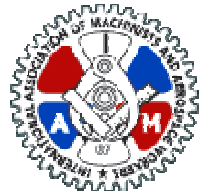


District Lodge W2 NEWS



April 2006
Published Quarterly
www.iamww2.org

Woodworkers District Lodge W2 Organizing Win

A group of twelve workers including Saw Filers, Sawyers, Kiln Operators and Lumber Inspectors at the Allegheny Wood Products hardwood sawmill, located at Enfield, North Carolina, recently voted to join the IAM. Allegheny Wood Products, Inc. recently purchased the mill from Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

The vote was 11 to 1 in favor of the IAM being their collective bargaining agent. This group of employees will become part of the current IAM bargaining unit, which has 52 employees.

Several issues caused workers to seek out IAM representation including the absence of pay raises and changes in the holiday policy, vacation policy and health care plan.

"We couldn't have won this campaign without the firm commitment to the campaign by Local W354 Chief Steward Morris Kimble and Shop Steward Theodore Pittman, who spent time on the campaign," said Woodworkers District Lodge W2 Business Representative Melvin F. Montford.

Lodge W331 Makes Historic Gains in With New Contract

The IAM members at Toll Integrated Systems a division of Toll Brothers, Inc. in Emporia, Virginia recently ratified a new three-year labor agreement. The members at Toll Integrated Systems are a production and maintenance unit that builds components for luxury homes and multifamily dwellings.

The company proposed changes to all articles of labor agreement except four. The contract expired and an agreement to extend the agreement was not reached. These members of Lodge W331 worked without a contract for eight months. The members and the negotiation team stayed strong and united through these trying times.

According Business Representative, Melvin F. Montford, the three-year contract includes substantial general wage increases totaling \$3.20 per hour over the three-year period and is reopening on IAM National Pension Fund in first year of agreement. There were many important contract changes, including the following. Vacation can be taken in one-day increments and five (5) days of vacation can be carried over to the next year. The company will pay for the time spent by Union Stewards in investigating, writing up, and processing of each grievance. For the purposes of layoff and downsizing, all Union officers, Union Plant Committee members, and Union Stewards will have top seniority during their tenure of office. Under the new "Technological Change" language employees shall have rehire preference at other company plants where there are employment opportunities and the company will provide moving arrangements and pay the costs for any employee who is assigned a job in a plant outside the region of the plant from which he is laid off and who changes his residence as a result, thereof. Changes were made in the Labor Grade Scale Program (Skill Based Pay Program). The company will pay employees for time spent in the training secessions and during testing. If the employee fails testing after completing training the company will pay for time spent in the training secessions and testing a second time. An employee will receive the pay rate associated with a labor grade level once he or she successfully completes the first test within any given labor grade level. For example, a person might be a Janitor, which is Labor Grade 10 the lowest labor grade, but if they complete the training requirements and pass the testing requirements they can continue to move up the pay scale to the highest paid labor grade in the plant regardless of their job title. In fact, some employees could end up with wage rate increases totaling \$6.50 per hour by end of three-year agreement dependent upon their acceleration through the labor grade training program. The labor grade scale program is open to all bargaining unit employees.



Negotiation Team Members: Left to right: Melvin F. Montford (Business Representative District W2), Judy Woodley (Chief Steward), Robert Walton (Union Steward), Charles Walton (Union Plant Committee), Marvin Harvell (Lodge W331 President), Not shown are James Boone (Lodge W331 Vice President) and Frank Brown (Union Steward).

some employees could end up with wage rate increases totaling \$6.50 per hour by end of three-year agreement dependent upon their acceleration through the labor grade training program. The labor grade scale program is open to all bargaining unit employees.

"This was a well seasoned veteran bargaining team. All had been in difficult negotiations before, but most not as challenging as these," said Business Representative Melvin F. Montford. "It was their dedication to the membership that fueled their drive and sheer determination to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion with a contract that the membership could be proud. The membership praised the negotiation team for their work. Only two members voted to reject the new contract at ratification."

The company is building another facility at another work site that will be covered by the labor agreement and employ approximately 100 workers.

With ratification of this agreement the wages at this facility have more than doubled since this bargaining unit affiliated with IAM.

Corporate Profits Outpace Wages and Benefits

APRIL 7, 2006 - As hard working Americans continue to struggle with stagnant wages and shrinking benefits, corporate profits continue to hit record levels.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis has released data showing corporate profits claimed the largest share of gross domestic income in 37 years for the fourth quarter of 2005.

This means workers are not seeing record corporate profits translate into better benefits and wages.

An Economic Policy Institute Report shows since 2001, the share of the gross domestic income going to corporate profits has jumped 3.9 percent – compared to a 1.4 percent drop in labor compensation.

Thanks to hard-working Americans – there has been an annual productivity growth of 3.5 percent.

Unfortunately, this increase has disproportionately flowed into corporate profits - rather than wages and benefits – keeping American living standards from seeing marked improvement.

See the video at:

<http://goiam.org/content.cfm?clD=6825>

Take Action NOW! to Protect Seniors

The GOP's Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan has been a disaster since it took effect on January 1. In its first weeks alone, six million poor, elderly and disabled patients were denied prescription drug coverage.

More than 20 states were forced to provide emergency coverage to their low-income seniors. Five states sued the federal government to recover their costs. Seniors, their caregivers and their pharmacists cannot get prescriptions filled quickly. Some cannot get them filled at all.

Rather than helping seniors, Part D has been a massive giveaway to HMO's and drug companies. We can no longer afford to idly sit by and watch our parents continue to be "mugged" by Republican leaders and corporate America.

Click:<http://capwiz.com/iamaw/issues/alert/?alertid=8656341> &type=CO to tell your Representative in Congress to support legislation that would: Extend the May 15, 2006 enrollment deadline; Repeal the provision that prevents Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices; Give seniors the option to Opt Out of the drug plan at their will; Fill in the coverage gap so seniors receive coverage for drug costs between \$2,251 and \$5,100 and prohibit drug plans from denying seniors coverage for the drugs they need .

Wal-Mart Lawyer Named to Labor Department

APRIL 6, 2006 - President Bush's utter disregard for America's workers was on display again recently -with his nomination of Wal-Mart lawyer Paul DeCamp to head the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division.

DeCamp has made quite the career out of helping big business repress worker's rights. He recently represented Wal-Mart in a case trying to prevent 1.5 million women from suing the company for discrimination in pay and promotions.

Bush's nominee to protect worker's rights also proposed taking away overtime pay from some workers - and suggested easy outs for bosses who misclassify workers as not eligible for overtime pay.

While at the law firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, he also represented businesses opposing union organizing campaigns - and fought for employers on collective and individual actions involving the Fair Labor Standards Act and wage and hour laws.

See the video at: <http://goiam.org/content.cfm?clD=6820>

Negotiations Begin at Georgia-Pacific (Mid-Continent)

Negotiations with Georgia-Pacific Corporation, now a wholly owned subsidiary of Koch Industries, has begun in the Mid-Continent Division for Local Lodges in Crossett, Arkansas, Gloster, Mississippi, and Phillips, Wisconsin.

Currently the local issues are being negotiated at each of the Local Lodge's. Negotiations on the economic issues will begin on April 25, in Memphis, Tennessee, and will include representatives from each of the affected Local Lodges, sitting at the table together.

The Union will be taking its "strike sanction" vote in the very near future. Be sure to watch your bulletin boards for the date and times of these important votes.