

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



December 2019

Volume 6, Number 5

## MACHINISTS HAVE THE KNOW-HOW

IAM has the know-how to bring home strong contracts for its' members.

October was a busy month for IAM representatives at District W2 as the Negotiating Team brought their contract to the table and Machinist members ratified an agreement with manufacturer Koppers, Inc. in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Koppers is a global provider of treated wood products, wood treatment chemicals and carbon compounds. Its products and services are used in a variety of niche applications in a diverse range of end-markets, including the railroad, specialty chemical, utility, residential lumber, agriculture, aluminum, steel, rubber, and construction industries.

**"The IAMAW has the expertise to sit at tables in nearly every industry across North America. That's because we understand that to succeed in the future means to diversify in the present,"** said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Rickey Wallace.

"What set us apart was the company was asking for big changes that would have hurt our membership," said District W2 Assistant Directing Business Representative Melone Wey. "But I am proud to say, the committee held their ground and did what was right for the men and women who hold these jobs."

"The IAMAW has the expertise to sit at tables in nearly every industry across North America. That's because we understand that to succeed in the future means to diversify in the present," said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Rickey Wallace. "But no matter the sector, a good, strong contract means the agreement will take care of our members and their families, and help the future of the industry remain viable so these jobs are available for the next middle class."

Over the three-year agreement, the employees of Koppers, Inc. will receive a wage increase of nearly 3 percent yearly, training pay, access to a Machinist-approved benefit program and classification upgrades.



*Koppers, Inc. Negotiating Team L to R: Financial Secretary Rickie Allen, President of LL W298 Anthony Jones, Vice President LL W298 Richard Bunting and Chief Steward Nathane Davis.*

## For Those Who Come After Us

Negotiations at IKEA's distribution centers in Joliet and Minooka are ongoing and expected to be completed with one more conference together. But, not long ago negotiations were not the first matter of business. The perseverance and determination of a few have brought union representation, and all that goes with it, to IKEA Joliet/Minooka. Please read the excerpt below for their story—and '*For Those Who Come After Us*':

For the core team who fought most for a union at IKEA's distribution centers in Minooka and Joliet, IL, it wasn't easy going back into work after the first vote didn't go their way in 2018. Out of nearly 200 workers, they had fallen short of joining the IAM by just seven votes.

"That next day, going into the warehouse was a little rough," remembers Randy Holloway, a general warehouse worker. "We all walked around with a target for a little while."

Holloway, along with a close-knit group of workers at the plant in Chicago's suburbs, had been on a mission to hold the Swedish-founded multinational to its lofty corporate culture. A large poster in the 1.25 million-square-foot Joliet facility proclaims, "Create a better everyday life for the many."

Read the whole story here: <https://www.goiam.org/news/for-those-who-come-after-us/>



## STICKIN' AND STAYIN' STICKING TOGETHER & STAYING STRONG



Woodland Pulp facility in Baileyville, Maine

Trades in 3 unions ratified new labor contracts affecting nearly 300 employees of Woodland Pulp LLC in Baileyville, Maine. The agreements were ratified on Oct. 22 and are effective retroactively to Sept. 1. This includes 66 IAM members working in the paper mill. Also affected were IBEW workers, Millwrights, as well as the firemen and oilers who work at the pulp mill. The contracts will strengthen rules specific to separate trades and also provide pay increases of 2%, 2.5%, 3% and 2.5% over four years. Health insurance and retirement benefits will remain the same, and there are also small improvements on shift differentials. The trades contract is for four years with separate rules and job classifications for each trade, as opposed to adopting the same rules for all under the previous contract.

"The negotiations went very smoothly," said IAM 1490 labor representative George Edwards. "All of the unions came together to work for the same goal and supported each other through the whole thing. Working people deserve a fair shake of the wealth that we create," he said. "These were solid raises and a good step forward because the last couple contracts were much lower. As lead negotiator, I was proud of the team for sticking together and staying strong."

Josh Kinney, president of IAM Local 1490, said the contracts strengthen the core trades "quite a bit." "That was a huge thing for us," he said. "The guys are pretty proud of their trades, so it's good that we got that language a little better written in the contract."

# WE CELEBRATE WOODWORKING STEWARDS AND LEADERSHIP for FOR STRENGTHENING THEIR '*IAM KNOW-HOW*' by ATTENDING



## 2019 WINPISNGER CENTER PROGRAMS

### LEARN • WORK • FIGHT

#### 02/03/2019 Field Nego Prep for Bargaining

##### Comm - W2 / Potlatch Sawmill

Edwards, Ulysses Southern W2 W484

Edwards, Viola Southern W2 W484

Ellis, James Southern W2 W484

Golden, Terry Southern W2 W484

Jenkins, Curlee Southern W2 W484

Moorehead, Elijah Southern W2 W484

#### 02/17/2019 Women's Leadership Program

Kaufmann, Caryn Western W24 W261

#### 03/03/2019 Foundational Skills

Hicks, Michael Western W24 W261

Schwartz, Joseph Midwest 5 W33

#### 03/10/2019 Basic Web Development

Turner, Donald Western W24 W261

#### 03/10/2019 Organizing I Program

Edwards, Ulysses Southern W2 W484

Moorehead, Elijah Southern W2 W484

#### 03/24/2019 Leadership I

Samontry, Mark Western W24 1005

#### 03/31/2019 Collective Bargaining

Irvine, Jon Western W24 W130

#### 03/31/2019 Veteran's Services Program

Wilson, Franklin Western W24 1005

#### 03/31/2019 Service Contract Act

Hicks, Michael Western W24 W261

Wagner, Jeffrey Western W24 W130

#### 04/07/2019 Arbitration

Irvine, Jon Western W24 W130

Wagner, Jeffrey Western W24 W130

#### 04/07/2019 EAP II Program

Johnson, Christopher Western W24 W12

Turner, Donald Western W24 W261

#### 04/28/2019 Political Education Seminar

Bickett, Lawrence Western W24 1005

Bryant, Brandon Western W24 W130

#### 05/05/2019 Leadership I

Simpson, Rick Western 24 W38

Williams, Jason Western W24 W130

#### 05/12/2019 Leadership II

Hopes, Aubria Western W24 1005

#### 05/19/2019 EAP/CIRT Training Program

Schwartz, Joseph Midwest 5 W33

#### 07/07/2019 Negotiating the IAM NPF Rehab Plan

Schwartz, Joseph Midwest 5 W33

#### 07/07/2019 Financial Officers Seminar

Wyckoff, Lloyd Eastern 60 W260

#### 07/21/2019 Leadership I

Davis, Nathane Southern W2 W298

#### 09/29/2019

##### Negotiating Healthcare & Other Insurance Programs

Schwartz, Joseph Midwest 5 W33

#### 09/29/2019 Organizing I Program

Hicks, Michael Western W24 W261

Williams, Lisa DC & Vin GL

#### 10/06/2019 Leadership I

Anderson, Monica Midwest 5 W384

Stoddard, Daniel Western W24 W536

#### 10/13/2019 Financial Officers Seminar

Adams, Ryan Western W24 W38

Lewin, Michael Western W24 W130

Nelson, Bradley Midwest 5 W384

#### 10/20/2019 Advanced Leadership

Winkler, Jennifer Steward Midwest 5 W384

#### 10/27/2019

##### Organizing Field Education Modules: Train-the-Trainer

Thompson, Wayne Western W24 W130

As of 11/9/19



# BIO-CORNERS

## Woodworkers, Vets and Heroes in Our Ranks



Pictured above: Local Lodge W130 Steward Shawn Clevenger

Not pictured: fellow Local Lodge W130 members and Vets Mike Milbert and Brian Sherman

Living in a town with fewer than 2,000 residents, it is safe to say that Shawn Clevenger might not belong in the big city. The IAM Local W130 shop steward resides in South Bend, WA, and works as a plant handyman at the Weyerhaeuser lumber mill in neighboring Raymond two miles away, which is not much larger.

"I was born and raised pretty much in this area," said Clevenger. "I graduated from Raymond High School. My father graduated from Raymond High School in 1958. My daughter is going to graduate in 2021 from Raymond High School. And I love this place."

Fellow Local W130 member Mike Milbert relocated from a nearby non-union mill to Raymond about a year and a half ago, and works as a millwright. He and his wife have two children. They just found out his wife is pregnant with their third. He chuckles a little at the thought.

Working in an industry that has gone through turbulent changes, both men understand the significance of the forest region in which they live.

"We are located right in the heart of some of the best timber in the world, so our travel margin for logs is fairly reasonable," said Clevenger. "When they harvest a tree, they plant three or four more to replace it, so it's very sustainable and renewable."

"There's timber for miles as far as you can see, which for us working in a sawmill means the future," said Milbert. "There's always going to be a need for logging and sawmills and wood products. You can look out and see years and years' worth of future work to come."

Please read the full iMail article here:

<https://www.goiam.org/news/iam-veterans-find-a-northwest->

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

from The Woodworkers Department

Mike Rose + Bob Walls + Terri Kenealy

Above: Pictured in the background is Whitehorse Mountain in Darrington, WA

Photo taken by Jon Irvine-Local Lodge W130

This Holiday Season, as an important act of solidarity and promoting good jobs in the U.S., remember to buy American, buy Union!

For your union-made shopping suggestions go to: <https://www.shopunionplus.org/> and <https://aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica>



### PUBLISHED BY:

**The IAM Woodworkers Department**

9000 Machinists Place Upper Marlboro, MD

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

Please share YOUR pictures  
and stories with your  
Woodworker Sisters and Brothers!

Email: [tkenealy@iamaw.org](mailto:tkenealy@iamaw.org)