

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



February 2016

Volume 3, Number 1

A LEGACY CONTINUES —

And the Future Looks Bright

The new year began with a historic ceremony as retiring International President Buffenbarger swore in new International President Robert Martinez, Jr., and General Vice President Rickey Wallace.

Robert Martinez, Jr., a 35 year member who has held leadership positions throughout the union, was sworn in as the 14th International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Martinez thanked the Executive Council for its support and thanked his predecessors saying, "I am mindful that I stand on the shoulders of giants." He pledged to safeguard the interests of the IAM members and vowed to make the tough decisions necessary to propel the IAM into a future that promises to see a continuation of attacks on working people.



Retired International President Tom Buffenbarger, left, congratulates incoming President Bob Martinez, Jr., after Martinez took his oath of office.



Left, Retired International President Tom Buffenbarger swears in Resident General Vice President Rickey Wallace.

Following the installation of International President Martinez, President Buffenbarger swore Ricky Wallace in as our new Headquarters General Vice President. He is a proven leader having come up through the ranks in his 35 year career as a Machinist. "We have a lot of important work to do and as Resident General Vice President, Brother Wallace will play a key role in our efforts to keep the Machinists Union one of the strongest and most progressive unions in the labor movement," said International President Martinez.

With our new leadership in place, we are poised on a solid foundation to continue the work that International President Martinez calls "noble and good".



Annual Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Conference to be Held in Savannah, Georgia

According to our new Wood, Pulp and Paper Council Bylaws a Conference will be held annually. Please keep October 12-16th in mind as potential dates for the 2016 Conference planned to be held in Savannah, Georgia. The purpose of the conference will be to gather information concerning all topics of representation and mutual interest between Labor and Management in the wood, pulp and paper industry and to keep all District and Local Lodges posted on the information. A call letter with details will be sent to all District and Local Lodges having membership in the wood, pulp or paper industry.

IAM APPOINTED NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE POSITIONS ON LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee (LMC) is a nonprofit trust, headquartered in Washington, D.C., to bring organized labor and management together to promote economic development, job security and to pursue our common public policy interests in the forest products industry. Established in 1989, the LMC represents more than two million workers, including our members in the wood, pulp and paper industries.

This year IAM General Vice President Rickey Wallace, Woodworkers Special Rep Bob Walls and District Lodge W2 Directing Business Rep Kelvin Godwin have joined International President Robert Martinez, Jr., Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose and IAM/NFFE National President Bill Dougan on LMC's Board of Trustees to represent labor unions' and our members' interests.

The LMC will hold their Spring Board Meeting on March 10-11, 2016 in Las Vegas. Our Labor/Union Trustees will work along side the Management/Employer Trustees from the American Loggers Council, Louisiana Forestry Association, American Wood Council, American Forest Resource Council, Federal Forest Resource Coalition and the American Forest & Paper Association to address their agenda. Some of the issues of priority for 2016 include: federal forest legislation and wildfire funding, transportation and truck weight issues, the Northern Long-Eared Bat and water quality issues.

LOCAL LODGE W261 TAKES ADVANTAGE OF LABOR STUDIES PARTNERSHIP



Left to right, now retired General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach Jr., and International President Tom Buffenbarger and current WWW Director Chris Wagoner ink a new partnership to allow IAM members to pursue higher education degrees with the State University of New York Empire State College in September 2014.

The Machinist Union and Empire State College join forces to create a unique higher education partnership. Empire State College is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Through distance learning possibilities Empire has also arranged learning partnerships with UAW-Ford University, United Steelworkers of America, Corporate Noncredit Training, eArmyU, Navy College Program and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. One of the features of a partnership with Empire is the ability to get college credit for prior learning experience (PLA). If you have completed an apprenticeship, been involved with the community or, held other leadership roles you may qualify for college credit through PLA's.

Currently Local Lodge W261 President Mike Hicks and Vice President Don Turner are enrolled in this program. Brother Hicks was able to transfer all of his Associates Degree credits and received PLA credit for his union involvement while working towards his next degree at Empire State College. Each semester starts with a one-week residency at Winpisinger Education and Technology Center and the remainder of the semester is conducted online. If you want to know more about this exciting opportunity to earn your Bachelors or Masters Degree, contact IAM Educational Representative Rhonda Rogers, at 301-373-3300. Or, for more information, visit www.esc.edu/partnership-programs/iam-partnership.

2015 WAGE CONFERENCE GETS AN ASSIST FROM STRATEGIC RESOURCES

District Lodge W24 is gearing up for industry bargaining in the western states. To prepare for what will be a demanding negotiations year, a Wage Conference was held at the W24 offices in Portland, Oregon in December 2015. In attendance were delegates from Weyerhaeuser, Potlatch, Green Diamond, Georgia Pacific and Roseburg Forest Products Company.

In today's business environment, negotiating contracts brings many new and ever-changing challenges. Our Strategic Resources Department is IAM's innovative approach to collective bargaining. Research Economist Gwen Camp spoke to the delegates at the Conference to let them know how the Department can assist them before and during negotiations.

Our experienced team of economists are available to do financial analysis of a company, its bargaining unit, the labor market and, to offer strategic economic advice based on the data. They can also help facilitate pension, retirement and healthcare conversations supported with costs and analyses. This research can be key to being prepared for negotiations.

For more information about what the IAM Strategic Resources Department can do for your lodge visit their homepage at:

[Strategic Resources Department](#)

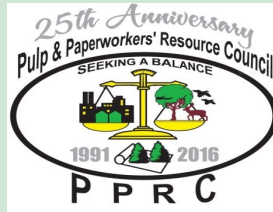
BIO CORNER



Mark Dooley began his working career at Georgia Pacific (GP) in Brewton, Alabama, eleven years ago as a Millwright, maintaining GP's machinery. Brother Dooley is a member of District Lodge 75 and has been Secretary-Treasurer of Local Lodge 676 for the last 5 years.

Pictured above is Mark with his wife of 23 years, Sonya, and their 7 year old son, Chase. They live in Jay, a small town in the Florida panhandle, which allows the Dooley's to spend their time together enjoying all water sports and activities. Outside of water skiing, Brother Dooley loves to drag race.

PPRC Fly-In in Washington, D.C. Celebrating 25th Anniversary



The Pulp & Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC) marked an important milestone as they celebrated their 25th anniversary during their week long Fly-In event to Washington, D.C., on February 5-12. This grassroots organization of hourly employees in the forest products industry made their 1st quarterly visit to educate our nation's senators and members of Congress on issues that impact our jobs and industry. During 3 days of meetings, more than 65 PPRC members from across the country, including union representatives from IAM, IBEW, CPU, USW and the AWPPW, made 516 legislative and administrative visits to educate our politicians on employees' concerns over potential job loss due to legislation and regulation. Some of the issues brought to light include: carbon neutrality of biomass, the Clean Water Act and newly imposed EPA limits and, reform for the Endangered Species Act.

Woodworkers Special Rep Bob Walls spoke to the group about the IAM Woodworkers Department and our role inside and outside our union. Brother Walls highlighted our organizing efforts, described the support our Department gives to our district and local lodges and, the importance of our membership being politically engaged. "Being part of the work, like that of the PPRC, is crucial to the survival of our jobs and industry," said Walls. He continued with descriptions of other committees that he has been appointed to and explained how the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Timber Labor Management Committee (LMC), the Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) and the PPRC meld together to work toward common goals. ♦



Published by:

Woodworkers Department

9000 Machinists Place Upper Marlboro, MD

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

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