

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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WOOD, PULP & PAPER COUNCIL MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL 2017

The Officers of our Wood, Pulp & Paper Council and Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose have recommended to International President Martinez that we postpone our October 2016 Council Meeting and, respectfully requested that we reschedule this meeting in 2017. In making the decision for this request, the Council and COS Rose took into account the potential conflict with the International during this Convention year, the financial impact the Meeting would have on District and Local Lodges and, the IP's appeal to IAM's leadership at the 2016 Staff Conference in March to cut costs and refocus resources and assets.

President Martinez took our recommendation into consideration and with appreciation approved the Council's request to reschedule the Meeting.

The Wood, Pulp and Paper Council Officers are looking forward to next year's Meeting and we will keep you posted.

IAM Members at Weyco Ratify Two Year Agreement

On Monday, March 7th, 1300 IAM members who work for Weyerhaeuser in Washington and Oregon ratified a two year settlement agreement and reaffirmation of the current collective bargaining agreement.

Terms of the agreement include significant wage increases in 2016 and 2017, along with Company contributions to the Nelson Trust Health Care Plan both years. The agreement also includes maintaining the supplemental week of vacation pay for members with 20+ years of seniority and increases to the Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Pension plans.

"We have several large contracts with our Woods side employers to tackle," said District W24 ADBR Noel Willet, "and this is a good start for our members at Weyco."



NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY WITH U.S. PULP, PAPER & WOOD EMPLOYERS

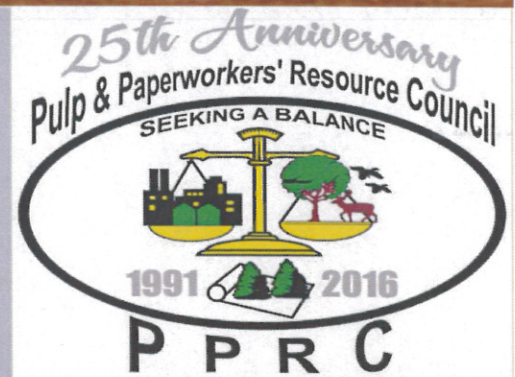
The International President's Chief of Staff Owen Herrstadt and Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose attended negotiations in Frankfurt, Germany on March 17-18, 2016. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) convened this meeting between Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) and all FSC affiliated U.S. pulp and paper employers to address International Labor Organization's (ILO) internationally-recognized core labor standards, its primacy over national laws and the FSC certification process as it relates to these standards.

U.S. company representatives attended from International Paper, Domtar, Sappi Fine Paper and Littler Mendelson. Representing on our behalf for these negotiations were BWI President Per Olof Sjoo, BWI Asia Pacific Regional Representative Apolinar Tolentino, ITUC Legal Director Jeff Vogt, PEFC Bill Street, and IAM's COS to the IP Owen Herrstadt and Woodworkers COS Mike Rose.

At the heart of the discussions were the following core labor standards:

1. freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
2. chain of custody
3. freedom and flexibility for union access to workers
4. neutrality
5. permanent replacement of strikers

FSC mediated negotiations with the U.S. Companies concluded with no concrete agreement—it was agreed not to rush to a conclusion on the final text until it was found satisfactory to BWI and all affiliates' interests. All parties were amenable to future discussions and a follow up process is in place.



The Pulp & Paperworkers Council (PPRC) celebrated their 25th anniversary during their 2016 Fly-In to Washington, D.C.

Attending this event were union members from several pulp and paper industries, including; Domtar, Evergreen Packaging, Georgia Pacific, Graphic Packaging, International Paper, WestRock, Resolute Forest Products Glatfelter and KapStone Paper. These members represented the AWPPW, USW, CPU IBEW and IAM unions.

While attending the Fly-In the 64 attendees spread out across Capitol Hill and made 516 visits to U.S. House, Senate and, Administrative offices. Some of 13 Administrative Appointments were to Senate President Pro Tem Orrin Hatch, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Office of Management and Budget and, the Environmental Protection Agency—just to name a few.

Woodworkers Special Representative Bob Walls spoke to the group and assured them that we support their effort and that the IAM Woodworkers share in their fight to preserve our jobs.

GROWING PELLET DEMAND CREATES ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITIES

As we face an increasing demand for energy and an alternative to fossil fuels, there is a growing market in the U.S. southern states for wood pellet production.

Ideally, pellet mills use wood that comes from dead trees and the leftover branches and sawdust from other lumber operations. Although some companies use mature hardwoods to make fuel which puts sustainability into question as hardwoods are slow to regenerate.

Logs are stripped of their bark, which is burned to fuel a chip dryer. Wood passes through a chipper, a dryer and a grinder before the pulverized wood reaches a pellet mill. Pellets are cooled, stored, transported and shipped to power plants in Europe.

A growing concern for U.S. woodworkers will be increasing competition while pellet facilities are harvesting the same kinds of wood that keep our members employed. You will notice on the map below that our woodworking members are working in all the same areas that pellet and chipping facilities are popping up.

The Woodworkers Department is researching this industry as an organizing opportunity and believes that with all Woodworker District and Local Lodges and members engaged in an organizing effort, we can become part of the solution for this emerging market. More to come on this front.

SOUTHERN PULP, PAPER CONFERENCE HELD IN SAVANNAH, GA

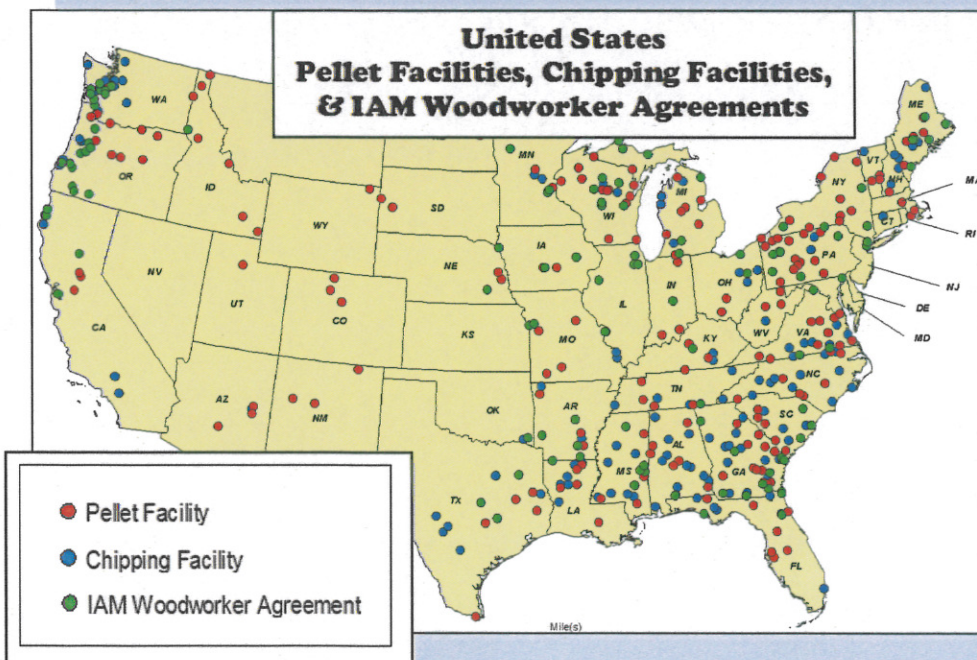
Delegates met in Savannah, GA this year, on March 2-8, for their 62nd Machinists Southern Pulp and Paper Conference.

This is a true working Conference, used to share information across local lodges concerning all topics of representation and mutual interests between labor and management in our industry in order to negotiate the best possible contracts.

Speakers Mike Rose, Chief of Staff and Bob Walls, Special Rep of the IAM Woodworkers Department spoke to the group about the importance of this annual conference and the need to maintain open communications among ourselves. Brother Walls also presented on pulp and paper mills across the Southern Territory.

There were 24 delegates hailing from Districts 75, 112, 131, 711, and W2. Local Lodges that were represented at the Conference included Locals 20, 23, 40, 414, 1034, 1098, 1362, 1458 and, 2003.

This year Local Lodge 23 hosted the Conference for all local lodges that have members in the pulp and paper industry. A special thanks goes out to Local Lodge 23 President Ben Darieng for all of his coordination efforts and the gracious hospitality extended to everyone that attended.



BIO CORNER



Local Lodge 1106 President Frank Bright

Frank Bright began his working career at Eastern Ship Building where he was employed for 9 years. The next 9 years were spent at Brown & Root Construction until finally, 19 years ago, he began working for Panama City Paper Mill (now WestRock) and became a Machinist in Local Lodge 1106.

Brother Bright was elected Vice President of his lodge in 2008. Frank served in that position for 5 years and was then elected as Local Lodge President. He still holds that position today.

Frank and his wife Mary have 2 children, Chris and Paul, and a grandson, Easton. In his spare time, when Frank is not spending time with Easton, you might find him hunting or fishing.

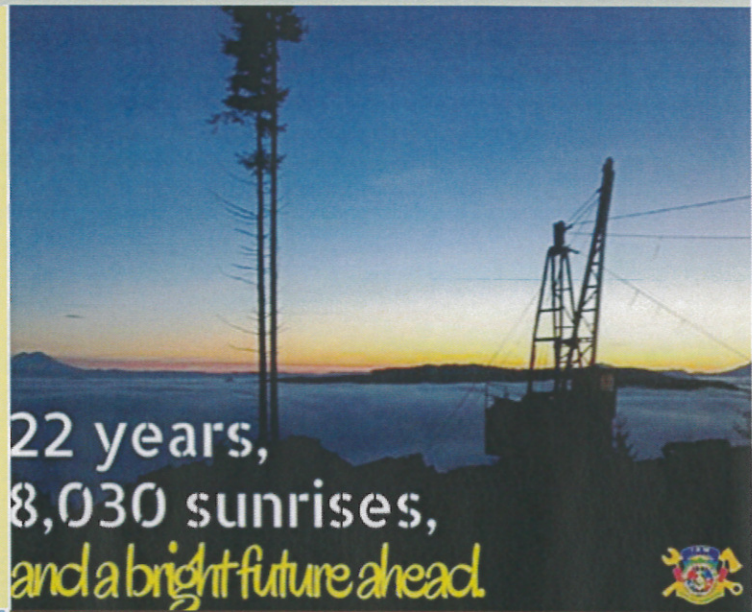
IAM WOODWORKERS

CELEBRATE 22 YEARS

The proud International Woodworkers Association, U.S. (IWA) became a proud part of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers on May 1, 1994.

By 1994, the IWA, U.S. was down to barely 20,000 members. With the membership numbers so low, the IWA, U.S. officers felt that IWA could no longer provide the services their membership needed and deserved. The proposal to affiliate with the IAM was presented to the membership for ratification and passed by over a 90% margin.

Happy Anniversary!



WOODWORKERS



ON-THE-JOB

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