

Badger Lodge News



Newsletter for United Lodge 66, Machinists Union, AFL-CIO
Chartered: November 30, 1895

Vol. 14 No. 12

www.unitedlodge66.org or www.youtube.com/badgerlodge

December 2011

United Lodge 66 Business Meeting

January 13, 2012

7:00 PM

2609 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800

*ALL Lodge Members are
Encouraged to attend.*

- **DAYTIME OFFICE HOURS - Tuesday thru Friday, 8AM to 4:30PM;** business can be done at the Business or Education Evening Meetings or by mail. **CHECK** the answering machine for hours open, 414-671-3800.
- The deadline for articles for the January 2012 edition of the "Badger Lodge News", is December 23.
- Contract Issues **MUST** be settled by your Business Agent at District 10. *See last page.*
- **Education Evening** is on **January 19**, starting at 7PM
Topic :

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In the photograph:

Retired Brothers Doug Curler, Joe Reilly and Charlie Williams at the Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference. Charlie Williams is a Retired Grand Lodge Rep., and Joe Reilly is from LL1266.

Read Doug's report of the Conference on page 3.

Lodge 66 Wants All Members To be Informed

The Lodge 66 Executive Board wants all members to be informed about Lodge business as well as current events and how they impact our Union. With the cost of printing and postage going up, the easiest way to stay informed and the least costly is to use email. We will be sending two emails a month. The Lodge does not share or sell your email address with anyone. If you would like to get your Lodge information by email, please contact us

at lodge66@gmail.com with your correct email address.

For those members who don't have internet access or a computer, we do send hard copies of the Newsletter once a month. If you are not on our mailing list, or have changed your mailing address, contact the Lodge at **414-671-3800.**

If you would like to be a distributor of the newsletter at your work site let us know.



United Lodge 66
Hall and
Union Office
is
SMOKE FREE.

"The Power of OUR Union is Directly Related to YOUR Level of Activism in OUR Union."

The Real Norma Rae

Sometimes, they say, bad things happen to good people. Nice guys finish last, and good deeds go unrewarded.

Many of our readers may have heard of Crystal Lee Sutton. Some of you may know of her by the name "Norma Rae." A movie was made about her, starring Sally Fields. Some of you may have seen it.

In 1973, Crystal Lee Sutton worked in a textile mill in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Conditions at the mill were pretty bad - with long hours, low pay and restricted access to bathrooms, as well as unsafe working conditions, the mill earned its reputation as a sweatshop. Sutton tried, unsuccessfully, to unionize the workers at the mill.

Her attempts earned her ridicule, harassment, and even death threats. Many of her fellow employees wanted a union because they were sick of the poor working conditions, too. But they were scared of losing their jobs. It was a time of high inflation and too few jobs.

The company, J.P. Stevens, hoped she would get sick of the harassment, and quit. Sutton did not quit, and she was fired for her attempts to unionize the shop. She refused to leave the premises, and the police were called. Before they came to arrest her, she made one last appeal to her coworkers.

Sutton wrote the word "UNION" on a piece of cardboard and held it up. Her coworkers, finding courage in Sutton's defiance, turned off their machines and held a company-wide work stoppage.



Less than a year later, the shop was unionized. They joined the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. A court found that Sutton had been fired in violation of the Wagner Act of 1935, and reinstated her job with full back pay. Sutton quit the mill two days later and went to work for the Union as a full time organizer.

Why is her story still pertinent? Crystal Lee Sutton died in 2009. Her courage and her tireless work as a union organizer still inspire us today, but it is her death that should be a lesson to all of us as the argument over a right to healthcare heats up.

Crystal Sutton was diagnosed with a fast-growing cancer of the brain. This brave woman, whose courageous pro-union stance led to safer working conditions and fair treatment for countless workers, was, in the end, treated unfairly one last time. Her insurance company denied coverage and delayed her treatment.

In an interview with the Burlington, N.C. Times-News, Sutton stated that the behavior of the insurance company was an abuse of the working poor.

"How in the world can it take so long to find out if they would cover the medication or not when it could be a matter of life or death?" she said. "In a way, it is almost like committing murder."

As we head towards a recall election for Governor Walker, let us not forget that he has proposed to kick over 50,000 people off Badgercare, the program that extends healthcare to the working poor, and at the same time he's asked the Federal Government to exempt Wisconsin from the law that states that 80% of insurance company profit be used to directly fund patient care.

Almost like committing murder, indeed. Let's keep Crystal Lee Sutton in mind when we consider the ramifications of healthcare in this country and in Wisconsin.

Organizing Incentives

Worth \$800.00 to you

The Organizing Lead sheet is available from your Union office or can be downloaded from the home page at www.unitedlodge66.org. They are simple to fill in. Just talk to your friends and find out if they want to have a voice at work and stop being an Employee at Will.

We can only do it with your help.

Activities for You and Your Family

- **Delegates to Milwaukee Area Labor Council: January 11, 2012.** All meetings start at **6:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Business Meeting** is Friday, **January 13, 2012 at 7PM.**
- **Delegates to District 10: January 9, 2012.** All meetings start at **7:30PM.**
- **United Lodge 66 Education Night :** Thursday, **January 19, 2012** will start at **7PM.**

- The class schedule for all leadership training at the **Machinists Union William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center** is available from your Union office and can be viewed at any of the meetings.

2011 Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference

I was glad to be allowed to attend the 2011 Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference held in Washington, DC from September 6 to 9, 2011. There were five full days of general sessions with speakers, daily workshops and one day of lobbying our elected Representatives and Senators.

There were probably 300 attendees at this conference. This included six from Wisconsin and 40 Machinists Union members from throughout the country.

Some of the speakers were: John Sweeney, retired AFLCIO president; officers of the national Alliance for Retired Americans; Richard Trumka, president of the AFLCIO; speakers from a group called Social Security Works; Robert Adler, Commissioner for Consumer Product Safety Commission; Judy Collins, singer and activist; Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, from Florida; Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of US Department of Health and Human Services; Senator Bernie Sanders, from Vermont; Hilary Shelton, president of national NAACP; and Representative Nancy Pelosi, from California.

The workshops included: Medicare Fraud Alert, What's New in Medicare, How to Get Into the Paper, Using Facebook to Communicate, Field 101 of Sharpening Your Advocacy Tools, Building Coalition Partners, Using Activities and Special Events to Fundraise, Investing for Income in Retirement, Navigating Healthcare.gov, and Applying for Program Grants: Just the Basics.

As a retired Machinists Union member, living in a rural and conservative area, I attended the conference hoping to find ways to continue to enlighten workers on the social commitment our government has with workers.

One of the most motivating moments was the Invocation given by Reverend J Cletus Kiley. As soon as I get a copy of his presentation a copy will be given to United Lodge 66 to show at a future meeting. Also on www.youtube.com/badgerlodge there are several videos and audio presentations given during the legislative conference.

Obviously there was much discussion around our Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid because of the attacks from the Tea Party followers and the Republican Party. There is also need to make sure the Democrats at all levels remember their commitment to maintain this social contract.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are NOT entitlements, as misidentified by the Republicans/Tea Party. At work, we negotiate for our benefits and pensions, and these are deducted from our paycheck. This no different than the social structures of Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid, which we as citizens pay into. **We need to get in the face of those trying to degrade Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.**

All members need to contact their own elected representatives instructing them to keep their proposals off Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. **The deficit was not caused by these social programs, but by tax breaks for the wealthy as well as two unfunded wars.** We should not try to correct the deficit at the expense of working families and our ability to live a decent retirement.

The "Super Committee" came out of the Budget Control Act

of 2011. This committee was to recommend spending cuts to Congress by November 23, 2011. Unfortunately with the "no" vote there will be automatic cuts of \$1.5 Trillion over 10 years and the cuts must come equally to defense and non-defense spending.

One sad part regarding not funding of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars is that the **health care of our veterans will be affected.** While still entitled to the health care the Veterans Health Administration will not receive all the money to provide these benefits. Veterans will have to wait and this will not be good. From the beginning of this country we have never fought a war where it was not funded (yes we paid taxes on all wars).

Again, whether retired or active all members need to increase their representative's awareness and speak out.

In Solidarity and In Retirement,
Doug Curler

dougcurler@gmail.com



Honorary Withdrawal Card

**There is a \$1.00 Fee
It Is Not Free**

There has always been a fee for the withdrawal card. All too often a member sends in the application for the card and expects one at no cost.

Withdrawal cards are allowed if:

- Left the trade because of illness
- Obtained employment outside the trade or industry.
- Furthering education.
- Obtained a supervisory position above the rank of working foreman.
- Because of circumstances over which I have no control, am compelled, as a condition of employment, to join another labor organization.

In order to get the withdrawal card a member must obtain such within two months of paying dues.

United Lodge 66 Machinists Union
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The views and opinions expressed by various writers in this publication are their own and not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive Board or the LL66 membership. The Editor reserves the right to publish, edit, or exclude publication of any article submitted to "Badger Lodge News". Any member may contribute articles for publication; send to United Lodge 66, 2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215-4438. Phone and fax is 414-671-3800 or lodge66@gmail.com

<http://www.unitedlodge66.org>
<http://www.youtube.com/badgerlodge>

Directory for District 10 Office,

1650 S. 38th Street, Milwaukee, 53215;
 dial 414-643-4334, then extension for
 your Business Agent:

Russ Krings	13
Don Griffin	20
Ben Elizondo	19
Patrick O'Connor	17
Scott Parr	16
Greg Pursell	24
Janice DeSmidt (Organizer)	15

Car Pooling

From Kenosha:
 Want to carpool to Union Meeting?
 Contact Vice President Bob Paar for
 how it can be done: 262-605-0436
 or
bpaarosckenosha@yahoo.com



From Sheboygan:
 From Sheboygan or picking members
 up in Port Washington call: Ron
 Simmelink, 920-627-0325, from
 Kieffer & Company in
 Sheboygan.