

## Hardwood Federation Update Annual winter Meetings

*By Dana Lee Cole  
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On February 11-12, the Hardwood Federation (HF) Board of Directors and HFPAC Board of Directors held their annual winter meetings in Washington D.C. As always, it was a packed few days of discussion, networking and strategic planning. And I'm pleased to report that HMA members were at the heart of it all.

The focus of the February gathering is twofold - to introduce the members of the 2019 HF Board of Directors and HFPAC Board of Directors, and to set the Federation's direction/priorities for the New Year.

- Congratulations go out to Board of Directors President Rick Holden, Derr Flooring Company, Willow Grove, Pa., and incoming Vice President Matthew Smith, Smith Creek, Inc., Borden, Ind.
- HMA will also be well represented on the HF Board by Troy Brown, Kretz Lumber Company, Antigo, Wis., Bob Miller, Frank Miller Lumber Company, Union City, Ind., Richard Wilkerson, Anderson-Tully Lumber Company, Vicksburg, Miss. Jamey French, Northland Forest Products, Inc., Kingston, N.H., continues in his role as Policy Chair. And Bob Miller has also assumed the role of Vice President of the HFPAC Board.

Thank you all for your support and engagement in the Federation. I look forward to working with you!

### **2019 Priority Agenda**

Having a sense of direction at the start of every year greatly helps the Hardwood Federation staff provide the best possible assistance to the hardwood industry. And so, after considering our 2018 D.C. advocacy activity, the responses to the annual HF Priority Policy Survey, and this year's anticipated Administration agenda, both Boards discussed and set a course of action for 2019.

Topping the priority list are: Regulatory Reform, Federal Forest Management, Tax Reform, Trade, and Innovative Wood Products. Throughout the year, HF will also monitor: Funding Government Programs that Enhance Exports, Export Markets, the Lacey Act, Biomass, Immigration Reform, and the Endangered Species Act.

The Board also recommended a focus on Transportation issues – with special regard to trucking – and other Infrastructure issues that may have potential to move in a now divided Congress.

These are not new topics for the Federation, but the level of importance placed on them by those who responded to the survey is a clear mandate for us. Congress will continue to hear from us why it is important that the right decisions are made when considering reform measures in these areas...and why the wrong decisions can devastate our industry. 2019 will no doubt prove to be another busy year!

## **Hardwood Industry Economic Impact Study**

I was pleased to inform all in attendance that the long awaited **Hardwood Industry Economic Impact Study** is ready for release and distribution. As you know, the Hardwood Federation was established as a coordinating body within the industry to represent common interests on federal policy in Washington D.C...a mandate I am proud to continue. And so, coordinating the economic impact study project was a natural extension of our daily activities on the Hill: identifying unifying goals, gathering supportive industry and association leaders, jointly developing solutions and serving as an organizing body for implementing those solutions.

The study, conducted by Agribusiness Consulting and financially supported by 15 industry associations/companies/publications, is a product that has far reaching value beyond one company or one organization. The "nutshell" findings are that:

- The U.S. hardwood forest products industry helps to employ over 1.8 million people, and contributes \$348 billion to the U.S. economy.
- Hardwood producers and manufacturers, including sawmills, lumberyards, flooring companies, kitchen cabinet manufacturers and railway ties, directly support more than 685,000 jobs in 25,000 facilities, generating \$35 billion in annual income.
- Related industries, including transportation, retail, forest ownership and logging, support more than 1.1 million jobs and add \$212 billion to the economy.
- For every \$1 million in output of hardwood products, 5.3 jobs are created.

The entire study, along with a listing of the financial contributors, can be found at [www.hardwoodfederation.com](http://www.hardwoodfederation.com).

I would especially like to thank the HMA for its assistance in the execution of this project. We simply could not have done it without your financial contribution, as well as the input and insight provided by Linda Jovanovich, as we moved through the process.

Going forward, I hope to continue working with all the wonderful members of the hardwood community to identify future ways to serve the industry.