

Lumber Industry News **EXPRESS**

Member Information, Events, and Industry News



Mid-America Lumbersmens Association

Volume 22, Number 5, May 2023



Last Call: Your Ballot/Vote is Needed!

MLA to merge with Northwestern Lumber Association in September 2023

In late March, a letter from MLA President Brett Thorne, a frequently asked questions document, and an official ballot was mailed to all retail members (i.e. stakeholders) of the organization requesting your vote on an official membership matter.

Background

For the past 134 years, MLA has served as our regional trade association and has worked diligently to ensure that our industry and the states of Arkansas, Kansas & Missouri are represented and that our members are provided with value and added resources for their annual investment. We have accomplished so much since our inception, and we are very proud of our current offerings including hosting some of the best networking events in the region & our industry leading education offerings.

Proposed Action

This past fall, our Board of Directors began considering next steps for MLA.

Following numerous meetings and considering all the options available, the Board – together with the Northwestern Lumber Association Board of Directors – has come to the decision to merge our organizations under one larger umbrella.

Pending a vote by our membership, MLA and Northwestern Lumber Association will merge under the Northwestern Lumber Association name effective September 1, 2023.

Your Vote is Needed

Per our by-laws, we kindly ask that each member company vote on this measure. Each member company will receive one vote which must be submitted by the main contact from the organization. An affirmative vote by 2/3 of our membership – based upon the ballots returned – will approve the measure. We must receive responses from five percent (5%) of our membership to meet the quorum requirement.

Please use the ballot enclosed with the letter or [CLICK HERE](#) for a pdf copy of the ballot.

Note: Ballots may only be returned by Retail Members and must be completed by the main contact and/or shareholder.

Should you have any questions about this matter, or any other matter related to MLA, please communicate them with either (or both) our Executive Vice President Cody Nuernberg at (800) 747-6529 or MLA President Brett Thorne at (816) 876-9499.

Upcoming Events

May 10-12, 2023
[Swing Into Spring](#)
Osage Beach, Missouri

May 16, 2023
[Women in the Industry Lunch & Learn](#)
Online meeting

May 18, 2023
[Market Watch Webinar](#)
Online meeting

June 20-22, 2023
[Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy](#)
Owatonna, MN
Registration deadline:
May 19, 2023

Last chance to sign up for Swing Into Spring!
Click [HERE](#) to register by end of the day tomorrow!

May 10 – 12, 2023
Osage Beach, Missouri

Don't Miss Out!
Register by end of day,
Tuesday, May 2nd!

Swing Into
Spring

Thank you
PLATINUM sponsors!

Amerhart

America Building Products

DEALERS
CHOICE

EMPIRE
Moulding & Millwork
A Weyerhaeuser Company

FORTRESS
BUILDING PRODUCTS

FEDERATED
INSURANCE

HC
HICKSON LUMBER COMPANY

LP

MID-AM

PRIME SOURCE
BUILDING PRODUCTS, INC.

CE
quality edge

RION
EQUIPMENT

Schutte
SINCE 1850

SIMPSON
Strong-Tie



MLA Members & Staff Attend NLBMDA Legislative Conference

MLA took to Capitol Hill in Washington DC in March 2023

MLA was represented in March 2023 by MLA Member, and current NLBMDA Chairman of the Board, Jim Bishop of Vesta Lee Lumber Company in Bonner Springs, KS, as well as MLA Executive Vice President Cody Nuernberg at the 2023 NLBMDA Legislative Conference.

Over 80 lumber dealers and suppliers from across the country descended upon Washington DC for the 3-day conference where members met with legislators and their staff to discuss issues impacting the lumber & building material industry. Additionally, NLBMDA hosted a series of policy sessions with regulatory agencies and other federal advocacy partners such as NAHB to learn more about the impact of federal laws and regulations being considered.

Although politics as of late has been “interesting” to say the least, members had great conversations about the following key issues:

- Affordable housing & low-income housing tax credits
- Trucking & driver issues
- Excessive credit card transaction fees

It is believed that Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS) will be leading a senate bill to address excessive credit card swipe fees during this Congress.

These issues continue to impact dealers and suppliers across the region and around the country. Legislation is either on the house and/or senate floor(s) or will be introduced soon. MLA, together with NLBMDA and its state/regional colleagues, presented fact sheets to each office and discussed the burden on our member's businesses and will continue to monitor these issues – and many others – as Congress continues to meet.



Housing Market Predictions For 2023: Are Home Prices Finally Becoming Affordable?

By Robin Rothstein, Forbes.com

With the building and home buying season in full swing, economists and market experts are providing additional insights into the current housing market as well as their thoughts into what the market may bear later in 2023. Forbes.com recently posted an article which takes a deeper dive into the housing market and provides some important considerations for home buyers, homebuilders, and suppliers to the construction industry.

Could a housing recovery possibly be underway?

To read the full article, click [here](#).

FEDERATED
INSURANCE
Risk Management
ACADEMY



WEBINAR

**Cyber Security is
Everyone's Business**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023
1 p.m. CST**

**SAVE ME
A SEAT**

Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries
Not licensed in all states.



Top Trending Kitchen Design Trends for 2023

From TimesProperty.com

It has been suggested by industry experts that repair and remodeling will trend upward in 2023 as more

homeowners look to stay in their home(s) due to low inventory and volatile interest rates. Kitchen and bathroom remodels continue to lead the market for projects homeowners want to tackle in the year to come.

[TimesProperty.com](https://www.timesproperty.com) recently posted an article detailing the Top 12 Kitchen Remodeling Trends That Will Dominate 2023.

To learn more and read the full article, click [here](#).

Women in the INDUSTRY Lunch & Learn

Open to NLA & MLA Members

Tuesday, May 16th

@ 11:45 am CST

Meetings held online using Go To Meeting.
Pre-registration required.



Market Watch Webinars Are Back!

Online meeting - Thursday, May 18 - 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Join us on May 18th and discover the impact the current market conditions may have on your business.

The association has invited back Dustin Jalbert, Senior Economist for Fastmarkets, and Reg Foot, Sales Manager for Carrier Lumber along with Dave Zelch, General Manager at BlueLinX and Kevin Brewer, Regional Manager for Hixson Lumber. Panelists will answer questions posed by our Market Watch webinar moderator, Brett Thorne, Building the Future Podcaster and Operations Officer at Thorne Lumber Co. Log in on May 18th for 90 minutes of insights into the economy and the building materials supply chain. Registration is free for MLA members, but you must [pre-register to receive a join link](#). These webinars are recorded, and a link will be shared with all who register.



NEW Information Sharing Series Starts in June - Tech Talks Webinars

This series will connect you with the lumber and building materials industry top technology vendors.

Technology is a big investment and with so many options it is hard to know what the right choice is for your business. Understanding the options and features is vitally important, which is why the association is starting a new webinar series featuring our associate member companies who provide technology products and services. The Tech Talks webinars will offer a high-level overview of the software products being used by today's top retail lumber dealers. The series of webinars will start Tuesday, June 13th. A full list of webinar dates and featured companies will be shared in the coming weeks. These webinars will be recorded, and a link will be shared with those who register.



2023 National Small Business Week

April 30 - May 6, 2023



sba.gov/nsbw



Online Forklift Training is Now Available!

Forklift Operator Training for the LBM Industry is now available online through the MLA endorsed FOUNDATION learning platform. The course covers four sections:

- Different types of lifts and operating principles
- Operator responsibilities including pre-shift inspections as required by OSHA
- Safely operating a forklift
- Handling building materials.

There is a test at the completion of the course. This online session will meet OSHA's requirements for the classroom portion of training requirements. Learn more at www.foundationlms.org/mla.



NLBMDA Announces Pro Dealer Industry Summit in Kansas City

October 4-6, 2023 at Kansas City Downtown Marriott

The National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA) has announced the return of the Pro Dealer Industry Summit! And it's coming to the Midwest in 2023.

Join dealers and suppliers from around the region and the country in Kansas City on October 4-6, 2023 for this interactive educational and networking event!



The ProDealer Industry Summit offers the unique convergence of industry expertise, professional networking, trade show experiences and information on the latest industry trends and hot topics. At the event, you will learn from industry experts and discuss a variety of topics including market trends, economic forecasts, supply chain challenges, industry best practices, and hear directly from some of the industry's leading dealers and suppliers about what they are doing to improve their business.

To register or to view the full agenda, click [HERE](#).

Early Bird Registration Special

Register by **Friday, September 1, 2023** to take advantage of the special discounted in the Early Bird rate!

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 Program: Business Forms

Save time and money by ordering your business forms through Mid-America Lumbermen's Association. Get an extra 10% off on all forms through May 31, 2023.

- Sales Tickets
- Purchase Orders
- Envelopes
- and MUCH More!

For more information, contact Diane at (800) 747-6529 or info@themla.com.



2023 Kansas Sunflower Shootout is Booked!

Join us in Manhattan, Kansas at Colbert Hill Golf Course!

The 35th annual Kansas Sunflower Shootout Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, at Colbert Hills Golf Course in Manhattan, Kansas.

Rated as one of the top public courses in Kansas and home to the Kansas State University Men's & Women's golf team(s), Colbert Hills Golf Course is an 18-hole championship golf course carved out of the Flint Hills of Central Kansas. Designed by former PGA Professional and PGA Champions Tour player Jim Colbert, Colbert Hills features over 7,000 yards of challenging golf suitable for players of all skill levels!

Grab your customers, make your team (or come as a single or twosome) and join us for this amazing annual event benefiting the Kansas Lumber Dealers Scholarship Fund!

Full event information is available [HERE](#).

[Dealer & Supplier Registration Form](#)

[Online registration is also available and now open!](#)



*A room block has been established at the Bluemont Hotel in downtown Manhattan. For more information on booking your hotel room, please [click here](#).



Join a 2½ -Day Risk Management Academy Session to Learn About Reducing Risk at Your Business

Federated Insurance® would like to offer you an exclusive invitation to our complimentary 2 ½-Day Risk Management AcademySM (RMA) session.

This informative session will be held on June 20-22, 2023. It will be hosted by Federated Insurance in Owatonna, Minnesota. Business owners are encouraged to attend — this session will equip you and a representative from your organization with industry-specific tools and knowledge designed to help prevent losses and protect profits.

Click [HERE](#) for full details and registration link.



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.

Safety Training
at Your Fingertips

[LEARN MORE](#)



FEDERATED INSURANCE
It's Our Business to Protect Yours

www.themla.com

