

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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Members Ratify Contract

After a challenging round of negotiations, members of Local Lodge I460, District Lodge 4, ratified a new 2 year agreement at IKEA in Perryville, Maryland.

The IKEA production and maintenance workers will realize several language and economic gains. The following highlights are some of the items agreed upon:

- ▶ Substantial wage increases in both years 1 & 2
- ▶ Wage increase for long term co-workers
- ▶ Increase in shift differential and shift premiums
- ▶ Tuition reimbursement
- ▶ 15% temp share; no peak weeks

Thanks go out to the negotiating committee, District Lodge 4 DBR David Sullivan and District Lodge 4 ADBR Rick Compher. Their efforts have contributed to building solidarity among the bargaining unit members.

This agreement will remain in effect until September 1, 2017. Our future goals with IKEA are heading towards coordinated bargaining with IKEA's U.S. operations.

Wood, Pulp & Paper Members Represented at the Southern States Conference

Delegates from our wood, pulp and paper local and district lodges participated at the 2015 Southern States Conference of Machinists on August 27-30th in New Orleans.

Our Pulp, Paper & Forest Products Committee, DL 131 DBR Robert Barnwell, DL 112 DBR Stephen Hernandez and DL711 DBR Keith McFarland, reported to the conference on current issues and future plans for our industry. Topics reported on included plans to work toward coordinated bargaining with common employers that have multiple locations in an effort to negotiate stronger contracts with higher wages, better benefits and working conditions. Also discussed were legislative actions and environmental regulations that negatively impact our industry and, the potential growth expected in the pellet industry.

The delegates shared information with each other comparing current Collective Bargaining Agreement contract language, safety & health, benefits and wages. This interaction has proven instrumental in producing some of the best contracts in history.

The Committee thanked the Southern Territory for hosting this event and, IAM Headquarters and Woodworkers Department for their renewed support at the Southern States Conference.



Pictured: International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger listens as General Vice President Robert Martinez, Jr. addresses the delegates at the conference.

WORKING HARD TO GET IT RIGHT

A new forest management plan for state forests in northwest Oregon is on the horizon. Crafting a plan that will benefit communities, the environment, improve conservation and achieve healthy, productive forests is a complex process. It will involve extensive research, field work and, collaborative policy discussions with a range of partners that have a commitment to funding the right mix of long-term solutions.

In response to the Board of Forestry (BOF) direction, State Forest Division staff are working hard on a new management approach called “land allocation.” This strategy would focus portions of the forest on timber production and other on conservation.

A Subcommittee on Alternative Forest Management Plans (FMP Subcommittee) for the northwest state forests was appointed which Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose is a member, along with representatives from the Oregon Governor’s Office and the Department of Forestry.

The FMP Subcommittee members met on August 12th and shared initial model results—essentially a forecast for how a land allocation approach rather than a forest management approach would affect conservation and production outcomes. Staff asked for feedback from the Subcommittee as work began towards establishing conservation and production emphasis areas in state forestlands.

“To get this new land allocation plan right, we are collaborating with ODF staff and government officials and tapping into their expertise in areas that we share common interests,” said Mike Rose, IAM Woodworkers Department and FMP Member. The next meeting will be held in October 2015 to put a new plan in place for consideration in 2016.



BIO-CORNER

Meet Brother Doug Hilfer, Vice President of Local Lodge W33 in International Falls, Minnesota. Brother Hilfer started his working career as a Reclaim Operator at Pulp Mill Boise Paper, a PCA company, over 34 years ago and worked his way up to the position he holds today as Pulp Mill Operator.

Since February 15, 1988, Brother Hilfer has been an active member of the IAM. As a union leader, he served his fellow brothers and sisters as a Job Steward for 20 years and was Local Lodge W33 Trustee for 6 years. Currently, he is Local Lodge W33 Vice President—a position he has been elected to do for the last 8 years and is also a member of District Lodge W3’s Executive Board.

Doug loves to fish and hunt and, has been married to his wife Kathi for 35 years. They have two children together; their son Ryan is married to Tawna and his daughter Raija is married to Andy. Between Ryan’s and Raija’s families, Doug and Kathi have 5 grandchildren. The newest addition to the family was McKenna who was born on September 16, 2015. Congratulations Brother Hilfer!

WOOD, PULP AND PAPER WORKERS COUNCIL MAKES HISTORY

Our newly formed Wood, Pulp & Paper Workers Council held their 1st Annual Council Meeting at the District Lodge W24 office in Gladstone, Oregon on September 13-18, 2015. A main function of this Council is to share information concerning all topics of representation and mutual interest between labor and management in the wood, pulp and paper industries, and to keep all local and district lodges having membership employed in the industry posted on the information.

International President Buffenbarger, General Vice Presidents Allen, Blondin and Martinez all gave opening remarks. Other speakers included Strategic Resources Research Economist Gwen Camp, Collective Bargaining Director Tom O’Heron, Organizing Director Don Barker and Ray Moore from Employee Benefit Systems.

The Council’s new structure was discussed and the Bylaws were voted upon and accepted. Photos from the meeting can be found on our Woodworkers homepage under the Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers Council link and here:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153053726245636.1073741856.75198195635&type=3>

A tour was given at Weyerhaeuser Longview Tree Farm, Sawmill and Export Yard. Their commitment to sustainability and product stewardship for over 100 years and, their emphasis on safety proves to be beneficial to our members and the community. This was an impressive operation and memorable tour.



Collective Bargaining Director Tom O’Heron talks about Coordinated Bargaining.



Weyerhaeuser Longview Tree Farm tour. Left to right: Molly Raser, Area Planner, Frank Jongenburger, Engineer and Rex Pittullo, Harvest Manager.



International President Tom Buffenbarger swears in the new Wood, Pulp & Paper Workers Council officers. From left to right: Council VP & DL W24 ADBR Noel Willet, Council PR & DL 75 DBR Steve Pridgen, Council Sentinel & DL 74 DBR Larry Young and Council ST & DL W2 DBR Kelvin Godwin.

TRANSITIONS— SUMMER TO FALL

As fall weather finally begins to take hold after the long wildfire season in the northwest, many forest landowners are shifting to another form of fire. Prescribed burning removes downed, woody material from the forest, reducing wildfire risk before the next summer rolls around. When conducted following a timber harvest, these controlled fires help prepare the soil for replanting of young trees, releasing nutrients into the soil to jumpstart their growth.

When a wildfire moves into a tree stand that has been previously thinned and excess shrubs and grasses removed, the flames tend to stay on the forest floor and firefighters are able to attack it directly. A wildfire in a fire-treated forest typically leaves many of the trees alive. But, in a stand where the trees are close together and brush is thick, a wildfire will likely move into the crowns and race through the stand. Direct attack is dangerous so fire managers must resort to air tankers and helicopters—effective, but costly tools. The high intensity of a wildfire burning in a fuel-rich forest often does long-term damage, wiping out entire tree stands and in some instances sterilizing the soil.

Prescribed burns are conducted only when weather and wind patterns are optimal to carry smoke up and away from communities and popular recreation sites. Forest operators and wildland fire agencies staff the sites with fire engines and personnel to prevent the burns from spreading outside of designated burn units. The resulting clean-up of logging debris and excess vegetation greatly reduces the risk of damaging wildfires on those lands during the summer.

WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB



Local Lodge W130 members Brandon Howard (left) and Luke Mittge (right) working for PE Ell Weyerhaeuser Logging Ops

Submit your stories and photos, along with a brief description, of our wood, paper and pulp members *on-the-job* to:

mrose@iamaw.org or ***tkenealy@iamaw.org***
for our *Wrench & Wood* newsletter.

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Woodworkers Department

9000 Machinists Place Upper Marlboro, MD

301-967-4555 ; fax 301-967-4763

www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/woodworkers

