

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



February 2019

Volume 6, Number 1

IAM Local Lodge W484 Prepares for Negotiations

Members of IAM Local W484 attended a Negotiation Preparation class on their days off Saturday and Sunday, February 8-9, 2019 to prepare for upcoming negotiations at the Potlatch saw mill in Warren, Arkansas. The training was set up by Woodworker Chief of Staff Mike Rose and Business Representative Kelvin Godwin.

“The negotiating committee was a mix of experienced and new members on the committee,” said Educational Representative Henry Bagwell. “They worked very hard all weekend and have a lot of homework to do.”

“I can’t believe what I have learned in two days,” said negotiating committee member James Ellis, a veteran of many negotiations. “We are better prepared than ever.”

The committee is working hard to bring the members of Local W484 a good contract..



Front left to right: Ulysses Edwards—LL W484 PR, Viola Elisa Edwards—LL W484 RS, James Lawrence Ellis—LL W484 VP, Back row, left to right: Terry Golden—LL W484 Trustee, Curlee Effrem Jenkins—LL W484 ST, Elijah Shawn Moorehead, —LL W484 Steward

BIG WINNER AT LOCAL LODGE 183

WESTROCK PAPER MILL



Thirty-three year IAM member Tony Daubs from Local Lodge 183 was the winner of the special-edition Harley-Davidson that was raffled off by the Western Territory as part of a 2020 Grand Lodge Convention fundraiser. Brother Daubs currently works at the WestRock Paper Mill in North Charleston, SC.

“I can’t believe it. I don’t know what to say but thank you, thank you for this union!” said Daubs with a huge smile on his face as he received the bike this week at the Low-Country Harley-Davidson store in North Charleston. Western Territory General Vice President Gary Allen officially handed over the keys.

“Congratulations to Brother Daubs. It was an honor to hand you the keys to the Harley.” and I truly hope it will take you on the adventure of a lifetime,” said Allen.

Page 4—WINNER

IKEA Workers in Russia Build Trade Union Organization



The RTWU helped IKEA workers in Tikhvin to organize a company-level trade union in 2017. “Before the Russian Timber Workers’ Trade Union approached us, we did not know anything about trade unions. The union helped us to start our own trade union and solve problems that we could not solve without the union support,” said Olga Lebezkina, leader of the IKEA-Tikhvin plant union.

“Olga Lebezkina asked us to help her reach out to workers at her plant. She is a trade union leader, but she is also an IKEA worker, who works 12-hour shifts. It is very hard for her to find enough time to talk with workers on different shifts, as factory is huge with a workforce of 1,200 workers,” said Denis Zhuravlev, president of RTWU.

During the six-day organizing drive, trade union leaders, activists and organizers talked with workers to provide them information about the union. They union even conducted a legal clinic on the trade union bus, where union representatives provided legal advice to workers during lunch time and breaks.

During the organizing blitz the union met with the local IKEA management at the Tikhvin plant to discuss an agreement on trade union rights and other guarantees within the frame of the national collective agreement. The second scheduled set of negotiations are to take place at the end of month.

On the last day of the organizing drive, the Russian Timber Workers’ Trade Union organized a trade union concert for IKEA workers, trade union members and their families where more than three hundred people came to get inspired and motivated to continue building their trade union.



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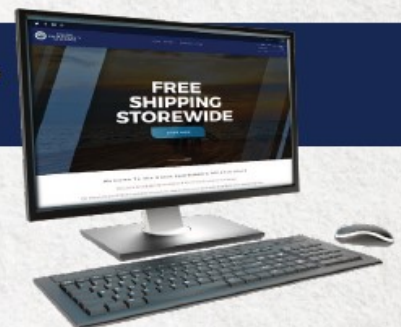


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BIO-CORNER

Vince Strasner became a Machinist Union member the day he started working at Weyerhaeuser in Dierks, Arkansas in 1999. Over the years Brother Strasner has moved through a number of positions including a Stick Layer at the old stacker and Bottom Feeder Operator. When the mill shut down he moved to the Planer Mill and became a Lumber Grader. Today Vince holds the position of Level 5 Auto Tech at the new Mill.

In 2015 Vince's fellow members of Local Lodge W15 voted for him as Vice President of their lodge. No surprise that in keeping on his path, in 2018 Brother Strasner would follow up his next election as President, a position he holds today.

Brother Strasner is the proud father of three (wonderful) teenagers, ages 16, 18 and 19. When time allows, Vince enjoys hunting and fishing.



Vince Strasner, President—Local Lodge W15

WINNER—Continued



Of course, it was a big moment for Daubs who has spent more than thirty years at WestRock, following in his father's footsteps. Daubs, Sr., put in nearly four decades at the same mill. Being able to hand this bike over to a second generation machinist was a proud moment for the IAM.

"This is a story that defines this union," said IAM's Southern Territory General Vice President Rickey Wallace. "Second generation machinist from the same papermill where his Dad worked, wins a brand-new, anniversary edition Harley-Davidson from a \$5 raffle ticket... who better than Tony to win this bike? He's the epitome of what this union stands for and why we will always fight for this country's working-class heroes."

And a lucky one at that. "All I had was \$10 in my pocket when they came around selling raffle tickets so I bought two," remembers Daubs happily. "I bought two, \$5 raffle tickets and won a Harley. I still can't believe it."

It will be a while before Daubs stops smiling. ♦

Published by:

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