

# WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



December 2020

Volume 7, Number 6

**OUR VOICE  
OUR CHOICE  
OUR DECISION**

f t MACHINISTS UNION

OUR VOICE  
OUR CHOICE  
THE MACHINISTS



**We are the Fighting Machinists  
& Our Union is Strong**

Despite the pandemic and deliberate barriers to voting, a record number of Americans made their voices heard in these elections. On Saturday, Nov. 7, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris crossed the critical threshold of 270 electoral votes to become president-elect and vice president-elect, respectively.

The IAM and organized labor are also **celebrating a number of down-ballot victories**, and getting ready for two Georgia U.S. Senate Jan. 5 runoffs that will determine the chamber's balance of power. The IAM is working in conjunction with the Georgia AFL-CIO, headed by IAM member Charlie Flemming, to utilize the army of volunteers and resources we have in getting out the vote. The IAM is doing member-to-member phone calls, robocalls, local mailers, door hangers, text messages and emails to members in Georgia. For a more comprehensive list on the issues, as well as more details about the election, please visit **[iam2020.org/georgia](http://iam2020.org/georgia)** to find information on this very important Senate election.

"In America, the voters decide who will represent us, not the courts. We pick our leaders – our leaders do not pick their voters," **said IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr.** "We must reject any attempt to sow doubts about our election or interfere with the legitimate count of ballots."

Martinez **released the following statement** on the presidential election:

"The American people have spoken and democracy has prevailed. Our union and our nation are moving forward with Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to do the work needed to emerge stronger than ever from these difficult times.

"A new kind of work begins today—and the task in front of us is great. We have seen unemployment unrivaled since the Great Depression. Millions of American families have seen loved ones pass or sickened from an out-of-control pandemic. Our nation has deep divisions along the lines of race and class. "We can and we will accomplish great things together. The next chapter of this great American story begins now."

**[Read IP Martinez's entire statement here](#)**

## Culture Shift as Southern Territory Gears Up for the Future

Union members want good contracts and good service for those contracts, in order to improve quality of life through higher wages, better benefits and safe working conditions. The IAM's Southern Territory has changed its culture by reorganizing districts so members receive the service they deserve, while making organizing a top priority.

In February, District 74 in Virginia, District 110 in North Carolina and unaffiliated Local 10 in Richmond, VA were consolidated into the new District 2020. Newly-chartered District 1888 was formed when Districts 27 in Louisville, KY, 154 in Calvert City, KY and District 711 in Murfreesboro, TN were consolidated into District Lodge 1888 in September. And, all District Lodge W2 affiliated wood, pulp and paper local lodges are now being serviced by District Lodge 171 and newly chartered District Lodges 2020 and W2021 representatives.

Here is a list of affected wood, pulp and paper lodges in the Southern Territory and their new District Lodge assignments:

<b>District Lodge 171</b> Local W15 Local W298	<b>District Lodge 1888</b> Local 56 Local 414 Local 681	<b>District Lodge 2020</b> Local W331	<b>District Lodge W2021</b> Local 281 Local 1362 Local W443 Local W484
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"Some of our representatives were servicing up to 45 collective bargaining agreements, which is a huge workload on anybody," said Southern Territory GVP Rickey Wallace. "It's a juggling act for a representative, constantly with balls in the air all the time, trying to negotiate these contracts."

Although Grand Lodge Representatives are good at multitasking, Wallace saw a need and an opportunity to get members better services by having the GLR focus on organizing, while business representatives at the district level could concentrate on servicing. "We think we have a structure in place now that will better service our members and focus on organizing at the same time. The whole purpose is to grow these districts, expand our footprint and increase our union density in these districts so we can negotiate better contracts for our members," said Wallace.

Your district numbers may change, but the people behind the districts who represent the lodge members remain the same, as well does the fighting spirit that makes us the "Fighting Machinists."

## 'Tis the Season to Shop USA & Union– Made

This holiday season may look a bit different while we try to follow health mandates to stay home as we combat COVID but, whether you venture out or shop online, remember to shop union-made, made in the U.S.A., and shop locally too, if possible. There are lots of great reasons to buy American – and union-made products – from helping create good jobs, to building stronger communities, to national pride.

And, find IAM's list of preferred Union-made, Made in the USA companies here:

**[IAM Preferred Union-made, Made in USA Companies](#)**

Download your Union-made and Made in the USA **gift tags** for your holiday gifts here:

**[Union-made and Made in USA Gift Tags](#)**

We thank you for being part of a special group that continues to support American jobs and families!



## BWI North American and European Affiliated Women Workers Express Optimism Over U.S. Elections



*Artwork by Sam Wallman, commissioned by CFMEU, Australia as a solidarity contribution for all BWI affiliates.*

BWI affiliated women trade union leaders from North America and Europe held an online meeting on November 12 and expressed optimism that the results of the United States elections will bring positive results in the campaign for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women.

Secretary-Treasurer Dora Cervantes said, “I cannot find words to describe my feelings when we found out that we’ve elected a new president and our first female vice president. Women workers in the United States welcome the momentum of change created by this victory.”

The excitement was echoed by BWI International Women’s Committee Chair Rita Schiavi who expressed confidence that women workers in the U.S. will be able to move the gender equality agenda forward under our country’s new administration.

BWI General Secretary Ambet Yuson said that the results of the U.S. elections gave hope to workers worldwide. “It showed us that only by consistently fighting for our cherished values and beliefs can we win a better and brighter future,” he said.

CFMEU’s Lisa Zanetta (Australia), laid out plans for the 16 Days of Global Activism Against Violence Against Women. The campaign runs every year from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until December 10, Human Rights Day.

## FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY NATIONAL LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NEW FACES WELCOMED ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR LABOR

The Forest Products Industry National Labor-Management Committee’s (LMC) mission is to bring unions and management together to promote job security and economic development for the forest products industry. The IAM holds several seats on the Committee and we would like to take this opportunity to thank retired Government Employees Director Jim Price Jr. and retired DL W2 PR/DBR Kelvin Godwin for their service as LMC Labor/Union Trustees.

The LMC held their final 2020 virtual Meeting on Dec. 15. Priorities for discussion were the Biden/Harris Administration outlook, status of COVID and a review of the Committee’s 2021 Resolutions as they relate to the forest products industry.

We are happy that the Committee has welcomed new Trustees to represent Labor and the IAM. Thank you to new LMC Trustees Billy Barnwell, DL 131 PR/DBR and Machinist Wood, Pulp & Paper Council (MWPPC) PR and to Reggie Dixon, DL 112 PR/DBR. We appreciate their commitment to our wood, pulp and paper industries.

## BIO-CORNER



Charles 'Chuck' Bennett, PR/DBR  
District Lodge W2021

Charles 'Chuck' Bennett began his working career as a contracted laborer in oil refineries and chemical plants in south-west Louisiana. Over the years he worked with journeymen carpenters as a helper and

learned the craft. He was hired as a Carpenter with PPG Industries (later purchased by Westlake Chemical) on February 19, 2001 and immediately became an IAM Local Lodge 470 member.

Brother Bennett began as an involved union leader with his first elected position as LL 470 Trustee in 2003-2006. He has held many positions, sometimes wearing more than one hat at a time, including: Legislative Committee Chair, 1st VP to the Southwest Louisiana Central Trades and Delegate to the Louisiana State Council of Machinists. Chuck has been Local 470 Vice President and then President, and District Lodge 161 Secretary-Treasurer and PR/DBR. Following the restructuring in the IAM's Southern Territory and dissolution of DL 161, Brother Bennett has been appointed as PR/DBR of newly chartered District Lodge W2021.

High School sweethearts, Chuck and Myra married in 1989 and have 2 daughters, Sylvia (31) and Olivia (24), and a son, Alex (10). Bennett is a history buff and especially enjoys studying the decisions and strategies of World War II. "It humbles me to see the great things people can accomplish when the need is equally as great," says Brother Bennett.

## WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB



*The Woodworkers Department  
wishes you a very safe and  
healthy Holiday Season and a  
fresh beginning in the  
New Year!*



*Mike Rose  
Bob Walls  
Terri Kenealy*

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[Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council on Facebook](#)

**PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES AND PICS:  
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