



NEWS & UPDATE

December 2022

WINTER MEETING 2023 POLITICAL PREPAREDNESS 101

MFFPA's annual Winter Meeting begins January 10, 2023, in Jefferson City and officially begins our course entitled "Political Preparedness 101" for members of the forest products industry. Political Preparedness 101 is obviously not a real MFFPA course, but it is something that we must do year after year. The Winter Meeting launches our associations efforts to educate elected officials on the importance of our industry and our desire to regulate ourselves rather than the government doing it for us. We must have member involvement to get this accomplished, elected officials want to hear from their constituents and become educated on the issues important to them.

Jefferson City in January I understand is not usually a destination city for our members but please consider attending the 2023 Winter Meeting. Politically, the U.S seems to be divided squarely down the middle with little interest in "working across the isles". Fortunately, Missouri elected officials seem to have an appreciation for our industry, in both parties, but we cannot take for granted their continued support. We must educate and advocate for our industry, even though it is very hard work that takes many of us out of our comfort zone. MFFPA's Winter Meeting provides our industry the opportunity to engage with elected officials and personally inform them on the magnitude and breadth of our industry.

I hope that you consider attending the Winter Meeting and participate in the committees that meet throughout the day on Tuesday, January 10th. Education, Governmental Affairs, Forest Health, and the PAC will all meet and consider issues that are important to the industry. Dinner Tuesday evening will include a presentation by the winner of the forest products statewide FFA contest. Wednesday morning January 11 will be our annual breakfast at the Capital where we will host lawmakers from all over Missouri and educate them on our 2023 legislative priorities. Hope to see you there!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I want to take this opportunity to wish our members and their families a Merry Christmas and hope that you take the time to enjoy your family and reflect upon the "reason for the season". During my travels and interaction with our members I always am struck with how overwhelmingly busy you all are running your companies. Christmas is a good time to take a short break, enjoy the fruits of your labor, and put the problems of the world in the closet for a couple days. Whatever makes you happy and brings you joy, I hope it happens for you over Christmas.

Laura and I saw our granddaughter, Charlie Brookshire, for the first time on December 5, the day she was born. We received the greatest gift ever this Christmas, a healthy baby girl. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023!



-Brian Brookshire, Executive Director

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Merry Christmas!

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Missouri's New Marijuana Amendment: Workplace Testing and Employees "Under the Influence"

Missouri's newly approved constitutional Amendment 3 regarding marijuana use will go into effect on December 8, 2022. With a total of 49 pages, the Amendment 3 has two sections: revised Section 1 (former Amendment 2), which focuses on medicinal use, and Section 2, which focuses on marijuana recreational use.

Employers have long had Drug-Free Workplace policies that test employees for various illegal drugs. Common tests are pre-employment, random, reasonable suspicion, and fitness for duty/return to work/follow up after rehab or last chance.

The original Amendment 2 regarding medicinal use was passed in 2018. Employers responded to this amendment in several ways including choosing to keep their policies the same but providing reasonable accommodation under the disability statutes or to simply quit testing for THC altogether except for reasonable suspicion.

Now, employers will have to go back to the drawing board.

Read the rest of the article by Ruth Binger with Danna McKittrick, P.C. Attorneys at Law by going to <https://beyondthefineprint.com/2022/11/missouris-new-marijuana-amendment-workplace-testing-and-employees-under-the-influence/>

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 2022-2023 Membership Directory...

CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



As we all know, Forestry is such an important part of Missouri's economy. From logging to primary and secondary processing, we add about 10 billion dollars annually. Our challenge is for our industry to make younger generations aware of the opportunity that it provides. One way to increase awareness and help provide an opportunity for young people is the Future Farmers of America. Amy Thompson, Cedar Creek Hardwoods and MFPA member says, "FFA is composed of young adults that are advocating for agriculture so why not encourage them to learn more about the forestry industry". That encouragement comes in the form of the Annual FFA Public Speaking Contest. Amy convinced MFPA Executive Director, Brian Brookshire, of the opportunity and the two worked together to provide a subject...and judges for the competition. According to Amy, in a world that is filled with technology and less face-to-face communication, we need to encourage young adults and provide opportunities for them to improve their communication skills. This skill set will be very beneficial to them regardless of what their future plans may be. Participants began researching "Hardwood Forests: Natural, Renewable, and Sustainable" in preparation for a 6-8-minute prepared speech. Amy's daughter, Leah,

is competing. "As a parent of an FFA student that has participated in public speaking events, it is very encouraging to see her gain confidence, knowledge, and the ability to speak in front of people.", says Amy. "This particular event has helped her to learn about the history of forestry, the challenges, and the benefits. She has a new appreciation for what forestry means to MO". FFA has six regions around the state with young people competing in the contest. The winners from each of those regions will hold their state competition at the MFPA Winter Meeting, January 10. The winner will then give their presentation to the MFPA members during the dinner Tuesday night. Prepare to be impressed.

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2023 MFPA Winter Meeting & Legislative Breakfast

January 10 & 11

Your Meeting Check List:

- Reserve Hotel Room
- Send in meeting registration to MFPA
- Sponsor Winter Meeting

Join us for our Annual Winter Meeting at the Courtyard Marriott, Jefferson City!

Lodging

Hotel reservations are made directly with the Courtyard Jefferson City by calling Marriott Reservations at (800) 321-2211 or (573) 761-1400 and ask for the special rate of \$131+tax for MFPA. Please reserve your room by December 12th to receive MFPA rate.

Winter Meeting Registration

Call the MFPA office and let us know the total attending the Winter Meeting and Legislative Breakfast, 573-632-3252. Payment can be made over the phone or request an invoice. Or download a registration form from MFPA's website, moforest.org. Registration Fee: \$100.00 per person.

Sponsor Form

We need sponsors for the Winter Meeting. Call or email the MFPA office and let us know you'll sponsor. Find the sponsor form on page 6 of this newsletter.

NEW THIS YEAR! MFPA HOSTS FFA FORESTRY CONTEST AT 2023 WINTER MEETING

Missouri Forest Products Association is collaborating with MO FFA to sponsor the Fall Public Speaking Competition. This is the first time for our association to be a part of the competition. It is a great opportunity for MFPA to reach out to young leaders across the state and allow them to present a speech on a topic that pertains to our industry. The students will be competing at the Area and District Level with one student from each of the six FFA Districts advancing to the State Competition. The State Competition will be part of the MFPA Winter Meeting. The students will present their speeches on January 10th to a group of judges. The students and their advisors will be joining us for lunch where they will be introduced and the winners announced. The 1st place winner will present their speech at the evening dinner. We are looking for sponsors to cover meals for the students, advisors, and parents. We will also be reaching out to people for judges at the District and State level. Thanks in advance for supporting this event and encouraging young learners that are advocating for agriculture.



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2023 MFPA Winter Meeting & Legislative Breakfast *SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES*

This event prepared for our members is important to our industry and serves as an opportunity to exchange information, build partnerships, gain awareness on matters facing the industry, and promote our industry legislatively. We are most effective in these efforts through your support and sponsorships. Please consider supporting the Winter Meeting by sponsoring an event outlined below.

Sponsors will be recognized in the agenda, at the meeting, and in the January Newsletter

Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Sponsor \$200 each Co-Sponsors	\$200 _____
PAC Committee Meeting Sponsor \$200 each Co-Sponsors	\$200 _____
Education Committee Meeting Sponsor \$200 each Co-Sponsors	\$200 _____
Missouri Logging Council Board of Directors \$200 each Co-Sponsors	\$200 _____
Forest Health Committee Meeting Sponsor \$200 each Co-Sponsors	\$200 _____
FFA Forestry Competition \$400 each Co-Sponsors	\$400 _____

Name _____

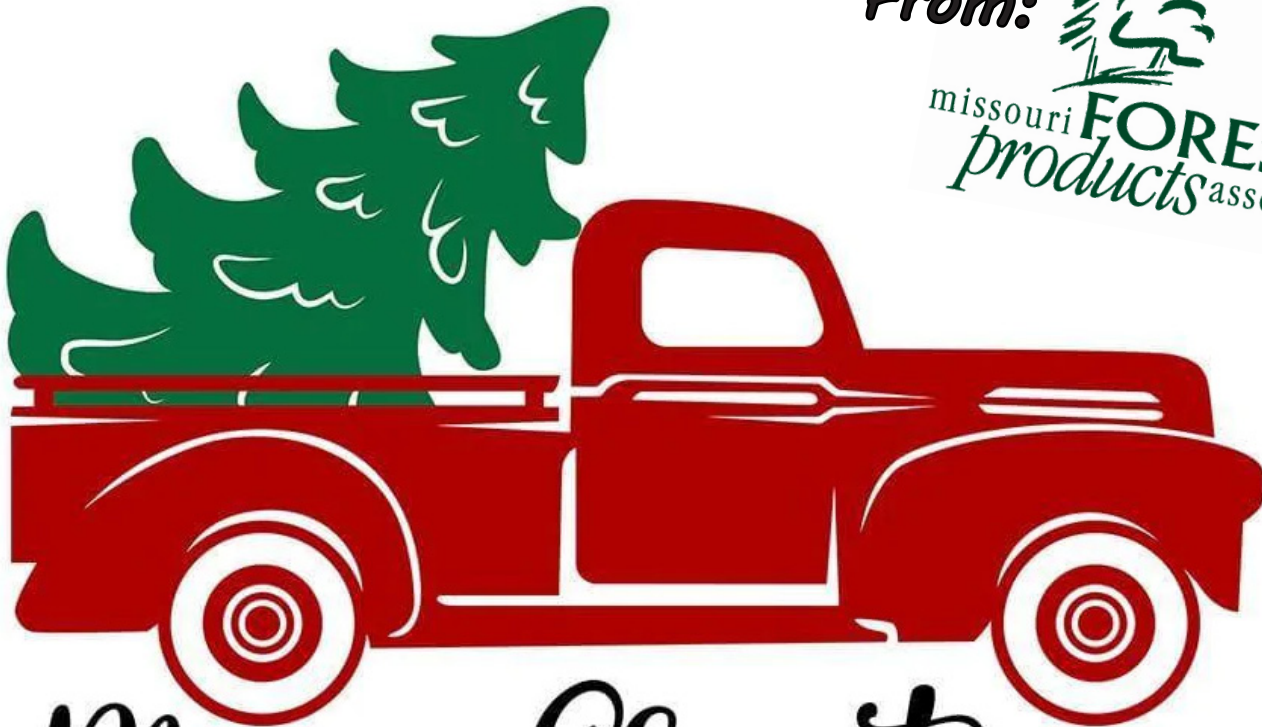
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Return to MFPA via fax at 573-636-2591 or email to laura@moforest.org or call 573-634-3252

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