

WRENCH & WOOD

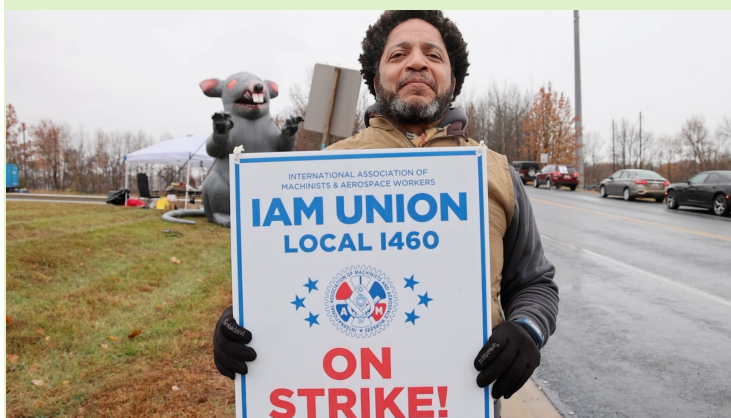
Wood, Pulp and Paper Workers News



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U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen Stands in Support of Striking IAM Union Members at Maryland IKEA Facility



PERRYVILLE, Md., Dec. 4, 2024 – U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) is urging management at IKEA’s Perryville distribution center to offer a fair contract to its 320 striking workers, who are members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local I460 (District 4).

Van Hollen expressed his support for the striking workers in a [letter to IKEA management](#). “I represent many of the employees that are affected by these negotiations, and whose hard work and

dedication have contributed to IKEA’s continued success and made it an important part of our community in Cecil County,” [Van Hollen wrote in the letter](#). “I urge you to negotiate in good faith and come to an agreement that provides just compensation and meets the needs of your workers, upholds your corporate values centered on empowering the IKEA workforce, and ensures excellent service for customers.”

IAM Local I460 members began their strike on Nov. 15 after [voting against IKEA’s proposed contract](#) that would impact fair wages and seniority protections.

The IAM and IKEA [met with a federal mediator](#) on Nov. 21 and 22 to resolve the dispute and reach a fair agreement, but failed to yield progress.

On Nov. 25, the [IAM filed an unfair labor practice \(ULP\)](#) with the National Labor Relations Board over an incident on the strike line, which resulted in an IAM leader being arrested but later released with a minor citation.

“The IAM applauds Senator Van Hollen for taking a stand and urging IKEA to negotiate in good faith,” said IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President David Sullivan. “We urge other elected officials to amplify the call for justice and demand a fair contract for their constituents.”

Chris Wagoner Memorial Leadership Grant



Wagoner was a constant figure at the Winpisinger Center, where thousands of members, officers and staff participated every year in leadership, organizing, negotiations and other programs that built power and knowledge in the IAM. Chris would make a point to visit with every class he could, sharing, among many things, that the Winpisinger Center, and the labor movement, must be an inclusive, diverse and welcoming environment, free of any bias or discrimination for all.

Does your local want to send current and emerging local leaders to the Winpisinger for training, but lack the resources to do so?

The Chris Wagoner Memorial Leadership Grant was created to honor the work and memory of [Brother Chris Wagoner](#), 30-year member of the IAM and retired director of the William W. Winpisinger Education & Technology Center. Brother Wagoner believed deeply in the core value of dignity in the workplace, and was dedicated to working towards an inclusive labor movement free of racism, classism, elitism, and sexism. He also believed that expanding opportunities for Leadership training to empower the membership was critical to our future growth and strength as a Union.

Deadline for applications for the inaugural Grant is January 31, 2025.

Read the [Official Circular](#) then apply using the [online form](#) or print the form from: [printing, scanning, and submitting the form](#) and email to: ChrisWagonerMemorialLeadershipGrant@iamaw.org. The application should be submitted by the President on behalf of the Local, not by individual members.

IAM UNION

CHUCK
BENNETT
Southern Territory
Special Representative



IAM International President Brian Bryant has appointed Chuck Bennett, a longtime IAM activist and leader, as an IAM Southern Territory Special Representative, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Bennett is currently the President and Directing Business Representative of IAM District W2021 in Lake Charles, La., and President of the Machinist Wood, Pulp, and Paper Council. He is a 23-year IAM member and has served as a local lodge trustee, shop steward, committeeman, vice president, and president of IAM Local 470, as well as holding leadership positions on the Louisiana State Council of Machinists, the Louisiana AFL-CIO, and the Southwest Louisiana Central Labor Council.

Bennett is a proud unionist who has committed his life to fighting for his sisters and brothers on the job site and at the bargaining table. As an advocate for working families, Bennett makes sure our local, state, and federal lawmakers know the issues affecting workers and strives to give labor an equal voice.

“Chuck’s unwavering dedication to the labor movement and his tireless advocacy for working families make him the perfect choice for this important role,” said IAM Southern Territory General Vice President Craig Martin. “His decades of experience, leadership, and commitment to giving workers a strong voice at the table will undoubtedly strengthen the IAM and our mission to improve the lives of our members.”

Bennett is also proud to have had the opportunity to serve on the IAM’s Committee on the Future. He was an ambassador for his fellow members, gathering the members’ ideas to develop recommendations to grow and strengthen the IAM.

BIO-CORNER



Shawn Akins, Chief Shop Steward — Local Lodge 23

Shawn Akins is a retired Georgia State Army National Guard retiree and has been with International Paper in Savannah, Georgia for 26 years. He transferred to the maintenance side of the house and became a Machinists Union member in October 2013 and is currently a General Maintenance Mechanic.

Most recently, Brother Akins has been the Chair of the Local Bargaining Committee and has been the Chief Shop Steward for the last 4 years.

Shawn is father to 4 children with his wife, of 23 years, Tonya. They enjoy trail riding and fishing.

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bouquets

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INTERNATIONAL PAPER PRE-RENEWAL BARGAINING SUMMIT



December 5, 2024, the Woodworkers Department represented by Billy Barnwell, and District Lodge 243, participated in the International Paper Converting Pre-Renewal Bargaining Summit. District 243 was represented by Business Representative Kahira Black and committees from the Georgetown, SC, and Savannah, GA plants.

The Summit served as a joint labor/management pre-bargaining planning session, identifying the issues which are to be resolved at each location beginning in early 2025.



Photo courtesy of Jason Williams, President-Local Lodge W130

FACT SHEET

Strikes

Strike Procedure under the IAM&AW

- Union gives 60-day notice to employer prior to contract expiration. (Law)
- Union gives 30-day notice to Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. (Law)
- Strike sanction vote - secret vote - 2/3 of membership - minimum of 30% must vote. (IAM Constitution)
- Contract vote - 50% +1 contract is accepted. (Law) & (IAM Constitution)
- If contract vote is less than 50% - the original strike sanction vote must be reaffirmed.

Strike sanction must be approved by the International Union.

The following must be met to gain approval Grand Lodge (International):

1. A Grand Lodge Representative or Directing Business Representative must have participated in negotiations.
2. Results of negotiations must be presented to membership and rejected by secret ballot vote of a majority present.
3. Original strike vote must be reaffirmed by 2/3 of membership voting by secret ballot vote.

SOLIDARITY
WITH ALL STRIKING WORKERS

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