

Lumber Industry News **EXPRESS**

Member Information, Events, and Industry News



Mid-America Lumbermens Association

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Road Roundup

By Mike Lindblom

Happy February to everyone. 2023 is off to a fast start and we are already one month in. Time flies when you're having fun. In February we recognize a few special days such as:

- Groundhogs Day
- Valentine's Day
- Presidents Day
- Mardi Gras
- Ash Wednesday



In February we also celebrate Black History Month to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society. The month of February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglas, a former slave, was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement.

The 2023 Education Season is off and running. We started off the week of January 9-13th with the Yard & Delivery class in Little Rock, Arkansas on Monday and Tuesday and then finished up the week in Wichita, Kansas on Thursday and Friday. We had 30 attendees combining both sessions. Reviews were all positive. All mentioned that they got a lot out of the class and learned new practices to implement when they returned to their yards.

Thank you to Troy Hunter and his staff at [Whit Davis](#) in Jacksonville, Arkansas and Tom Baalmann with [B&B Lumber](#) in Wichita, Kansas for hosting the yard tour portion of this training. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you also to [Mid- Am Building Supply](#), a loyal and generous supporter of MLA, who hosted the lunch and learn session at the Wichita location. Brandon Rohr, Tim Herman, and Jake Wilmes from [Masonite](#) spent a few minutes at lunch to show a few of their offerings.

A big "Thank You" to Matt Hill at [Simpson Strong-Tie](#) for hosting the Maximizing Sales Opportunities class at the Simpson Strong-Tie facility in Kansas City, MO on Wednesday, January 25th. This new offering for 2023 was taught by Lynne Jensen-Nelson. Lynne is an award winning business leader with 20 plus years of experience in our industry. The session was well attended and I'm happy to report that a few associate members took advantage of this opportunity as well. Remember associate members – you are invited and encouraged to participate in classes as well.

I hope everyone has a terrific month. Always know that we are here for you.

Upcoming Events

February 6-7, 2023

[Expo NORTH](#)
St. Cloud, MN

February 8-9, 2023

[Estimating 2-3](#)
Kansas City, MO

February 15, 2023

[The 5 C's of Workplace Safety](#)
Webinar

February 28-March 1, 2023

[Expo NEBRASKA](#)
La Vista, NE

March 2-3, 2023

[Expo IOWA](#)
Des Moines, IA





KANSAS & MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIPS
 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST
 EMPLOYEES' CHILDREN AND TO SUPPORT
 EMPLOYEES PURSUING CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Visit: <https://www.themla.com/scholarships2>



Last Week to Register for Estimating 2 & 3 in Kansas City

“Clear explanations with pictures to help explain jobs sites the set of plans. (I) learned a lot and am looking forward to applying the knowledge.” Recent class attendee

During this two-day program, attendees will learn about residential construction methods, how to read a blueprint and how to complete a material take-off on a basic single level home with a trussed roof. Students learn how to apply estimating formulas to speed up the take-off process. Day 2 will progress into the more complicated areas of a material take-off.

February 9 & 10 - Estimating 2 & 3 Kansas City, MO – sponsored by Amerhart
 The February 6 & 7 class in Chesterfield, MO has been cancelled due to lack of registrations.



Upcoming Safety Training with OECs

Learn from our endorsed safety experts about how to build a world-class safety culture that supports your company health. OECs has two important upcoming safety webinars:

- [The 5 C's of Workplace Safety – February 15, 2023](#)



Scholarships for Missouri & Kansas Students - Deadline March 1st

The Missouri and Kansas scholarship applications must be returned to the MLA office by March 1st, 2023. Scholarships are available for an employee or the child of an employee of an MLA member lumberyard in Missouri or Kansas or a child sponsored by the owner or manager of an MLA member lumberyard located in Missouri or Kansas. Review the application for the full criteria. Forms can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact the MLA office at 800-747-6529 or email melanie@themla.com



Are Your Labor Law Posters Current?

The Federal Department of Labor requires all businesses to post several labor law posters in an area where they are visible to all employees. Individual state departments of labor have their own separate posters that are required. Are your posters up-to-date? Now is a good time to check!

Posters are available to be printed for free on both the federal website and the individual state websites.

The Federal Department of Labor has provided a tool called the *e/laws* Poster Advisor to help determine which Federal poster(s) employers are required to display. Go [HERE](#) use the [Poster Advisor](#).

Click on the states below to find the require posters for each state.

[Arkansas](#)

[Kansas](#)

[Missouri](#)

MLA Endorsed Vendor



**MIDWEST'S LEADING WORKPLACE
 SAFETY CONSULTANTS**
 Providing workplace health and safety consulting
 services for small to mid-sized manufacturers
 and construction companies



**Featured Product: Lumber and Building Materials
 Reference Manual- Revised Version**

The Lumber and Building Material Reference Manual is truly an invaluable resource for the LBM industry. Originally written in 1988 and now revised in 2021, this manual is full of charts, formulas, and many more helpful topics for anyone in the LBM industry.

- Updated span tables
- Expanded glossary
- Larger print
- Sales tips from Bill Lee



Now, full color and spiral bound! Click [HERE](#) to order.



Wage & Benefit Survey Available to Members

Employee recruitment and retention continue to be one of the most challenging business activities for the LBM industry. The Association office has been contacted often in the past couple of months with members seeking compensation and benefit data.

In an effort to assist our dealer members with the most current wage and benefit information, the Association has produced its annual Wage & Benefit Survey. This report was compiled over the summer with the help of over 100 NLA and MLA dealer participants.

Members who provided wage and benefit data have received a complimentary copy of the final results/data.

Non-participating members can purchase the final report for \$199.

To purchase a copy of the 2022 Wage & Benefit Survey, please call the NLA office at (763) 544-6822.

**Wage & Benefit Survey is ONLY available to owners of a member company and will NOT be shared with any other team members without the express written consent of ownership.*



HR Question of the Month: References? From Federated Insurance

Question

We terminated an employee a few months ago for poor performance and misconduct. We recently received a phone call from another company that is considering hiring this individual. The company is asking for a reference. What should we tell them? Are we allowed to say why the employee was fired? If we tell the truth and the employee does not get the new job, can he sue us?

Answer

To limit exposure to liability, employers must proceed cautiously when providing references to other prospective employers, even if a former employee executes a release.

Continue reading at www.federatedinsurance.com



Expo Nebraska & Expo Iowa – Education, Exhibits, & Networking

MLA members are invited and encouraged to attend!

NLA invites Mid-America Lumbermen's Association members to join us at our upcoming premier events in Nebraska and Iowa! Your entire team will benefit from the essential education led by experts in their industry, the bustling exhibit hall featuring LBM products and services, and the engaging networking opportunities.

Below are some of the highlights of the 2023 Expo Nebraska and the 2023 Expo Iowa. Visit the links below for more event information. (NLA is pleased to extend our discounted member pricing to any MLA member!)

[2023 Expo Nebraska on February 28th & March 1st in La Vista, NE](#)

[2023 Expo Iowa on March 2nd & 3rd in downtown Des Moines, IA](#)

If interested in attending, please reach out to Melanie Hultman at (800) 747-6529 or melanie@themla.com.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Lincoln Building Supply – Lincoln, KS

Single store operation for sale in Central Kansas. This well-established hometown building supply store has maintained a long history of lasting relationships with its customers. They are committed to excellent customer service and offer an extensive range of quality products and services. In addition to lumber and all types of building supplies, they also offer animal feed and supplies, gardening and plants, paint, hunting and fishing gear, window repair, gluten-free foods, Black Rifle coffee, gifts of all kinds, and much more! Primary customers are farms and ranches, construction contractors, and homeowners.

Owner asking \$725,000 for business, land & equipment.

Interested parties asked to contact Tim at (785) 658-5872.

Read full details [HERE](#).



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@themla.com. Thank you.

www.themla.com

