

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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A Message from IP Martinez on the Coronavirus Crisis

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am writing to you in an environment of fear and uncertainty. Many of our members in the U.S. and Canada have already been impacted by the fallout from the coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic. Undoubtedly, more effects will be felt by our membership, by our two countries and globally as this crisis unfolds.

I want to first assure you that the IAM—at every level—is fighting to ensure that employers respond to this pandemic in a way that provides for the safety and health of their employees and the communities in which our members live and work. I also recognize that the pandemic poses a significant threat to our economy and to the economic security and livelihood of our membership. On this front we are working with employers to ensure that they are not using this national emergency to advance their economic interests. I am pleased to report that, at least anecdotally, many employers are responding in a reasonable and thoughtful matter.

We are also working on Capitol Hill and on Parliament Hill to ensure that all economic relief packages afford appropriate protections for our members who actually do the work. We are closely monitoring legislative activity in Washington, DC and in Ottawa to ensure that working people are protected both financially as well as with appropriate safety and health provisions.

[Watch my video message to IAM members.](#)

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FIRST CONTRACT for MEMBERS at LOCAL LODGE 701



The IKEA in Minooka/Joliet, IL, members of Local Lodge 701 overwhelmingly ratified their first contract, passing with a huge margin of 92-7. This is a 3-year contract spanning the period of April 24, 2020 through April 24, 2023. All of the co-workers working in the warehouse, stock controllers and supply coordinators deserve what the IAM fought for and will reap the benefits of this strong first IAM contract, securing a future for our members.

It should be noted that negotiations during the Coronavirus pandemic took on a new form and GLR Bob Walls and BR Rich Handler readily adapted to the new environment keeping health and safety first. BR Handler did a great job with his masterful, on-point communications and always thorough detailed explanations for the newly formed local lodge members. Working together with IKEA, Brothers Walls and Handler disseminated all the needed information via conference and video calls, text and email blasts and mailers to the members'

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homes. While IKEA co-workers remain working, voting took place onsite where Brother Handler was readily available.

Some of the highlights of the contract include:

- *Overtime protection and rules
- *Joint Health & Safety Committee, Labor Management Committee
- *Seniority – promotions, Job Openings, Transfers, Shift Bids
- *Shift premiums
- *40 hours paid sick time per year
- *Vacation; 5 weeks after 10 years, carry over vacation time, paid out vacation time
- *40 hours paid sick leave per year
- *Bring to minimum \$18.40 wage increase
- *No changes in health insurance
- *Tuition reimbursement

SPRING FPNLMC MEETING HELD

The IAM Trustees to the Forest Products National Labor Management Committee (LMC), including GVP Brian Bryant, Woodworkers GLR Bob Walls, Eastern Territory GLR Craig Hughes, DL W2 PR/DBR Kelvin Godwin, and FD1 FSC Rep Melissa Baumann, attended the Spring Meeting in Las Vegas on March 5, 2020.

Topics for discussion included the industry market and a sector-based analysis of production, consumption, imports and exports, and employment. It was noted that forestry is still ahead of chemicals and plastics as a manufacturing employer. See the Industry Market Presentation here:

<https://www.goiam.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Industry-Economic-Overview-for-LMC-Sprng-Meeting-March-6-2020.pdf>

NLRB ORDERS CASCADES to POST FEDERAL LAW RIGHTS

The IAM has proven ourselves as Fighting Machinists in a court ruling by the National Labor Relation Board.

Cascades' union certification was on May 6, 2019 for approximately 115 production and maintenance employees. By June 6 the IAM found it necessary to file three Unfair Labor Practice charges. They were:

1. On May 14, 2019 the company informed the union that 18-19 employees would be laid off the week of May 20, 2019. An unfair labor charge was filed because the new unit never had a real option to bargain or offer alternatives.
2. Prior to the union election, Cascades employees received profit sharing checks twice yearly. In June 2019 employees received notification that, "because of the current situation that the Niagara Falls Profit Sharing is being adjusted" and when union leadership asked for clarification the supervisor said, "it was because of the union." In addition, the company refused to publicize the monthly report as they had also always done before June 2019.
3. Cascades' management refused to fill a Janitor position after the previous employee resigned. After 23 years and without due notification or negotiations with the union, the company decided to sub-contract this open Janitor position.

All three charges went to NLRB trial and in all three cases the judge found that the company had violated the National Labor Relations Act. The ruling dictated that the company would post a statement at the facility:

Read it here: [NLRB Orders Cascades to Post Federal Law Rights.docx](#)

Mike Rose Chief of Staff of the Woodworker Department said, "These practices are typical anti-union tactics and no-good-faith bargaining, we are glad to see that the judge found the company guilty and that we found justice for our members. We call upon the management to stop this and start serious negotiations for improving the working conditions of the workers that have chosen us as their representatives."

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I am also writing to you as a husband, father and grandfather. I share the deep concern you have for your families. In this time of uncertainty, taking care of our loved ones is of the utmost importance. I encourage you to follow guidelines and recommendations from public health officials at the federal, state, provincial and local levels. We can, by our collective actions, reduce the risk of transmission and infection of the coronavirus.

Listed below are science-based resources from public health officials:

- [World Health Organization COVID-19 Situation Reports](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Situation Summary](#)
- [U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Overview](#)
- [Canada Public Health Coronavirus Disease Resources](#)

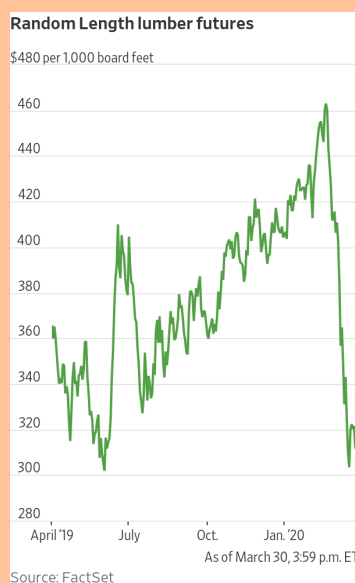
I also recognize that this current emergency is a source of additional stress for our members and their families. Fortunately, we have within the IAM our [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) and Addiction Services Programs](#) ready to assist and support members and their families struggling to cope with this situation. I encourage you to utilize these resources should you experience stress that is overwhelming or paralyzing.

In closing, I want to reiterate that the IAM is working very hard every day to address the economic, financial and public health impacts of this crisis. We are listening to you and will be providing updates and resources on a daily basis until we are through this pandemic. There has and will be changes to the way our union operates as we move forward, and we pledge to keep you informed throughout this entire process.

Please check the [IAM Coronavirus Resource Center](#) frequently for updates and announcements. Members should also [subscribe to our email newsletter, iMail](#), and follow the Machinists Union on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for continuous information.

Our two countries, our union and our families have confronted and overcome many difficult and challenging times. I am confident that we will get through the challenge that is now before us. I would ask that you take care of yourself, your coworkers, your family, and your community. Together, in solidarity, we shall overcome.

Lumber Markets Hint at Housing Slowdown



Mills are dramatically dialing back production of building materials as coronavirus pandemic slows construction.

Lumber prices are signaling that the nascent housing boom is fizzling, despite home builders' push to keep residential construction going through the [coronavirus crisis](#).

Lumber futures have plummeted of late, and mills are dramatically dialing back production of two-by-fours, plywood and other building materials. On Tuesday, lumber futures for May delivery fell 6.1% to close at \$278.50 per 1,000 board feet on the [Chicago Mercantile Exchange](#). That's down 41% from a recent high of \$468.30 hit Feb. 20.

Lumber prices had been on the rise until then, with builders starting construction on [more houses than at any time since 2006](#). Now the market is pricing in a lost spring, traditionally the [busiest time for homebuying](#) and when construction kicks off in much of the country.

IN MEMORIAM

Good bye Jin Sook Lee



*Jin Sook Lee, Global Campaign Director
Building and Wood Workers' International*

It is with deep sadness that the Machinists Wood Pulp and Paper Council announce the passing of our dear friend, advocate and mentor, Sister Jin Sook Lee, after a long battle with cancer. We and her family are relieved that her passing was peaceful.

She was the global campaigns director with the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI.) Our Council was built within the IAM&AW to look after the interest of historically underserved workers. When we affiliated with BWI we gained in Sister Lee a friend who had literally been through hell and back, fighting for workers in the most oppressed and underserved circumstances imaginable. She was a woman with both the passion and the capability to masterfully use all of her life experiences to fight for women's rights, workers' and migrants rights, and fairness all over the world—all while lighting up a room with a smile that belied the struggle to with which she was so fiercely engaged. Jin Sook will leave a lasting mark in our struggle — the entire labor movement has lost a true champion.

BIO-CORNER



*Grady Lowery, Trustee
Local Lodge W12*

A self proclaimed 'country boy,' Grady Lowery can also add Local Lodge W12 Machinists Union Trustee and involved union activist to his profile.

Grady studied fire sciences in college and is a 12 year veteran fire fighter in Oregon. In 2013 he joined the millwright apprenticeship program at Collins Products in Klamath Falls, OR. He completed his apprenticeship, became an accomplished Journeyman Millwright in 2016 and is still with Collins Products today.

Brother Lowery is the proud father of a amazing 5 year old boy. He loves spending time outdoors hunting, fishing and shooting with his son.

WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB

*Photo courtesy of
Local Lodge W98 at
Green Diamond in
Klamath Falls, OR.*

*Photo taken by IAM
Communications
Representative
Andy Hounshell*



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