



## WINTER MEETING 2024

First and foremost, a big thank you to all the members that braved the weather and made their way to Jefferson City for the Winter Meeting!! Despite the challenging weather conditions, we had a great turnout for the committee meetings, membership dinner, and breakfast. This meeting was particularly important politically because all statewide office holders, except auditor, all members of the House of Representatives and half the members of the Senate will be up for election this year.

The Political Action and Governmental and Public Affairs Committees were packed full of information regarding anticipated races that are important to the forest products industry. Whoever wins the republican primary election for Governor on August 6 will likely win the general election in November. MFPA has endorsed Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe for Governor and he spoke to our members during the dinner at the Winter Meeting. Lt. Governor Kehoe is a tremendous supporter and friend of our industry, and we will continue to work hard to support his campaign in the coming months. We will be relying on our lobbyists, Shannon Cooper and Nancy Giddens, to guide us through the election process and we will support elected officials who support our industry throughout the 2024 election cycle.

Staff from the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), attended committee meetings and provided important updates on their respective agencies. The MTNF and MDC gave updates on their timber sale programs and provided projections for 2024. Staff from the MTNF is preparing to deal with the mandate from the Biden Administration to define old growth and mature forest management opportunities to comply with the Biden Administration executive order that focuses on carbon capture and storage. MDC Director Sarah Parker-Pauley has announced her retirement and a national search will be conducted for her replacement. MDA has hired a new International Marketing Specialist for forest products, Dallas Breshears, who will be reaching out to our members in the near future to discuss marketing opportunities for the industry. Other committees focused on safety outreach opportunities for the industry and ways to better communicate our safety message.

The membership dinner provided an opportunity to debut some of the promotion work MFPA is producing on behalf of Missouri's forest products industry. Chris Kuban presented a commercial and various video spots that he and his team have produced as part of our promotion partnership that we have with Chemistry PR and multi-media. Take the opportunity to view those here, [Why Use Real Wood; Environmental Impact; Gastineau Log Homes; Botkin Lumber Company; Missouri Forest Products TV Commercial](#). We are excited about what we have already accomplished and what we have planned for the coming months.

The breakfast at the capital was well attended by members of the industry and General Assembly and provided the opportunity to lobby for funding the Wood Energy Tax Credit and the Forest Industry Promotion Program. The morning ended with the opportunity to visit with Governor Parson in his office and thank him for all his great support for our industry. It was a great experience for our members and a genuinely fun time with the Governor.



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## ***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 2024-2025 Membership Directory...

## **Winter Meeting Member Dinner Speakers**

**Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe was invited to MFPA's Annual Winter Meeting to talk with MFPA members and speak to the group in support of Missouri's forest products industry. MFPA endorses Mike Kehoe for Governor.**



**Chris Kuban spoke to members at the Winter Meeting Member Dinner. Chris updated members on industry promotion projects that are in the works with videos of member interviews and commercials to be aired on social media outlets and streaming platforms.**



# 2024 MFPA Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast, held in the 3rd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol, created a real opportunity for members of MFPA to interact directly with Missouri elected officials. Members advocated for fully funding the Wood Energy Tax Credit at \$6 million, funding SB 138 (wood industry promotion) at \$2 million, and passing HB 1551 which would modify farm tags to allow for log hauling. Members did a great job speaking to elected officials about the economic importance of the forest products industry in Missouri.

## Thanks To All Who Attended The 2024 Legislative Breakfast!



# MFPA 2024 WINTER MEETING SPONSORS

# Thank you!!

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Royal Oak Enterprises, Inc. - Welcome Reception

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# CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



Situational awareness is the ability to perceive, understand, and effectively respond to one's situation. It provides a mental model for seeing, thinking, evaluating, and acting in a systematic way. If conditions change, you can respond quickly, communicate effectively, and avoid the risk of injury or damage. It would be like NOT checking to make sure you have gas in your vehicle before you make a long trip. It would be like heading outside into a freezing snowstorm, without a jacket...and without knowing the temperature. It's being aware and prepared. The woods can be a dangerous place to work. We all know that. Can we stop every single accident or close call? Maybe not, but we can try. We can minimize the chances of being in an accident. By being aware and prepared, we can also minimize the impact of bad luck. When you're on the job in the woods...look around. Look for hazards. Look for co-workers. Have an action plan in case things go wrong. Look up and down. See if there are loose limbs in the trees. Is there woody brush that you can trip on in your escape route. Do you know the whereabouts of your co-workers. Are they being safe and know where YOU are? It doesn't take more than a quick couple of seconds to assess the situation, but those seconds can save a life...yours. Things aren't THAT different in a mill. There is dangerous equipment, trip hazards, difficulty in hearing warnings. Take that extra moment to be aware and prepared. I guess all of us could benefit from being aware and prepared wherever we work. Look out for ourselves and others. Safety is everyone's job. A good day is any day we all get to go home after working. Thanks! Be safe. Don't forget to wear your Personal Protective Equipment. Happy New Year.

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# MFPA Hosts FFA Forestry Contest

MFPA collaborated with Missouri FFA to host the Fall Public Speaking Competition. This state level competition was new last year to the MFPA Annual Winter Meeting. We are excited to have this competition become a part of our Winter Meeting. The winning students from each FFA District presented their speeches on January 9<sup>th</sup> to a group of judges, including Luke Brookshire from Madison County Wood Products; Lacey Schmidt from Gastineau Log Homes, Inc.; and Gerald Ross, retired State Forester. MFPA judges found all the students speeches to be excellent! The winner of the state competition was Madilynn Cook from Forsyth High School, Forsyth, Missouri.

## *Congratulations Madilynn!!!*

MFPA will be reaching out to MFPA members to serve as judges in next year's District and State level competitions. If you are interested in judging next year's district competition, let us know by emailing [laura@moforest.org](mailto:laura@moforest.org) or calling the MFPA office at 573-634-3252.



FFA Students in the State Forestry Public Speaking Competition



Winner Madilynn Cook being congratulated by Executive Director Brian Brookshire

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