of 1910

This month we are going to take a look at the General Strike of 1910 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The strike occurred on February 19th, 1910 but had been brewing the previous year and a half. In May of 1909 members of The Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America went to their employer, Philadelphia Rapid Transit (PRT) demanding a raise to 25 cents an hour, a 9 to 10 hour workday and the ability to purchase their uniforms from the provider of their choice, not from the company's sole chosen provider. The company did not sit down to talk with the union, and instead brought strike breakers in from New York City and Boston. The union issued a statement that if PRT did not meet their demands by June 7th, they would organize a strike with the rest of the Central Labor Union affiliates in Philadelphia. State senators and the mayor of Philadelphia implored PRT to meet with and come to an agreement with the union.

Before the deadline the union issued they came to an agreement with PRT that saw workers receive an wage increase to 21 to 22 cents per hour, a 10 hour work day and the option to purchase their uniforms from 5 suppliers approved by the company. This subsidized the union for the time being, but that would not last.

In December of 1909 the union once again demanded a wage increase to 25 cents an hour. PRT denied their request to negotiate. They offered the workers what they called a "welfare plan" which was overly complicated and made a lot of non union workers join the union in their fight for 25 cents an hour.



Continued on next page

Since PRT would not meet to negotiate with the union they called for a strike vote. The strike passed with 95% approval. This time the government took sides with PRT and urged workers not to strike since they owed service to the city. PRT did finally meet with the union but dragged their feet and even brought Samuel Gompers to issue a statement urging PRT to come to an agreement with the union. PRT broke off the discussions and then fired 173 workers on February 19th, 1910.

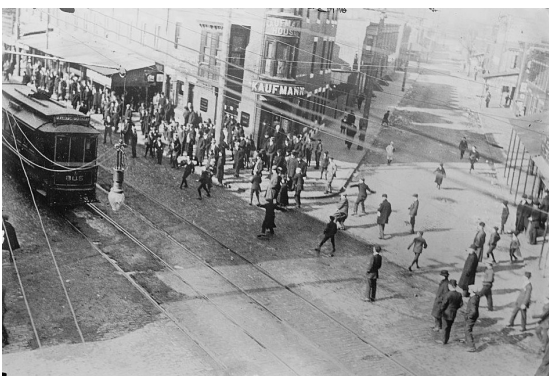


The union immediately called for a strike and the union pulled all of the streetcars off their lines by 1pm that day. The mayor was prepared for the strike and called in police units to guard the trolley barns against vandalism and damage. This led to a mob dismantling a local schoolhouse that was being built so they could build their own makeshift bunkers to fight against the police. The police countered by driving heavy equipment into the crowds while the crowd

showered them with rocks, bricks and tools from the upper floors of the surrounding buildings. There were 12 arrests and 20 individuals were hospitalized as a result.

Chaos broke out all throughout the city as a result and led to the other Central Labor Union affiliated unions joining in the strike, prompting a general strike in Philadelphia. Public sentiment was on the workers side as they felt the government was not on the peoples side, but rather on the sides of the corporations. The general strike extended beyond Philadelphia too, with walkouts taking place up and down the east coast.

It is unclear through researching this event if the striking workers won the 25 cents per hour they were striking for. What is apparent is that this strike set a blueprint for labor strikes over the next couple of years.





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The Social Security Fairness Act Increases Benefits for Millions



Implementing benefit changes may take some time. The Social Security Administration will post updates on its site, ssa.gov.

Under the Social Security Fairness Act signed by President Biden on January 5, 2025, almost 3 million Americans will receive a boost to their Social Security benefits.¹ This bill, which had bipartisan support, restores full Social Security benefits to some public-sector employees, including teachers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and others who have been affected by two provisions of current federal law — the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Although the increased benefit amount for individuals will vary, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that eliminating the GPO will increase monthly benefits for 380,000 impacted spouses by \$700 on average and by \$1,190 on average for 390,000 impacted surviving spouses. Eliminating the WEP will increase monthly benefits for approximately 2.1 million impacted individuals by \$360 on average.²

Those affected will be entitled to higher benefits starting in January 2025. Individuals who received benefits in 2024 will also be entitled to back payments equal to the difference between what they received in 2024 and what they would have received without a GPO or WEP reduction.

Some background

Both the GPO and the WEP were originally intended to equalize benefits for those who receive Social Security benefits based on a job where they contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes (covered employment) and a pension from a job where Social Security payroll taxes were not withheld (noncovered employment). For decades, advocates for reform have been trying to change or repeal these provisions, arguing that they are unfair and cause financial hardship.

Enacted in 1977, the GPO has affected spouses and surviving spouses who receive pensions from a federal, state, or local government or non-U.S. employer based on noncovered employment and who also qualify for Social Security benefits based on their spouses' work histories in covered employment. The GPO reduces Social Security spousal or widow(er) benefits by two-thirds of the amount of the pension. The reduction was intended to help ensure that the spousal and widow(er) benefits of those with covered or noncovered lifetime earnings would be about equal.

Enacted in 1983, the WEP has affected individuals who receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits based on their own covered employment (if fewer than 30 years) and a pension from noncovered employment. The Social Security benefit formula is progressive, meaning it replaces a greater share of career-average earnings for lower-paid workers than for higher-paid workers. The WEP was passed so that workers receiving pensions from noncovered employment would not receive higher benefits because the Social Security benefit formula did not count their noncovered earnings, making it appear as if they were lower-paid workers. A modified formula was implemented to figure benefits for those affected by the WEP, resulting in lower monthly Social Security benefits; the reduction was limited to half of the amount of the pension.

While advocates of the bill are cheering, opponents of the bill are concerned that repealing the GPO and the WEP will worsen the outlook for the combined Social Security trust funds. According to a CBO cost estimate, the depletion date for the combined Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) trust funds could be pushed forward about six months, potentially leading to a substantial reduction in Social Security benefits for all beneficiaries even sooner than expected, unless Congress acts to address the impending trust fund shortfall.³



What happens next?

If you're among those affected, be aware that implementing benefit changes may take some time, according to a message from the Social Security Administration:

"At this time, the Social Security Administration is evaluating the law and how to implement it. We will provide more information on our website, ssa.gov as soon as it is available. If you are already entitled, you do not need to take any action at this time except to verify that we have your current mailing address and direct deposit information. If you are receiving a public pension and are now interested in filing for benefits, you may file online at ssa.gov or schedule an appointment."⁴

The SSA notes that you can verify your current mailing address and direct deposit information online without calling or visiting a Social Security office by signing in to a personal *my* Social Security account or creating one on the SSA website.

1-3) Congressional Budget Office, September 2024

4) Social Security Administration, December 2024

If you do not want to receive e-mails of this nature from Brian Goode in the future, please call 262-835-9111 or e-mail goode.brian@principal.com to have your e-mail address removed from my commercial e-mail address list.

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



Attn: Wisconsin High School Students

Win \$\$\$ for Essays on Labor History!

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its Essay Contest for the 2024-2025 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 are good for my family, my community, and my nation 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 . . .

Students are encouraged to write an essay that reflects on why unions have been important in the past and why they might be important today. They can talk to their teachers, family members who have been union members, or do independent research to show how unions have fought for democracy, equality, or other important American ideals. Visit www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org for information and 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, email address, 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. Be sure to let us know how you heard about the contest! If you have any questions, contact: Harvey J. Kaye at kayeh@uwgb.edu.

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2025.

Send your essays to the following email address: 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 website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

jk/open9

Seniors Corner: Social Security at 90: A Bipartisan Roadmap for the Program's Future

from nirsonline.org

The National Academy of Social Insurance, AARP, the National Institute on Retirement Security, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have released Social Security at 90: A Bipartisan Roadmap for the Program's Future, a new report detailing Americans' views of retirement.

Unlike most public opinion research on Social Security, which asks about each policy option individually, the survey features a unique trade-off analysis that captures the full picture of Americans' views on how lawmakers should address the program's long-term financing gap.

The report finds:

Americans are united in support of Social Security. Across party lines, generations, income, and education, Americans value Social Security and see it as the cornerstone of retirement security. Just four percent of Americans say it will not be important to their income in retirement.

Rather than closing Social Security's financing gap through benefit reductions, Americans strongly prefer bringing more revenue into the system. Eighty-five percent say we should ensure benefits are not reduced, even if it means raising taxes on some or all Americans. The most strongly preferred of all options tested is eliminating the cap on payroll tax contributions for those earning more than \$400,000 per year. Addition-

ally, Americans across all groups, including a majority of Republicans, say they are willing to pay more themselves by gradually increasing the payroll tax rate to strengthen the program's finances.

Americans are broadly opposed to benefit reductions. Given a broad set of options to address Social Security's financing gap, respondents reject benefit reductions such as further increases to the retirement age or switching to a slower cost-of-living adjustment.

Americans want to strengthen Social Security benefits. They support several targeted improvements including adding a caregiver credit for workers who take time out of the workforce to care for young children and a "bridge benefit" to protect from the early claiming reduction of those in physically demanding jobs who may be unable to continue working up to full retirement age.

Americans need and value Social Security's disability benefits. Ninety percent of Americans say that they will need Social Security's disability benefits if they become disabled and unable to support themselves through work, and only four percent support cutting disability benefits. The survey also finds strong bipartisan support for updating outdated rules in Supplemental Security Income, including its \$2,000 asset limit. You can download the report here:

www.nirsonline.org/reports/socialsecurityat90/

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

<p>Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 PM Milwaukee Labor Temple 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>District 10 Business Meeting Monday, February 10th At 7 PM Satellite Meeting @ Lodge 66 1650 S. 38th Street Milwaukee, WI</p>	<p>Lodge 66 Business Meeting Tuesday, February 11th 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 February 17th Submit articles by email: lodge66@gmail.com</p>
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District 10 Office Directory:

107 Warren St. Suite 2 Beaver Dam,
WI 53916

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

- Alex Hoekstra 1
- Nick Bednarek 3
- Jeremy Terlisner 6
- Todd Humleker 5
- Joe Terlisner 7
- Hunter Scott 8
- Justin Bader 9

Officers of Local Lodge 66

Machinists Union

- 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

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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:

www.unitedlodge66.org

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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[https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/
public/index.cfm/email-the-senator](https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator)

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[https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/
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