



873 NEWS

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**LOCAL LODGE 873
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June 2006

UNION MEETING

The monthly meeting for June will held on Thursday, June 1, 2006. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon for the night shift.

The recessed meeting for the day shift will begin at 3:30 PM. Lunch and refreshments will be served after the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

If Richard Kok had been in attendance at the May meeting, Richard would have won \$360.00. Remember it does not cost to attend the monthly meeting. It Pays!!!

This month's drawing is worth \$360.00. Plan now to attend.

Financial Officers Hours For June 2006

Fri. May 26 - 11:00pm to 3:00pm
Thurs. June 01 - 11:00am to 9:30pm
Fri. June 02 - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Fri. June 09 - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Fri. June 16 - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Fri. June 23 - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Fri. June 30 - 11:00am to 4:00pm

New Hires

New hires when you find out when your last day of work is, remember to get a withdrawal card. It only costs a dollar. Stop by the union hall during my hours and get one. You have 60 days from the last day you worked. Otherwise you will become lapsed and it will cost you **\$75.00** to get reinstated when you come back.

A reminder : If you are off for more then half the month, you need to get an unemployment stamp. They cost \$2.00 for each month you're off.

I will be giving a financial report on where last years dues went at the June union meeting. Why not plan on attending.

We have lots of t-shirts and union merchandise at the hall for sale. From t-shirts to sweatshirts, jackets, union mugs, and union hats. If there is any interest in other union articles you want me to look into let me know. Stop in to make your selections. There all union made.

A reminder that if you change address, phone number or get married and change your name, let me know because John Deere does not let me know. You can call 920-485-2631 ext. 23.

David Berezinski Secretary/Treasurer



Keeping a Watchful eye

HOMELAND SECURITY

What have we gained?

JOBS

Just in the Midwest from January 1, 2001 through the end of December 2005 we lost 382,300 Manufacturing jobs. Nationwide, the total number of manufacturing jobs lost is almost three million during the period.

Trade policies are hollowing out our manufacturing and high-tech sectors. This is a catastrophic record of failure.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The catastrophic failure to reconstruct the Gulf Region is adding to the suffering of those who survived the storm.

Politicians are attempting to sweep mistakes under the rug, while failing to produce genuine results.

U.A.E. PORT DEAL

Our ports are not safe. The U.A.E port deal put a spotlight on national security in a way that really shows how vulnerable we really are.

Longshoremen on the west coast say that there is a huge security threat from un-inspected cargo containers. However, what you don't hear is that two out of every three trucks entering those same ports are not inspected either.

New Medicare Drug Plan

The prescription drug program confounds seniors and will end up costing many of them more for drugs, even as it prohibits Medicare from negotiating a better price and shovels billions to HMO's.

Beneficiaries will pay a monthly premium of \$35 as well as a \$250 deductible. The benefit will cover 75 percent of drug cost up to \$2,250. While continuing to pay premiums, beneficiaries will pay 100% of drug cost between \$2,250 and \$5,100, after which the plan will kick in again and cover 95% of costs.

Nearly one-half of Medicare beneficiaries will fall into the coverage gap or "donut hole" and will not have any assistance with their drug costs for at least part of the year.

MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wage has been frozen, while CEO salaries have soared. Our current administration does nothing to help labor under corporate assault, even as wages stagnate.

STUDENT LOANS

The ticket to the "American Dream" is a college education.

This is being priced out of reach for more and more working families. The potential is out there that interest rates will rise on student loans, adding to burdens that are already a stretch for most families.

WAR

The reconstruction of Iraq is a joke, with literally billions wasted or stolen, while citizens still have no stable electricity. We can't leave because a civil war, already started on the ground, will flare up. We can't stay because our presence simply feeds the furor and destabilization. Predictions now state that the actual cost of the Iraq war at \$1 trillion. Osama bin Laden is still alive, but that matters little. We are hated around the world more now than ever.

We have spent enough on the war in Iraq to give every man, woman and child without health care in the country the health care coverage they desperately need.

TAX AND TRADE

Our government has run up the largest trade deficits in the history of man, while leaving us increasingly dependent on the willingness of the Chinese to finance our spending.

Tax cuts have failed to produce. Take away jobs created by government and the military buildup and there are huge job losses. Yet those same tax cuts have helped rack up record deficits and staggering national debt.

Just as an example: the national debt as of 4:22 p.m. yesterday was a little over 8 trillion dollars.....That means everyone reading this owes another \$27,704 because our government officials, just keep borrowing and spending more money every day.

So what have we gained?

TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, NEVER ENDING WAR, FUEL PRICES OUT OF CONTROL, AND INCOMPETENT DOMESTIC POLICIES!





Mission Statement -
"To stand united & to support equality for all working families."

Local Lodge 873 Relay for Life Team

Gordy's Vision

Dr. Klatt had a purpose when he began the 24 hour Relay in 1985. The significance of day-time and nighttime coincides with the journey that all cancer patients go through.

Clear your mind and picture.....It's daylight. Life is wonderful. You're healthy, happy and looking forward to the future. You're looking forward to your child's dance recital or taking your child to Disney World for a vacation. You're looking forward to the new house you just bought. You have a new dream job that you're thrilled about. But then,.....darkness falls.

You hear those words "You've got cancer", or worse "your child has cancer". Your life has suddenly become very dark. You don't know what the outcome will be. You feel there is no hope in sight. You start your treatments. You're nauseous and you have no hair. You're exhausted from caring for your child and from the agony knowing there's nothing you can do to make him healthy again. You couldn't possibly feel any worse.

Until.....The sun starts to rise. The tumor is shrinking. Your treatments are working. You're getting our appetite back. Your child feels well enough to go out and play for just a few minutes.

There is hope.

It is now daylight and you're in remission. You have your life back. You've made it through the night and the darkness. You celebrate life in the daylight knowing that the darkness of the nighttime is behind you.

This is why we Relay.

This is why the Relay is an overnight event.



Please support your fellow union brothers and sisters that have formed a team for the Relay for Life in Waupun. The relay is June 16-17. If you would like to make a donation find one of these walkers at work:

Cheryl Sigl
Cindy Haselow
Marla Ryan
Sherry Vree
Jay Vree
Amber Cundy

Kelly Paul
Melissa Butts
Tess Farr
Kim Zwig
Yolanda Pillsbury
Marilyn Rieman



Safety Committee Report

Spring into Safety

Have you heard that our Safety Record is doing better than last year! That is CORRECT! We are not doing well toward our goal; however our average numbers are improving.

OSHA Cases: 25 Incident rate 3.10

First Aids: 187 Incident rate 23.17

This time last year:

OSHA's – 34 First Aids – 229

Gray Assembly Gloves; I haven't gotten any complaints lately? Are the newest versions of the gloves working out? Please let the committee members know.

Several Union Members had some concerns about Kreilkamp drivers in the parking lots. Kreilkamp investigated and addressed the issue. Since then The Safety Committee has been contacted by both Deere Employees and Kreilkamp about employees at the riverbank area. Please give all vehicles clear passage in that driveway. Some trucks have to be backed up because of the dock door locations. Numerous wage employees have put themselves at risk of being seriously injured. The riverbank can be a nice place to spend your breaks, let's keep it that way.

Questions asked at the May's monthly meeting

1. Painting lines in the parking lots this summer? The answer was that it is not planned for or budgeted at this time.
2. Regarding PS1, those concerns are being addressed and resolved.
3. Hair Policy Enforcement concern. We've asked if it is watched consistently; that will be mentioned to the Supervisors.

We are starting to test different Kevlar/Cotton blended gloves; we are looking into purchasing four sizes. There seem to be some concerns into how small the small will be; please give us your help with that.

With the nice weather hopefully everyone is getting out and enjoying themselves "Safely", with all of Wisconsin's beauty and all the graduation parties etc.

If you get the chance, give a "Welcome Home" to Don Goeller. Don has been serving in the military for over four years, and has returned to us. I am sure we all have former or current Military member to thank over this upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Frank Persong is now on day shift in the Dept. 650 area for a while, and Jason Liebenow is in inspection at 201 also on day shift. With the manpower changes we'll try to keep the membership informed where your Union Safety Representatives are located

*Have a Happy
Memorial Day weekend!
Safety Committee Chairman
Matt Kollath*



**HANDS ON WORK?
GLOVES ON HANDS!**

Memorial Day

