

# WRENCH & WOOD

## Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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### THE WOODLAND PULP STRIKE IS OVER Maine's Woodland Pulp Members Vote to Accept Improved Contract Offer



*Above: Dark clouds break up as Maine's Woodland Pulp members end their strike and accept the company's contract offer. Pictured right: Eastern Maine Labor Council and Food & Medicine Solidarity donated 86 food boxes and 86 turkeys for the striking workers in Baileyville, Maine.*



On November 24, in Baileyville, Maine, and after weeks of negotiations, Local 1490 Committee, District 4 Business Rep Danny Loudermilk, along with an assist from Woodworkers Department Special Rep Billy Barnwell, collaborated with Local 1121 Millwrights and Local 330-3 Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and have accepted an offer from Woodland Pulp. The decision brings an end to the strike that began on Saturday, October 14.

"I appreciate the Baileyville community, SEIU, Millwrights, Maine AFL-CIO, and our IAM members and staff for their support," said IAM District 4 Business Rep Danny Loudermilk. "I am grateful to the Food & Medicine organization for providing groceries and turkeys for the 86 members and their families during this strike. Their donation was greatly appreciated."

The highlights of the tentative agreement reached with Woodland Pulp include:

- **Job Classification and Wage Increase:** All current journeymen maintenance employees will have the option to be placed in the A2 GM classification, receiving an immediate 11.6% wage increase. Those choosing to opt out will still receive increases outlined in bullet 5.

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## Education is the Focus at Our 2023 IAM Wood, Pulp, and Paper Council Conference in Eugene, Oregon



The Conference agenda included a tour of the Weyerhaeuser Cottage Grove Mill in Oregon for delegates, staff and guests.

The IAM Wood, Pulp, and Paper Council Conference took place in Eugene, Oregon, on October 23-29, 2023. Delegates and guests attended the three-day conference to discuss issues and hear from several officers, staff members and expert speakers about *Educating for the Future* of our wood, pulp and paper sector. Our agenda included conversations and presentations to educate our delegates about benefits and resources that departments at the Grand Lodge always have available to help our membership. On Friday, October 27, the attendees were given a tour of the Weyerhaeuser Cottage Grove Mill in Oregon and saw how quickly fresh-cut trees are made into commercial lumber. Watch more about the tour and overall Conference highlights here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/e6qsx5jveevovazo2483i/Wood-Pulp-and-Paper-2023-Report.mp4?>



Pictured left to right: MWPPC Officers Secretary-Treasurer Brandon Bryant and Council President Chuck Bennett are sworn in by GST Dora Cervantes.

All Council Officers pictured left to right: Sentinel John Steigauf, President Chuck Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer Brandon Bryant and Vice President Matt Murdaugh

Pictured right: Bob Walls with Danny Schwarz and his son, Alex, from Schwarz & Schwarz, P.C. Thursday evening a Top Golf fundraiser was held for GDA & TLC. Schwarz & Schwarz are huge supporters of GDA and were top sponsors of our Top Golf Fundraising Event. Thank you! They also gave an invigorating presentation about safety and injuries on-the-job, your right to information equality and how to track and record this info when approaching an employer. The presentation can be seen here: [https://www.canva.com/design/DAFyGnM\\_Gbw/9EIJHqI1XrCfx20EeOCFQ/edit?utm\\_content=DAFyGnM\\_Gbw&utm\\_campaign=designshare&](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFyGnM_Gbw/9EIJHqI1XrCfx20EeOCFQ/edit?utm_content=DAFyGnM_Gbw&utm_campaign=designshare&)



The Conference adjourned Saturday, 10/28. That evening we celebrated Chief of Staff Mike Rose's retirement with family, friends, food and laughter. Mike had a rich union career as a 42-year member, 14 years of which he served on the Grand Lodge staff. Below: GVP Brian Bryant & Mike Rose. Pictured right: Mike accepting a handmade cutting board from Special Rep Billy Barnwell.



## WE ARE BRINGING CUSTOMIZED WOODWORKER EDUCATION to YOU!



*Winpisinger Center Education Rep Jon Irvine teaches the Woodworkers pilot program to members within DL112.*

The Woodworkers Department, in conjunction with the Winpisinger Education and Technology Center, has developed a field training program designed specifically for Woodworker Locals. The program includes modules covering organizing, Local Lodge Administration, strategic planning, steward training, and, where appropriate, functioning in a multi-union environment.

Woodworkers Special Representative Billy Barnwell and Education Representative Jon Irvine delivered the pilot program in Brunswick, GA September 19 – 21, 2023. Representatives from five locals in District Lodge 112 were present. The group pictured was incredibly engaged and reported through surveys that they found the training very productive.

The Department is ready to roll this very important education program out to other Woodworker Districts and Locals wherever requested in 2024. Education is a priority in our plan to grow and strengthen the sector. If you are interested, have your Business Representative request the training through your Territory office and the Department will work with your District to create a program to fit your particular needs.

## NEW AGREEMENT with GEORGIA PACIFIC

Negotiations were conducted December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for a new Agreement with Georgia Pacific covering the mechanics and storeroom workers at the Brewton, AL paper mill. The parties reached Tentative Agreement on a proposal that provides 12% general wage increases for all bargaining unit employees over four years in addition to a substantial up-front equity adjustment for the storeroom employees. The Agreement also provides an additional week of vacation for new hires, more flexibility to use vacation a day at a time, improved shift scheduling, increased pension multiplier, and increased safety shoe allowance.

The Local 676 bargaining committee consisted of Local President Josh Edwards, members Dustin Ashcroft and Mark Dooley. The committee was led by District 75 Business Representative Jaimee Littlefield and assisted by Woodworkers Department Special Representative Billy Barnwell. “I am very impressed by the preparation, professionalism, and teamwork demonstrated by this committee and Brother Littlefield. That is what it takes to accomplish so much in such a short time for your membership,” said Barnwell. “These are some of the hardest working folks in our District and I’m proud to be able to deliver them a contract that reflects that,” said Littlefield.

The Agreement, ratified by the membership in a vote held December 15<sup>th</sup>, is effective retroactively November 1, 2023 and expires October 31, 2027.



*Bargaining Committee left to right: DL 75 BR Jaimee Littlefield, LL 676 PR Josh Edwards and LL 676 members Dustin Ashcroft and Mark Dooley*



# REPORT OF THE 5TH WORLD CONGRESS from the BUILDING AND WOOD WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL

## ***iVamos!***

While the IAM held their Convention in Las Vegas, the same week the Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) also held its 5th World Congress in Madrid, Spain, with over 800 unionists from around the globe and 110 online delegates. Women's participation reached a record 31%, the highest number ever, and young participants numbered 12%. There was a Spanish flavor to all the debates as the delegates concluded many of their statements with the rousing Congress slogan of 'Vamos!'

### **Democracy and Peace**

**We are witnesses to government abuses and major political upheavals in many parts of the world.** As we are gathered here today in Madrid, in Hong Kong, trade union leaders are in prison for their active support for democracy. Many trade unionists in Myanmar have joined the armed resistance. And, in Belarus union leaders are in prison; Ukrainians are fighting against the Russian invasion. Comrades, please join me once again in **recognising these brave comrades and their trade unions who have risked life and limb to fight for freedom, independence and democracy.**

**Trade unionists are engaged in struggles against dictatorships** on all continents. However, authoritarians are not confined to dictatorships. **"Elected authoritarian leaders** and their populist followers are trying to destroy well-established democracies like my country, the Philippines, Brazil, Hungary, Turkey, Tunisia, Thailand, and India. In Europe, Extreme Right parties have grown in several countries including Italy, France, Germany, and Sweden," exclaimed BWI General Secretary, and native of the Philippines, Ambet Yuson.

*Wishing you and your families  
the best this Season!*

*Bob Walls*

*Billy Barnwell*

*Terri Kenealy*

*Season's Greetings*

# BIO-CORNER



Steven V. Del Gallo is Secretary-Treasurer of Local Lodge W246. But that's not everything you should know.

His union story begins in 1987 as a member of International Woodworkers of America working at Weyerhaeuser in Springfield, Oregon, and became a Machinist when they merged with IAM in 1994. He was Shop Steward and Recording Secretary at that time and in 1995 he became Secretary-Treasurer—the position he holds today. In addition, Brother Del Gallo was District auditor in the early 2000's for a few years.

Brother Del Gallo plans to retire at the end of this month after all his years of service. He will find time to spend with his 3 grown children and all his grandkids. He may sneak in some golf and hunting. Don't be surprised if you run into him as a volunteer at any union event!

Congratulations Brother— best wishes!!!

## WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB

*Picture submitted by Jason Williams*

*President IAM Local Lodge W130*

### WOODLAND, continued from Page 1

- **Vacation Policy:** The current tiered vacation system will be removed, allowing all employees to cap out with a fifth week of vacation.
- **Paid Sick Leave:** Employees will be eligible for 20 hours of earned paid sick leave, usable in 1-hour increments.
- **Equity Adjustment:** Employees in the bottom five Water and Steam plant classifications will receive an immediate equity adjustment of \$0.30 to \$1.00 per hour.
- **Wage Increases:** General wage increases of 4%, 3%, and 3%.
- **Ratification Bonus:** A ratification bonus of \$750 per employee.
- **Bargaining Unit Proportion Guarantee:** A guarantee of bargaining unit proportion for the

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Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council on Facebook Submit your wood, pulp & paper stories and photos to: [tkenealy@iamaw.org](mailto:tkenealy@iamaw.org) for publication in *Wrench & Wood* newsletter .