

# 873 NEWS

"Justice on the job and service to the community"

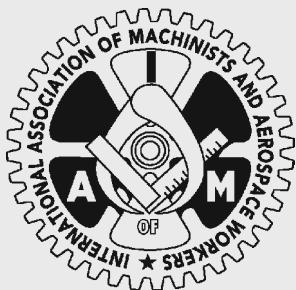
LODGE NO. 873  
258 Barstow Street, Horicon,  
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[www.powerweb.net/local873](http://www.powerweb.net/local873)

## LOCAL LODGE 873 EXECUTIVE BOARD

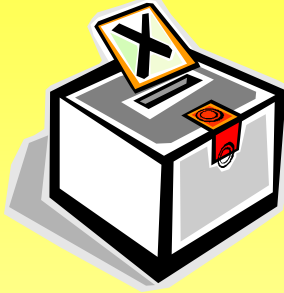
**PRESIDENT**  
Brian Brath  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Steve Thiede  
**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Marla Ryan  
**FIN. SECRETARY/  
TREASURER**  
David Berezinski  
**CONDUCTOR/SENTINEL**  
Cindy Haselow  
**TRUSTEES**  
Marlene Bernhard,  
Jeremy Terlisner  
Shawn Gubine  
**MEMBERS AT LARGE**  
Bill Burzynski, Randall  
Samplawski, Sherry Vree

**EDITORS**  
Marla Ryan, Amber Cundy



**November 2009**

## NOMINATIONS & ELECTION



Nominations for President (1), Vice President (1), Recording Secretary (1), Financial Secretary/Treasurer (1), Conductor/Sentinel (1), Executive Board (3), Trustee (3), Auditor (3), Shop Committee (2), South Central Federation of Labor Delegates (6), Safety Representative (2), District 10 Delegates (5). The number behind the office is the number to be elected.

In accordance with the Bylaws of Local Lodge 873, Article II Section 2A "Any member who does not attend fifty percent (50%) of the regular lodge meetings during the 12-month period ending the date of the close of nominations shall not be eligible for any office of the local lodge or election as a Steward, Committeeman, or Delegate".

## NOMINATIONS

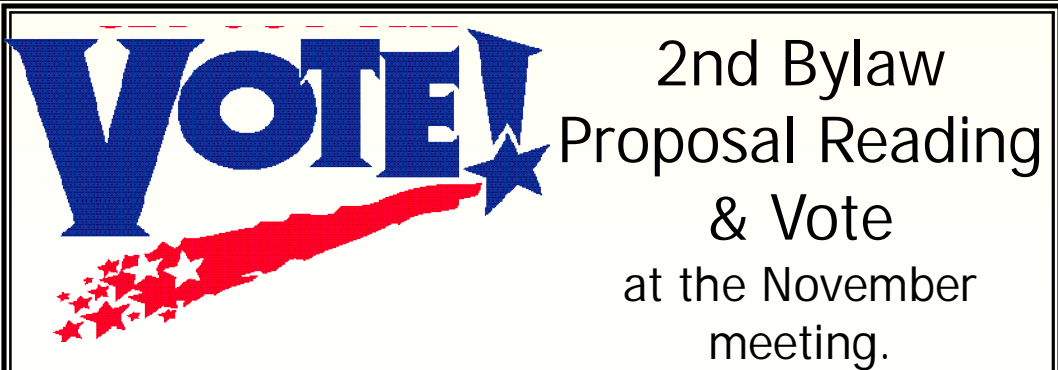
Those members wishing to run for an office may contact a member of the nominating committee prior to November 5, 2009 to have their name placed in nomination. Members of the nominating committee are Doug Flouro, Tim Shookman, Jim Checolinski, Ernie Scott, Bob Wucherer or President Brath or Recording Sec'y. Marla Ryan.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the November 5, 2009 Union meetings. If nominated from the floor, the person nominated must be present.

## ELECTION

All eligible members nominated will have their name placed on the December 3, 2009 Election Ballot.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. December 3, 2009.



## President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been asked a lot of questions about health care reform so I will try to address some. The health care reform bills are still going through Congress with the final outcome to be determined by the various committees and future debate. That is why your union is asking for support in shaping the health care issue so that it benefits us. Currently, I've been told that the insurance industry and drug companies have 16 lobbyists in DC for each member of Congress and they've already spent more than \$375 million dollars on pushing our Reps to vote for their interests. If those are the only people our Reps hear from, we will end up with health insurance reform that only benefits the insurance and drug companies. That is why we need to make sure our Reps hear from us.

The union is currently backing a single payer system. Meaning that everyone pays in, everyone gets benefits. A good example of a single payer system is Medicare. Everyone pays taxes into it, everyone expects it to be there when we need it. That bill, HR 676, is stalled in committee right now and doesn't look like it will ever get out. So that particular bill may be dead. There are other bills moving through committee's and various rep's are attaching amendments to them, and that is where the union is trying to get the word out, to help shape the final result. The probability of one of the other bills becoming law is very high, so our input to our rep's is very important.

The following things are what we are asking for help on:

1) We do not want our current health benefits taxed. There have been proposals to add a new tax on certain so-called "Cadillac" insurance plans that exceed certain thresholds. Now, for you and I, we may or not get that tax, it would depend on where the threshold was set at before they begin taxing it. Take my health benefit plan, I have a family plan, the plan that was called JDH Choice 100. The associated cash value of that plan is approximately \$17k per year. If a threshold was set to tax plans valued at over \$10K per year, I would be taxed on the remaining balance. The union would like to find an alternative to that as most union members have better plans and could potentially fall into the tax.

2) We need to find a way to control health costs. Health care costs are rising at rates that will soon make them unaffordable. We need to find

ways to slow the cost growth so we can continue to afford quality health care. One way to do this would be through a public health care plan. The public plan should be able to negotiate for prices on services and prescription drugs by leveraging their volumes. Just like most companies do today with virtually everything they purchase. Another way would be to negotiate provider payments for all plans, private or public. Having a single entity negotiate provider payment rates and methods on behalf of the entire population. There are many other ideas and options we could look into, and that's what the union is asking for, to explore and implement options to control costs to maintain affordable quality health care.

3) Guaranteed coverage for all Americans. The ability for all Americans to gain access to needed medical attention without having to risk everything one has worked for their entire life is a benefit all Americans should have. Without health care coverage, hardship is inflicted on millions of families, it strains the social fabric of our country, and undermines our economy. Productivity will be enhanced through a healthier workforce, child development will be improved by preventing childhood diseases, and illnesses can be prevented or treated more effectively and at lower cost if treated early. We are less secure financially, less productive, and less healthy as a nation because millions of our own people cannot afford to get the health care they need. The preamble of the Constitution of the United States says one of the reasons for we started self governing was to promote the general welfare. To me, that means its our social responsibility to take care of our own people, the same arguments came from both sides of the aisle when social security and Medicare were brought into existence, now that they are here, and no one wants to get rid of those programs, we count on them to be there. Of a group of 27 comparable high-income democracies, the US has one of the two highest infant mortality rates, and is ranked 24th in life expectancy at birth in 2006. So we're not taking care of our people too well. Include the fact that 62.1% of all bankruptcies in 2007 were related to medical expenses, American's are suffering financially because we have a broken system. Just so you know, the United States is one of the few, if not the only developed nation in the world that does not guarantee health coverage for its citizens.

4) Include a strong public health insurance plan option. The answer I've given in # 3 says part of this answer. As well as one should exist to pro-

*Continued on next page*

vide people with a place they can go to get quality health insurance when their private insurance fails to provide them with what they need. People should have a choice to get out of the private monopolistic system if they want. This will also lead to more competition. An insurance system designed to protect peoples health and not a corporate bottom line will force private insurers to respond with lower costs and better solutions. The objective of current health care reform should not be to abolish the employer based system, instead we should develop a robust system of fully portable insurance that individuals or families can afford to purchase on their own with public subsidies where deemed necessary.

5) Hold insurance companies accountable.

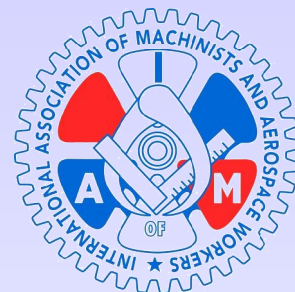
Insurance companies frequently postpone and reject payments for legitimate claims to fatten their wallets so they can hold on to the money as long as they can. I wish we would've kept track up here at the hall just how many denied payment problems we've received this year just to show how bad they are in our own local. That may be a good idea to do for next year. Many news outlets have reported that some insurance companies even reward their workers that deny the most claims with bonuses and promotions. Their goal is to get consumers to accept far less than they are owed, while dragging out the process as long as possible. Even if they finally agree to pay, it sometimes ends up taking years. All while the people are still responsible for the bills. If you are paying for insurance and you have a legitimate claim, what happens to insurance companies who do not hold up their end of the bargain? Virtually nothing happens. And that is not right, they should have to pay what they owe like everyone else does in a timely manner or face some consequences.

6) Require employers to pay their fair share. If we had the luxury of redesigning our entire health care system from scratch, I don't think many experts would endorse an employer provided system. But that is what we have as a result of employers attempting to evade wage controls during World War II. Currently, some employers do not provide health insurance coverage for their workers. What is meant by saying employers need to pay their fair share is that employers should provide coverage or pay towards the cost of coverage for their employees. Requiring employers to share the responsibility of paying for health care will create a level playing field among employers of all sizes, and it will help people who are satisfied with their job-based coverage keep that coverage. As

we sit right now, the choice of whether employers provide health insurance is entirely up to them. Even a business that is doing very well financially, can decide not to provide health insurance, giving it an advantage over competitors who do. Take Wal-Mart for example, with sales of \$100.082 billion dollars and \$3.44 billion dollars in profit last quarter, they still only provide 51.8% of their employees have health insurance. A company that can generate \$3.4 billion in profit in 3 months could surely afford some type of health insurance for its employees.

I hope this clears up some questions, and I trust we will all do our part in contacting our Reps to let them know where we stand on the issue. The future of our health care system depends on us doing so.

In Solidarity,  
Brian Brath



## UNION MEETING

The monthly meeting for November will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2009. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon for the night shift.

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

## MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Doug Wood's name was drawn at the October meeting. His name was not in the register. This month's drawing is worth \$360.00. Plan now to attend. Remember it does not cost to attend the monthly meeting. It Pays!!!



## Financial Officers Hours For November 2009

Fri. Oct. 16 - 8:00am to 3:00pm  
Fri. Oct. 23 - 8:00am to 3:00pm  
Fri. Oct. 30 - 8:00am to 3:00pm  
Thurs. Nov. 04 - 10:00am to 9:30pm  
Fri. Nov. 05 - 8:00am to 3:00pm  
Fri. Nov. 12 - 8:00am to 3:00pm  
Fri. Nov. 19 - 8:00am to 3:00pm

**I have some new AKWA Aqua Dry  
Collared shirts!!!**

**Red, Tan, Blue and Black  
Large & Xlarge: \$30  
2Xlarge: \$33  
3Xlarge: \$36**

I still have some long sleeve women's t-shirts and short sleeve t-shirts on sale till gone. Price on them is \$3.00 each. We also have a variety of other items that we sell. The list of them is:

Red or blue mugs - \$3.00 each  
Golf Towels - \$2.50 each  
Deck of Cards - \$2.50 each  
Belt Buckles - \$7.50 each  
Black & Blue Beanies - \$10.00 each  
Blue Jackets - \$20.00 each  
Black Jackets - \$27.00 to \$55.00  
Newer Blue Jackets - \$45.00 each  
Regular T-Shirts Red, Blue or Black Colored are \$10.00 to \$15.00 each

So stop on in and check out what you like & want.

**Attention!!!!**

**Last Call for Harley Tickets:  
\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00  
Deadline 11/06/2009**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Ever Chili Cook-off Challenge:**

**Muffs aka David Berezinski VS  
3 Challengers  
December 3, 2009 union meeting**

**Do You Think Your Chili is the Best? I'm putting out a Challenge to 3 hopeful contestants that**

think they have a better chili recipe then me. Contestants are responsible to provide there own ingredients to Feed our Judges from both union meetings. Those of you that want to participate as judge will pay \$2.00 to be able to taste test all chili's and then vote for your favorite one. All proceeds will go to the MNPL.

**Prizes for our cook-off are:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$50.00 Menards Gift Card**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$25.00 Menards Gift Card  
& a chili recipe book**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: a bottle of Kesslers & a  
chili recipe book**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: A case of Soda & a chili  
recipe book**

**Do you think yours is better then mine?  
We only need 3 Challengers.  
I need to know before next newsletter  
print which is 11/18/09**

David Berezinski/Secretary/Treasurer



## 2009 Christmas Celebration,

In 2008 Muffs, Jason Lube, Yolanda, Your Shop Committee and several other Union Brothers and Sisters got together at the Union Hall to celebrate before heading out to join our families. So if you didn't make it last year; it's OK, we're doing it again! The last day of work – before the break starts. More information to come in the next editions of the newsletter. A dish to pass is always nice; but not necessary. Your left-overs from the line celebrations worked well last year. My daughter will be back from Tokyo early Dec and will be making similar foods as she cooked last year. Hope to see you there!

Matt Kollath

## Turf & Utility Food Drive

The Turf & Utility Platform Food Drive is set to run from October 16th through November 23rd. Due to Horicon's shutdown schedule our food drive will run from November 9th through December 11th. In 2008, Horicon employees generously donated almost 41,438 lbs or 20 + tons of food to local pantries. Due to the slowing economy there are many families in need and the local food pantries cannot keep up with demand. Please consider donating non-perishable food items or cash. All donations will be split equally between St. Stephen's - Horicon Food Pantry and Central WI Community Action Council - Beaver Dam Food Pantry.

Collection barrels will be at the following locations by November 9th:

G-8 Cafeteria, PS1 Lobby, Bldg C Entrance, Bldg S Engineering Entrance, Bldg S Lobby, Cafeteria by F-7, G-9 Office, Bldg E Cafeteria, outside Bldg S Cafeteria (downstairs) and Local Lodge 873 Union Hall.



## Thank-You

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to attend the Advanced Leadership class in August. The classes in Leadership III, were more in-depth on Collective Bargaining, Leadership Psychology, North American Labor History, Organizing for Union Leaders, and Workplace Communications. These classes were very interesting and are a great tool to use as far as advancement in union leadership. With all the concern today about health care, my class had the opportunity to attend a town hall meeting with Congressman Steny Hoyer, who represents Maryland's 5<sup>th</sup> congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. The town hall meeting was broadcast live on CNN. It proved to be a very interesting meeting, as there were many protesters present. We were very fortunate to be able to get into the meeting, as they only allowed 1000 people in. The machinist union was well represented. These types of opportunities are there for everyone to attend. I strongly encourage members to attend these classes to gain more insight as to what our union is all about, and why it is so important to educate our members.

Thank you again. I look forward to serving as an activist in our union.

Yolanda Pillsbury

## Safety Report

Brothers and Sisters of LL873

We've had some OSHA cases involving staple guns and hand; its imperative that you pay attention to what you're doing at all times as these staple guns pack quite a punch.

With deer hunting in full swing please be careful if you're climbing. We've had a number of cases of severe falls involving our fellow employees. Be safe and good luck hunting.

In closing, please be alert and careful on the job and off the job. Be part of the solution and not the problem.

Fraternally,  
Ron Rux, Chairman Safety Committee



## IAM Members on the Road to a College Degree

*In their final stretch of the Bachelor's Program at the National Labor College (NLC), IAM members take a much needed break from studying to gather for a group picture. From left to right, John Chapman, FL 2196; Michael Poch, LL 847; Marla Ryan, LL 873; Charlie Micallef, PhD, IAM Advisor; Karen Blanchard, LL 743; Charlotte Andreachi, LL 713; Vickie Cheek, LL 1833; Andriana Durand, LL 1932; and Richard Suarez, LL 1932.*

IAM members continue to be a big part of the college degree program at the AFL-CIO National Labor College (NLC). Out of 36 students attending the Senior Block study this year, eight are IAM members. And out of the seven women in the group, five are Machinists.

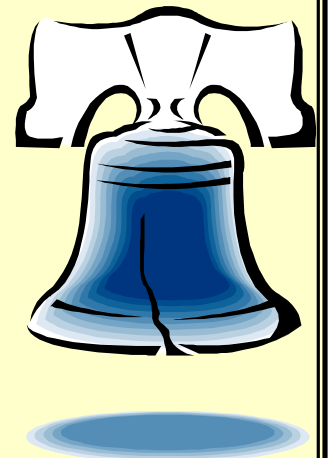
One of the reasons for the strong participation by IAM members is the unique cooperative effort between the IAM's William W. Winpisinger Center and the National Labor College. Most of the courses offered at the Winpisinger Center are accredited for college degree programs. The Center also allows IAM members to do a lot of the initial course work at the Winpisinger Center which reduces the program's out-of-pocket costs for IAM members.

"This has been a great program and we get a good number of IAM members participating every year," said Winpisinger Center Director Chris Wagoner. For more information on earning a college degree at the National Labor College, contact Instructor Charlie Micallef at 301-373-3300 or Marla Ryan.

## Legislative Report

The Legislative Committee would like to welcome Al Polchinski to the committee. We look forward to his ideas and insight on issues that are important to working families. The committee is in the process of updating the bulletin boards in the back of the hall. We want to keep current status on issues such as the Employee Free Choice Act and Health Care. We want to include info on the Health Care Bills that are out there. Also we feel it is important for members to know what our Wisconsin Legislators stance is on issues that are important to us. So keep an eye out for the new info on the bulletin boards. We also welcome any info on subjects pertaining to labor issues that would be important to our members. The date for the rest of our committee meetings has changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tues. of the month from 3:00-4:00. Anyone is welcome.

Yolanda Pillsbury  
Legislative Committee Chair.



## "STAY FOCUSED--KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE ROAD"

Irresponsibility behind the wheel can lead to serious injury or even death. Unfortunately today's drivers have become more irresponsible on the road than ever before. With the invention of the cell phone, for example, traffic accidents have increased.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), of the 6.5 million crashes reported each year, at least 1.5 million are related to distracted drivers.

Cell phone usage/texting (which is the third largest cause of distracted driving) is only one part of the problem. Drivers who are looking away, adjusting the radio, reading, putting on makeup, shaving, brushing their teeth, smoking, eating, drinking, working on their computer, looking at passengers while talking to them etc. are placing themselves and others at more risk than usual.

How can you tell if people on the roads are distracted drivers? The answer is simple: Watch how they drive. Most distracted drivers will be erratic on the road making spontaneous and improper lane changes; some use jerky acceleration and deceleration of the vehicle, which typically leads to fender benders.

Most of the accidents and fender benders, in turn, can lead to another distraction: rubbernecking." Rubbernecking refers to a driver staring at an accident while driving, and not taking his/her eyes off the accident. As most of us know, this practice is related to basic human nature in simply wanting to look at accidents and figure out what happened, since we are all curious beings and usually can't help doing so.

Unfortunately, rubbernecking has numerous negative aspects. For example, drivers who are not paying attention to the road while rubbernecking typically decrease the flow of traffic, by slowing down to look, which can lead to increasing the anger of other frustrated drivers on the road known as "Road Rage".

As union members we need to remember that when driving the best defense against distracted driving is a good offense. Watch the road and stay focused. Keeping a clear mind while on the road can make the difference between life and death for you and others around you.



### SUPPORT HEALTH CARE REFORM – WRITE YOUR SENATOR

An original, handwritten letter is one of the best ways to communicate with elected officials. You can use the sample message below as a guide in writing to your senator.

*Include your own thoughts. Be brief and to the point. Include your name and home address.*

Dear Senator Kohl:

I am a (occupation; i.e. steelworker, nurse, electrician, retiree, etc) who lives in (your town; i.e. Aliquippa)

You have always been an advocate for Wisconsin working families, and now I am counting on you to work hard to reform our broken health care system. I also want to be sure that reform is not financed on the backs of those of us with good health care plans. I oppose efforts to impose taxes on health care benefits. Any tax will result in benefit cuts and more cost shifting onto working families. There are other ways to finance health care such as limiting itemized deductions for top income brackets, for example. I thank you for your continued support of working people and look forward to hearing from you about this very important issue.

Sincerely,