

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



December 2017

Volume 4, Number 6



2017 BWI WORLD CONGRESS

Amandla! Power to the People

The Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) held their 4th World Congress in Durban, South Africa from November 26 – December 1, 2017. More than 725 members and guests of the BWI from construction, wood and forestry came from all over the world to attend— including General Secretary-Treasurer Dora Cervantes and Chief of Staff Mike Rose. The Congress recapped innovative unionism processes and “best practices” from around the world during 2014-2017, decided on its goals, priorities, and actions for the coming 2018-2021 Congress period and BWI leadership elections were held.

COS Rose, participating as a member of the BWI World Council, was elected as Regional Vice President for North America (NA). He will be coordinating a formal NA Regional Committee meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia to be held in February. Also on our agenda for the first quarter of 2018, the IAM along with BWI and global affiliates will actively enter into multinational organizing. This worldwide campaign will seek to build worker power, building in social protections and job security.

GST Cervantes participated in BWI’s first Global Women Leaders Forum and moderated a panel discussion among many high level women union leaders from around the globe to talk about women shaping their unions and playing leading roles in negotiating collective agreements, leading strikes, and advocating for increased women’s participation in their trade union structures.

With the rallying cry of “Vote for Change---Vote for Women,” all of the BWI affiliated women leaders aggressively campaigned to increase the representation of women at both the World Council and World Board. As a result of their tenacity and perseverance the new-incoming BWI World Board will consist of seven women board members compared to one women board member prior to the 4th World Congress.



Left: Russian Organizing Committee and IKEA workers in a show of solidarity send a video message to affiliates at the BWI World Congress. “IKEA Workers UNITE!” Pictured center: The message was reciprocated by BWI President Per Olof Sjö, Timber Workers Unions of the Russian Federation President Denis Zhuravlev and IAM Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose.

Power to the people! IAM General Secretary-Treasurer Dora Cervantes joins the call for increased leadership roles for women in unions at the [@BWIglobal](#) Congress.

DISTRICT LODGE W2 HOLDS ITS FIRST DELEGATE COUNCIL MEETING

District Lodge W2 held its First Delegate Council Meeting on October 28th, 2017 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Introductions were made, Council Committees were established and reported on and, the financial report and membership numbers were reviewed.

Officer nominations were taken and Woodworkers Chief of Staff Mike Rose swore in the newly elected officers. They are:

P/DBR - Kelvin Godwin - W15
A/DBR - Melone Irvin - LL260
VP - Gary Champ - W298
ST - Layne Johnston - LL463
Trustee - Lula Binns - W298
Trustee - Jeffrey Bell - LL61
Trustee - Vanessa Dorsey - LL260

Local Lodge 1243 member Mark Harvey and Lodge W484 member Ulysses Edwards were appointed to the Audit Committee.



Newly elected officers from Left to Right: Executive Board Member at Large Melvin "Big Dog" Jordan, President/DBR Kelvin Godwin, A/DBR Melone Irvin, Trustee Lula Binns, Trustee Jeffrey Bell, Trustee Vanessa Dorsey, Vice-President Gary Champ, Secretary/Treasurer Layne Johnston

Union-Made In America Holiday Gift Ideas

UNION-MADE HOLIDAY GIFTS GUIDE

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District Council Delegates Patty Jones and Sharon Smith (left to right) from Local Lodge 463 review and discuss proposed changes to the District Bylaws.

In the back: District Audit Committee member Mark Harvey out of the Red River Army Depot group in LL1243 - Texarkana

GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA RAISES ALMOST \$2 MILLION AT ANNUAL CHARITY BANQUET

Guide Dogs of America (GDA) held its 37th annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet in Las Vegas on November 18th. The charity's highest honor, the "Gift of Sight Award," was presented to IAM Transportation General Vice President, Sito Pantoja, along with past President of GDA, Dale Hartford and Spirit AeroSystems, President & CEO, Thomas Gentile.

The weekend of fundraisers included the charity banquet, a golf tournament, the Hawgs for Dogs Motorcycle Ride and a sporting clay event. Tally at the end of the 2017 Guide Dogs Charity Banquet. \$1,874,321.00 raised by Machinists Union members, district and local lodges throughout the year!

GDA provides guide dogs free of charge to blind and visually impaired men and women in the U.S. and Canada. The school was founded in 1948 after a blind IAM member was rejected for a guide dog due to his age of 57. Visit [Holiday Fund-A-Need](#) to learn how you can help!



Pictured above: Guide Dogs of America President Russ Gittlen, Transportation General Vice President and "Gift of Sight Award" recipient Sito Pantoja and International President Bob Martinez, Jr.

Top right: IAM member and Guide Dog recipient with her guide dog, Disnee.

Pictured right: Grand total of 2017 charitable contributions made by IAM members, District and Local Lodges was announced.



BIO-CORNER

Meet George Henry Miller, Jr. —



*George Henry Miller, Jr.
Local Lodge I460 President*

This U.S. Army veteran is currently Local Lodge I460 President in Perryville, Maryland. He is a longtime union member beginning his working career at General Motors as an active member of UAW where he worked for 17 years.

In May 2010 he chose a new career path at IKEA Perryville, MD. He became a Machinist Union member when IKEA Perryville signed their first contract in 2013. George was on the Bargaining Committee then and has participated on the Committee through 2 more record breaking contracts. Local Lodge I460 has elected Brother Miller as their Vice President for two terms until he was voted in as LL President—a position he has fulfilled for the last term and a half.

George continues to enhance his education with business and labor history classes. He is active in his community as a Motorcycle Club Vice President, raising money for firefighters, police and, veterans.

He and his wife of 20 years have 5 beautiful children, 11 grandchildren and have one more grandchild on the way. Congratulations Brother Miller!

WOODWORKERS



ON-THE-JOB

*Pictured above: IAM member Ryan Thompson at
Weyerhaeuser Pe Ell Woods Operation*

The Woodworkers Department wishes you—



Happy Holidays

Woodworkers Department

9000 Machinists Place Upper Marlboro, MD

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

Send your story ideas to:

mrose@iamaw.org;

tkenealy@iamaw.org

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