

WRENCH & WOOD

Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



May 2024

Volume 11, Number 2

The Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council's 5th Annual Chillin' & Grillin' Virtual BBQ Competition for Guide Dogs of America & Tender Loving Canines !

IT'S TIME—you can REGISTER NOW for our 5th Annual Machinists Wood, Pulp and Paper Council (MWPPC) Virtual Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ Competition being held on Saturday, August 3rd!

The event will benefit the IAM's favorite charity, Guide Dogs of America | Tender Loving Canines (GDA/TLC.) All IAM members are welcome to compete for the title of best cooks!

Watch and share the promotional video here.

To register, sponsor or donate, visit:

give.guidedogsofamerica.org/BBQ2024



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Happy 30th Anniversary to All our Machinist Woodworkers!

The proposal to affiliate with the IAM was presented to the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) membership for ratification and passed by over a 90% margin. On May 1, 1994, the proud IWA, U.S., merged with the International Association of Machinists (IAMAW), forming the Woodworkers Department we know today. Congratulations to us all!



—PPRC's ANNUAL 'FLY-IN'— FOREST PRODUCTS EMPLOYEES DESCEND ON CAPITAL HILL

The Pulp & Paperworkers' Resource Council (PPRC) has become the nation's premier grassroots organization led by hourly employees advocating for the American forest products industry. The Council is represented by members of the IAMAW, USW, IBEW, IUOE, CPU and UA and forest products industry workers. They support policies that encourage economic growth, an abundant and sustainable fiber supply, and sensible science-based environmental policies.

A group of approximately 72 members of the PPRC made their annual "Fly-in" and descended on Washington, D.C. the week of February 2nd. They are passionate about educating the Members of Congress and Administration officials at the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA), the Office of Management and Budget, and other government agencies on issues affecting U.S. manufacturing jobs in the forest products industry. The 72 members represent 53 mills across 18 states. They made more than 535 visits with Members of Congress and Administration officials.

The PPRC specifically addressed several issues with members of Congress, including:

Air Permitting-new Clean Air rules need to consider environmental, social, & economic impacts to set sustainable standards and policies to keep mills competitive

Forest Management-forest management to increase growth and resilience in wake of natural disasters

Recycling-focus should be on solutions for materials with low recovery rates that contaminate the system and the elimination of products like single use plastics.

Endangered Species Act— we support the ESA for protecting truly endangered species, with regulations based on sound science

Beneficial Use of Paper Mill Residuals-asks EPA to support safe & beneficial use of mill residuals
Renewable Biomass-support carbon beneficial bioenergy as future fuel

Water Quality— effective wastewater treatment exclusion to avoid unsustainable mill requirements
Logistics of Forest Products- proper investment in roads and bridges

For more information and to see the PPRC 2024 Position Summary papers, please visit

www.thepprc.org.



Pictured left:

The group of PPRC members representing IAMAW, USW, IBEW, IUOE, CPU, UA and Forest Products Industry Workers on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. preparing to meet with elected officials, Members of Congress and Administration officials.

GET ENGAGED & STAY ENGAGED WITH YOUR MACHINISTS STATE COUNCILS

State Council Meetings Were Recently Held in Minnesota and Arkansas

Whether your Machinist State Council is in Minnesota or Arkansas, the importance of active engagement throughout the electoral process and membership priorities cross all state lines. The other message that translates nationwide is how vital the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League (MNPL) is for our union and state councils. The voluntary donations to the MNPL help us get pro-worker candidates up and down the ballot elected in hopes of implementing a pro-worker, pro-democracy agenda in the state.



The Minnesota State Council of Machinists recently held its conference in Minneapolis, where more than 50 IAM members met to hear updates about legislation vital to the state's membership. Minnesota State Council President John Steigauf welcomed officers, delegates and guests to the three-day session, which began on Feb. 23. International President Brian Bryant, Midwest Territory General Vice President Sam Cicinelli and Air Transport Territory General Vice President Richie Johnson gave essential briefings.

Please watch John Steigauf with more information about the Minnesota State Council Meeting here: <https://youtu.be/zDIEhhQMfDc?t=126>

The Arkansas State Council of Machinists came together for their annual Spring Meeting.

Parris Cellistine from the IAM Benefit Trust, IAMNPF, and the IAM401K, made sure our members were up-to-date about the benefits they have and how to access those benefits.

AFL-CIO President Jessica Akers, updated our members on the political and legislative information affecting everyone, as well as the importance of getting out the vote for the state of Arkansas and federal elections this fall.

ST GLR Valerie Rodriguez, GLR Juice Bruner, Woodworkers Dept. GLR Billy Barnwell, and DL W2021 DBR Chuck Bennett highlighted the importance of participating in your State Council and the positive effects it can have on organizing campaigns.

DISTRICT W2021 HOLDS THEIR LODGE MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2024

President/Directing Business Representative Charles "Chuck" Bennett presided over this meeting held in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Everyone was welcomed—there were 23 attendees and a strong showing from the local lodges with 20 delegates present. Guest speakers included, from the Grand Lodge— Woodworkers Chief of Staff Bob Walls, Assistant Veterans Coordinator Brian Stymacks, Legislative Department Assistant Director Loren Almeroth and from the Southern Territory—GLR Valerie Rodriguez. Jennifer Alexandre with the IAM National Pension Fund and Crystal Ewing from American Income Life also participated. Introductions were made and Committees were appointed for meetings to follow.



Brother Bennett reported that the district is financially sound. There were 8 motions to be approved at this meeting and they all carried. All attending lodges gave their Local Lodge Report and Committee Reports were given later in the day.

DBR Bennett will push to have all local lodges attend the next meeting in October. Plans for the October meeting are already falling into place as needs present themselves. One will be to establish a By-laws Committee for proposed Bylaw changes. Plan on a 2-day meeting in October to include a Training Day given by Woodworkers Special Rep Billy Barnwell. This will be training on how to run a local lodge properly and will be beneficial to Secretary-Treasurers, too.

BIO-CORNER

Sister Lisa Edwards is employed at Potlatch Deltic in Warren, Arkansas, hiring on in 1999 as a General Plant Laborer. In 2000, Sister Edwards became a Lumber Grader working her way to Head Lumber Grader in 2005. Currently, and since 2023, Lisa is Potlatch Deltic's Planermill Shift Lead.

Parallel with her experience and advances on the job, Lisa also joined the union and rose in the ranks becoming Shop Steward in 1999 until 2003 when she was voted in as Recording Secretary, a position she held for 20 years. In 2024, and presently, Sister Edwards is LL W484's Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Sister Edwards is married with one daughter and two grandkids. She is an active member of the West Central St. Church of Christ in AR, and also finds time for her love of riding motorcycles, reading and traveling.



Lisa Edwards, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

IAMAW Local Lodge W484



MOVING ON—

District Lodge 112 and District 131 have disbanded as of March 31st and all of their locals have been moved to newly chartered District Lodge 243. Current DL 112 DBR Matthew Murdaugh will be the DBR of the new district and they will continue to use the old District 112 offices and address.

Published by:

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