

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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REGISTER NOW!

WOOD, PULP & PAPER  
2019 IAM CONFERENCE

ORGANIZING for  
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Deadline extended!

## THE MACHINISTS WOOD, PULP & PAPER COUNCIL CONFERENCE

**Biloxi, Mississippi**

**JUNE 10-14, 2019**

**REGISTER NOW!** June 10-14, 2019 is right around the corner for our Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Conference being held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The deadline for our group rate is **has been extended to Friday, May 24th!** Please make your hotel reservation using the group code **S190263**, for the IMAW Wood, Pulp and Paper Council Conference **online by going to the hotel's website**, or call the hotel directly at **888-946-2847** and press 1 for reservations.

Don't hesitate—find your Registration Form and Call Letter here: **June 10-14, 2019** and register today! Please return your registration form via fax to 301-967-4763 or email to [tkenealy@iamaw.org](mailto:tkenealy@iamaw.org).

Come and share common issues with your Brothers and Sisters across industries. Wood, Pulp & Paper is a renewable resource and we will make plans for Organizing for Sustainability.

We look forward to seeing you in Biloxi !



## GDA HOSTS the BWI NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL MEETING

April 16-17— The 2019 BWI North American Regional Meeting was hosted at the Guide Dogs of America (GDA) facility in Sylmar, CA by Chief of Staff Mike Rose in his position as Vice President of North American Region. This location was chosen following a suggestion at the last meeting to limit financial costs by holding meetings at union halls, offices or headquarters.

The meeting was well attended with North American affiliates from across building trade unions and BWI leadership. They were: Mike Rose, Vice-President, BWI North America Region; Per Olof Sjoo, President, BWI; Ambet Yuson, General Secretary, BWI; Andrew Larson, IUPAT-North America; Chris Carlough, SMART-North America; Chris Wasilenchuk, CMAW-Canada; Mike Martin, Ironworkers-North America; and, Jeff Bromley, Wood Council Chair-USW.

GDA President Russ Gittlen was on hand and graciously accepted the generous donation of \$10,000 from Chris Wasilenchuk on behalf of Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers Canada (CMAW).

Main topics for discussion and action centered around overcoming tough challenges the global trade union movement faces and focusing on building strength and power collectively through organizing. To support our North American Regional efforts, By-laws were drafted and regional structures were established with committees that can address growth in North America and organizing more workers into trade unions. The By-laws will be presented for adoption at the BWI World Board Meeting being held in Geneva in June.



*Pictured left: GDA President Russ Gittlen accepts a \$10,000 donation from CMAW President Chris Wasilenchuk (right). Center: IAM COS and BWI NA VP Mike Rose.*

## IAM Welcomes New Members at Cascades Mill in Niagara Falls, NY

Employees of Cascades Mill, containerboard packaging process mill in Niagara Falls, NY voted to join the IAM recently. The 115 new members triumphed after a month's long campaign in which the company hired the notorious Jackson-Lewis Union Avoidance Law Firm, to thwart the employees attempt to organize.

Among the issues for the employees were working conditions at the facility that included a continuous operation forcing employees to work rotating 12 hour shifts of 3 on, 2 off, then 4 on and 3 off, including both day, and night shift rotations.

Along with Jackson-Lewis, Cascades also hired another "union busting" firm, the Labor Relations Institute (LRI) in the fight to prevent employees from unionizing their workplace. Organizers had prepared workers for actions typically taken under the direction of the union busting firms.

"These workers were prepared," said District 65 Directing Business Representative, Ron Warner. "Business Representative Rick Dahn carefully helped to build an in-plant committee," continued DBR Warner. "Then we educated the committee about what the company may do to stop the effort, when they did this committee wasn't fooled, and they stood strong."

"These workers know the meaning of solidarity," said Eastern Territory General Vice President Jimmy Conigliaro, Sr. "They stood together when it counted, and we should all be very proud of them for standing against the adversity they faced."

District 65 is already preparing for a first agreement, and the new members will be electing a Negotiating Committee, and Shop Stewards very soon, with training via the Winpisinger Center also scheduled.

2019

## SOUTHERN PULP & PAPER CONFERENCE

### —*Growing a footprint in the industry*

IAM members who work in the pulp and paper industry in the southeastern U.S. are joining together to strengthen their bargaining power and grow the IAM's presence in the region. Delegates from 11 IAM-represented locations across the South recently met in North Charleston, SC for the 2019 IAM Southern Pulp and Paper Conference.

The meeting, which dates back to 1954, was hosted by IAM Local 183, which represents workers at North Charleston's WestRock paper mill. Delegates compared contract language and shared best practices for grievances and arbitrations.

Local 183 stepped up to host the conference after Hurricane Michael struck the panhandle of Florida, where Panama City Local 1106 had planned on hosting the meeting.

#### **WATCH: [IAM Leaders Tour Hurricane Ravaged Florida Panhandle](#)**

Pulp and paper workers in the South are getting a boost from the Southern Territory, which assigned two Grand Lodge Representatives, Bobby Barnwell, and Craig Martin, to assist the territory's pulp and paper workers in collective bargaining and other issues.

"Our members in the pulp and paper industry are extremely important to the IAM," said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Rickey Wallace. "In addition to the support we will provide from our territory, Woodworkers' Chief of Staff Mike Rose has committed to me that the Woodworkers Department will continue to make all resources available to bargain the contracts our membership deserves and grow the IAM's footprint in the industry."



## BWI ENGAGES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ON FORESTRY

A Sectoral Meeting on Promoting Decent Work and Safety & Health in Forestry was held at the International Labor Organization (ILO) on May 6-10, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. Grand Lodge Representative Bob Walls attended as the Spokesperson for the BWI delegation and labor unions. Employers were represented, as well.

In his Opening Statement, Bob Walls points out that many of the issues for forestry workers are the same issues they have been for years: it's dangerous and lacks decent work conditions, wages are declining while productivity is increasing, deforestation, automation reduces employment and informal work arrangements. What is notable is the ILO's recognition that this industry is being affected by globalization, technology, demographic transition and climate change.

In the end, the union focused on deliverables and presented a draft resolution demanding more union influence, and more involvement from the ILO with voluntary certification programs, as well as, real commitment from employers to improve the lives and working conditions of our members through social dialog.



*Second from the right: Grand Lodge Representative Bob Walls gives his Opening Address at the International Labor Organization Meeting on Forestry in Geneva*

## BIO-CORNER

August 6, 1970, almost 49 years ago, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Dick Kansas, planted his first trees for Weyerhaeuser. He hired on as a Tree Planter and on September 3, 1970 initiated into IWA Local-3-130 (now IAM Local Lodge W130.



*Dick Kansas  
Local Lodge W130 Trustee*

While working at the newly opened Rochester Forest Regeneration Center in Rochester, WA Brother Kansas worked receiving cones from around the Weyerhaeuser Tree Farms for processing seeds for the next generation of replanting. After 2 years helping get Rochester up and running, Dick was asked to go to McDonald Tree Farm, also in W130, to assist in getting the orchards in sync with the seed plant for smooth, reliable operation. Once that was completed in 1974, Dick returned to, and has remained at Rochester as Lead Seed Technician. Dick is the only full time Union Member at the regeneration center and has served on the Local Lodge W130 Executive Board as a Trustee since 1997. Dick uses his off hours doing "anything outdoors" and is a Local Lodge Advocate for Veterans. His positive attitude and willingness to get involved, stay involved and contribute to the success of Local W130 has been felt for 39 years. Dick takes great pride in seeing trees he planted in 1970 rolling down the road on a Weyerhaeuser Log Truck to market knowing that for generations to come seeds he has personally processed and nurtured will be providing fiber for those that depend on it for their livelihood.

## FIGHTING IN OUR CORNER ALONGSIDE LOGGERS

**AUGUSTA, Maine (WABI)** - Dozens of loggers and wood haulers came out to the State House Monday to testify on a bill that would give them collective bargaining rights.

Since the early 1990s, loggers have been forced to be independent contractors.

Federal anti-trust laws prohibit contractors from forming cooperatives, but states can make special exemptions.

A bill introduced by Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, would do just that.

Jackson, a fifth generation logger said, it's a "lifetime of being screwed by land-owners that told me to do it or go home, watching the people in my community consistently not have opportunity," said Jackson.

*Right: Senator Troy Jackson introduces his legislation alongside loggers at the State House.*



## WOODWORKERS ON-THE-JOB



*Pictured left: Mount St. Helen's—1980*

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