

**Passing of the Gavel...
Annual Meeting
& Log A Load Fundraiser**

\$17,625 raised for



**LOGGER'S VOICE
QUARTERLY**

STANDING STRONG FOR LOGGERS

JUMP START...

PLC's free Safety Trainings encouraged contractors to jump start their safety programs this spring. It was a great opportunity to get employees to re-focus on safety after being out of the woods during mud season!

Members attended the 6 regional trainings looking to increase awareness of safe practices and enjoyed quality presentations on distracted driving, blade safety, proper handling of acetylene gas, ergonomics for mechanical operators and general safety tips during bridge installation.

Plus, MFS provided a BMP Water Quality workshop refresher.

Don't forget, with safety, it is important to never let your guard down. With summer right around the corner take the time to JUMP START now. Just because you have maintained safe operations for years doesn't mean you are not at risk today.

Nearly 450 loggers registered, representing 42 professional logging contractors. Thanks to our presenters: Acadia Insurance, Frank Martin & Sons, Lynox, Maine Oxy, MEMIC, MFS and US Blades.

We truly appreciate our lunch sponsor The Oliver Stores and our supporting sponsor this year Acadia Insurance.



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Greetings from PLC of Maine...

We've had a busy spring and it was great to see many of you at our Annual Meeting and Spring Trainings! The Annual meeting saw the election of three new Board members: Lyle Hamilton, Will Cole, and Kurt Babinneau. We also elected Bob Linkletter as our new Board President, Brian Souers as 1st Vice-President, Scott Madden as 2nd Vice President, Ron Ridley as Secretary and Andy Irish as Treasurer. We wish to thank Tom Cushman for his continued service as our Immediate Past President and Rodney Wales for his years of service as PLC's Secretary and wish him and Pat well in retirement.

Congratulations to the 2012 Dancing with the Loggers Champion: Treeline, Inc. and their dancing duo of Rick &

Dot Muncey! Also, many thanks to all of you who danced or supported a dance team, you raised over \$17,625 for Log-A-Load for Kids to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals right here in Maine. This could not have happened without the continued support from members and their employees, as well as the generous contributions from our Supporting Members.

The legislative session has drawn to a close, we made some important strides on a number of issues that impact loggers. We had some successes and some set backs this session but all labor is profitable, even if it does not yield immediate fruit. As we go forward, we'll continue to ask for your assistance contacting your legislative representatives to express the Logging Contractors' perspective on issues as we work to advance our efforts. As Bob Linkletter stated in his President's address at the Annual Meeting, "we as loggers need to be pro-active" and with your help PLC will continue to do just that on many fronts.

Finally, our safety trainings have been well attended and we've managed to make it through some rainy days to deliver trainings on topics of importance to mechanical loggers. Thanks to all of our hosts, trainers and participants for making them a success.

Here's to a successful, safe and dry summer season!



IMPACT — Maine Legislative Update

The legislative session in Augusta has come to a close (unless called back for a special session). Here's a rundown on pertinent state legislation IMPACTing your business:

LD 1383 Bonded Labor Bill

- Compromise bill Passed
- Secured an appointee position on the Logging Industry Advisory Group designated by PLC's President
- Removes clearing house & the most punitive penalties
- Kept the proof of ownership provisions in the law
- Kept leasing company provisions, fines for not reporting increased but time to report increased also
- Increased to 30 Days (from 3) time for employers to notify MEDOL a bonded worker is beginning work
- Retained no unemployment benefits paid to bonded workers
- Calls for industry and MEDOL to work to improve recruitment of US Workers

LD 1798 LURC Reform Bill

- Passed, signed by the Governor (LURC now Land Use Planning Commission — LUPC)
- County opt out provision removed over PLC objections
- County Commissioners themselves will no longer be eligible to serve on LUPC unless they relinquish their County Commissioner seat
- LUPC Commission members will ultimately come from 8 counties with largest U/T land mass on a rolling basis as existing commissioner terms expire
- Nominees confirmed by the legislature's ACF Committee & the Senate
- Large scale development now falls under DEP site law

consistent with organized territories

- The scope and purpose of LUPC will be planning

LD 1706 Biomass Assistance bill

- Died an expected death with each house taking different approaches
- Similar to what happened on the committee the two Republican Chairs had different ideas / goals
- Rep. Fitts (R-Pittsfield) who represents a big windmill area move majority ONTP which passed in the House
- Sen. Thibodeau (R-Waldo) moved minority OTP-AM who was trying to assist biomass plants which passed in the Senate
- The House & Senate did not agree so the bill is dead

LD 1810 Regulatory Takings bill

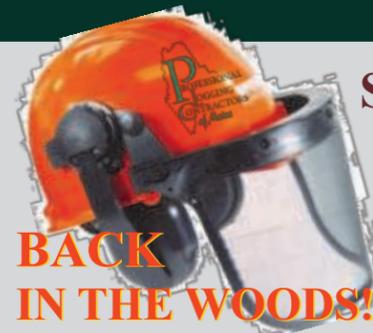
- Bill sought to provide compensation to landowners when a regulation resulted in a >50% loss of value of property
- Bill narrowly passed in the House mostly along party lines with some regional exceptions
- Bill was indefinitely postponed in the Senate

LD 1903 - Supplemental Budget

- Passed without sales tax exemption
- Will need to try for standalone bill in 126th Legislature

LD 1903 - Merger of Depts. of Agriculture & Conservation

- Passed, signed by the Governor
- Creates the Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Current Commissioner of Agriculture, Walt Whitcomb, will be the Commissioner of the new department



BACK IN THE WOODS!
JUMP START your safety plan!

If you missed the trainings, consider attending or hosting next spring! But until then, remember, we are all responsible for ensuring we perform assigned tasks safely. As workers return to the woods, keeping safety in the forefront is crucial and it is important that your company comply with OSHA and workers comp guidelines. Here's a suggested checklist to help you focus on potential risks. Understand that awareness of the risk may reduce the chance of an incident. So jump start your crew with a risk review and remember to document all that you do!

✓ **PLANNING**—conduct risk assessments for all logging operations and make sure to assess all sites, equipment, jobs and processes.

✓ **SUPERVISION**—select a qualified person to be the on-site employee responsible for safety at each worksite. Make certain they understand the importance of holding on-site inspections and safety meetings and that they identify new hazards and resolve or address them as soon as possible.

✓ **TRAINING**—assess all levels of employee knowledge and validate understanding of any hazards (especially new employees) and/or any changes.

✓ **RESPONSIBILITY**—assess that worker's recognize their responsibility to follow all procedures, practices and requirements. Make sure every worker comprehends the risk and understands the Response Plan in case of injury or accident.

Safety First!

Review & Assess:

- **Worksite Location & Site Details**—safety work zone, over-head hazards (hazard trees), access & egress trails, traffic control, current site map with restrictions, utility hazards, weather conditions, site specific safety concerns, special procedures for site, number & location of workers, types of injuries likely to occur, barriers to providing first aid, time to obtain transportation to treat injury



- **Equipment & Tool Checks**—oil & hydraulic level, transmission oil level, radiator water level, fuel level, obvious damage & leaks, tire condition, machine guarding, head & tail lights, air brakes, other gauges & instruments, horn, steering, service & parking brakes, communications systems, escape exits and emergency info, fire suppression equipment, spill kits, 3 point mount/dismount procedures, lock-out/tag-out procedures
- **Flammable & Combustible Liquid Hazards**—review dangers, plan for handling and documenting
- **Fire Extinguishers & Fire Hazard Information**
- **Ergonomics**—stretches and exercises to assist in repetitive injury prevention

- **Communication Procedures**—radio check-in/check-out, hand & audible signals (clear to approach), buddy system in place



- **Personal Protective Equipment**—head protection (hard hat of contrasting color), face & eye protection, vest, hearing protection, high visibility clothing, protective clothing, appropriate footwear (properly fitting, in good condition, free from cracks, dents, etc.)

- **Vehicle Operations**—seat belt use, cab clutter, understands distracted driving dangers, cell phone & texting policy

This article is provided as a courtesy to members. It is meant to serve as an advisory in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Dept. of Labor and insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date.