



It's Not All Politics



While much of the time your State, Regional and National Logging Organizations are busy working at the local State and Federal level on policy issues that impact your businesses, their work does not end there, not by a long shot!

Oftentimes logging associations are also engaged in training, safety and transportation issues, to name a few. They are also ensuring that the well-intended thoughts of others outside of the logging industry who believe that they are working in the best interests of the logging industry are actually having a positive impact and not just another cost to the price of doing business.

In 1994, members of the American Forests and Paper Association rolled out a program titled the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. At the time, it appeared to be a great idea with one exception, they forgot to invite the logging businesses to the table. That was the impetus that brought logging contractors together 25 years ago in St. Louis, Missouri: the need to have a voice of our own representing the issues that are important to loggers.

Over the past 25 years, loggers have come together in any states that did not have a trade association either as a stand-alone organization or under the umbrella of a State Forestry Association. Working together, loggers have addressed workman's comp insurance rates, truck weights on state and county roads, ad valorem and sales tax exemptions for logging equipment and supplies, and other on-the-ground issues away from Washington, DC and State Capitol buildings that have a real impact on their businesses.

The American Loggers Council recently welcomed the Ohio Logging Standards Council as the newest voting member to our Board of Directors. As of this writing, we are working in Pennsylvania to assist professional timber harvesters to form an organization that would work in the best interests of their logging workforce in the state and tackle those issues that are important to loggers.

We believe that all States with commercial timber harvesting operations should be organized through membership in either a state or regional logging association and that there is truly not only strength in numbers, but also the wisdom of many of our peers, both past and present, that can prevent us at all levels from reinventing the wheel when it comes to looking for ways to accomplish goals. Next stop, Bangor Maine! We are *"Loggers Working for Loggers!"*

The American Loggers Council is an 501(c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters throughout the United States. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206, or americanlogger@aol.com, or visit our website at www.amloggers.com.