

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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DON'T FORGET to VOTE!

FOR THE IAM ENDORSEMENT ELECTION

Wednesday, March 4 at 8:00 a.m. ET until Friday, March 6, at

If you registered before the Wednesday, February 26th deadline, then you know, there's a new endorsement process that gives the IAM members the opportunity to vote online for a candidate of their choice.

Don't miss the opportunity to help choose who the IAM should endorse for the U.S. president. Be a part of this important decision.

The endorsement election will take place from **Wednesday, March 4 at 8 a.m. ET until Friday, March 6 at 8 a.m. ET.**

At that time, each registered member in good standing will be emailed an online ballot and can choose a candidate on either the Republican or Democratic ticket.

We also encourage you to remind your fellow IAM Sisters and Brothers that have registered to vote for their endorsement on **Wednesday, March 4 at 8:00 a.m. ET until Friday, March 6, at 8 a.m. ET.**

[IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr., explains the new endorsement process here.](#)

Oregon Governor Kate Brown Brokers an Unprecedented Agreement

Governor Brown announced an agreement between 26 representatives of Oregon's forest industry and environmental groups that sets the stage for a collaborative approach to private forest management in Oregon. As established in a memorandum of understanding, both parties will work toward science-informed forest practices policies, including pursuing a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan. Overall, signatories have committed to working toward science-informed forest practices policies that provide a greater level of business certainty to forest landowners and industries, and certainty for the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species and ensures that drinking water and aquatic resources are protected.

Other goals provided in the MOU include establishing a framework for continued collaboration to address future issues without using the initiative process and legal system, and to stand down related initiatives, legal actions, and other relevant legislative and regulatory proceedings for the next 18 months.

HIGH LEVEL INTER-IKEA, BWI AND IAM MEETING



We reported in October 2019 that BWI reinforced our concerns for IKEA workers in Danville, VA, following the announcement of the distribution center's closure, and sent an open letter to IKEA-Industry reminding them of their agreement to abide by international standards and their collective bargaining agreements. The Open Letter called Inter-IKEA to start immediate negotiations for a new IFA and set up institutional mechanism that could effectively and concretely address issues nationally and globally in a long-term and sustainable manner.

Following the letter, a meeting of high level Inter-IKEA, BWI and IAM representatives was held January 13, 2020 at the IAM Grand Lodge. On behalf of International President Robert Martinez, Jr., Mike Rose opened the meeting, appointing BWI's Coen Van Der Veer to act as the Spokesperson for IAM and BWI with contributions from Brothers Rose and Walls, as needed. The purpose of this meeting was to find our common ground, build good relationships, and operate through open dialog with no hidden agendas.

Inter-IKEA reps committed to establishing good, long-term communications, better training for IKEA co-workers and to look at the Framework Agreement.

A follow up meeting with Inter-IKEA, IAM and BWI has been scheduled to be held March 6-7, 2020 in Malmö, Sweden to continue bargaining, to look at the possibilities of establishing a code of conduct and revisit the Framework Agreement with a spirit of trust, cooperation, with the IKEA co-worker and our members at heart.



Pictured above: International Paper

LOCAL LODGE I061 WESTAMPTON IKEA WORKERS IN SOLIDARITY VOTE TO END STRIKE



After a [week on the picket line](#), IKEA distribution center employees, represented by Local Lodge I061, returned to work on the morning of Monday, January 27th. The IKEA distribution center members in Westampton, New Jersey voted Sunday night to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement and end their strike..

“We believed it (the strike) was a success,” said Rick Compher, the Lodge I061 directing business representative. “The membership was solid, very strong and very unified both in its decision to go to strike and decision to go back to work.”



ITS ALL ABOUT PROTECTING JOBS IN THE AMERICAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

More than 83 American workers employed in the U.S. forest products industry descended on Washington, D.C. this week and made 538 visits with members of Congress. Their goal: To educate elected officials on the impacts of legislative and regulatory decisions on the environment, as well as the families and communities that depend on forest products manufacturing for their livelihood.

The group of workers from The Pulp & Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC), a grassroots organization of hourly employees in the forest products industry, are passionate about educating members of Congress and administrative officials at the EPA, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and other government agencies on the issues affecting American manufacturing jobs in their industry. They represented 55 mills across 22 states.

"Our annual 'fly-in' provides the PPRC with a wonderful opportunity to visit with Congressional and Administration leaders on environmental issues impacting our industry -- especially on topics like carbon neutrality of biomass, paper recycling and forest management," said PPRC Chairman David Wise. "The importance of clear, common-sense legislation and regulatory policy cannot be understated, as that foundation is vital to supporting continued growth of manufacturing jobs in rural and urban communities and ensuring a competitive playing field for the American forest products industry in the global market."



For more information about the PPRC go to: <https://thepprc.org/>

MEMBERS AT COLLINS PRODUCTS BACK TO WORK

Collins Products in Klamath, OR uses a bio-filtration system in the production of their hardboard to abide by their principle to run a healthy, viable business and to reduce their carbon footprint. The filtration system is essential to reducing greenhouse gases, noxious waste and debris that result during processing wood products for hardboard siding. The system uses water to knock down debris and microbes that eat the toxins and reduce the waste.

The IAM represents nearly 170 members at Collins Products, producing particleboard and hardboard for the housing market. Over the holiday season, Collins closed the facility, shut down the filtration system and sent members home for the season.

Upon return in January, and the start-up of the mill and filtration system, the initial trapped debris and water ignited and burned up the filtration system. The system is necessary to run production and without it, that part of the production ceased and members were sent home. The mill was out of service for all of January and part of February. To date, work continues on the bio-filter and most of our members are back to work. During the shutdown, there were 54 sisters and brothers that were completely out of work for all of January and have received dues refunds.

BIO-CORNER



*Kevin Michael Tynsky, Shop Steward/Trustee
Woodworkers Local Lodge W12*

Brother Kevin Tynsky can tell you exactly when he became a “proud Machinist member,” - it was May 15th, 2017 when he started working at Roseburg Forest Products in Weed, CA.

Before this, his work history is varied and includes machine operator, concrete finisher, wildland firefighter, licensed handyman, landscaper, store clerk, professional mover and “one memorable summer” as a carny. With this Brother’s broad work history, his job at Roseburg is the first time he has had the opportunity to be part of a union and Brother Tynsky jumped in with both feet. He is currently a member of Local Lodge W12, Shop Steward, Trustee and on the Plant Committee. He is also a delegate to the 5 Counties CLC and the California Conference of Machinists.

Kevin is the father of three, with another son due to arrive in March. When he is not working on Union business, he likes to spend as much time outside a possible, and you might find him sharing time with his family exploring the beautiful forests, mountains and rivers of his Northern California home. Congratulations to the Tynsky family!

Please send your stories and pictures to share with your Woodworker Brothers and Sisters in the next *Wrench & Wood Newsletter*.

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