

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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MAY 9-13
Machinists
Wood, Pulp & Paper
Conference 2022

Register now for the 2022 Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council (MWPPC) Conference from May 9-13 at the Intercontinental Saint Paul Riverfront in Saint Paul, MN. A registration form and more information about the conference are enclosed in the **conference call letter**.

Register today for the 2022 Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Conference.

The conference registration fee will be \$125 per delegate and \$75 for each guest and can be paid upon arrival at the Conference. This fee will help defray the cost of the Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Conference.

MWPPC President William “Billy” Barnwell will chair this meeting and direct the busy agenda, which will follow CDC recommendations and fully comply with the State of Minnesota laws and guidelines for COVID-19. Council business will include Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council Officer elections for Vice President and Sentinel, a host of great speakers, and a focus on organizing. The conference will hold a Guide Dogs of America-Tender Loving Canines fundraising event, and on Thursday afternoon, May 12, the conference will tour Bell Pole in New Brighton, MN.

NEWS FROM MAINE FOR LOGGERS

For generations, families have worked hard to make a good living in the Maine woods. However, the forest products industry has changed dramatically since loggers’ fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers first went to work in the woods. One of the key issues is that we’ve gone from a system where training workers was a part of the job to a system where training workers is simply not practical for existing contractors who are barely scraping by.

That's why Maine Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash and Representative Richard Evans, D-Dover Foxcroft, and , introduced **LD 1919: An Act To Encourage Job Growth in the Forest Products Sector through Tax Incentives** to encourage job growth within Maine’s forestry industry through tax incentives for eligible businesses. LD 1919 would enable forest products businesses that hire new employees to be eligible for reimbursement of labor, training and equipment costs.

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In solidarity, the IAM Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council supports our global union partners—The Building & Wood Workers' Union (BWI) and the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) — and ask for the end of the unprovoked violence Russia is imposing on all of Ukraine and to work towards a cease fire and troop withdrawal. We reinforce all efforts towards diplomacy, preserving humanitarian efforts and ultimately, PEACE. Please see BWI's and EFBWW's statement here:

European Federation
of Building
and Woodworkers

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www.bwint.org

Russia must end its military aggression immediately!

Work Towards Peace, Not War

BWI and EFBWW strongly condemn the violence and military actions against Ukraine and call upon Russia to end its military aggression immediately and withdraw its troops from all of Ukraine. We join the international community in calling to stop the assault and give peace a chance. This morning UN Secretary-General António Guterres, addressing President Putin said, “Stop your troops from an offensive against Ukraine, give peace a chance because too many people have died.”

Diplomacy is the only way forward! We call on Russia, the Ukraine, the United States and the European Union to go back to the negotiation tables and find a long and lasting peaceful solution. The military actions disrupt the lives of millions of citizens in a region which is already being confronted with many economic and social hardships.

EFBWW and BWI urge the relevant policy makers in the EU and the international organisations to ensure all humanitarian support for the Ukrainian people in distress, and to prepare necessary actions to protect and extract those at risk.

We express full solidarity and stand side-by-side with our affiliate PROFBUD, the Ukrainian building workers union, its staff and its members, and with all trade unions and people in the region.

We also call for trade union solidarity across borders. BWI has opened its solidarity fund to give humanitarian aid. All financial donations are encouraged.

Only peace and security can create the conditions for social progress and a sustainable economic recovery, while securing an effective level of social justice, the protection of human rights and social protection for working people and their families.

The problems of Ukraine and its neighbouring countries are immense. This is a time to build peace and progress, not launch war and destruction.

IAM URGES U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT MAINE LOGGERS



IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. [wrote a letter](#) to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh seeking his immediate assistance to obtain actual enforcement on the use of Canadian loggers under the I-12A immigration system.

The letter details how the IAM has been working with Maine's hard-working and highly-skilled loggers for years to help them bargain collectively and stop depressing wages in the industry. The situation is so dire that it has forced U.S. workers to give up altogether and leave the logging industry in the region.

"When we started this campaign 3 years ago, we were faced with a large group of workers that had been turned into independent contractors while still being completely directed at every step of the day by landowners," wrote Martinez. "Since that time, we have moved on to another concern; one that I thought would be very easy to accomplish but has proven to be a much more difficult task: the illegal use of H2A drivers in the logging industry. As you know, H2A workers are only supposed to be utilized if they do not affect the wages or working conditions of U.S. workers. Our national union representatives and Maine Senate President Troy Jackson have met with hundreds of workers and have been out in the harvesting areas of northern Maine to witness firsthand the abuse of these workers. All of this is the result of violations of federal cabotage laws or point-to-point hauling in the United States."

The IAM urges the DOL to enforce the law and protect the U.S. workers in Maine's logging industry.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Certified Wood and Forestry Companies in North-America

There are two important forestry and chain of custody certification schemes operating in North America. There is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) covering 154.8 million acres of certified forests in the United States and Canada and about 3,573 Chain of Custody companies certified in the US. Since September 2021, these companies were compelled to formulate and implement policies that comply with the FSC core labour requirements that are based on the principles and rights in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) core conventions. The other one is the PEFC-endorsed Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) which has certified more than 370 million acres (150 million hectares) to its standard in the US and Canada, accompanied by an important performance indicator that Forestry enterprises must respect the rights of workers and labour representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the ILO core conventions. Both schemes have publicly accessible databases: <http://www.sfidatabase.org/PublicSearch/Main-Search.aspx> <https://info.fsc.org/certificate.php#result> The Building and Woodworkers' International (BWI) has elected representatives in the boards of both schemes. It works closely with American affiliates to ensure that the practices are followed in the wood and forestry companies.

In Memoriam —

Pete Taylor, Jr.



It is with heavy hearts that we must inform you of the passing of Machinists Brother Peter F. Taylor Jr. on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at the age of 70. Today we celebrate his life—anyone that had the opportunity to meet or

work with Pete, was a better Brother or Sister for it. He embodied the true sense of what fellowship means and lived his life in the service of others. After a long and distinguished union career, in 2018 Brother Taylor stepped down as President of the Georgia State Council of Machinists and Local Lodge 1034 Secretary-Treasurer and took his well-earned retirement. We continue to keep Brother Taylor's wife, 2 sons and 3 grandkids in our thoughts and prayers.

WOODWORKERS



ON-THE-JOB

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It's a simple but effective way to create jobs and provide training to Maine workers in the forest products industry. I believe it can help give Maine workers a competitive edge for critical jobs in the forest products industry.

Speaking before the Legislature's Taxation Committee, Evans said that Maine has to do more to encourage job growth in an industry that's considered by many to be one of Maine's economic cornerstones. "Maine's forest industry is an economic engine in our state, particularly in rural areas," said Evans. "By providing hiring and training incentives, we can take a step towards strengthening the industry's workforce in the years to come."

Maine's forestry industry was [hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic](#), with an estimated 30% to 40% decline in available markets for harvested wood and a 19% decrease in revenue for paper mills.

The Taxation Committee will hold a work session on LD 1919 in the coming weeks before the measure is considered by the full Legislature.

Update from the Dutch OECD and the Labor Complaint Against IKEA

The Building and Woodworkers' International (BWI), IMAW and the Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers (GS-Facket) in December 2020 filed a complaint against IKEA before the Dutch Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The complaint, which was based on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, protested IKEA's decision to discontinue production at its Danville manufacturing plant in the US and cut hundreds of jobs. After an initial investigation by the Dutch OECD, it determined that the complaint has strong merit, and was allowed to proceed for further deliberations. It is expected that a hearing and possible negotiations among parties will happen soon. Meanwhile, IKEA union leaders from different parts of the world have united under the banner of the Global IKEA Trade Union Network. The Network aims to formulate global strategies to compel IKEA to respect workers' and trade union rights and conduct meaningful negotiations with unions. The unions also want the company to sign a new International Framework Agreement (IFA) with them. In 2003, the unions signed an IFA with IKEA. It was later renegotiated in 2013 and 2014, but the latter was never signed by the company.

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