



Coronavirus, Events and Industry News

[View MLA's Coronavirus Resources Here](#)

We're Here for You!

March 2020 will certainly go down in history as one of the most unprecedented months the world, and the LBM industry, have ever faced. The introduction of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our lives and the lives of your business for years to come – and possibly forever. Through all the changes, federal and state mandated closures and much more, the Association provides you as much information as possible. Email communications will continue to be our fastest avenue for communicating with you. Should you have additional members of your team who you would like to have receive our notices, please email MLA Administrative Manager Lindsay Grady at lindsay@themla.com to have your team member added to our mailing list.

If you have not done so already, please save the link to [MLA's COVID-19 Resource Page](#). Here, you will find up-to-the-minute information on the virus, state and federal mandates, business protocols and best practices as well as links to state and federal relief programs available to assist you during this crisis.

In the coming days and weeks, we will continue to monitor state and federal “stay at home” and/or “shelter in place” orders and will communicate those – and your responsibilities within them – as needed. We will also be issuing additional guidance to assist you with the provisions of the various stimulus packages, federal legislation surrounding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and much more.

Additional Resources for Members:

- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Coronavirus Resource Page](#)
- [National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association \(NLBMDA\) Resource Page](#)
- [Small Business Administration Resource Page](#)

If you have not done so already, please add info@themla.com, lindsay@themla.com, mike@themla.com AND cody@themla.com to your list of approved email addresses. Information will continue to be relayed to members daily as this issue progresses.

Office Update

Being located just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota – the Mid-America Lumbermens Association staff is subject to state mandates for non-essential businesses. Although we know our efforts in keeping you informed and helping you through this time of need are “essential” – the State of Minnesota has not seen it this way. As of March 30, 2020, the MLA office is staffed but with 1 person onsite. The rest of the team will be working remotely until April 10, 2020.

But never fear!

The team at Mid-America Lumbermens Association is still working for you – albeit from remote locations. Each team member has a laptop and access to MLA’s database, shared files and more. Our phone system is sophisticated and allows each team member to forward their office phone to their cell phone. This also includes forwarding of our main telephone line and our 800 number. Have a question? Just call us! We are here to help!

Now more than ever, MLA is here to serve as a resource for you and your employees.

MLA staff contact information can be found [HERE](#).

Kansas Issues "Stay at Home" Order: Lumber Deemed Essential

Governor Laura Kelly issued a "stay at home" executive order for all Kansas residents starting at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, March 30 until April 19 at 11:59 p.m.

In doing so, Governor Kelly's order also requires the closure of all non-essential businesses.

In partnership with the National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association (NLBMDA), MLA is pleased to report that lumber and building material dealers and their suppliers based in Kansas are EXEMPT from this order.

Under the Executive Order, Governor Kelly and her administration have established the Kansas Essential Function Framework (KEFF). KEFF was developed based upon guidance from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the department's guidance list of "essential businesses". As reported previously, lumber and building material dealers and their suppliers ARE deemed "essential" per DHS.

To read the Governor's full order, please [click here](#)

Members should refer to page 6, paragraph 14.

Although MLA does NOT represent contractors, it appears per the order that contractors are also exempt. MLA recommends that dealers refer their contractors to legal council and/or to their state or local homebuilders association for further guidance.

Mid-America Lumbermens Association commends the efforts of Governor Kelly and

thanks her for her support of the lumber and building material industry!

Federated Insurance - Coronavirus Resources

If you aren't committed to incorporating risk management into the culture of your business, a seemingly small change can make it all crumble, leaving you without a solid foundation to help you prioritize the safety of your workers. If you intend to make risk management a core value of your business, your risk management culture needs to be strong enough to withstand any obstacle.

Visit the [Risk Management Corner](#) to find resources for your business.

NLBMDA Celebrates Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act Milestone

NLBMDA and its coalition partners are pleased to announce that H.R. 3077, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, now has majority support from the House of Representatives with 220 total cosponsors and carries the most bipartisan support of any affordable housing legislation in the 116th Congress. This bill would strengthen and expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and is a top legislative priority for NLBMDA in 2020.

2020 Scholarships are Here!

The MLA scholarship program continues to be one of the most valued among all the Association services. Annually, the Missouri and Kansas state committees make funds available for scholarships to assist employees' children and to support employees pursuing continuing education. Each state has different criteria for earning the \$500 awards. These are grants – not loans – and do not need to be repaid.

[KS 2020 Application](#)

[MO 2020 Application](#)

Canada Ratifies USMCA Trade Deal

Last Friday, Canada became the final North American country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on trade. Canada joins the U.S. and Mexico in adopting the USMCA which will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

With all three parties now approving, the United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced that the USMCA will go into effect on June 1 of this year.



Commercial Insurance Property & Casualty
Life & Disability Income | Workers Compensation
Business Succession and Estate Planning | Bonding

Updates from the Road

Happy Spring to all!

I hope everyone is well as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Since my last update in January, we held two successful training classes: Estimating 1-2-3 was held in Kansas City on February 18-20. We also held a 1-day marketing class presented by Craig Webb at Simpson Strong Tie in Kansas City on March 11. Both events went well, and I am happy to report that we had quite a few new faces at each. A big “Thank You” to Chad Minson from Simpson for his hospitality, and to Luke Dimick from Westfall O’Dell Truck Sales for sponsoring our lunch at the marketing seminar.

If anyone has any questions about these events please contact me, Lindsay or Cody.

Upcoming Events

[Swing into Spring](#): April 29-May 1
Holiday Shores Osage Beach, MO

[Kansas Sunflower Shootout](#): June 4
Firekeeper Golf Course Mayetta, KS

