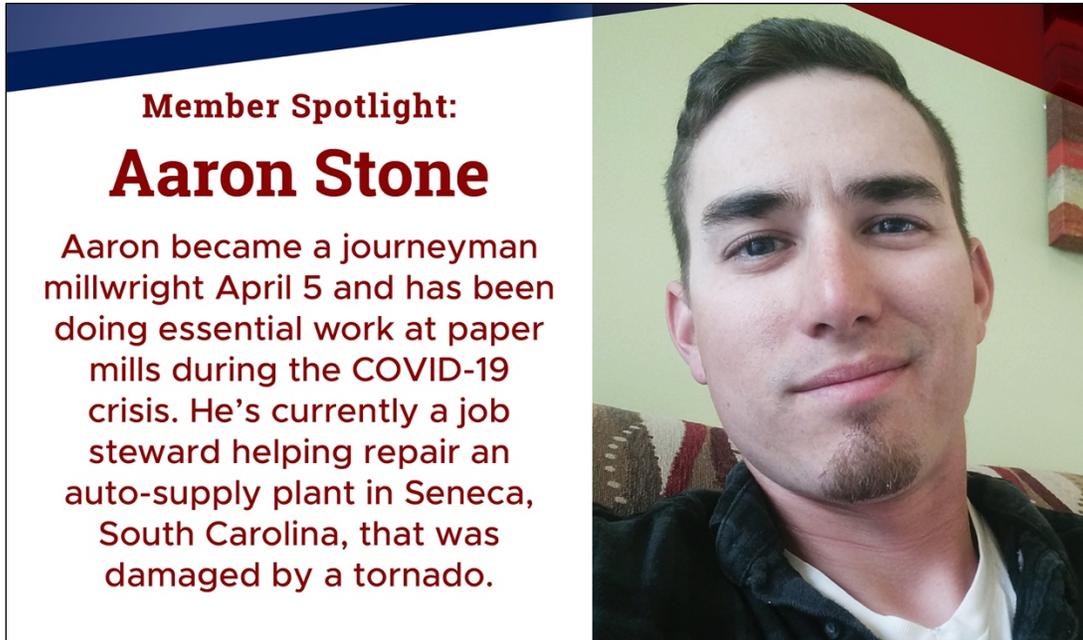


## Member Spotlight



Aaron Stone, who finished his apprenticeship and became a journeyman millwright April 5, has been performing emergency and essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He currently serves as the day-shift steward for an SSMRC crew helping repair an auto-supply plant in Seneca, South Carolina, that was severely damaged by a tornado. For three years, Stone has worked with CR Meyer at paper mills that produce toilet paper, paper towels, and tissue, and he plans to return to that work after the Seneca plant is restored.

“I enjoy being part of the union, and I appreciate everything we believe in – sticking together, looking out for our brothers and sisters, and making sure everyone is safe,” Stone says. “Now that I'm a journeyman, I'm also a mentor. I'm teaching other people the right ways to do the job and the safe ways to do the job.”

Stone is particularly skilled in using FARO and Leica laser trackers to place and align equipment.

“Aaron is a hard-working, very intelligent millwright who has an eye for small tolerances,” said Logan Brown, director of SSMRC's eastern district. “He is one of only a few who can efficiently operate the laser tracker.”

Here's more about Aaron Stone:

**Age:** 26

**Hometown:** Charlotte, North Carolina

**Family:** Stone is married to Shayla Stone, and they have a 2-year-old son, Sage. Stone travels for work almost constantly, and Shayla and Sage travel with him. The couple set up their 42-foot, two-bedroom, two-bathroom RV at campgrounds close to Stone's job sites.

**How he feels about being a millwright, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic:** “Working in these paper mills to produce things people need gives me a sense of accomplishment. To provide something essential to everybody in a time of need is elevating. It’s nice knowing I’m able to help. And it’s always nice knowing we're keeping jobs going. We're creating jobs here in America when we're building brand new plants, and we’re keeping people working.”

**Recent jobs:**

**BorgWarner plant in Seneca, South Carolina (contractor: Walbridge Equipment Installation)** – On April 13, a tornado struck and severely damaged this facility, which is the only supplier of transfer cases for some Ford, Toyota, and Fiat Chrysler trucks and SUVs. Whether the automakers can restart production of these vehicles as planned hinges on when the BorgWarner plant comes back online. Currently, Stone and 10 other SSMRC millwrights are removing damaged materials from the building and working to structurally stabilize it. The next phase of the project will be repairing equipment inside the 350,000-square-foot facility.

**Various pulp and paper mills in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Oklahoma (contractor: CR Meyer)** – Stone works with CR Meyer’s optics crew, specializing in using FARO and Leica laser trackers to place and align equipment to tolerances of three thousandths of an inch (comparable to the width of a human hair) in new and existing facilities. After discovering an interest in laser-tracker work, which is far more efficient than traditional optics methods, on his first CR Meyer job, Stone pursued further training and became a pro. CR Meyer has hosted him for leadership and Leica laser tracker training sessions at its Wisconsin headquarters.



Aaron Stone with wife Shayla and son Sage