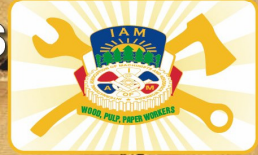


# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



MARCH 2015

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## Machinists Southern Pulp & Paper Conference Convenes in Fernandina Beach, FL

Delegates from across IAM's Southern Territory met in Fernandina Beach, FL on March 5-7, 2015 for the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Machinists Southern Pulp & Paper Conference. Twenty three delegates, from nine different local lodges, attended the conference to represent members in the pulp and paper industry. The objective was to share information in all areas of representation and topics of mutual interest between labor and management in our industry in order to negotiate the best possible contracts.

The delegates came prepared with copies their latest collective bargaining agreements and gave local lodge reports with details of their respective CBAs. They reviewed problems faced at their workplaces and finished with time for Q & A. The conference also hosted guest speakers that gave presentations on disability insurance, drug & alcohol rehabilitation programs and, trends and environmental policies affecting our industry that may adversely affect our jobs.

This annual conference is open to all IAM local lodges having members employed in the pulp and paper industry that are interested in getting ahead of the problem, collectively developing strategic plans and setting trends rather than following them.



*Pictured above:*

*Front row, left to right: LL 1034 VP Richard Hollar, LL 23 PR Ben Darieng, DL 75 DBR Steve Pridgen, LL 40 Trustee Wayne Vincent, LL 40 Eddie Metts, LL 1098 PR & SPP Conference PR Mike Mauldin, IAM So. Territory SR Tony Wirth and LL 40 VP Michael Peeples.*

*Middle row, left to right: LL 272 VP Will Amerson, LL 40 PR Jerome Dyal, LL 414 PR Donny Porter and LL 1098 ST Calvin Coon.*

*Back row, left to right: IAM So. Territory GLR Joe Greaser, LL 676 PR Jamie Hammac, DL 131 DBR & SPP Conference ST Robert Barnwell, LL 1034 PR Brad Summers, LL 1362 ST Leon Hodges, DL 71 DBR Keith McFarland, DL 112 BR Tony Wilson, W2 DBR Kelvin Godwin and DL 75 BR Steve Jordon.*

## Forest Products Employees Hit Capitol Hill



The Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC) had their annual "fly-in" in Washington, DC the week of February 9-13, 2015 to meet with members of Congress, appointed officials and staffers to educate them on the concerns with fiber supply, forest practices, the endangered species act, and our environment with hopes that this better understanding might influence legislation and policies that effect our jobs in a positive way.

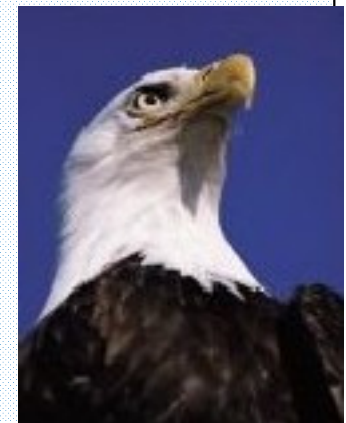
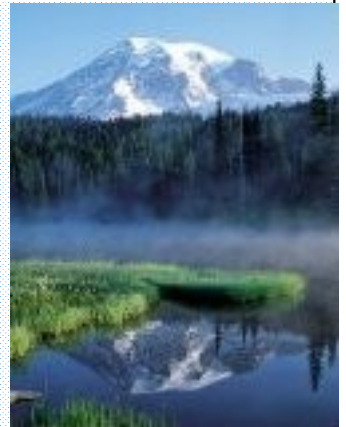
More than 70 members of this grassroots coalition came to our nation's capitol from across the country, including IAM representatives. IAM Local Lodge 1078 President and PPRC Steering Committee Rep Mike Mauldin, District Lodge 131 Billy Barnwell, Local Lodge 1362 Recording Secretary Bill Moyers and Local Lodge 40 Bruce Wells worked together with the USW, AWPPW, IBEW, IBT, UBC, Firemen & Oilers and Forest Product Industry Workers to share the impact legislative and regulatory decisions have on forest products manufacturing with legislators.

During their three days of meetings, PPRC members made 404 legislative and administration visits. They discussed several issues including the carbon neutrality of biomass and manufacturing byproducts, clean water, the regulatory burden impacting American manufacturing, possible endangered species—such as, the long eared bat, renewable energy, greenhouse gas regulations, truck weight reform and ensuring the competitiveness of the U.S. forest products industry.

In addition to meeting with their members of Congress, PPRC members met with administration officials of the OMB, EPA, CEQ, Senate Minority Whip Durbin, House Majority Leader Cornyn, Honorable Steny Hoyer-Democratic Whip, Speaker of the House Boehner, DOT, Office of the Vice President, Senate President Pro Tem Orrin Hatch, Joint meeting with the Department of Interior & U.S. Fish & Wild Life, and the Forest Service.

The U.S. forest products industry is vitally important to our nation's economy, employing one million people—including our IAM Union Forests Products brothers and sisters. Our industry ranks among the top 10 manufacturers in 46 states, which accounts for 7% of the U.S. manufacturing shipments. The PPRC is dedicated to conserving the environment while taking into account the economic stability of the wood, pulp and paper work force and surrounding communities.

For more information about the PPRC, visit their website at: [www.pprc.info](http://www.pprc.info).





# What a Record-Low Snowpack Means for Summer in the Northwest

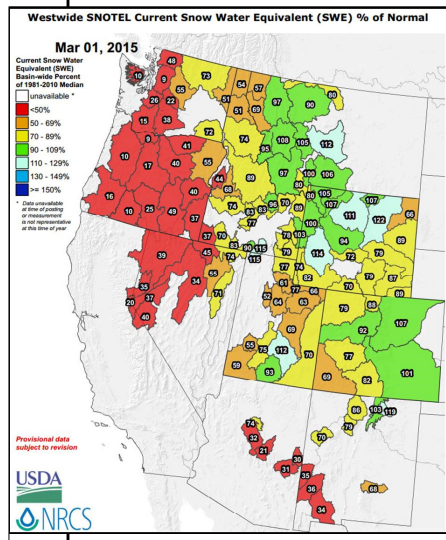
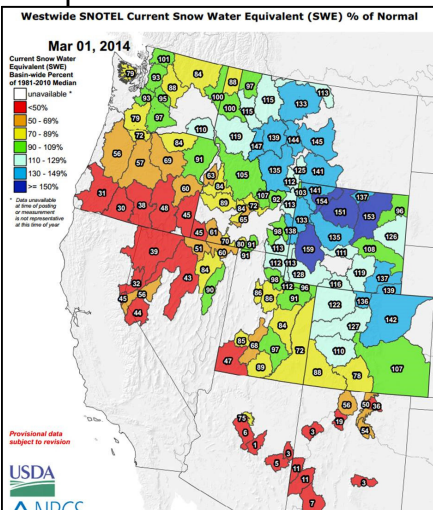
Southern Oregon is bracing for a fire season that could start earlier, last longer and burn hotter than usual in a part of the world known for major summer fires.

The snowpack in the mountains is at a record low in the southern part of the Cascade Range and the Siskiyou Mountains in Oregon, and the region is already in the second year of drought. Statewide, the average snowpack is 76% below normal levels.

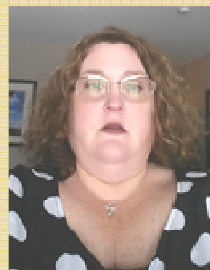
The deficiency of moisture in the middle elevations of the mountains and the buildup of primed fuels, ranging from downed and dead trees to brush that was killed during intense freezes this winter, means the sun will cook hillsides into tinderboxes just waiting for a lighting strike. Last year there were 130,000 strikes.

Firefighter training is scheduled to begin earlier than usual this year with new tactics and attack plans being set for larger safety zones. Fire managers and all state and federal agencies will need to step up their game in coordinating resources, logistics support, aviation support and predictive services.

Cooperating agencies include the: Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Oregon Dept of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.



# BIO-CORNER



We would like to introduce Sister Melone Langston as the newest Business Representative/Organizer for Woodworkers District Lodge W2 in Little Rock, AR.

Melone Langston, BR/ORG DL W2

Melone joined The Machinist family in 1998 at Nestle, Gerber Products in Fort Smith, Arkansas, initiating into IAM Local Lodge 260. While at Gerber, she worked on all 3 of the 8 hour shifts, one of the 12 hours shifts and held positions at the plant in most every department.

Since joining IAM Local Lodge 260 she has held IAM positions of Shop Steward, Conductor-Sentinel, Vice President and most recently she held the office of Local Lodge 260 President from 2006-2014. In September 2014 Sister Langston was appointed as a Business Representative/Organizer for District W2.

2014 was a busy year for Sister Langston—in October she married her high school sweetheart, Michael, after reconnecting more than 26 years later. Together they have a son, Chris, and 2 daughters—Jaimey and Marina. Their family lives on 10 acres, along with her Mom, 2 dogs and a cat. She enjoys cooking, fishing, sports and time with her family.

Congratulations Sister Langston!

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## IAM Protects Members During Simpson Sawmill Sale

When Simpson Lumber Company put its sawmilling operations up for sale in December 2014 and put IAM members at risk, quick action by District W24 representatives helped save jobs and provide substantial benefits for those who were displaced.

In mid-January 2015, Simpson notified District Lodge W24 that Interfor, Corp. LLC, a Canadian owned forest products manufacturer, had purchased several of the Simpson mills and would close the sale on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The sale impacted two IAM-represented mills in Washington state: Local W157's Commencement Bay Operations in Tacoma and, Longview Lumber Operations, under contract with Local W536 in Longview. Simpson notified IAM bargaining unit employees that Interfor was going to require employment applications and interviews to continue working in the mills.

District W24 Business Representatives Brandon Bryant and Wayne Thompson were assigned to negotiate closure language with Simpson and succeeded in gaining severance benefits for any members not rehired by Interfor. When Interfor announced those hired and those denied employment, 36 Brothers and Sisters were left without work. Employees not hired by Interfor were placed on Paid Leave until the closure date of February 28th.

Thompson had filed for a Trade Act Certification two years prior for both locations during a market-related layoff. The Trade Act provides retraining benefits, including up to two years of no-cost retraining and two years of extended full unemployment benefits as well as relocation assistance, mileage, books, tools and in some cases living stipends.

The Trade Act Adjustment (TAA) Benefits were still available, but they expired on February 25th. This created a problem: TAA Benefits are only available to Unemployment Eligible Employees. Simpson had processed payroll through the 28th and it looked like none of the displaced workers would qualify. But Thompson and WA State Labor Council-AFL-CIO Displaced Worker Representative Bill Messenger immediately went into action. They contacted State Legislators, Simpson Management and State Employment Security Managers to develop a solution.

Thompson and Messenger quickly found a solution that was acceptable to the Trade Act Administrator for Washington Employment Security and obtained the needed Certificates. In meetings held at each location, they were able to get certification of eligibility determinations for the 30 members who attended.

Interfor has recognized the Union at both locations and Thompson and Bryant are entering negotiations for an initial collective bargaining agreement.

"Congratulations to District W24 for their innovative actions to protect our members' jobs at the former Simpson mills and get extra assistance for those displaced by the sale," said Western Territory General Vice President Gary Allen. "Their actions demonstrate the foundation of Unionism "caring for another" in this era of plants being traded among global companies with little regard for the workers in them." ♦

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