

Badger Lodge News

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

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August 2025

United Lodge 66

Business Meeting

For August

has been cancelled due to membership action according to Article D, section 3 of the IAMAW Constitution

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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: GOP Sells Out Workers in Favor of Billionaires with Passage of ‘Big Ugly Bill’

from goiam.org

Brian Bryant, International President of the 600,000-member IAM Union (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers) issued a statement that strongly condemns the passage of the GOP’s “Big Ugly Bill,” calling it a blatant attack on working families and a giveaway to billionaires and multinational corporations:

“We can’t remember the last time Senators and Congress held the floor for hours to fight for workers and their families. Instead, GOP leadership has once again shown who they truly represent: billionaires and U.S. multinationals that offshore jobs and gut domestic industries.

“This legislation that narrowly passed along party lines, fails to offer any meaningful investment in domestic manufacturing, infrastructure, or human capital. Instead, it slashes taxes for corporations and the wealthy while gutting programs critical to working-class communities.

“Any real tax reform should strengthen American jobs, not encourage companies to move production overseas. This bill does the opposite, and working families will foot the bill.

“The bill also excludes railroaders, aviation professionals, truckers, and other transportation workers from the overtime tax deduction that President Trump promised them. We strongly urged Congress to ensure these workers were covered, but the GOP ignored our request—another broken promise.

“IAM members nationwide are sounding the alarm over deep cuts to Medicaid and public health funding. When local hospitals and clinics shut their doors or slash services, it hurts everyone. Even union members with strong healthcare benefits lose access to timely, critical care when the surrounding healthcare infrastructure collapses.

See ‘Big Ugly Bill’ on pg. 2

Past Sacrifices, Future Victories: Searcy Missile Silo Fire

In 1965 the United States was at the height of the Cold War. The arms race had begun some 18 years before and had continued into the 1990's. However, in 1965 there was a tragedy at one missile site near Searcy Arkansas that took the lives of 53 workers aging from 21 to 69. This month we are going to cover the Searcy Missile Silo fire.

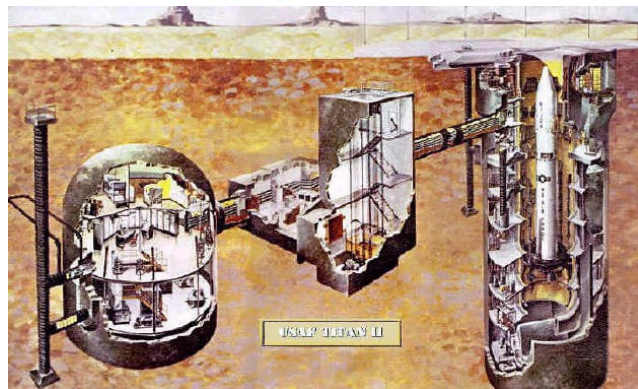
As the arms race raged on in 1965 work was being done to help shore up defense of missile sites across the country. At the Searcy site non military contractors were brought in to perform the work. On August 9th there was a fire. It was determined to have happened when a welder was performing work in a dimly lit and poorly ventilated area. As the work was being done, a spark caught a hydraulic hose igniting the fluid and causing a fire.



Many of the workers had just returned from lunch when the fire started. The silo was about 9 stories tall, underground and evacuation routes were scarce. The fire had knocked out the electrical systems and the workers resorted to using ladders to try and escape. 2 workers managed to escape, with smoke inhalation and burn wounds. Luckily at the time of the fire the missile was disarmed from it's nuclear war head but it was still fueled.

Fire fighting efforts were made but were futile. The firefighters couldn't reach down past level 2 of the site and there were still concerns about the missile exploding from the fuel. In all 53 workers died in the fire. Upon investigation the missile itself wasn't damaged, was removed and put back in service until 1987. Coincidentally it was the same missile that exploded in 1980. The 2 survivors disputed the theory that the fire started because of welding operations and stated there was no welding work being performed that day,

The Searcy Missile Silo fire was the greatest loss of life at a United States Nuclear facility. It is unclear during research if the military took extra steps to protect workers in these silos or not.



'Big Ugly Bill' from pg. 1

“The IAM will work hard during the midterm elections to educate and engage in meaningful conversations to empower our communities. We will continue to fight on Capitol Hill to protect the foundations of America’s working communities and support legislation that prioritizes people, not profits.”

2025 Spirit of the Midwest ‘Ride for Guides’ Supporters **Cruise Scenic Iowa for Guide Dogs of America | Tender Lov-** **ing Canines**

from goiam.org

IAM Midwest Territory members and motorcycle enthusiasts gathered at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, Iowa, for the annual Spirit of the Midwest Ride for Guides. The ride featured a scenic route, camaraderie, and a shared mission: supporting Guide Dogs of America | Tender Loving Canines (GDA | TLC), the IAM’s favorite charity.

The event kicked off after waiting out an early morning rainstorm. Participants assembled for a safety briefing before rolling out with IAM Midwest Territory International Representative Ronnie Gonzalez as “lead bike.” Riders cruised through scenic Iowa roads, interspersed with poker-run stops and rest breaks to recharge and reconnect.

This year’s ride continued the Midwest Territory’s strong fundraising tradition. “Ride for Guides” is one of several “Spirit of the Midwest” annual events—alongside car shows, clay shoots, and golf tournaments— all aimed at broadening awareness and proving funding for GDA | TLC.

The \$7,826 raised from the ride and raffles will bolster GDA | TLC’s mission of providing free guide and service dogs to those with visual impairments, veterans, children with autism, and others in need.

IAM Midwest Territory International Representative Chris Tucker organized the event with Gonzalez’s help, and all available Midwest Territory staff assisted with set up, selling raffle tickets, and running the program.

The day concluded at its starting point with food, refreshments, raffle drawings, awards, and heartfelt thanks to all participants.

“These events are the IAM Midwest Territory’s pride and joy,” said IAM Midwest Territory’s General Vice President Sam Cincinelli. “Members come together in the spirit of charity and generosity. I want to thank the proud union members who continue to show up every year in support of these events and the hardworking Midwest Territory Staff who organized this ride to make it safe and enjoyable for everyone.”

IAM Union is the largest financial contributor to Guide Dogs of America | Tender Loving Canines.



On The Mark



July 2025

Halfway There: 2025 Mid-Year Outlook

Key Takeaways

- Markets held up **better than expected** in the first half of 2025, despite a brief but stunning drawdown in April.
- Growth and inflation have been **relatively stable** so far, but risks may be building.
- The first half of the year was a great example of why investors should avoid **reacting to the headlines** and stay focused on the long term.

Alive and Kicking

The first half of 2025 is in the books. While it may not have unfolded exactly as envisioned, we're on pace for a pretty good year in the equity markets. In fact, the S&P 500 returned 6.2% over the first six months, slightly above the historical average for the first half of the year.

The market's resilience is notable, especially given how much uncertainty investors were forced to absorb. After all, equity markets briefly dipped into bear market territory during the post "Liberation Day" sell-off. Since then, markets have powered through wave after wave of unsettling headline, from erratic new tariff policies and DOGE-related government spending cuts, to rising debt levels, mass deportations, and escalating geopolitical tensions. Through it all, markets have shown a surprising ability to "climb the wall of worry."

Against All Odds

The U.S. economy grew at about a 1% annual rate during the first half of the year. This is markedly slower

than historical averages, but not surprising given the extremely high policy uncertainty. Because of this uncertainty, many companies and consumers have delayed big spending decisions until gaining more clarity on trade policies.

Adding to the uncertainty is the distortion in headline growth numbers like GDP. Many companies rushed to import goods in March ahead of increased tariffs. Since imports count as a negative in GDP growth calculations, that made growth look weaker in the first quarter than it really was. We expect those effects to even out over the next couple of quarters.

Under the surface, the core parts of the economy – consumer spending and business investment – held up well. Consumers continued to spend thanks to steady real wage growth. Wage growth has outpaced inflation since mid-2023. That's helped households strengthen their balance sheets and continue to spend. On the business side, much of the investment came from large technology companies that continue to expand their AI capabilities.

But there are signs of slowing ahead. Employers have delayed hiring, causing the number of unemployed to rise to levels that typically signal a softening labor market. If delayed economic activity turns into canceled activity, we could see growth decline more meaningfully.

Running Up That Hill

Inflation has continued to cool in 2025, despite worries that tariffs would push prices higher. Much of the improvement came from lower energy prices. Even when excluding food and energy, we've seen encouraging signs, especially in services inflation.

Shelter costs, which are a big part of service inflation, have started to decline, following the decline in the broader housing market. This trend could continue

through the rest of the year and may help offset some of the expected increases in goods prices from new tariffs.

Businesses have already sold much of the non-tariffed inventory built up in the pre-tariff import binge. This implies higher prices are in store for the future.

Under Pressure

The Federal Reserve has kept interest rates steady since December 2024. They believe current rates are modestly restrictive to economic growth. This is helping inflation, currently at 2.7%, to slowly decline to its 2.0% inflation target.

Because economic growth and inflation have both remained relatively stable, the Fed hasn't felt the need to lower interest rates yet. In their view, inflation is still elevated, and employment remains sound. However, they do expect a slowdown later this year and have forecasted two rate cuts by year-end. Their ability to cut rates if they need to is important – and reassuring – for the financial markets.

Don't Stop Believing

The key lesson from the first half of 2025 is that staying invested through uncertainty is often the best course. This can be a very challenging thing to do, especially in a highly divisive political environment. During the early phase of the Trump administration, several policies have taken shape: higher tariffs and tighter immigration rules. These policies tend to be stagflationary (they tend to increase inflation and decrease growth).

However, other policies such as tax cuts and increased government spending (from the recently passed spending bill), as well as potential deregulation later this year, could support future economic growth.

While risks remain – from continued policy volatility to slowing growth and rising inflation – we also see long-term investment opportunities. Areas like international markets, high-quality growth companies (especially large technology firms), and tax-advantaged municipal bonds may offer attractive potential going forward.

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

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District 10



ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

The Golf Club At Camelot
W192 Highway 67
Lomira, WI

**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Shotgun start at 10:00 a.m.
\$380.00 per team of 4**

**Deadline for registration is
Monday, August 4, 2025**

For more information
contact the District Office
at (920)219-4919

**Prizes
&
Raffles**

Proceeds
To Benefit
GDA



**Guide Dogs
of America**



**Tender Loving
Canines**

Seniors Corner: UnitedHealth under DOJ Investigation

from *nbcnews.com*

UnitedHealth Group revealed Thursday it is facing a Justice Department investigation over its Medicare billing practices.

It comes after the Wall Street Journal reported in May that the Department of Justice is conducting a criminal investigation into the health-care giant over possible Medicare fraud. In response at the time, the company said it stands “by the integrity of our Medicare Advantage program.”

In July, the Journal also reported that the DOJ interviewed several doctors about UnitedHealth’s practices and whether they felt pressured to submit claims for certain conditions that bolstered payments from the Medicare Advantage program to the company.

That marked the second time this year that the insurer’s Medicare Advantage business has come under federal scrutiny. The Journal also reported in February that the DOJ is conducting a civil investigation into whether the company inflated diagnoses to trigger extra payments to its Medicare Advantage plans.

But in March, UnitedHealth moved a step closer to ending a yearslong legal battle with the DOJ that began with a whistleblower who alleged the company illegally withheld at least \$2 billion through the Medicare Advantage program. A special master assigned to the case by the judge issued a recommendation in favor of UnitedHealth, saying the DOJ lacked evidence.

UnitedHealthcare’s Medicare and retirement segment, which includes the Medicare Advantage business, is UnitedHealth Group’s largest revenue driver, raking in \$139 billion in sales last year.

The update in the probe comes after a tumultuous last year for UnitedHealthcare, the nation’s largest and most powerful private health insurer. Shares of UnitedHealthcare’s parent company, UnitedHealth Group, are down more than 42% for the year after it suspended its 2025 forecast amid skyrocketing medical costs, announced the surprise exit of former CEO Andrew Witty and grappled with the reported probe into its Medicare Advantage business.

The company’s 2024 wasn’t any easier, marked by a historic cyberattack and the torrent of public blowback after the murder of UnitedHealthcare’s CEO, Brian Thompson

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

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| Milwaukee Area Labor Council Delegate Meeting Wednesday, August 6th at 6:30 PM Milwaukee Labor Temple 633 S. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee, WI | District 10 Business Meeting For August is CANCELLED | Lodge 66 Business Meeting For July is CANCELLED | Deadline to submit articles for the next Badger Lodge News is August 23rd Submit articles by email: lodge66@gmail.com |
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| <p><u>District 10 Office Directory:</u></p> <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</p> <p>Nick Bednarek 3</p> <p>Jeremy Terlisner 6</p> <p>Todd Humleker 5</p> <p>Joe Terlisner 7</p> <p>Hunter Scott 8</p> <p>Justin Bader 9</p> | <p>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> | |
| <p><u>Officers of Local Lodge 66</u></p> <p><u>Machinists Union</u></p> <p>President Mike Oettel</p> <p>Vice President Mike Stark</p> <p>Recording Secretary .. Jon Zancanaro</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer ... Kenny Mullan</p> <p>Conductor/Sentinel Adam Duedenhofer</p> <p>Trustees: Don Aiello, Thomas Schaab and Liam Maltz</p> <p>Communicator Jon Zancanaro</p> <p>Educator Mike Stark</p> <p>Editor Jon Zancanaro</p> | <div> <p><u>President Donald Trump (R)</u></p> <p>1600 Pennsylvania Ave Washington D.C. 20510 202-224-5323 https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/</p> <p><u>Senator Ron Johnson (R)</u></p> <p>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>State Rep. Bryan Steil (R)</u></p> <p>1st District of Wisconsin 1526 Longworth HOB Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-3031 https://steil.house.gov/contact</p> <p><u>State Rep. Gwen Moore (D)</u></p> <p>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. Glen Grothman (R)</u></p> <p>Wisconsin State District 6 1211 Longworth H.O.B. Washington D.C. 20515 202-225-2476</p> </div> | |
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