WINTER MEETING 2020

MFPA members travelled to Jefferson City on January 14, 2020 to participate in one of the best attended Winter Meetings in recent memory. Admittedly, I am a bit nervous leading up to the Winter Meeting as I begin to hope and pray for good attendance. THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the 55 companies and 95 individuals who made the trek to Jefferson City and made the meeting a tremendous success!!

All standing MFPA committees met with a quorum to discuss important industry business and receive many updates from our partners. Committee meetings averaged 30 attendees and the discussion was lively and informative. Sample topics included, a discussion of the 2020 political landscape and how MFPA should position ourselves, forest management updates from the Missouri Department of Conservation and Mark Twain National Forest, all things log truck, and a presentation from the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Dean Dr. Chris Daubert on Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe’s state initiative on food, fiber and forest products. Again, thanks to our members who attended and participated in this very important aspect of MFPA business.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe addressed the membership before the evening dinner and recognized the importance of the forest products industry to Missouri’s economy, especially in rural Missouri. Lt. Governor Kehoe is a strong advocate for agriculture, noting that it is the number one industry in Missouri contributing $88 billion to the annual economy, $10 billion of which comes from the forest products industry. Mr. Kehoe was informative and entertaining and we much appreciated his attendance at our meeting.

The annual legislative breakfast was extremely well attended by both MFPA members and elected officials. As I have said before, it is difficult to overstate the importance of this work on behalf of our industry. Shannon, Nancy and I have had numerous comments from elected officials and their staff over the past week regarding how impressed they were with our attendance and interaction at the Capital. Attending the legislative breakfast is so beneficial when we are lobbying on behalf of our industry, I understand that the results are difficult to quantify, but spending two hours with elected officials one day a year has immeasurable benefits throughout the entire session.

Thanks again for making the 2020 Winter Meeting a real success!!

~Brian Brookshire, Executive Director
It’s Time To Renew!

Membership renewal forms have been mailed and it’s time to renew your membership to continue receiving all the benefits of MFPA!

In your envelope you will find your membership dues invoice and the current contact information we have listed for your company. When returning your membership form please notify us of any changes to your contact information or any products and services you offer.

Please return your dues and information promptly as we have started assembling the 2020-2021 Membership Directory...

Visit TedTalks on YouTube to view the attached 10 minute video regarding the positive aspects of using hardwood lumber. In our view, the video does an excellent job of conveying a positive message of forest management while promoting the wonderful benefits of utilizing hardwood lumber.

American Hardwood Improves Our Lives by Criswell Davis


Our Mission
Missouri Forest Products Association is dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry of Missouri. Founded in 1970, MFPA has over 300 members representing primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, loggers and landowners. MFPA advocates sustainable management and sound stewardship of Missouri’s forests to benefit current and future generations.

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Jeff Anderson, Independent Stave Company, Inc Past President
Paul Gaines, Madison County Wood Products, Inc. Vice President
Mike Naeger, Naeger Forest Products, Inc. Secretary-Treasurer

Staff
Brian Brookshire, Executive Director
Beverly Heidbreder, Accountant
Mark McCarthy, Certification and Education Manager
Laura Brookshire, Communications and Membership Manager
2020 MFPA Legislative Breakfast

As part of the Winter Meeting, MFP PAC hosted the Legislative Breakfast at the Capitol January 15th. MFPA members greeted many legislators and spoke over breakfast about MFPA’s 2020 legislative agenda. Executive Director Brian Brookshire said “MFPA membership participation at the legislative breakfast is crucial to the success of the 2020 agenda for the industry. Constituents are who the elected officials want to hear from and will respond to as we move our legislative agenda forward during the 2020 session.” It’s always a success to get constituents together with Representatives and Senators to express issues facing their company and gather support for our industry.

Thanks To All Who Attended The 2020 Legislative Breakfast!
MFPA 2020 Winter Meeting Sponsors

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Thank you!!

We know it takes the right tools to run a successful business. We understand the impact the forest products industry has on Missouri, but especially rural Missouri. Our passion for rural Missouri drives us but our experience and knowledge sets us apart from other lenders.

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As you can see by the newsletter, we recently hosted the Winter Meeting. Committee meetings are a big part of the day, and there are plenty of committees that everyone could benefit from (I will come back to that). Along with the Political Action Committee, the Government Affairs Committee, the Forest Health Committee are the 2 committees I work most with: the Education and Technical Services Committee and the Missouri Logging Council. The topics in these meetings are important to our industry. While I won’t go into the agenda of the other committees, I think it might be interesting to see what is discussed in the Education Committee and the MLC.

In the Education Committee there were program updates from MFPA, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Department of Agriculture. These updates are to provide information on past program, as well as plan for future efforts. For instance, the Department of Agriculture is planning on trade missions to Shanghai and Vietnam. MDC discussed the ongoing reorganization and the possible impact on the industry. The University of Missouri is beginning some initiatives that will benefit the industry. Of course, the MFPA Logging School was discussed. Plans are being made to work with MU to use the Wurdack farm for the school, in Salem. These are all worthwhile to know about…but it wasn’t just updates.

There was a lengthy discussion during the Missouri Logging Council meeting on log plates. Recently the state of Iowa attempted to clarify all their log plate concerns through legislation. Is that something we want to try to do in Missouri? In the end, it was decided not to follow the Iowa model, but instead to continue working with MODOT and the Highway Patrol to get consistent interpretations of the laws.

I am not telling you all this to update you on the meetings…instead, I want you to see the topics discussed in any of the meetings are relevant to your future within the industry. Be a part of the future. Let your voice be heard. As you can see, there are a wide variety of committees, each filled with great information. Be a part of one, or more…and maybe help shape the direction of the forest products industry.

If you have committee questions or are interested in being a part of the future…let us know.

AND… While it is only January, it is never too late to begin working on Continuing Education credits. Effective January 2, 2020 over 100 loggers were removed from the PTH Trained Logger list. Lets make the clear vision of 2020 to be one that includes everyone remaining PTH Certified.
Salem, MO is hosting a “Salute to the Timber Industry Parade and Timber Fun Day” to be celebrated on Labor Day September 2. Parade will showcase the timber industry and relative business. The Parade begins at the Commons on Hwy 72 with line up starting at 8:00 AM. The parade will start at 10:30 AM. Following the parade a Timber Fun Day will be had at the Commons from 12:00 to 5:00. Free hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst will be provided by Vandivort Drug in celebration of 40 years in business. The activities include fun games for children, hands on activities such as shingle splitting, rail splitting, crosscut sawing and exhibits for viewing.

The Professional Timber Harvester (PTH) training is based on a training program which is widely acknowledged as the premier timber harvesting training program in the country, offering hands-on training emphasizing safety and sustainable timber harvesting. The training is offered to professional loggers, foresters, college students, forest landowners, and utility workers. This is not a beginners’ class, some previous chainsaw experience is required. Those without experience are welcome to sit through the class and not participate in the hands-on cutting exercises.

Annual continuing education (CE) is required to maintain the certification. We strive to offer meaningful and interesting continuing education classes. To achieve this we partner with other organizations providing workshops and training related to the logging profession. Topics such as first-aid, forest management, wildlife management, and business skills training are all useful to those in the logging industry. If you want to attend an event that you feel is worthy of CE please contact us beforehand at the MFPA office, 573-634-3252.

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