

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## WEYERHAEUSER STRIKE RESOLVED

District W24 woodworkers, their families, labor allies, and community members recently gathered at Local W246's union hall in Springfield, OR for a show of solidarity with IAM District W24 Weyerhaeuser workers who had been on strike against the company for six weeks. IAM District W24 Directing Business Representative Brandon Bryant announced that the bargaining unit reached a new tentative agreement with the company in a late-night session the evening before the rally. Informational meetings and voting took place October 25, 26 and 27 and the TA was accepted. Weyerhaeuser employees returned to work Monday, October 31st.

**WATCH:** [Oregon AFL-CIO Rally Video](#)

IAM District W24 Directing Business Representative Brandon Bryant, IAM Western Territory General Vice President Gary R. Allen, and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler all spoke to the audience about the strength W24 members in Washington and Oregon have shown on the strike line.

“A lot of our members have taken on additional roles that they’ve never had to do before,” said Bryant. “Being strike captains, making strike signs, spending time on the line. They’ve been helping organize strike check distribution. We’ve never had to do this before; it’s been 36 years since we’ve had to go out on strike. Our members stepped up and made this strike as strong as it can be.”

**READ:** [IAM District W24 Members in Pacific Northwest Strike Weyerhaeuser for Fair Contract](#)

“We think it’s the best that we can get at this time, and we only got the best that we can get this time because of the strength of our members and what they did and holding the company accountable.”

Included in the tentative deal is the largest wage increases Weyerhaeuser woodworkers have seen in a four-year deal, a better shift differential, and fewer cuts than what the company was originally offering. The agreement puts strong caps on what employees’ healthcare costs will be, with no increases over the course of the contract.

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)

### HOLDS THEIR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FSC members gathered in Bali, Indonesia on October 9-14, 2022, for the 9th FSC General Assembly. As FSC’s top decision-making body, the General Assembly convenes social, environmental and economic interests to debate and vote on motions that will guide the system in the years ahead.

Many motions were brought forth, and 14 passed. BWI, jointly with IAM, presented two motions of particular importance to our unions and were able to convince the social chamber to give them high priority. With that and the alliance we built with the economic chamber members, we were able to negotiate new text for our motion 51 described here:

**Continued Page 2, FSC**

Continued—FSC

**Motion 51/2021****Policy Motion on the right of workers to elect their own Occupational Health and Safety**

“The main goal of this motion is to guarantee that workers have the right to frequently and freely elect occupational health and safety representatives in all FSC certified organizations, considering the number of workers and the occupational risks involved.

FSC has in all relevant standards (FM, COC and CW-FM) requirements for Certificate Holders to ensure commitment to the occupational health and safety of the workers in their operations, in line with the main goal of this motion. They range from having a designated appointed representative for Occupational Health and Safety to procedural requirements. In case the country does not have national laws, regulations or collective bargaining agreements that reaches the main goal of this motion, and that are in alignment with the relevant ILO instruments, the CH should strive to enter into an agreement with the trade union in order to define the number of representatives considering the number of workers and the occupational risks involved. Elections shall be held regular but at least every 4 years. Workers that wish to be candidates can express that wish and their motivation to all workers without fear of reprisal or interference from the management. The elected representatives shall receive adequate training, and have free (without fear) exercise of their function, advising management and workers on the best practices in health and safety in the workplace. Again this requirement can be met by the certificate holder if there is a similar binding obligation that meets or exceeds the main goal of this provision.”

Two things make this important—one, the reference to the relevant ILO instruments as the international standard, especially now OHS has become a fundamental right. And, the second, is the reference that the certificate holder must recognize [the union](#). An auditor will have to look for evidence that a good faith bargaining attempt has been made.

Our second motion has been granted on the Right of Access to Workers and will be a great benefit to all union organizers. It says:

**Motion 50/2021****Policy Motion on the Right of Access to Workers**

“The certified organization shall at the first request grant trade union representatives that seek to inform workers in the certified organization grant physical access to the workers for these trade union representatives. The management shall provide adequate information about the physical whereabouts of the workers. If the workplace itself is not a suitable place, the management shall make the best possible effort to reach an understanding about where the union representatives can meet the workers. The management will not interfere in these meetings, nor will it prevent workers from attending these meetings, or reprise or punish workers for attending these meetings. This requirement shall be applicable unless the management can demonstrate by compliance with laws, regulations, or collective agreements that the organization meets or exceeds this requirement.”

With this text we are assured that the freedom of association includes the right of access to the workers and that is not only a passive right but that the certificate holder must also provide information so the workers can be reached. Secondly, that if we have cases in which the certificate holder doesn’t comply with requirement we can build auditable requirements in all standards.

The FSC operates as a form of direct democracy and it can be messy. Yet, at the same time, it is integral to building and maintaining a strong community of people and organizations who stand behind FSC and with this new text will help to protect and organize all of our union members.

## HELP SUPPORT LOCAL LODGE W12 FIRE VICTIMS

Woodworkers Local Lodge W12 is supporting a fundraiser to help three victims of the Roseburg Mill Fire in Weed, CA.

DeAndre Thomas-20 year IAM member, Terry Nygard-18 year IAM member and Darren Harris-1 year IAM member have lost everything. These members now have to restart their lives from the ground up after a devastating fire burnt down almost 100 homes in Weed, CA.

The funds from this will be split between the three members evenly and handled by LL W12. Our intent is to show these members what it means to be Union and the concept that an injury to one, is an injury to all. In a show of Solidarity, let's help our Brothers jump start their lives.

Local W12 Secretary-Treasurer Kyle Justman will be named as the beneficiary of this fundraiser for technical reasons. If you or your respective Lodge, District or Territory wish to contribute outside of GoFundMe.com, please send a check made out to Woodworkers Local Lodge W12, to 3836 Altamont Dr, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Please write "For Mill Fire".

On Behalf of LL W12, we thank you for your support, thoughts and your prayers for our members and their families.

[Go Fund Me for Fire Victims](#)



*DeAndre Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth, in the wreckage of their home in the Weed, CA  
Credit: Michael Kodas*

## WOOD, PULP & PAPER WORKERS REPRESENTED AT THE 40th GRAND LODGE CONVENTION



*MWPPC President Billy Barnwell presented the Report of the Wood, Pulp, and Paper Committee to the delegates of the 40th Grand Lodge Convention. Pictured with Committee Secretary Barnwell is Committee Chairperson Joe Schwartz, ADBR of DL 5 in North Dakota.*

MWPPC President Billy Barnwell presented the Report of the Wood, Pulp, and Paper Committee to the delegates of the 40th Grand Lodge Convention. Some of the highlights of the report include the following points.

The IAM Woodworkers Department works in a variety of ways to further the industry by serving as a strong voice for wood, pulp & paper workers. The Department advocates for work place safety, sustainable harvesting of timber and some of the highest wage and benefit packages in the world by utilizing resources within the IAM.

The IAM Wood, Pulp and Paper Council, established in 2015, provides a critical forum for members in the sector to share and communicate best bargaining and representational practices. It has helped bring members in the sector closer to the goal of coordinated bargaining with common employers.

The Woodworkers Department has been a critical part of the IAM's new strategic organizing plan. Growth in the wood, pulp and paper sector has been a top priority—both internally at IAM-represented shops in so-called right-to-work states, and externally at non-union facilities. The International President has directed the department to target strategic growth opportunities that build the power of IAM workers in the sector.

# BIO-CORNER



*Brother John Piatt, Business Representative  
IAM District Lodge W2021*

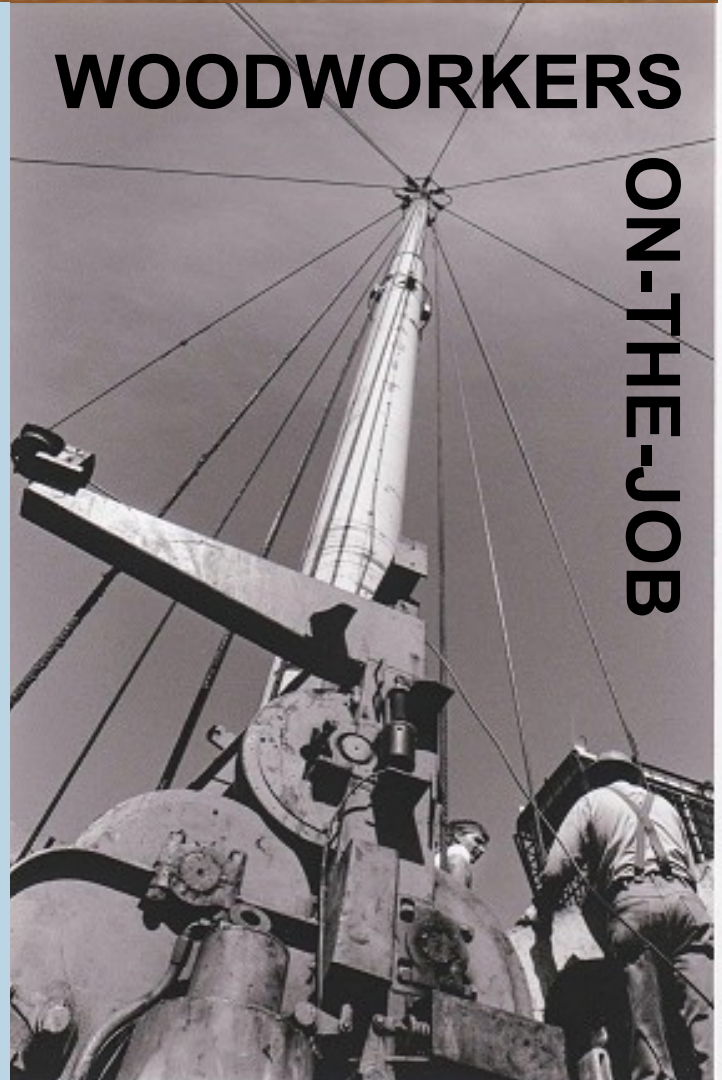
Meet Brother John Piatt, appointed October 1, 2020 to the then newly chartered District Lodge W2021 in the IAM's Southern Territory. He is the Business Representative responsible for servicing Woodworkers Local Lodge W443 throughout Mississippi.

Brother Piatt tributes his path to becoming a Machinist Representative for Woodworkers in the Southern Territory to many of his earlier experiences. He joined the Navy in 1988 where he served for 6 years as an Aviation Electronics Technician. Following Operation Desert Storm, he deployed onboard the U.S.S. Forrestral in support of Operation Provide Comfort. After separating from the Navy he traveled around the U.S. working as a contract Aircraft Technician until January 2001. This is when he was presented the opportunity to join the Machinists Union when he hired on at Boeing as an Aviation Electronic Technician. He has held Local Lodge 18 leadership positions since 2002, as Communicator, Vice President and then, President.

In John's words, "I spent many years traveling around the country working. I took with me a small piece of the culture from each state I worked in. I think that gives me a well-rounded understanding and appreciation for our Country and especially our members in the Southern Territory."

# WOODWORKERS

# ON-THE-JOB



2023 is just around the corner, and you have *Scary Good Odds of Winning* a firearm through our [2023 calendar program](#) featuring our 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes.

Order your calendar today to:

- \*Fund conservation projects across the nation
- \*Get youth outdoors
- \*Earn 104 chances (per calendar) to win a firearm in 2023!

USA appreciates your support!

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[Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council on Facebook](#)