

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



February 2023

Volume 10, Number 1

Robert D. Walls Appointed IAM Woodworkers Director



*Robert D. Walls, Director
Woodworkers Department*

IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. has appointed longtime IAM officer and staff member Robert D. Walls to serve as the IAM's Woodworkers Director. The appointment is effective January 1, 2023.

Walls has served on the Woodworkers' Department's Grand Lodge staff since 2015 as a Special Representative and then as a Grand Lodge Representative.

"Brother Walls has a long history on the shop floor, at the negotiating table, and in halls of power around the world advocating for IAM wood, pulp and paper members," said Martinez. "We look forward to continuing to strengthen our power and grow our footprint in this critical sector."

Walls, a member since the Woodworkers affiliated with the IAM in 1994, served as a shop steward and business representative for IAM Local W33 in his hometown of International Falls, MN. He was appointed District W3 Business Representative in February 2000 and became the district's Assistant Directing Business Representative in 2009.

Walls serves on the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Resource Committee (SFI), the Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee, the Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council, and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC.) In October 2022, at the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) Congress, Walls was elected Vice President of BWI's North America Region.

Walls takes over for Mike Rose, who [retired as Woodworkers Department Chief of Staff on January 1.](#)

ABOUT FOREST CERTIFICATIONS

Demand for the SFI Label is Increasing Amongst Organizations and Consumers

Our focus on sustainability is resonating with organizations and consumers alike. Seventy-eight percent of SFI-certified organizations reported steady or increased demand for SFI-certified products – more than any other forest certification standard – and more Fortune 100 companies are using the SFI label.

PEFC

PEFC International is a leading global alliance of national and regional forest certification systems, among them the SFI system for Canada and the US. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, it promotes sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification worldwide. PEFC provides forest owners globally, from the large to the small, with a tool to demonstrate their responsible practices, while empowering companies and consumers to buy sustainably. [Learn more here.](#)



BILLY BARNWELL

IAM Woodworkers
Special Representative



THE MACHINISTS

IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. has appointed Billy Barnwell, a longtime IAM activist, and officer in Georgia, as a Special Representative in the IAM Woodworkers Department. The appointment is effective February 1, 2023.

Barnwell, a 20-year IAM member, has served as President and Directing Business Representative of IAM District 131 since 2017. During his tenure, Barnwell has led negotiating committees in contract talks for members in a variety of industries, including wood, pulp, and paper.

He has also presided over several successful organizing campaigns for members across Georgia. The district's shop steward training program, instituted by Barnwell, has brought up numerous new IAM leaders.

"Brother Barnwell knows what it takes to build union power and stand up for our membership," said Martinez. "His knowledge and passion for our union are going to help us grow and strengthen the IAM in this critical sector."

Since 2017, Barnwell has also served as President of the IAM Wood, Pulp, and Paper Council, helping to bring together IAM members in the sector from coast to coast. He is passionate about the cause of Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines, helping to institute [a new annual BBQ fundraiser](#) for the IAM's favorite charity.

Barnwell was initiated into IAM Local 1034 in Macon in 2002 after being hired as a maintenance mechanic for Graphic Packaging. He has served as a Shop Steward, Local Lodge Trustee, District Delegate, Chief Steward, District Trustee, and District Organizer before leading District 131.

Barnwell holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in literature from Southern New Hampshire University.

Eastern Gateway Community College

EGCC is currently enrolling existing and new students in the Free College Benefit for the Spring term. There is currently no new direction from the Department Of Education regarding the Free College Benefit at EGCC beyond this spring term. New or returning students should work directly with EGCC to determine their enrollment eligibility and options.

Call 888-590-9009 or Email

Online@egccfreecollege.org.

Additional information can be found here:

<https://egcc.edu/press-release/>



Collins Grows its California Footprint

One year after the Dixie Fire burned through northern California, Collins announced the acquisition of 58,000 acres of forestland from Shasta Forests Timberlands. The largest timberland purchase in the company's 167-year history, the move is a sign of Collins' commitment to its Chester Sawmill.

"Collins suffered losses in the major 2021 fires, along with other landowners and community members, but this acquisition is an important achievement and commitment to the future of our employees, operations, and local communities," said Galen Collins Smith, Vice President of Resources for Collins.

Read the Collins press release: [https://www.collinsco.com/Library/Press/COLLINS%20\[...\]\[i\]/i](https://www.collinsco.com/Library/Press/COLLINS%20[...][i]/i)

LabourStart

5,000 trade unionists tell IKEA to respect workers' rights



This is good news.

In the last seven days, over 5,000 of you have sent messages to IKEA demanding that they respect workers' rights in Poland.

We are resending the message below in the hope that many more of you will sign up to support the campaign. For those who have already done so -- please forward this email to other members of your union.

Working together, we can send a strong message to IKEA -- and the more of us who do this, the more likely that IKEA will listen.

Thank you!

IKEA has dismissed the leader of the trade union representing its workers in Poland.

Dariusz Kawka, a leader of NSZZ "Solidarność", was sacked on disciplinary grounds -- in breach of the law. His union activity means that the union needed to be consulted before the company could fire him. That did not happen. The State Labour Inspectorate has confirmed that the sacking of Darius was a gross violation of Polish labour law.

Please take a moment to support the union in its fight to get Darius reinstated. Tell IKEA that it must respect workers' rights -- and the law.

[Click here to support the campaign.](#)

BIO-CORNER WOODWORKERS



*Tesha Mungin, Organizer
IAM District Lodge 112*

In 2012, the Machinists welcomed Tesha Mungin into our ranks as a union member of Local Lodge 23 and new IKEA employee. She worked at the IKEA Distribution Center in Savanna, GA until May 1, 2022 when she was assigned to join the IAM staff as the Organizer for District Lodge 112.

While working for IKEA, Sister Mungin immediately began her union career representing her fellow members as a Shop Steward then, Chief Shop Steward, LL Trustee and, LL Recording Secretary.

As a mother of a 9 year old daughter, Tesha remains very active in their PTA. She also makes time for vacationing via long road trips and loves to cook viral recipes. Other hobbies include: bowling, photography, cooking and arts and crafts, and her book club. Then, in her 'spare' time, Tesha is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.



ON-THE-JOB

Published by:

Woodworkers Department

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

Submit your wood, pulp & paper stories and photos to: tkenealy@iamaw.org for publication in our *Wrench & Wood* Newsletter .