

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



August 2020

Volume 7, Number 4

PARTICIPATE in National Register to Vote Day!

This National Election year many fear that voters, especially voters of color, will be disenfranchised at the poll due to long lines, lost ballots, draconian voter registration rules.

This is a vital time for Local Lodge Committees, and for you, to help get-out-the vote and ensure that every voter has a fair chance to have their voice heard.

Participate in the National Register to Vote Day on September 22, 2020.

www.usa.gov/confirm-voter-registration



Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council IT'S TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN!

Chillin' & Grillin'
Heifers & Hogs
for Guide Dogs of America



LIKE US ON



The Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council (MWPPC) can now be found on Facebook. We have the power to connect with our coworkers, friends and family and to build our wood, pulp and paper community online. Be sure to 'Like us on Facebook' and invite others to follow us, too!

Go to our page and you will find we are announcing our MWPPC 1st Annual Virtual Chillin' & Grillin' * Heifers & Hogs BBQ Competition for Guide Dogs of America to be held October 3, 2020. Yes, this can be done!

Find all the details for registration and sponsorship opportunities on our website: give.guidedogsofamerica.org/BBQ

And, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Machinists-Wood-Pulp-and-Paper-Council>

And, keep coming back for the latest news and contest

WEATHERING THE STORM



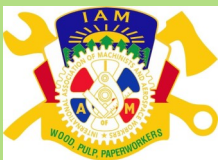
A message from Organizing Director Vinny Addeo

While the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to present itself as a major roadblock on the path to successful organizing across the entire spectrum of the labor movement, I am proud to say that we here in the IAM have not taken this obstruction lightly. We also have not let the inconsistent rulings we're experiencing at the NLRB diffuse our proactive approach to organizing. Collectively, we have continued to forge ahead utilizing every alternative organizing strategy available to us in order to ensure our persistency in probing new organizing targets, while maintaining progress on existing targets.

While our more aggressive and risk-taking approach to organizing has resulted in some wins and some losses, we are witnessing organizing success stories across each of our territories. Some of our campaign victories have not been the preferred "larger" scale targets, but we have maintained consistency in staying the course and keeping our foot on the gas pedal as far as our activity goes.

We have also experienced a "new" array of workers reaching out to the IAM for assistance with bringing justice to their workplaces. Just recently, we were successful in a representation election for doctors, nurses, dentists, and physical therapists who work at a VA Hospital. At the same time, we have ongoing organizing campaigns for Veterinary Technicians, Yoga Instructors, Dental Hygienists, and Museum Workers, to name a few. What this is telling us is that this pandemic is creating an awareness to non-traditional Union members, that they also see the need and value in the benefits of a solid Union contract.

We also had a large scale organizing victory for more than 530 health care workers in our Canadian Territory and our Transportation Department announced this week that we filed a petition for representation for over 500 workers at Republic Airways. We look forward to witnessing positive results on that campaign as well.



MORE NEWS from the MWPPC

Our Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council (MWPPC) President Billy Barnwell made a special Conference dispensation request of International President Bob Martinez, Jr., to postpone the 2021 MWPPC Conference. Given the challenges and uncertainty Local Lodges across the country are facing due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the members of the Council executive board, and Chief of Staff Mike Rose, believe it is in the best interest of our Union and our sector to schedule the Conference in 2022.

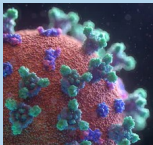
The request was reviewed by IP Martinez and GVP Byant and our MWPPC Conference is approved to be held in 2022. Conference planning has begun and we will keep you posted.



JOIN TODAY—IT'S EASY AND IT'S FREE!

If you hunt, fish, shoot or simply appreciate spending time in the outdoors, you belong in the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA). Because of the support USA receive from the IAMAW, they are able to offer you a no-cost membership. And as a sportsman or woman, this is a benefit you will truly enjoy.

Join or Upgrade Today: [UNIONSPORTSMEN.ORG/JOIN](https://unionsportsmen.org/join)



In These Times—A True Reality Check

An important message from DL 131 DBR and MWPPC President Billy Barnwell

As Wood, Pulp, and Paper workers, we often feel insulated from the trials and tribulations of big-city America. Our industries tend to be the backbone of small, rural communities. This can often be a trap, luring us into believing we are immune from the problems impacting the rest of the world.

This was proven to me recently in the harshest of examples. You see, before becoming DBR of District Lodge 131, I was a mechanic at Graphic Packaging paper mill in Macon, GA. On my first day working there, December 9, 2000, I was led through the plant by a friendly large man with a booming voice and an even bigger laugh named Dirk Glover. He and I would remain friends for years to come. August 4, 2020, Dirk died from complications of Covid-19. Other former co-workers of mine at that same plant have spent time in an ICU from the disease, and many others have tested positive.

I tell you all this to remind you that we are not immune to this disease. We must be just as vigilant as our big-city brothers and sisters. Wear masks, wash your hands, stay socially distant away from work, and follow all required precautions. A founding principle of the Labor Movement is safety on the job. We must do all we can to live up to that principle. Do this, and you will help me honor my fallen friend by keeping this from happening to any of your co-workers: your brothers and sisters. Be safe!

BIO-CORNER



Randy Holloway, Chief Steward—Local Lodge 701

You have met Randy Holloway in October 2019 in these pages, as a member of the negotiating team at the recently organized Minooka/Joliet IKEA distribution center. And, it is no surprise that Randy is still at IKEA as an active union leader and Chief Steward of Local Lodge 701.

Brother Holloway was raised by a single Mom who instilled in him his unrelenting drive to succeed and taught him through example how to cement a good foundation for his own wife and family. As the second high school graduate in his family, Randy continued on to take a few college courses and today is a heavy equipment and warehouse logistics operator. Through his own volition he has also been given some administrative training and duties.

Besides spending time with his wife and kids, Randy loves everything from playing pool, to basketball and from watching baseball to crime and justice dramas.

I don't think this is the last we have heard from Brother Holloway. He will tell you that he is, "driven to work harder, strive harder and try harder at everything I do in life."

WOODWORKERS



ON-THE-JOB

A LITTLE HISTORY

The local lodges that now are the majority of the the IAM Woodworkers Department's membership were members of an independent union named the International Woodworkers of America, U.S. (IWA) until the merger on May 1, 1994.

Last month, marked the anniversary of the formation of the once independent union, IWA, on July 19, 1937.

REMEMBER—

WE'D LOVE to HEAR FROM YOU!

We would love to hear from you ! This is your newsletter—please let us know what you want to see.

For your ease, try using the attached Story Submission form. [Wrench & Wood Story Submission](#)

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