

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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PUERTO RICO IKEA WORKERS VOTE TO JOIN IAM UNION



Pictured above: A happy group of the newest of 51 IKEA members in Puerto Rico that have voted to join the Machinists Union.

A group of 51 IKEA warehouse workers in Carolina, Puerto Rico voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday, February 20th to join the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

The IAM Southern Territory campaign began late last year when IKEA workers reached out about improving their work life, including fair treatment and pay. Workers at the facility were notified last year that they would not be receiving an annual holiday bonus.

“We could not be more thrilled to welcome Puerto Rico IKEA workers into our IAM family,” said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Craig Martin. “We look forward to giving them the respect on the job they deserve. Our special thanks go out to Southern Territory Special Representative John Viguera and Associate Organizer Jean Carlos Hernandez Ocasio for their tremendous work on this campaign.”

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WOODWORKERS ARE EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

After a successful pilot program which was held in District 112 in September of last year, the IAM Woodworkers Department delivered its Field Training Program to the members of our largest Woodworker District, District W24, January 27 – 29. The program, developed in conjunction with the W3 Center, covered subjects ranging from local lodge administration, organizing, bylaws review and revision, and a full day of shop steward training.

IAM Woodworkers Department Special Rep Billy Barnwell and W3 Education Rep Jon Irvine facilitated the program, which was attended by members from locals W12, W38, W130, 246, 261, and W536. With attendees from the District W24 staff included, over 30 people spent a weekend preparing to better

Pictured below: The participants of the 2nd Woodworkers Field Training Program.



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IKEA, Continued from Page 1

The IAM, which also represents IKEA distribution center workers in Illinois, Georgia, Maryland and New Jersey, relied on the IAM Woodworkers Department's international relationships with **Building and Wood Workers' International** (BWI), a 12-million member global union federation, and corporate IKEA contacts to put an end to local management's anti-union campaign.

Workers at the Carolina, P.R., warehouse will soon be transferred to an IKEA facility in Bayamon, P.R., as the furniture retail company continues to expand on the island.

The IAM and its new members at IKEA will soon begin preparing for first contract negotiations with the company.

MINNESOTA STATE COUNCIL HOLDS A WELL ATTENDED SPRING CONFERENCE

Over 60 IAM members met the weekend of February 24-25 for the 2024 Minnesota State Council of Machinists Spring Conference. The members gathered to hear legislative reports and listen to guest speakers from the state. The council had several politicians address the conference. Thanks to Congresswoman Angie Craig, State Auditor Julie Blaha, Secretary of State Steve Simon, United States Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan who came Saturday.



Pictured: The attendees to the Minnesota Machinists State Council Spring Meeting 2024.



Pictured left: GVP Sam Cicinelli, GVP Richie Johnsen, Senator Amy Klobuchar, PR/DBR John Steigauf and IAM International President Brian Bryant

WISHING BROTHER JOHN STEIGAUF A LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT



We want to take this opportunity to congratulate John Steigauf on his plans for a June 1st retirement. Brother Steigauf is still currently PR/DBR of District Lodge 77 in St. Paul, MN, however, he has stepped

down as Sentinel of the Machinists Wood, Pulp & Paper Council and as President of the Minnesota Machinists State Council. These were just a few of the many other 'hats' John may have been found to be wearing. He embodied what it means to be your union Brother, always with a helping hand and some comic relief, when needed.

And, speaking of 'hats,' John is responsible for incorporating the Pressman's Hat at any Conference or meeting of union Brothers and Sisters — as you can see Bob Walls and Chuck Bennett modeling below and left. He thanks his Dad for this adopted tradition—he was a long-time union newspaper man. Brother, thank you for your years of service, and best wishes for a long, healthy retirement!



Pictured left: DL W2021 PR/DBR Chuck Bennett and Woodworkers Chief of Staff Bob Walls

Pictured right: Midwest Territory GVP Sam Cicinelli, District Lodge 77 PR/DBR John Steigauf and IAM International President Brian Bryant



IAM District 5 H.E.L.P.S. North Dakota Families in Need



IAM Midwest Territory District 5, along with members from Locals 2525, and Woodworker locals W33, and W384, recently organized and performed their yearly IAM Honoring, Engaging, Lifting, Providing and Servicing (H.E.L.P.S) volunteer services.

H.E.L.P.S event at the Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB) in Fargo, N.D. GPFB is a vital organization committed to fighting hunger by collecting, warehousing and distributing surplus food to those in need across North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

In addition to packing 370 mobile food boxes, the volunteers bagged a significant amount of potatoes, weighing a total of 5,335 pounds. These potatoes were generously donated by local farmers and were repackaged into smaller bags. The repackaged potatoes will be distributed to local food banks, further extending the reach of the community service initiative.

The initiative to “Service to the community is a cornerstone of the IAM,” said IAM Midwest Territory General Vice President Sam Cicinelli. “The volunteers from District Lodge 5 should be proud of what they accomplished for their community.”



EDUCATION, Continued from Page 1

The Woodworkers Department would like to thank W24 President/DBR Brandon Bryant and his staff for hosting the training, and for beating the bushes to achieve a really outstanding turnout. Special thanks goes out to Business Rep Jeff Wagner for cooking breakfast every morning for the entire crowd.

The Woodworkers Department is committed to ensuring that every member in the wood, pulp, and paper sectors have the tools they need to be effective Union advocates. Education is at the foundation of this commitment. If you and your Local or District are interested in having this type of training delivered, please reach out to your Territory through your Business Representative and we will work to schedule a training course to fit your needs.



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SAVE-the-DATE!

More information and our official announcement will be coming soon!

BIO-CORNER

Pictured right and center, meet Brother Dave Lemon, Shop Steward at Local Lodge W261, District Lodge W24.

Brother Lemon is a long time Weyerhaeuser employee, hiring on July 20, 1978, and has held positions in logging, construction and trucking departments over the years. At that time, he also hired into the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) as union member and continued his membership through the merger of IWA and IAM in 1994 and holds his IAM membership currently today.

Over the course of Dave's nearly 46 years as a Machinists member he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to 'the table' as the Local Lodge W261 Shop Steward. He has held this position for the last 3 years.

Brother Lemon has been married for 47 years to his wife, Barbara. They have two daughters—one daughter in the Communications industry and the other has a career in Nursing. Between his two daughters the Lemon's have two beautiful

WOODWORKERS

ON-THE-JOB

Picture submitted by Jason Williams
President IAM Local Lodge W130



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Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council on Facebook. **PLEASE submit your wood, pulp & paper stories and photos to: tkenealy@iamaw.org for publication in your newsletter the Wrench & Wood.**