

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



October 2019

Volume 6, Number 4



GREAT START FOR MINOOKA/JOLIET

Recently organized IAM workers and leadership at IKEA in Minooka/Joliet are preparing for bargaining their first contract. Their first round of bargaining resulted in 10 Tentative Agreements—an encouraging and strong start for a first contract. Meanwhile, IKEA’s union negotiating team, including LL 701 members Nico Figueroa, Freddy Gonzalez, Deb Farley and Randy Holloway, continue to prepare for the next round of bargaining that is scheduled to continue November 18-19 and 20, with support from IAM HQ departments, GLRs and BRs.

Please follow IKEA Minooka/Joliet’s story in the IAM’s 2019-2020 Winter Journal. For the in-depth article, “Fighting for Something Greater—Persistence Pays Off at an IKEA Distribution Center in Illinois” go to: <https://www.goiam.org/news/iam-journal/iam-journal-winter-2019-2020/>

NEWLY CREATED NEW ENGLAND LOGGERS COOPERATIVE SHOWS HOW SOLIDARITY WORKS

The North Maine Woods consists of 3.5 million acres of commercial forest where landowners — private, state and corporate — work together to process the timber in a sustainable manner. It provides Maine with a \$8.5 billion forest products industry.

Thanks to a bill from Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash, a fifth-generation logger, **LD 1459**, which was passed into law this year and went into effect Sept. 19, Maine loggers and haulers can now form cooperatives and collectively bargain in the same way lobstermen and farmers do. By joining together and getting LD 1459 passed, the group has already proven that through solidarity they are capable of changing the industry.

The newly created New England Loggers Cooperative has entered into an agreement with **Matériaux Blanchet Inc. (MBI)**, a major lumber mill in Quebec.

“A large majority of softwood harvested in northern Maine already goes to MBI,” said President Jackson. “If the timber is coming from here, it should be harvested by workers from here. This is an agreement that just makes sense, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the cooperative.”

Additionally, the New England Loggers Cooperative is partnering with MBI to pursue an internationally recognized certification that would let consumers know the company is dedicated to paying and treating workers fairly, and adheres to environmentally sustainable business practices.

MAINE LOGGERS, see page 5

Pictured right: “Deep in the forest of northern Maine sit two rusting locomotives, seemingly frozen in time. They offer a glimpse of a booming lumber industry that used to employ thousands of Mainers, and was lucrative enough to build a railroad system in what many would refer to as “the middle of nowhere.”



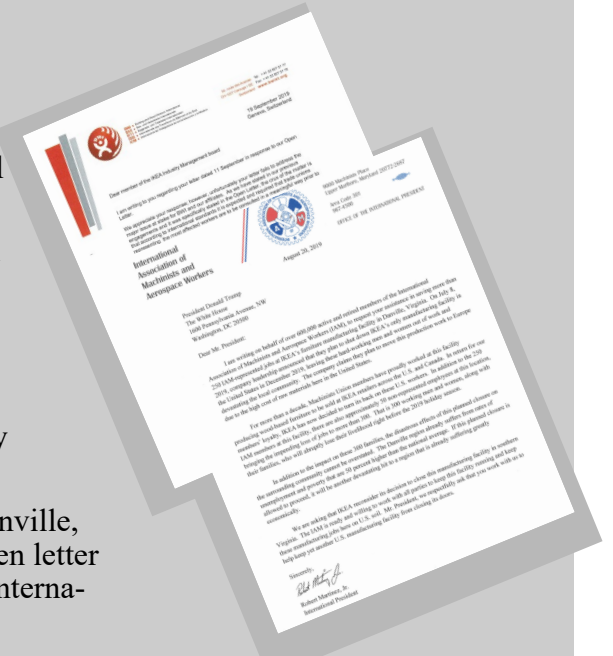
IKEA — and in *OTHER NEWS*.....

IKEA recently announced the closure of their only U.S. production facility in Danville, Virginia. We object to IKEA closing this plant, which affects the lives of nearly 300 workers as well as other businesses and workers in the city.

International President Bob Martinez sent an open letter on behalf of the IAM and IKEA workers to Mr. Trump urging him to do the right thing for workers at this plant.

These are good union-paying jobs that should not be taken away. We do hope the Trump administration helps relay the importance of retaining jobs and supporting our members and the city of Danville.

Reinforcing our concerns for IKEA workers whether in Danville, VA or Poland, the Building and Wood Worker’s Union sent an open letter to IKEA-Industry reminding them of their agreement to abide by international standards and their collective bargaining agreements.



OUR VOICE OUR CHOICE



How to register for the IAM’s U.S. presidential endorsement election.



Go to iam2020.org.
GO to iam2020.org

Fill out the form and register. You’ll need your IAM card/book number. If you do not have it, contact your LL or DL officer or call IAM Membership Department at 301-967-4525.

Stay tuned for email updates on how to vote and make your voice heard.



Local/District Lodge officer 7-4525.

EARN FIREARMS & RAISE \$\$\$ FOR YOUR LOCAL!

104 GUNS

IN 52 WEEKS



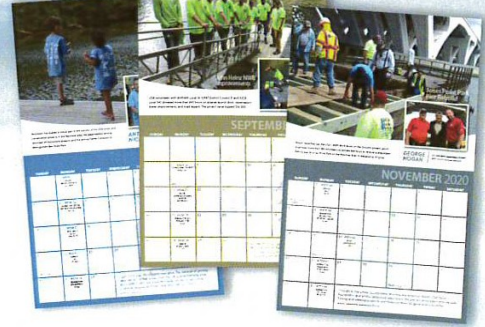
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Mail completed form to: Union Sportsmen's Alliance 2020 Calendar 4800 Northfield Lane, Spring Hill, TN 37174

BIO-CORNER



A new Associate Organizer has been assigned to the Woodworkers Department effective October 1, 2019 to assist the department in organizing our industry across territories.

Lisa Williams was an employee at Avis Budget Rental Car and a member of Local Lodge 2789 in the Southern Territory. With a natural instinct to organize, Sister Williams made the initial outreach to District Lodge 131 PR/DBR Billy Barnwell to introduce the IAM to her fellow workers at Avis. She was the Lead Organizer and successful at internally organizing her shop at Avis Budget Group Rental Car in Augusta, Georgia.

Welcome aboard Lisa!

UNION APPROVAL NEAR 50 YEAR HIGH

The Gallup polling organization reported Aug. 28 that 64% of Americans approve of labor unions, near the highest level in 50 years.

Since 1936, the organization has been regularly asking Americans whether they approve or disapprove of unions. Approval averaged 68% between Gallup's 1936 and 1967 polling, but dropped somewhat after that, reaching a low of 48% in 2009.

In the poll, 64% said they approve, 32% disapprove, and 5% had no opinion.

Respondents were more likely to approve of unions if they were in a union household or lean left politically: 86% of U.S. adults living in a household with a union member approve of unions, compared with 60% of those in nonunion households, and Democrats (82%) remained far more likely than Republicans (45%) to approve of unions.



Local Lodge W130 represented at Port of Olympia Export Facility

MAINE LOGGERS, from page 1

“Pursuing such a certification would be good business on top of being socially conscientious,” said Tim Varney, a partner at MBI. “It would benefit landowners and consumers alike, and let buyers know our practices are responsible and our products are high-quality. We’re excited to work with the New England Loggers Cooperative. For too long, the wood products industry has been missing the voices of hardworking harvesters and haulers. This new path forward is welcome and long overdue.”

For more insight to life as a Maine logger or hauler please see the **2019-2020 IAM Winter Journal**—page 10, “When Hard Work isn’t Enough”: <https://www.goiam.org/news/iam-journal/iam-journal-winter-2019-2020/> or find **The Journal** in your mailbox.

WOODWORKERS



District Lodge W24 announces the appointment of Business Representative (BR) Wayne Thompson as the Assistant Directing Business Representative (ADBR) of District W24.

Wayne will be replacing Britt Cornman who has retired. Brother Thompson’s appointment came with a recommendation by the District Executive Board and an unanimous vote by the Delegates at the District Delegate Council Meeting .

ON-THE-JOB

Published by:

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