

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER — THE 39th GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

The IAM 2016 Grand Lodge Convention is now in the history books. The dedication and determination of all the members and delegates made this convention a seamless and spectacular success and is now a memorable part of IAM's story. The delegates—of which 80% were first-timers—accomplished the important work they went to Chicago to do. Led by International President Bob Martinez, nearly 2,000 delegates and guests debated changes to the union's constitution and considered the forces shaping our nation and our workplaces.

One of the time-honored IAM convention traditions is the presentation of a custom-made convention gavel to the International President. This year, International President Bob Martinez received two. He was presented a machined metal gavel along with a wooden palm gavel.

Woodworkers Special Representative Bob Walls designed the palm gavel and International Falls, MN Local W33 member Bob French crafted it from a black ash burl on his property. He roughed out a blank, which he sent to be stabilized through a special pressuring process. After weeks of treatment, the burl was patiently turned on a wood lathe to give the gavel its distinct shape.



*Pictured left: Convention wooden gavel presented to IP Martinez. LL W33's Bob French completed the project by sanding the gavel with a range of 200 to 2,000 grit papers. He then applied a clear coat finish, which enhances the unique three-dimensional burl grain pattern.*



*The metal convention gavel includes the IAM and 39th Grand Lodge Convention logos and representations of many of the IAM's trades. It was presented by Bridgeton, MO Local 688 and East Alton, IL Local 660.*



*Above- Left to right: International President Robert Martinez accepts the specially designed palm gavel presented by District Lodge W3 DBR/PR Jere McFalda, Local W33 member Bob French and Woodworkers Special Representative Bob Walls.*



**2016 SFI Annual Conference**  
 September 27 - 29, 2016 | Hilton Clearwater Beach  
 400 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach, FL 33767



## Highlights from the 2016 SFI Annual Conference

Woodworkers Special Representative Bob Walls and close to 300 people who care about the future of forests - from landowners to brand owners and everyone in the forest products supply chain - attended the 2016 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Annual Conference in Clearwater, FL. The three day Conference included discussions, workshops, presentations and networking opportunities that brought life to the theme - **Linking Future Forests to Communities**. The sessions and presentations gave a 360-degree view of all the benefits that come from forests and how SFI programs help to ensure their future thereby, protecting the livelihoods of our members in the wood, pulp and paper industries.

This Annual Conference continues to attract more participation from abroad. Among many guests, two in particular included a PEFC International representative from Switzerland and speaker Dorothy Thompson, CEO of Drax Group LLC. Thompson came from England to deliver a presentation entitled: **Sustainability in the Global Pellet Market**. She spoke about the sustainability challenges and opportunities facing the global pellet market and the contributions of forest certification in assuring the sustainability of forest fiber for the market.

### PROPOSED RULE CHANGES FOR TIMBER SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

The Small Business Administration (SBA) published its proposed new rules for the Timber Set-Aside Program on September 27<sup>th</sup> and is accepting comments before November 28, 2016 however, the IAM supports the Timber Labor Management Committee's stance on requesting a 60 day extension on the comment period for these proposed rules.

While the Small Business Timber Set-Aside Program has become increasingly important to ensure that a "fair proportion" of Federal timber is available for purchase by qualified small business mills, the IAM Woodworkers Department and COS Mike Rose cannot support the new proposed rule changes because

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### ***SFI Continues to Engage the International Forest Community Through PEFC Endorsement***

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Inc. was pleased to announce that the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard has again met the rigorous third-party assessment of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). This is SFI's fourth PEFC assessment. The SFI Program was first endorsed in 2005.

PEFC's sustainable forest management criteria are founded on internationally recognized criteria and indicators developed by government agencies around the world.





## PPRC's Silver Anniversary Labor/Management Conference

The Pulp & Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC) 2016 Silver Anniversary Labor/Management Conference was held in Atlanta, GA on September 13-15, 2016. Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose and Special Representative Bob Walls attended the Conference and heard speakers that included Labor and Management Officials from across the industry. They addressed PPRC's Conference theme, *The First 25 Years and the Next Generation*, answering the questions about future direction and strategies for success in achieving these goals.

Also, on the Agenda was a presentation from COS Rose who addressed the Conference and committed to accessing IAM's operations to help build PPRC membership. "The PPRC does commendable work and has helped to save millions of jobs in the wood, pulp and paper industries over the last 25 years," said Rose.



## A PATH FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

### ***BWI's White Paper on Skanska's Global Operations***



Skanska is one of the largest multinational construction companies in the world – a company with good reputation that claims to take social responsibility. Yet, Skanska has been involved in serious violations of workers' rights in a number of countries.

On October 7th, the World Day for Decent Work the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) released a [white paper on Skanska's operations](#) – including blacklisting of union members in the United Kingdom and, poverty wages and unsafe working conditions in the United States.

"Skanska has proven it can earn profits through sustainable business practices in Sweden", according to BWI General Secretary Ambet Yuson. "Now they need to demonstrate to the world that they can export this knowledge and teach the rest of the world how to be profitable and sustainable, our very existence depends upon it. Until Skanska take up this challenge they have demonstrated that they are a real risk to all socially motivated investors and consumers."

## BIO-CORNER



Local Lodge W33 Trustee Robert Sullivan began his union career in 1996 at Boise Cascade, now PCA paper mill in International Falls, MN and became a Machinist in 1998 when he moved to their Finishing & Shipping Department. Brother Sullivan is still working at PCA

in a maintenance job as a Lubrication Technologist.

Sullivan became a job steward shortly after becoming a LL W33 member but will tell you that he gained a lot of his union experience by helping Local W33 and District Lodge W3 with organizing. He was just recently elected as a Trustee with the Local.

When Brother Sullivan is not working he likes to hunt and fish. He prefers ice fishing and has recently taken up spear fishing through the ice. He belongs to the Sons of Norway organization and after 10 years of service just recently retired from his local Volunteer Fire Department.

He and his wife of 9 years, Darcy, have two children—eleven year old Nora and 7 year old Joseph.

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With the release of the report, the BWI calls on Skanska to work with BWI and create monitoring and training teams to help expand Skanska's Code of Conduct from Sweden around the world. This begins with a commitment to social dialogue with Skanska's social partners both in Sweden and with BWI. [Click here to download the white paper](#)

## WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB



*Local Lodge W130 Field Mechanic Bob Walden works on LL President Jeff Wagner's log truck at Weyerhaeuser in Aberdeen, Washington.*

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they do not include contract log haulers in the process to bargain haul rates for delivering harvested timber from these sales. Rather, it leaves the rate determination in the hands of the mill owners.

SBA is also considering a change to the calculation of the small business market share using the volume of saw timber sold under both the timber program and stewardship contracting which will result in a decrease in the total board footage of timber sales.

Many of the larger companies affected negatively by this proposal employ workers represented by the IAM. The preamble to the proposed rule acknowledges this, but does nothing to assess the impact on organized labor. This is a serious shortcoming that must be addressed.

To see the entire proposal, please see the *Federal Registry* here:

**[SBA Proposed Timber Set-Aside Program](#)**

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