

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## IAM Members Win Milestone Arbitration Case

IAM members at Simpson Lumber in western Washington state are celebrating a landmark arbitration ruling that protects bargaining unit jobs by returning duties to union safety coordinators after the company had eliminated the position and given its duties to a salaried “safety supervisor.”

An arbitrator ruled that the company violated its collective bargaining agreement with IAM District W24, Local W536 members at its plants in Shelton, Tacoma and Longview.

“This case is very significant and a major victory for our membership,” said IAM Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose. “District W24 Business Representative Ron Teigen, Labor Advocate Marvin Abott and Local W536 Chief Steward Ian Ford forwarded this grievance to arbitration. To their credit, excellent fact checking and date collection led us to victory and the grievance is sustained.”

The company has 21 days to determine what duties its salaried employee inherited from IAM members and return them to the bargaining unit.

## Simpson Lumber Company Purchased by Interfor Corp

December 18, 2014 it was announced that Simpson Lumber Company, LLC and Interfor Corporation have agreed to terms for Interfor to purchase four Simpson sawmill operations. Interfor will acquire Simpson Lumber mills in Tacoma and Longview, Washington; Meldrim, Georgia; and Georgetown, South Carolina. The Simpson Lumber headquarters building in Tacoma, Washington will also be part of the sale. The purchase agreement will be finalized on March 1, 2015 and the mills will be operating under the Interfor ownership.

The Longview Washington Mill and Commencement Bay Mill in Tacoma, Washington are represented under IAM collective bargaining agreements with Woodworker District W24 in Gladstone, Oregon. This sale will affect approximately 260 IAM members of the 430 hourly employees.

Interfor has recognized the IAM and has agreed to bargain with the Union through their newly hired attorney this spring after the purchase is finalized.

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## IAM Woodworkers Help to Save Mill from Fire



Fire crews hose down a wood pile at the Roseburg mill in Weed, California in the wake of the Boles Fire

Grey Faith, of IAMAW Local W-12, was finishing up some maintenance work when he smelled smoke. His fellow Machinists saw ash floating through the shipping door. That's when he and four colleagues sprung into action to help save the Roseburg Forest Mill in Weed, CA until firefighters arrived. It was an experience they won't soon forget. Faith is trained to operate a 500-gallon tank truck called a Fast Track and that training came in handy when he needed it most.

Watch the video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MachinistsNewsNetwork>

## District W24 Election Results

The election for District Lodge officers was held Saturday, December 6th, 2014 during the regular bi-annual meeting of the District Delegate Council.

The results are as follows: President/Directing Business Representative - Chip Elliott; Assistant Directing Business Representative - Noel Willet; Secretary-Treasurer - Marv Abbott; Trustees - Les Auman and Mike Hicks, Jr. John Kleiboeker and Ray Simonis. Three Auditors were also elected - Caryn Kauffman, Kelly Zink, and Larry Hendrickson and, former ADBR Robert Petroff will remain on staff as a Business Representative.



Grand Lodge Representative Kevin Cummings swears in District Lodge 24 Officers

## IAM Mourns Oregon Woodworker Killed in On-the-Job Accident

The IAM mourns the death of District W24 member Justin Simons, 31, who in December 2014 after becoming trapped in a piece of machinery at a Weyerhaeuser sawmill facility in Cottage Grove, OR.



Simons was fatally injured in a sawdust conveyer and died at the scene after employees and first responders were unsuccessful in reviving him, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) said.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office and Oregon OSHA are investigating the incident.

Simons, a millwright apprentice, had worked at the facility for seven years.

A fundraising site has been set up to support Simons' wife and three children, ages 6, 4 and 3 years old. It can be found at: <http://www.gofundme.com/injxu0>

"Justin was a hard-working man, who in his free time loved hunting, camping, the coast and spending time with his family," the site reads.

# IAM Stepping in to Help Laid-Off Woodworkers

With the holidays on the minds of IAM members at the California Redwood Company (CRC) in Korb, CA in early December 2014, the company issued a notice informing employees of the plant's impending closure.

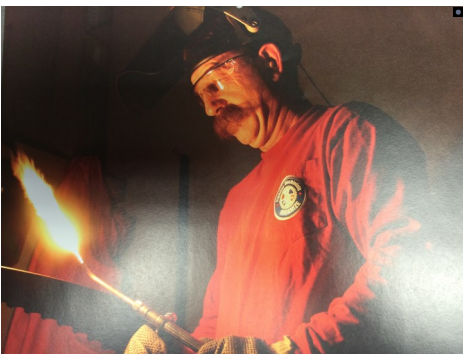
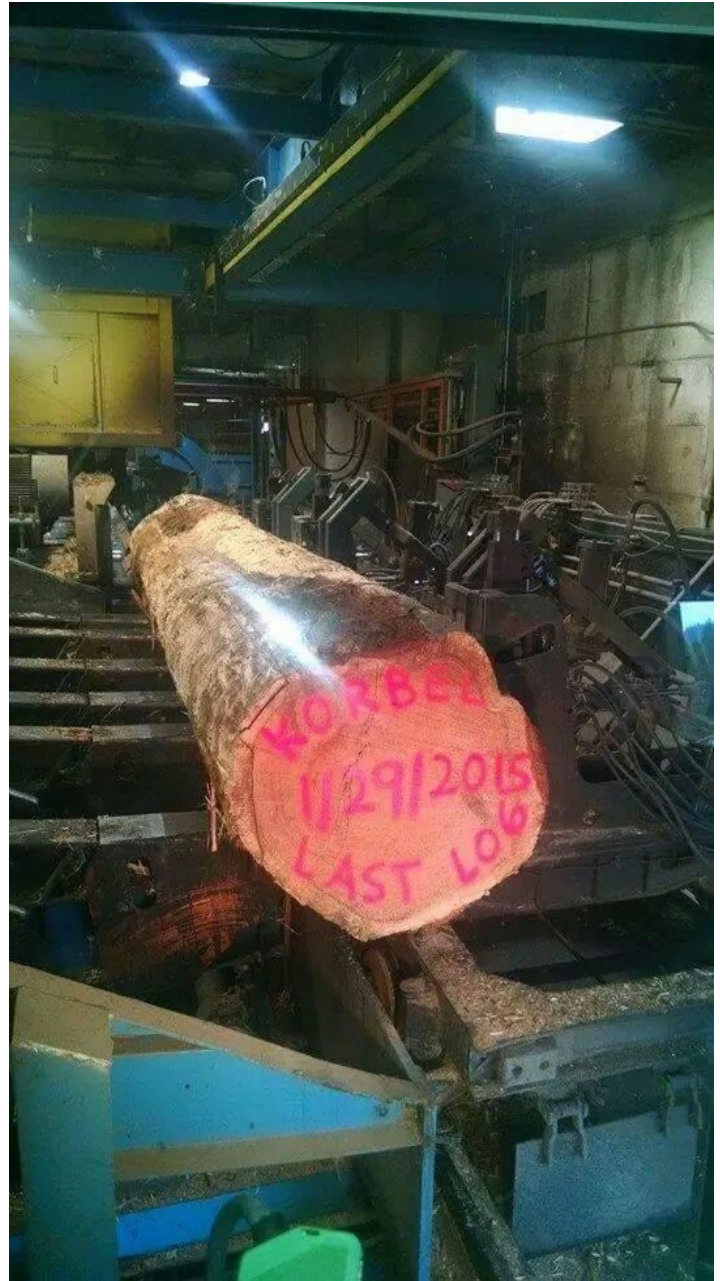
"The announcement hit like a sledge hammer to the chest, we knew that things were a little shaky, but to announce this just before Christmas, wow, what a blow," said one IAM member.

In response, a Trade Adjustment Assistance petition (TAA) was filed on behalf of 93 IAM workers at the California Redwood Company, which transitioned to Douglas fir lumber after more than 100 years of harvesting Redwood.

The IAM and the Seattle-based Green Diamond Resource Company, the parent company of California Redwood, are currently working out the details of severance and retraining programs for the displaced workers.

The California Redwood Company, according to a Green Diamond press release, will continue to process its remaining redwood log inventory and supply customers from existing redwood lumber inventories over the next few months while exiting the business.

"Despite our best efforts, CRC has not been able to achieve positive results for redwood lumber manufacturing and sales over the last several years," said Company President Douglas Reed "This move will enable Green Diamond to focus on our strengths and to add value to our timberlands."



## WOODWORKERS - ON-THE-JOB

Submit your photos along with a brief description of our wood, paper and pulp members *on-the-job* to: [mrose@iamaw.org](mailto:mrose@iamaw.org) or [tkenealy@iamaw.org](mailto:tkenealy@iamaw.org) for display in our *Wrench and Wood* newsletter or at the IAMAW Industrial Conference scheduled to be held in Chicago, IL in June.2015 Deadline for photos is May 8, 2015.

Pictured left: *District W24 Bus Rep Mike Gamble*

## IAM Forest Products Workers Keep Momentum Rolling



*GVP Martinez addresses members*

Headquarters General Vice President Robert Martinez, Jr. reports on the progress made and tasks ahead for IAM wood, pulp and paper workers at the IAM Forest Products Industry Conference in Las Vegas.

In October IAM Forest Products Industry workers and representatives met for the second time this year to build on the momentum started at the February 2014 meeting in Fort Worth, TX to develop bargaining, organizing, communication and other strategies that will benefit IAM wood, pulp and paper members in that sector.

“In the first meeting in Texas we identified what we needed to do to move forward as a unified group of forest products industry workers,” said Headquarters General Vice President Robert Martinez, Jr., who led the conference. “In our second meeting, we’ve reviewed what we have done to accomplish those goals and build on the momentum we are gaining as a unified group. And the more we work together, the stronger we will be.”

Speakers at the conference updated attendees on the progress of completing the tasks identified at the first meeting, including results of a forest products industry member survey, steps taken toward establishing more coordinated bargaining in the industry, new communications tools including a new forest products workers’ newsletter and refining plans for organizing forest products workers.

Attendees also heard about a unique approach to organizing from Mark Smith of William H. Smith Trucking, an independent log hauling company in Oregon, and IAM General Counsel Mark Schnieider. After organizing with the IAM in July, Smith wants to organize fellow independent log hauling contractors, similar to the IAM’s effort with independent lobstermen and the IAM Maine Lobstering Union.

Other topics at the conference included reports on improving management practices on federal timber lands by NFFE/IAM National President Bill Dougan, global forest policies by IAM Trade and Globalization Director and Chief of Staff Owen Herrnstadt and options for bargaining health care coverage from representatives of the Nelson Trust.

Conference attendees also raised more than \$2,000 for IAM members who were displaced from their homes and jobs during the Boles Fire in Weed, CA. The fire destroyed more than 150 homes and several commercial properties in September 2014.

“We will continue to make progress on the issues that will benefit our members and we appreciate the support that we are getting to keep moving forward,” said Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff Mike Rose. “What we are building now will ensure our members and the forest products industry will be around for the long haul.”

## BROTHERHOOD OUTDOORS

Are you ready for another action-packed season of *Brotherhood Outdoors*?

The Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA) is in the midst of a brand-new season of the union-dedicated TV show, exclusively on the Sportsman Channel.

The TV series showcases the talents and passions of everyday American workers as they set out on extraordinary hunting and fishing adventures across North America. From climbing rugged mountains for elk to traversing fields for whitetail, *Brotherhood Outdoors* follows these inspiring, blue-collar American workers through a roller-coaster ride of close encounters, trophy catches and perfect shots.

New episodes of *Brotherhood Outdoors* debut on Sundays at 11 a.m. ET.

## Inaugural Working Women’s Forum

The IAM Women’s Department will host an Inaugural Working Women’s Forum at the Oregon State Council of Machinists on Friday, April 24, 2015, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Sisters are encouraged to be part of this important event. Additional details are forthcoming.