

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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## Machinists Put Strategic Organizing Plan into Motion



The Machinists Union is working collaboratively to launch organizing campaigns at locations across the U.S. and Canada.

Organizers recently met at the IAM's Winpisinger Education and Technology Center to plan one of the first efforts using the union's **newly implemented strategic organizing plan**. Multiple IAM territories are participating in the campaign.

"Working people need unions yesterday and we're not wasting any time," said International President Bob Martinez. "We are putting forth every resource necessary to grow our union and strengthen the negotiating power of all Machinists Union members."

The Machinists are leveraging relationships with unions overseas to amplify its organizing power in North America.

"This campaign will pull together organizers at all levels of our union, as well as our friends at unions around the world," said Organizing Director Vinny Addeo.

The Machinists Union had its best net membership change year in more than 15 years in 2017.

## UNIONIZATION How'd We Do?

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics put out its 2017 annual analysis of unionization in the United States.

The percent of wage and salary workers who were members of unions:

10.7% in 2017 (unchanged from 2016)

The number of wage and salary workers belonging to unions:

14.8 million in 2016  
(up from 14.6 million in 2016)

Union membership - private-sector workers:

6.5% in 2017 (up from 6.4% in 2016)

Union membership - public-sector workers:

34.4% in 2017 (unchanged from 2016)

Union members median week earnings:

\$,1041 in 2017 (up from \$1,004 in 2016)

Non-union members:

\$829 in 2017 (up from \$802 in 2016)

Full press release & tables with more details:

<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>



## PPRC BRINGS PULP & PAPER ISSUES TO CAPITOL HILL

The Annual Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC) Fly-in was held in Washington, D.C. on February 12-15, 2018. The IAM delegation, along with nearly 70 members of the PPRC, took our paper and wood products industries' issues directly to members of the U.S. House, Senate and administration. The Council scheduled almost 250 meetings on Capitol Hill and across D.C. in an effort to educate officials. Their legislative and regulatory decisions have a direct impact on families and communities that depend on forest products manufacturing for their livelihoods.

GLR Bob Walls addressed the group on Monday before they canvassed the city saying, "Communities across the country need the good-paying jobs that our forest products industries can provide like making paper, building materials, boxes or tissue and many more products Americans use everyday. Our legislators should protect the environment while at the same time support the global competitiveness of the U.S. paper and wood products industry."



*Front left: LL 1106 ST Jason Strickland—WestRock, Panama City, FL*

*Front right: LL 1362 VP Bill Moyers, PPRC Southern Pines Region Special Projects Director — Georgia Pacific, Crossett, AR*

*Center: LL 1098 PR Mike Mauldin, PPRC National Special Projects Coordinator — Georgia Pacific, Palatka, FL*

*Back left: LL 414 PR Doug Kinsey — International Paper, Rome, GA*

*Back right: LL 40 member Bruce Wells — WestRock, Fernandina Beach, FL*

*Not pictured: Woodworkers GLR Bob Walls*

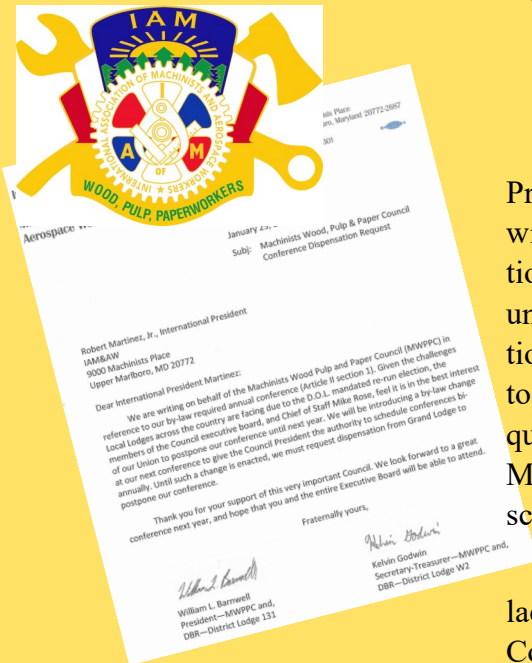
## Market Overview

Traders discerned a modest pullback in framing lumber purchases, as more customers pushed back against placing new orders at record prices that often came with warnings of late shipments. Nonetheless, producers pushed quotes upward, as they sold enough volume to send order files well into or even through March. Gains in prices moderated in most species. But the Random Lengths Framing Lumber Composite Price nonetheless jumped to \$509, just \$1 short of the all-time high set on December 30, 1993.

The pullback was not clearly evident in all facets of the market. Trading picked up in studs, as buyers seeking coverage for coming jobs stepped in; while uncomfortable with prices, traders noted that stud prices remained relative values compared to random dimension. 9-foot trims continued to dominate trading, but sales of 8-footers also gained traction, and some species posted double-digit gains.

Heavy rains idled job sites in the South, and some Southern Pine traders reported the slowest week of sales so far in 2018. Even so, substitution of Southern Pine for harder-to find western and Canadian species kept 2x4 prices on an upward track (see *Through a Knothole* for more analysis). Meanwhile, the rain disrupted harvesting and deliveries of larger logs, and producers priced the wides defensively despite lukewarm demand. The tone of the green Douglas Fir market changed, and record prices flattened after midweek.

Where mill sales slowed, secondaries took advantage to trim their inventories. While offering quicker shipments at less-than-replacement costs, they still sold at highly profitable levels. Traders debated the market's sustainability once the backlog in shipping from the mills starts to clear. Adding to their angst was difficulty getting a read on how long the traffic hang-ups would persist. Reports of customers stifled by credit limits, and jobs running into red ink, also left traders wary of risks going forward.



## WOOD, PULP & PAPER COUNCIL Conference to be Held in 2019

Our Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council (MWPPC) President William Barnwell and Secretary-Treasurer Kelvin Godwin made a special Conference dispensation request of International President Martinez, Jr., to postpone the 2018 Conference until next year. This request was made after careful consideration of the challenges all Local Lodges would face this year due to the D.O.L. mandated election re-run. Also noted in the request, was the Officers' intent to introduce a change to the MWPPC By-laws giving the Council President authority to schedule Conferences bi-annually.

The request was reviewed by IP Martinez and GVP Wallace and our MWPPC Conference is approved to be held in 2019. Conference planning is already underway and we will keep you posted!



## BWI NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN VANCOUVER

As Vice President of BWI's North American (NA) Region, Chief of Staff Mike Rose held the meeting for the U.S. and Canadian affiliates in Vancouver on February 28th. Also attending were BWI Secretary General Ambet Yuson, Global Campaign Director Jin Sook Lee and GS-facket President Per-Olof Sjöo.

Opening remarks were made by Vice President Rose and Secretary General Ambet Yuson. Together the group discussed current political and trade union trends and challenges. The NA Regional affiliates planned a 2017-2021 strategy for joint organizing campaigns, activities and implementation. This included a conversation on how to strengthen the BWI North America Regional structure for moving forward.

The meeting Agenda also covered BWI Women and Youth Committees. Special note was given to International Women's Day on March 8th (see page 4).

Before leaving Vancouver, a side meeting was held with BWI's Brother Yuson, Sister Lee and GS-facket's Brother Sjöo about the 2018 June BWI World Board Meeting to be held in Geneva and the possibility of arranging a meeting with the IKEA CEO, BWI and IAM.



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) held their Resource Committee meeting at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, March 1st. SFI is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. Currently, over 250 million acres of responsibly managed forests are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standards, with millions more acres positively impacted by the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard.

As a member of the Committee, GLR Bob Walls attended to share best practices, identify ways to engage with SFI community grant projects, to ensure strong understanding of SFI Inc. strategic priorities and, help coordinate plans for the year ahead.



# TIME TO **END** GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

More than a third of women globally have experienced violence in the workplace, at home, or in the community.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an attack on the rights of women, and we are committed to stopping GBV in BWI worksites across the world.

The BWI is calling for an ILO Convention to STOP GBV in the world of work, and unions worldwide will take action on 8 March.



## TAKE ACTION ON INTL WOMENS DAY **8 MARCH**



# WOODWORKERS ON-THE-JOB

## LOCAL LODGE 1034 MEMBERS RATIFY A NEW CONTRACT AT ATLAS ROOFING

Members of Local Lodge 1034 have ratified a new 6 year contract with Atlas Roofing Corporation in Hampton, Georgia. The Agreement was reached as a result of input from the members and hard work done by the Negotiating Committee (pictured below).

Notable in the Agreement, the members will realize a 17% wage increase with the first 3% to be implemented in April and another 3% in January 2019, a cap will be built into out-of-pocket medical expenses over time and seniority language was added to protect bargaining unit positions, including the Leadman position.



*Pictured above: Atlas Roofing Negotiating Committee*

*Left to right: GLR Bob Walls, Local Lodge 1034 Steward Darrell Niblett, Local Lodge 1034 Steward Kevin Yarborough, Local Lodge 1034 Chief Steward Jeremy Bell, Local Lodge 1034 member James Alexander, Local Lodge 1034 President Rick Hollar and, District Lodge 131 P/DBR William Barnwell*

## BIO-CORNER



*Pictured above: Jeremy Bell*

*Chief Steward*

*Local Lodge 1034*

Jeremy Bell is a member of Local Lodge 1034 and is the Chief Steward at Atlas Roofing in Georgia. Brother Bell went to work out of high school at Boeing. In 2003, he began his career at Atlas and very soon after became a Machinists Union member. Jeremy has been the Steward there for the last 12 years and has filled the Chief Steward position since 2015, a position he still serves in today.

This Brother married his high school sweetheart and together they have 2 kids, ages 15 and 11 years. In his spare time Jeremy can be found fishing, hunting and loves to eat!!

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**Submit your stories and photos, along with a brief description, of our wood, paper and pulp members on-the-job to:**

***mrose@iamaw.org or tkenealy@iamaw.org for our Wrench & Wood newsletter.***

**[www.golam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/woodworkers](http://www.golam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/woodworkers)**