

Lumber Industry News **EXPRESS**

Member Information, Events, and Industry News



Mid-America Lumbermens Association

Volume 22, Number 8, August 2023

Only 31 Days Remain – A New Chapter Awaits

MLA to merge with NLA on September 1, 2023

August 31, 2023 will mark the final day of business for Mid-America Lumbermens Association (MLA) as MLA will complete its merger with Northwestern Lumber Association (NLA). On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and the hundreds of volunteers who have served our organization over the years, we can not thank you enough for your unwavering support over the 134-year life of our amazing organization.

Important Reminders:

- MLA will merge with NLA (and dissolve as an entity) at 4:00pm on Thursday, August 31, 2023
 - Although the MLA website will likely remain live for a short period of time after the merger takes place, registration for events, classes, webinars and membership will transfer to the NLA website on September 1, 2023.
- All MLA members will automatically become members of Northwestern Lumber Association (NLA) on September 1, 2023.
- All MLA members will continue to receive member benefits and field service following the merger
 - Our services and offerings will be enhanced but our service and support to our members will not change!
 - See below for an exciting announcement
- Members will begin receiving important communications from NLA on September 1, 2023

Clean Up

Over the coming weeks, if you have an outstanding invoice with MLA – for anything but the Sunflower Shootout Event in October 2023 – we respectfully ask that you contact the office to pay any open invoices no later than August 25, 2023.

Our team will be reaching out to the members with open invoices later in the month to close up accounts and ensure that MLA's accounting is closed by August 31, 2023. MLA will be unable to accept checks or any other payments as of September 1, 2023.

Big Things Happening!

We are excited to report that Northwestern Lumber Association will have some exciting changes taking place that will further welcome our members into the organization. A new website and member database will be launched in September 2023 and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Watch your mail and email over the coming weeks for these exciting announcements!

In closing, we want to thank all of our members for their support over the years. Although this marks the end of an era for our organization, we are excited for the future and to be a part of creating one of the largest and most engaged organizations – in our industry and in the country. We look forward to writing a new chapter and helping our industry and our faithful members continue to advance their business now and into the future.

Upcoming Events

August 15, 2023

[TechTalk Webinar Series](#)

Online, 12:30 pm CST

Featuring: Secur-Serv

August 17, 2023

[Market Watch](#)

Online Webinar

August 29, 2023

[TechTalk Webinar Series](#)

Online, 12:30 pm CST

Featuring: Estimator 360

October 12, 2023

[Sunflower Shootout 2023](#)

Colbert Hills Golf Course

Manhattan, KS

November 8, 2023

[Connection Conference](#)

& Golf Event

Omaha, NE

Welcome Heather Summy as Regional Field Manager

Northwestern Lumber Association (NLA) and its partner Mid-America Lumbermens Association (MLA) are excited to announce the addition of Heather Summy as Regional Field Manager.



In her role, Heather will work directly with our members in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and will support all of the education, event and membership efforts in the region. Heather started her journey with NLA & MLA on July 17, 2023 and is excited to meet with our members and learn more about our industry.

Heather said “Hello everyone! My name is Heather and I’m so excited to join the team as Regional Field Manager with NLA/MLA. I reside in Saint Joseph, MO with my husband Justin and my three boys Liam, Lincoln and Lennox. Prior to coming to the Association(s), I worked for Altec Industries for almost 10 years serving as Service Support Representative and I recently graduated with my MBA last fall from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

To say I feel honored and grateful to be a part of the association would be an understatement. I’m ready to start working with our members and our team to make membership the best experience possible.”

Heather can be reached at hsummy@nlassn.org or via phone at 763-595-4051.

Join Us for the 2023 Sunflower Shootout on October 12, 2023!

New Course – Same Fun Event!

Join the Association, the Kansas Lumber Dealers State Committee and your fellow dealers and suppliers at Colbert Hills Golf Course in Manhattan, KS on Thursday, October 12, 2023 for the 2023 Kansas Sunflower Shootout!

2023 marks the 35th anniversary of this annual event. Attendees will enjoy 18-holes of golf with cart, dinner following the event, prizes, door prizes and networking time with dealers, suppliers and guests from around the region.

The event kicks off at 11:30am and will conclude later in the day with an awards dinner and reception.



Colbert Hills Golf Course is home to the Kansas State University Golf Team(s) and is regionally and nationally recognized as one of the premier courses in the state of Kansas. Colbert Hills was designed by PGA Champions Tour & former PGA Tour Professional Jim Colbert & course architect Jeff Brauer. The signature hole is a 600-yard, Par 5 where the tee shot drops you down over 100 feet to the guarded fairway below. The one-of-a-kind layout is both challenging and fair for players of all abilities. You'll use every club in your bag on this course!

Dealers – sign up yourself or your team today by clicking [here](#). Online registration and/or paper registration is available.

Vendors – to sponsor this annual event and entertain your customers/colleagues, click [here](#).

Registration Deadline: September 28, 2023

Contact MLA Regional Field Manager Heather Summy at hsummy@nlassn.org or (816) 262-5997 for more information or to sign up today!

Thank you to our current sponsors, [Empire Moulding & Millwork](#), [LP Building Solutions](#), [Monarch Cement Company](#), [Rion Equipment](#), [Schutte Lumber Company](#), [Simpson Strong-Tie](#), [Sprenger Midwest](#), [Trex Company, Inc.](#), and [The Quikrete Companies!](#)

LBM Market Watch Webinar

Thursday, August 17th 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
Pre-registration required



Where are the Housing & Remodeling Markets Headed?

During our August 17th Market Watch webinar, moderator and Building the Future Podcaster, Brett Thorne will be asking a panel of home builders and remodelers to share their viewpoints on the markets and Danushka Nanayakkara-Skillington from the NAHB will return to the panel to share the national trends. Click the link below to register for the August 17th webinar. These webinars are recorded, and a link will be shared with all who

register.

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Market Watch Sponsor – Estimator 360!



[Learn More & Register](#)

2023 Connection Conference & Golf Event

Omaha, Nebraska - Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Join us for the **Connection Conference & Top Golf Event** in Omaha, NE on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023. **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

This new one-day combo event is designed for lumber dealers and suppliers alike to learn and build connections, while also having *a lot of fun*.

There will be **limited space** available for attendees and suppliers/sponsors at both the conference and the Top Golf event. Each event requires separate registration and will be honored on a first come, first served basis.

[Read the full details about the Nebraska Connection Conference and Top Golf event here.](#)

Daytime Conference

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Omaha Marriott Regency
10220 Regency Circle, Omaha NE



Evening Golf Event & Dinner

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Top Golf
908 North 102nd Street, Omaha, NE



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Lumber Yard Dealers & Guests:

[Conference Registration](#)

[Top Golf Registration](#)

Suppliers/Sponsors:

[Register Here for Either Event](#)

Questions?

Dealers & Guests: Reach out to Heather Summy at hsummy@nlassn.org | 816-262-5997.

Suppliers/Sponsors: Reach out to Jodie Fleck at jfleck@nlassn.org | 763-595-4058.

2023-2024 Professional Development Classes

LumberTech classes start this fall with our traditional vital industry courses including Estimating, Yard & Delivery, Inventory Management, Improving Profits, and Sales. This year we will also be offering a new Sales Development Workshop led by industry veteran and consultant, Bryan Rice. Click the link below to view the 2023-2024 Professional Development Schedule and brief description of these classes. More information on locations and registration will be available on our website in the coming months.

[Click here to view the 2023-2024 Professional Development Schedule.](#)

Additional Upcoming Webinars

Along with our Tech Talk webinars, members can also participate in our endorsed vendor educational webinars. Upcoming programs include:

- [Tech Talks Webinar with Secur-Serv - August 15](#)- Comprehensive IT Solutions)
- [Federated Insurance – August 15](#) - Discrimination and Harassment Prevention
- [OECS Safety Webinar – August 23](#)-The Impact of Legalized Marijuana & THC Edibles on Employer Drug Testing
- [Tech Talks Webinar with Estimator 360 - August 29](#)-Digital take-off, Estimate Generator and More.

Click on the dates to register for each webinar you wish to participate in. Previous Tech Talk webinars can be found on NLA's Product Knowledge webpage - <https://www.nlassn.org/page/knowledge>

New Roundtable and Peer Learning Groups Starting This Fall

"Building relationships and being able to tap those resources throughout the year is priceless... I wouldn't miss it!" Scott E.

We are stronger together! Join one of NLA's roundtable and/or peer learning groups for the unique opportunity to learn and share experiences amongst a group of trusted industry peers. The different perspectives gained from these groups help everyone in the group prosper.



New roundtable groups are forming, including a new owner/manager group called Pinnacle Leadership Roundtable Series and a second season of our Virtual Roundtable Learning Series which kicks off on September 28th. In addition to owners/managers roundtables, we are also planning to start roundtable programs for team leaders such as Yard Foremen, HR personnel and Credit Managers. Click the link below to let us know which groups your company would be interested in learning more about or contact the NLA office directly at (888) 544-6822. (*Groups will be formed based on interest level.*)

[Learn more about roundtables.](#)

Customer Service Training Now Available Online

Customer service training is now available on the Foundation online learning system. This two-part session will provide the crucial training needed to provide the best service to your customers including tips for talking to customers, top-notch phone skills and how to make a great first impression. The program will also provide techniques to diffuse a negative situation and ways to strengthen your relationships with new and existing customers. Sign up your team members today! <https://www.themla.com/new-online-learning>



MLA Endorsed Vendor



OSHA + Environmental Compliance Systems

MIDWEST'S LEADING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONSULTANTS

Providing workplace health and safety consulting services for small to mid-sized manufacturers and construction companies

OSHA Updates Injury and Illness Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

In July 2023, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced [a final rule](#) on the [tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses](#) that requires employers in high-hazard industries to electronically submit injury and illness information to OSHA on an annual basis.

The final rule becomes effective on January 1, 2024, and requires businesses with 100 or more employees to submit information from their Form 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) and Form 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report) to OSHA once a year. These are in addition to the required submission of Form 300A (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses).

Businesses in high-hazard industries – including the lumber industry – with 20 or more employees will continue to be required to submit information from their Form 300A to OSHA once a year.

The recordkeeping requirements mandated by OSHA can pose significant cost burdens on employers. The National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA) has expressed serious concerns about how OSHA will protect the sensitive private and personal medical information contained in the Form 300 and Form 301. In 2022, NLBMDA submitted [comments](#) urging OSHA to withdraw the proposed rule and stressed that it puts the confidentiality and protection of sensitive employer and employee information at risk while creating duplicative, burdensome and costly recordkeeping requirements with no demonstrable benefits to workplace safety. The electronic submission of this data is a stark departure from prior OSHA positions on protecting sensitive information, and the agency intends to make much of the data it collects publicly available online.

NLBMDA members with questions may contact Jacob Carter at jacob@dealer.org.

HR Question of the Month – Additional Leave?

From Federated Insurance

Question

An employee exhausted his 12 weeks of leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). He recently provided us with an updated doctor's note saying he needs to be out of work indefinitely. Are there any other laws requiring us to provide him with additional leave?



Read the answer at www.federatedinsurance.com.

2024 "BizCon" Save The Dates

We invite you to join NLA's largest annual events!

Save the dates for Northwestern Lumber Association's largest annual events – the 2024 BizCon North and BizCon South!

Formerly known as the *Expos*, the reimagined "BizCons" will still focus on bringing our members immense value and business connections via exhibits that feature the latest building products, expert-led educational seminars, and fun networking opportunities...all while featuring *fresh, new agendas and exciting elements*.

Click [HERE](#) for a Save the Date flyer. Watch for additional information coming this fall and visit www.nlassn.org for ongoing updates throughout the planning process.



BIZCON NORTH

February 6-7, 2024

(Tues/Wed)

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton
Bloomington, Minnesota

BIZCON SOUTH

February 21-22, 2024

(Wed/Thurs)

Prairie Meadows Hotel & Casino
Altoona, Iowa



Program Spotlight: WorkSafeWorkSmart.com

Building profits through Safety, Efficiency and Engagement

Featured Products & Training

- Boss Tie-Downs and Strapping
- Lumber Buddy™ Portable Workstation (www.lumberbuddy.com)
- LM Equipment Co.
- Patriot Strapping
- Training



WorkSafeWorkSmart.com's training approach is simple. They use a clearly defined process that focuses on the beginning and the end in mind. Training works to improve sales, productivity, organization, company culture and employee satisfaction. LEAN is a great way to maintain margins by decreasing costs through the elimination of waste. Doing more with less is what LEAN is all about.

For more information, please contact Jeff Tweten at (469) 708-9797 or JeffT@WorkSafeWorkSmart.com.



What News Do You Have?

What's happening in your area? Is there an industry event, company or employee milestone, or even a business tip you'd like to share with your fellow members? Send them our way! We are always looking for meaningful content to include in the newsletter. You can send your news to melanie@thempla.com. Thank you.

Safety Training at Your Fingertips

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www.themla.com

