

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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WOOD, PULP & PAPER COUNCIL It's Official!

The final steps to Charter our new Wood, Pulp and Paper Council (WPPC) were completed at a meeting held in Springfield, Oregon May 23-26, 2017. In attendance were the 3 bank signatory Council Board Officers, President Steve Pridgen, Secretary-Treasurer Kelvin Godwin and Vice President Noel Willet, along with IAM Auditor Bruce Spalding, Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose, Special Representative Bob Walls and Apprentice Organizer Jake Merkel. Final Council business and procedures were reviewed and Brother Spalding gave the group Trustee and fiduciary training.

The Council is planning now for our 2017 Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Conference. Tentatively, we are looking to schedule this Conference 2-3 days in mid-September 2017 in the Pacific Northwest. The group also discussed the possibility of holding a fund raiser and/or banquet sponsored by the Union Sportsman's Alliance. We will keep you posted on all of our 2017 WPPC Conference updates.

MAINE WOODWORKING FACILITIES HOST TOURS

Following the Maine State Council Meeting earlier in June, Woodworkers COS Mike Rose, SR Bob Walls and Organizing DIR Don Barker made good use of their time making visits and taking tours of 2 of our Maine Woodworking facilities: Sappi and Woodland Pulp. The members at these Maine locations are represented by Local Lodges 1490 and 2287 and are looking forward to supporting our new Wood, Pulp & Paper Council.

Brothers Rose and Walls enjoyed spending time with the Local Lodges' leadership and look forward to touring more facilities throughout our industry.



The Woodland Pulp facility in Baileyville, Maine hosted a tour for HQ Staff— Woodworkers COS Mike Rose, SR Bob Walls and Organizing DIR Don Barker , along with Officers and BR from IAM District Lodge 4

TIMBER GIANT—WEYERHAEUSER — TO SELL THEIR PULP BUSINESS TO INTERNATIONAL PAPER

In our December 2015 issue of *Wrench & Wood* we printed an article announcing the merger of Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek, forming the nation's largest private owner of timberland. In the process of the merger Weyerhaeuser was exploring the possibility of selling off its cellulose-fibers business segment, which produced \$1.9 billion in sales in 2014.

As of May 2016 we learned that International Paper (IP) plans to purchase Weyerhaeuser's Pulp Business for \$2.2 billion. IP said it would buy five pulp mills in Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and, Canada's Alberta and two converting facilities in Mississippi and Poland. The mills produce fluff pulp, softwood pulp and specialty pulp used for a number of consumer products including diapers, hygiene products, tissue and textiles. Weyerhaeuser's pulp business has about 1,900 employees in the U.S., Canada and Poland.

This transaction will position International Paper as the premier global supplier of fluff pulp while, Weyerhaeuser says this deal furthers its efforts to focus its business on timber, land and forest products.

NEWS FROM BWI



...MORE NEWS



Dora Cervantes, IAMAW
General Secretary-Treasurer

Our IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Dora Cervantes was recently featured in the Building and Wood Workers International's calendar along with 11 other international union women leaders.

Cervantes sends thanks to BWI and our woodworker members for the nomination and is honored to be featured alongside such great and talented women.

“When women unite and support each other, all working people win,” said Cervantes. “I am proud that the IAM has been a catalyst in empowering women through training and offering women leadership roles.”

Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose says Cervantes is an inspiration of hope to our affiliate members in countries where women's rights are scarce to non-existent.

[See Women Almanac here](#)

The Building and Wood Worker's International's (BWI) collective executive committee has nominated Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose as a member of their Strategic Planning Working Group. This team will be consulted in the writing process of the BWI Strategic Plan for 2018-2021. This written plan will be used to use to systematically coordinate and align resources and actions with mission, vision and strategy for BWI and all affiliates. Brother Rose has accepted the nomination with honor.

IAM Supports the "Timber Innovation Act"



The IAM and the Woodworkers Department have given strong support to Congresses' bipartisan legislation introduced as the Timber Innovation Act (TIAct) S.2892 and are pleased they recognize the potential environmental and economic benefit of increasing wood use in tall building applications through this Act. The Act was introduced by lead sponsors Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Mike Crapo (R-ID). Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Steve Daines (R-MT) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) are also original co-sponsors. Along with the IAM, the bill is supported by Weyerhaeuser, the American Wood Council in addition to more than 75 other stakeholders.

Buildings have been built out of wood for centuries. Until recently however, most wood buildings did not exceed six stories and were constructed of light-weight materials. Current advances in technology, engineering and safety have now made it possible to build taller wood buildings using newly developed mass timber products. Our mills are large supporters of the economies in which our members operate, and expanded markets will help to bolster and grow these economies and protect our IAM Woodworkers' jobs.

"Wood construction is a winner for our rural economies and for our environment," Senator Stabenow said. "Our bill helps drive a new market for forest products - keeping loggers at work in the woods and helping to sustain rural communities."

POTLATCH NEGOTIATING TEAM REACHES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Recognition for a job well done go out to District W2 Directing Business Representative Kelvin Godwin, the negotiating committee and, a special thanks to Local Lodge W484 President Bill Cox, for their commitment to reaching a settlement agreement at Potlatch that is good for our members and the community.

In an intense show of solidarity, the membership at Local Lodge W484 sent a powerful message to Potlatch management by unanimously rejecting the company's last, best and final offer and voting to strike.

Potlatch answered the vote with a request to return to the table. They asked for a 30 day extension due to scheduling logistics and the impending Memorial Day holiday.

In the end, a settlement agreement was reached and highlights of the agreement include:

- The defined pension plan will be maintained for all current and future members
- A mutual agreement is in place between the company and the union and language is preserved to protect members' jobs before the company can hire temporary or contract workers
- Reached decent wage increases for all -
1st year—2%; 2nd year—3%; 3rd year—2.5% and, 4th year—3%
- This is a 4 year agreement for our members

THE ROAD TO RETIREMENT



Local Lodge W130 Jim Greenfield hands retiring member, Tom Mattson (left), his 50 year union pin.

This month Local Lodge W130 Jim Greenfield handed the Local's most senior Brother, Tom Mattson, a 50 year union pin, shook his hand and thanked him for all those years of dedicated union service.

Tom came to work for Weyerhaeuser in 1966 before he had actually graduated from Raymond High School. When he started the wage was 2.49 ½ per hour which at that time was twice the minimum wage, and today he is still making roughly twice the minimum wage.

The past 50 years of continual service have been mostly good for Tom. For the most part he got along with management from the time that he got his first assignment of general laborer. When assigned to the Green Chain he asked his supervisor Mr. Johnson for a different assignment and was granted the change. But Tom has known what it is like to go against management when he stood with his union Brothers on the Strike line in 1986 for six long hard months, and came back to work accepting a 2.80 dollar cut in pay. That was the hardest pill to swallow in the last 50 years.

Tom has worked the entire mill from being a slip feeder back in the days when logs were fed into the mill from the mighty Willapa River, to pushing brooms. He finally gained enough seniority to get a cab job where he has spent the last few years working as a Barker/Autobuck Operator.

"What a long, strange trip it has been," is what Brother Mattson will tell you about his road to retirement. Please join us in wishing Tom Mattson a very well deserved retirement.

BIO CORNER

Meet Jim LaBarge, Secretary-Treasurer of Local Lodge 1543 and, District Lodge W3 Trustee out of Nekoosa, Wisconsin. Brother LaBarge is a 28 year IAM member, having held the Local Lodge positions of Shop Steward, Trustee and Vice President in the past. He currently works at Domtar as a senior journeyman electrician.

Jim spends his spare time managing his family tree farm and driving his 1977 Trans Am. He enjoys his family time and has 2 daughters, Barb and Tasha, with his wife Maggie.



Jim LaBarge
Secretary-Treasurer
Local Lodge 1543

WOODWORKERS ON-THE-JOB



Weyerhaeuser LL 130 in Willapa Hills in Western Washington

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