



NEWS & UPDATE

August 2023

A Letter From Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe

It has been a very busy summer for the Kehoe campaign as we have traveled thousands of miles across our state to meet Missourians. I was glad to see many MFPA members at your Summer Meeting in Branson and in Sedalia at the Missouri State Fair.

As first-generation farmers with decades of experience as small business owners, my wife Claudia and I are well aware of the importance of Missouri agriculture and the commodity groups that work to advocate on behalf of the industry. The Missouri Forest Products Association has played a critical role in making Missouri a national leader in the forest products industry and driving our economy by contributing thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic impact.

In my role as Lieutenant Governor, I am proud to serve as chairman of the Missouri Food, Beverage, and Forest Manufacturing Products Task Force, where we are working to help prepare Missouri family farms to meet the agriculture and food production needs of the future. Growing Missouri's agricultural economy is incredibly important for our state's future.

Missouri farmers and small business owners have many outstanding ideas for starting and expanding value-added opportunities for their products, and I am committed to advocating for families to take their businesses to new levels.



Last year, I was honored to receive the endorsement of the MFPA and its members in our campaign for governor in 2024. Missouri's next governor must be an experienced leader with agriculture experience who is ready to govern on day one. Missouri's agriculture industry is headed in the right direction, and as your governor, I will keep this momentum going.

At the Missouri State Fair, we announced the Farmers & Ranchers for Kehoe coalition with the help of six leading agriculture organizations who have endorsed our campaign, including the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Soybean

Association, Missouri Agribusiness Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Missouri Forest Products Association, and Missouri Dairy.

The coalition is led by Charlie Kruse and Kathy Chinn, longtime leaders in Missouri agriculture, and includes dozens of farm families and local ag community leaders from across Missouri. Visit <https://www.mikekehoe.com/farmersandranchers> to sign your family up to be part of the coalition.



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Letter From Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, continued...

Claudia and I proudly stand with hard-working MFPA members to expand opportunities for the forest products industry in Missouri, and we are ready to lead. We hope you will join us on Monday, August 28, in Van Buren at 5:30 pm at Red Beard's Bar & Grill for an MFPA event supporting our campaign. I want MFPA members to know that, with me, you always have a friend in the Capitol, and I will continue working hard for you to make our state the best in the country for your industry. Thank you for your confidence in me, and thank you for your efforts to promote the forest products industry in our state.



Mike Kehoe

Lieutenant Governor

Summer Meeting 2023

Reviews for the Summer Meeting held at The Chateau on the Lake in Branson were very positive and participants seemed to enjoy all it had to offer. A good mix of business, education, fun, and relaxation was had by the 280 plus MFPA members and their families who attended the meeting. It was so exciting seeing the packed banquet hall on Saturday evening to witness your President, Paul Gaines, passing the gavel to your new President, Mike Naeger.

I want to personally thank Paul for his service as board President over the past two years. He was always available to take my call and help me weave our way through multiple issues during his service as President. Paul is a good man who has a heart for our industry, and he proved that during his presidency. I know that Mike Naeger will be equally easy to work with and he will represent our industry well over the next two years. New members to the board are Tim Pleimann, Farrow Lumber Company, and Clint Evans, Independent Stave Company. Welcome Tim and Clint to MFPA's board of directors.

The Saturday evening auction was a huge success where we raised just shy of \$18,000 to be split between Log-A-Load for Kids and MFPA's PAC. Special thanks to Ben Bevins, HAVCO, who was this year's auctioneer. Ben is a professional auctioneer and he generated excitement and a lot of laughter during the auction, he did an outstanding job.

Thank you very much for attending the meeting and don't hesitate to let me know of any recommendations for improvement.

SUMMER MEETING 2024 WILL BE JULY 26-27 AT THE CHATEAU ON THE LAKE IN BRANSON, MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!



CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



While it was a great time talking to everyone at the recent MFPA Summer Meeting, not every conversation was surrounding a pleasant topic. In both the meeting rooms and the hallways, there was a lot of discussion about the loss of logger's lives in Missouri's forests.

One solution is PTH. From its inception, many years ago by Soren Eriksson, the PTH Logger Training Program has helped to make loggers more conscious of the ordinary hazards as well as the less common hazards that they can face daily. This process of awareness of the immediate environment and the hazards around oneself is called "Situational Awareness". The sad part is, that while Safety Classes do a lot to help loggers think safer, and hopefully BE safer, the classes cannot eliminate the hazards that are ever present in the logger's work environment. Due to many various factors the number of these hazards has dramatically increased in our Mid-West forests and that raises the odds of a logger having an accident.

An accident happens when an unplanned event inadvertently becomes part of the execution of a planned task resulting in human contact with the hazard likely causing harm to that person or other persons working in the area. When an accident occurs, human error is nearly always the main cause for that accident. In some cases, it is being aware of the surroundings, but in other cases it is being aware of you. Being tired, going through things at home, not feeling well can all play into a logger not paying 100% attention in the woods. Not paying full attention can cost you...dearly.

The MFPA Safety Committee is working on new training to help. Along with PTH there are existing safety training courses out there. If you're a logger...take the training. Act safer. Be safer. If you know a logger...encourage them to take the training, and to be safer. Safety is everyone's job. Let's work together to make the woods safer.

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Associate Member Exhibition at the Summer Meeting

The Annual MFPA Associate Members Exhibition was held Friday evening in association with the Welcome Reception BBQ. Our appreciation goes out to the Associate Members that participated in the event. We hope MFPA's Industry and Logging Members attending the meeting took the time to make contact with our Associate Members and used the opportunity to develop professional relationships among MFPA member businesses. Please contact our Associate Member Exhibitors for your products and services needs.

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