

2016 Annual Meeting Review

What's The Issue ... Trucking!

By SCTPA President, Crad Jaynes

A tremendous attendance highlighted our 17th Annual Membership Meeting at Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, Myrtle Beach, February 5 – 7 for a successful meeting with over four hundred twenty-five members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and friends attending to hear informative speakers, attend the SFI TOP Trained Update DVD module session, visit with exhibitors, conduct association business and enjoy the fellowship of industry peers.

After a very challenging 2015 fourth quarter with all the rain, very wet ground conditions, lost work days and road conditions, for so many to attend is a great tribute to everyone and a great indication of the interests in our association and annual meeting for hearing the speakers, learning about the industry and discussing issues among peers.

THANKS to everyone for making our 17th Annual Meeting successful, informative and pleasurable. Your support was absolutely tremendous.

What's The Issue ... Trucking! was our theme as trucking unmanufactured forest products is now the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Our trucking segment is so exposed to the motoring public and the public in general as roundwood, logs and wood chips travel the highways to wood receiving facilities. Finding and maintaining safe, qualified drivers is an issue. Safety on the roads is an issue. Accidents and driver behavior are issues. Maintaining safe, professional vehicles and trailers is an issue. Freight rates and driver pay are issues. And the poor image is an issue. Our industry sector has to do a better job in the transportation of wood products from the harvest site to the receiving mill.

Thanks to our members, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors and guests for making this annual meeting a great experience and our largest ever.

The conference began with the Friday afternoon

board annual and hear-Martin,

and Bill Jones of the Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC) for the pilot program partnership of SCTPA and Southern Loggers Cooperative to locate SLC fuel depots throughout SC. SLC will be constructing two new depots, one in Orangeburg on U.S. 21 south and one at the WestRock mill in Florence. The 2015 association financials were reviewed and approved by the board. Richard Schwab, M. A. Rigoni, Inc., Perry, FL and President of the American Loggers Council was in attendance and provided comments about how things were going with ALC. Randy Hervey of BITCO Insurance Companies, Rick Quagliaroli, Swamp Fox Agency, LLC and Danny Dructor, American Loggers Council also attended the meeting.

Friday evening's Welcome Reception featured Mike Lockaby and the *No Holes Barred* band of Columbia playing a variety of music.

Saturday's General Session speakers were outstanding. Richard Schwab of M. A. Rigoni, Inc., Perry, FL and ALC President

opened the session with an update of American Loggers Council national legislative agenda and ALC activities. He urged loggers and our industry to be involved and know the issues facing us on a national, regional and state basis.

Next up was a three-part presentation titled Log Truck Safety – The TEAM. Jimmie Locklear and Keith Biggs of Forestry Mutual Insurance Company and Randy Hervey of BITCO Insurance Companies teamed up to talk about the issues of log/chip trucking. They reviewed accident statistics, showed photos of log truck wrecks, discussed driver behavior and errors made by drivers making poor decisions, issues of how insurance markets for auto liability look at our trucking sector, the shrinking auto liability markets and the liability and litigation issues associated with our trucking sector.



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Jimmie stated, "While many loggers and log truckers do a commendable job on the highway – the nation's most dangerous work zone – the industry's trucking segment overall is performing poorly, resulting in increasing mishaps and multiple forms of disruptive, traumatic, costly fallout. In addition to injuries and occasional fatalities, such fallout includes property damage, loss of income, legal entanglements, negative public perception and higher insurance premiums. All this is forcing some truckers to the side of the road and causing some insurance providers to abandon the market."

Keith stated that new drivers tend to have the most accidents, then it levels out for a few years and starts trending back up as experienced drivers become complacent. He noted many employers pay drivers by the load which tempts drivers to speed and the majority of truck accidents are related to speed. He noted 23% of Forestry Mutual's claims involve truck drivers and that not all claims were traffic accident related.



Jimmie Locklear talks trucking

He said there is a need for continuous training, reducing speed in relation to existing road conditions and improving visibility of both the tractor and trailer.

The three man team discussed the TEAM Safe Trucking coalition formed to bring together insurance representatives, loggers, wood/paper products manufacturers, truck manufacturers and logger/forestry association reps to develop awareness, training, education and promotional steps to improve the trucking segment. The program will focus on driver training and continuing education for hauling logs and chips. Jimmie said, "The TEAM Safe Trucking program will be



Richard Schwab

Randy encouraged employers to be diligent in hiring drivers. "Don't hire your next workers comp or truck accident claim," he said. Employers need to do their due diligence by asking

designed to help make the industry's log and chip trucking segment safer and more efficient. But every party that has an interest in trucking will need to 'buy into it' for it to be successful. It will take some time, but TEAM Safe Trucking is off to a good start."



Keith Biggs talks trucking

A long break was taken so everyone could visit with the twenty-nine exhibitors inside the center and visit the trucks, trailers, chippers and skidder located outside.

Next up was Mike Lucas of The Lucas Group, a trucking safety company in Lancaster, SC. He reviewed the state and federal trucking regulations regarding driver regulations, Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration regulations and the Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) program and documentation requirements. Mike is a former SC Public Service Commission and SC State Transport Police officer so his knowledge was very valuable.



Randy Hervey talks trucking

The Saturday luncheon featured Kathy Abusow, President of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative as she presented "SFI – Then and Now." She reviewed the twenty years of SFI

and how SFI had grown and developed relationships throughout the industry and the improvements made to the wood supply chain with SFI as a partner. SFI is how we do business now and the benefits are showing up. She also indicated a logger representative would be added to the SFI governing board.

The Business Session opened with the 2015 financial report by CPA Larry Godwin of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP. Members were provided the statement as he reviewed the association's financial status. He talked about the financial improvement of the association due to the revenues from the Forestry Mutual Insurance Company endorsement and the Swamp Fox Agency, LLC insurance program assisting over the year. The association ended the year with a positive financial balance.

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Larry asked the members to talk about the association's value and challenged everyone to seek new members and asked if you can, contribute a little more to keep the association moving forward for their best interests.

Secretary-Treasurer Robby Crowder reported no bylaws changes were on the table. Billy Walker, Walker & Walker Logging, LLC, Laurens and Donnie Lambert, Leo Lambert Logging, Inc., Georgetown were re-elected to the board for seats 4 and 5.

The luncheon awards session began with Philip Sligh of Forestry Mutual Insurance Company presenting their company's SC Logger of the Year award to McKittrick Timber, LLC of Heath Springs for their safety, operational performance and business practices as a Forestry Mutual policy holder.

Next, Greg Hutson, Swamp Fox Agency, Inc. presented their Timber Industry Leadership Award to Frampton Ferguson of Ferguson Forest Products, Inc., Luray.

SCTPA President Crad Jaynes presented the President's Awards to Cam Crawford, SC Forestry Association and Michael Rushton, retired from Norbord South Carolina for their support of the association and work in the industry.

Crad proudly presented the 2015 Gene Collins Logger Activist Award to Austin Logging, Inc., Gaston for their outstanding work in professional timber harvesting operations, positive advocacy, community activity, professional business practices, association and industry leadership and positively representing the logging profession and sustainable forestry.

Annual meeting sponsors were recognized and thanked for their tremendous financial support as well as the exhibitors for displaying their services and products. Twenty-eight exhibitors were on hand with inside display tables and trucks, trailers and logging equipment outside.

Outside exhibitors were: Shealy's Truck Center, Tri-

ple T Truck Centers, Blanchard Machinery Company & Pioneer SC, Diamondback Trailers, Pinnacle Trailer Sales, Inc., Flint Equipment Company, CRTS, Inc., Bandit Industries, Worldwide Equipment Kenworth of SC, Carolina International Trucks, Vermeer Mid-Atlantic and Fogmaker North America.



Mike Lucas talks trucking

Thanks to Delaine, Mary, Erin and Brenda for their sales work for the shotgun, Honda Pioneer 700 Utility Vehicle, Honda Generator and Springmaid Beach Resort stay drawings. Thanks to Nichols Store in Rock Hill for furnishing the Stoeger M3500 Camo 12 Gauge Shotgun and a case of ammo won by Tommy Bailey of Chester. Thanks to everyone for buying those shotgun tickets.

Our Silent Auction was successful again raising funds to assist the association's operating budget. There were 53 items on hand for the silent auction. Thanks to all the wonderful members, allied suppliers and friends for Our Silent Auction was successful again raising funds to assist the association's operating budget. There were 53 items on hand for the silent auction. Thanks to all the wonderful members, allied suppliers and friends for your donations.

Thanks to everyone for purchasing the Big Drawing tickets for the Honda Pioneer 700 Utility Vehicle, the Honda EU2000i Quiet Portable Generator and the four days / three nights at Springmaid Beach Resort. Winners were drawn after the business session with Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc., winning the Springmaid Beach Resort gift certificate, Rick McKinney, R. M. Timber Co., winning the Honda Generator and David Cox, Ideal Logging, Inc. winning the Big Prize of the Honda Pioneer 700 Side by Side Utility Vehicle. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this a successful fund raising event to support the association.



David Cox & his new Honda

Saturday afternoon's workshop featured SC Forestry Commission's BMP Foresters Holly Welch, Eric West, Clay Chaplin and BMP Chief Herb Nicholson leading the SFI Trained TOP DVD Module. Loggers and foresters attended fulfilling their annual SFI Trained status continuing education requirement.

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Sunday's prayer breakfast was outstanding featuring the spirit filled southern gospel singer Steven Crapps of Lexington, SC. This talented singer provided an inspirational message through song and testimonies to make this a blessed event. As he said, "I love the Lord and want to share His love, mercy and grace in song and praise." Thanks Steven... you did a great job.



A big grateful hug and heartfelt thanks to my sister-in-law Delaine Peake, her cousin Mary Rawl, my daughter Erin and my wife Brenda for their tireless and tremendous efforts in making our annual meeting successful. Couldn't do it without yall. Thanks... you are the best.

Thanks again to our sponsors, exhibitors, silent auction and door prize donors for your contributions and willingness to attend.

And THANKS again to everyone for attending and making our 17th Annual Meeting GREAT!