

COMMUNITY SERVICE Hannah Klinski Benefit

Charity Chili Cook Off & Bake Sale for Salvation Army

CMN Emerald Ball

SAFETY AWARENESS NEWS Safety Dinner 1st Benchmark

Creating a Safety Culture

Newest Safety Committee Member

Digital Safety Inspection Results

EMPIRE UPDATES

1st Green Certification Stakeholders Meeting Terry Mc Clintock Retires Inventory Control Kaizen Employee Lending Library NOW OPEN!

CALENDAR ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

> EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

NEW EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ Amy Bettis Employees Reach Out to Help Hannah

On February 15, 2013 Mark Klinski, head of Empire's Maintenance department received earth shattering news. His youngest daughter Hannah a 17 year old Junior at Caledonia High School was critically injured in a car accident. Mark, his wife Tammy and oldest daughter Tara learned that Hannah's injuries were so severe that she would never walk again, because Hannah was paralyzed from the hips down.

eronc

After the accident Hannah underwent lengthy surgeries

to stabilize her spine and attend to her other injuries. Hannah will require lengthy hospitalization, therapy and rehab.

After almost six weeks of hospitalization, Hannah has made amazing progress. She can sit up for 4-5 hours at a time before the pain becomes too much. Hannah is allowed to leave to hospital for short visits. Doctors commented that Hannah is a couple of weeks ahead of her recovery schedule.

Mark is getting ramps built on the family home so she can come home for a short visit on Easter. By mid-April the Klinski's are anticipating Hannah's release from hospital.

Mark attributes her powers of recovery to her faith and mental



OU COULD WIN ME!

1969 Plymouth

Readrunner

Hannah got sprung for a brief visit to the mall, by her sister Tara (R), Hannah Buttell (L) and her dog Chumly.

attitude. The biggest help has come from a UW-L student who was also injured in a car accident, and is in a wheelchair. She is mentoring Hannah and her family on how to adapt to the daily living challenges they face after the accident.

Fellow employees were shocked and saddened by the news of Mark's daughter. Instinctively they began to rally together for Mark and his family. What could we do to ease the burden? A collection was taken at Empire, and co-workers donated their own personal vacation time to Mark, but more needed to be done.

Kevin Steele (Maintenance) is one of many behind organizing a benefit for Hannah Klinski on Saturday, June 29, 2013. (See pg. 8)

Empire Safety Committee Newest Member, Jay Yehle



Empire HVAC Specialist Dec. 2005 to present

JOB DESCRIPTION

Design, install & maintain Empire's HVAC systems. Manage indoor air quality & E.P.A. required reports & records. Sustainability Committee & Safety Committee Member

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- A.A.S. Degree in Heating/AC & Refrigeration Technology
- Four year union apprenticeship training Local #10
- Founded Coulee Region Heating & AC in 2005
- O. S. H. A. approved safety training in fall protection, confined spaces, & carbon monoxide
- Ongoing training at Energy Center of WI 2007 to present

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES

- MN & WI Class A HVAC Contractor's License
- E.P.A. Certified Universal HVAC Technician
- WI Boiler Operator's/Engineers License
- Class II Electrician's License

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Recently passed the National Fundamentals of Engineering exam
- Currently working towards Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Approved Provider certification
- In final stages of earning WI Certified Mechanical Engineer certification after successful completion of the National Principals & Practice exam

SAFETY AWARENESS NEWS

~ Amy Bettis Safety Culture; What You Permit, You Promote

Workplace safety culture is defined as the individual/group values, attitudes, skills and patterns of behavior that determine their commitment to an organization's health and safety programs. In other words workplace safety culture is how the organization behaves when no one is watching. As an Empire employee how committed are you to safety, when no one is watching?

Safety policies and procedures actions depend upon the of individuals and groups for successful implementation. Effective execution of safety procedures requires the actions of properly trained workers, who understand the importance and intent of the procedure and accept responsibility for the task at hand. They recognize that taking unsafe shortcuts is simply wrong, no matter how much time, labor and money they may save, because it takes only one time for an accident to obliterate any of those so called savings.

Just like when we were growing up as kids and throughout our adult lives, the values of the group help shape the beliefs and attitudes of the person. In the workplace the group (i.e. corporation, plant shift, team) plays a significant role in determining individual behaviors. A weak safety culture can be and most likely will be evident in the actions or inactions of personnel at all levels of an organization. The responsibility for fostering a sound safety culture cascades down through the organization. Everyone in the



Committee Members:

Lee Vieth	Plant Manager
John Johnson	Operations Coord
Autum Brush	Vice President
Roger Henderson	Insurance Agent

company has a role to play. There are several key attributes of a sound safety culture.

- Safety is a core value from the top down.
- Enforce high standards of performance
- Empower individuals to successfully fulfill their safety responsibilities
- Promote and maintain proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Ensure effective communication at all levels
- Establish a questioning/learning environment
- Utilize available expertise and resources both in and outside of the organization
- Provide timely response to safety issues
- Provide continuous monitoring of performance

Our safety record is on the upward climb once more. We have surpassed the first company milestone and are steadily moving towards the second. Everyone can work together towards maintaining a good safety record, with no lost time accidents. Keep in mind what you permit, you promote. If you permit lax observance of safety measures for yourself and others, you are promoting unsafe behaviors that endanger yourself and others. Don't allow yourself or others to be careless with safety.

COALALITTOO
Dawn Adamson Accounting
Diane Fitzpatrick Accounting
Amy Bettis Art Department
Dale Westaby Maintenance
Debbie Wolfe Large Value Stream
Alice Clark Screen Making
Jay Yehle Heating/Cooling

Digital Department Safety Inspection -Amy Bettis & Tom Donaldson







After



After

Before



Before

Before

After

The Digital Department was the focus of the latest Safety Committee walk through. The purpose is to promote a culture of safety and accident prevention. The committee looked at the following, cleanliness, general safety, fire prevention, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), observing company

policies, and addressing employee s a f e t y concerns.

First item note, of electrical access areas needed to be kept clear, and marked off on the



floor with red Developing a solution on how to handle large material rolls. tape. If tape

is in poor shape, areas need to be re-taped. Floor tape in walkways also needed to be replaced, to avoid a trip hazard.

Secondly, the wash up area should have signs posted that eye protection must be used at the station. Area should be organized and clear of obstacles.

Third, a Spill hazard with an open container of lubricating oil. Item should be properly stored on maintenance cart or in a spill



After

proof container.

Lastly, a solution needs to be addressed for the large material rolls. There is a tipping/crush hazard, plus some rolls are very heavy and injury from lifting is likely.

Tom Donaldson and his team addressed most of the areas pointed out at the safety

walkthrough. They did a great job and did so in a timely manner. All electrical access areas and walkways have been properly taped off and are free of impediments.

The wash up station is clean, free of obstacles, PPE signage posted, PPE is easily accessible, and spill hazards have been removed.

The only item left to complete is addressing the material rolls as a injury hazard due to tipping, crushing or lifting. Tom is working with the machine shop to develop a safe delivery and storage system for the material rolls.

Safety Dinner 2013 ~Amy Bettis

Wednesday, February 20,Empire employees 2013 reached the first milestone on the Safety Reward Program of 122 days. The following Wednesday employees enjoved picnic lunch а courtesy of Empire. Lee Vieth commended all employees on their dedication to safety in the workplace and encouraged meet the evervone next incentive level.

He also wanted to recognize Deb Wolfe in her commitment to her fellow employees. Deb was in charge of preparing the hot dogs for the picnic lunch. Deb went the extra mile and decided to grill all the hot dogs for 300+ people at Empire the night before the luncheon. She stood outside on a cold February evening and grilled 550 hot dogs. According to her it took just over 3 hours and 4 beers to finish the job!

Upper management wanted to recognize her extra efforts. Deb Wolfe is the first and most likely the last employee who will ever receive the 'Golden Hot Dog Grilling Award' at Empire. Thanks Deb, those dogs were delicious.



Lee Veith encourages employees to reach the next safety incentive of 244 days



Deb proudly displays her badge of honor.

Captain Kangaroo Retires from the Ink Department ~ Diane Simonsen

Terry joined Empire in August of 2002. He worked 2nd shift for 4 years before coming to 1st shift. During the hard times, he went to 3rd shift for a year. Then he came back to 1st and spent the remainder of his time working with the wonderful women of the ink dept. and putting up with Keith in R&D.

Prior to Empire, he worked 28 years for the competition where he worked in screening, ink lab, and with finished parts testing weathering and fading.

Terry was in the army from '68 to '69, survived the 60's and 70's, and is ready to take life easy. When asked what he plans to do, he said, maybe do some fishing, hunting, and get back into camping, spend time with family, maybe chase women.

We celebrated his time at Empire with a potluck on Feb 28., and on March 2nd at Kromes is West Salem. His six siblings and his mother joined us for food and spirits. A good time was had by all.

His favorite hangout is Silverados in West Salem on Friday and Saturday nights. Ladies, he's usually there between 10 and closing.

Terry will be missed by all, but he won't miss the Captain Kangaroo jokes. For those of us who grew up with the Captain, you have to admit, he could be his twin. Yes, people have asked him if he was Bob Keeshan.

Best wishes to Terry from all of us at Empire. May you enjoy all that retirement has to offer!







...You decide!!!



Terry McClintock wearing his custom made Captain Kangaroo Ink Department smock, courtesy of Kathy Inglett.



The Captain Kangaroo Fan Club, back row (L to R): Carina Olson, Terry McClintock, Diane Simonsen, Keith Cook front row (L to R) Macy Moua and Lisa Masssoth

CMN Emerald Ball



sert auction for the Rumchata Trif Amy Bettis & Doug Billings



We raised \$350 for CMN with a little help from our tablemates at Brennan Marine & La Crosse Loggers Amanda Kuehl & Jennifer Schloesser

CMN. Charter and the La Crosse Radio Group held their 5th Annual Emerald Ball fundraiser on April 5th. All funds raised stay locally to help children and families in need. This vear, Doug Billings, Jennifer Schloesser, Amy Bettis and Amanda Kuehl were invited, as Empire representatives. Empire was recognized and thanked for their efforts printing the annual CMN Christmas cards and the new CMN Heroes' greeting cards.

Five children with various health issues ranging from cancer to premature birth were honored at the ball. These 'Heroes' were selected to represent CMN for the 2012-13 calendar vear.

The Heroes' original artwork, was auctioned off at the ball. Jonas Kugler's painting, The "Really Fast Ninja" sold for \$600.00. Along with the Heroes' paintings, there was a silent auction and a dessert auction. Several thousand dollars were raised for CMN in one evening.

Library NOW OPEN! Amanda Kuehl

Empire's Employee Lending Library is now open. The bookshelf is located outside the Art Dept., by the Empire awards table.



Books are accessible to all employees on any shift

Green Certification Stakeholder Meeting 2013 ~ Amy Bettis

Certification Committee will host an informational presentation about

Certification.

Green Team members include Amy Coordinator at a company, documentation and level.

Empire has been working company awareness of the EMS, towards earning its Green Tier research and development of new I Certification from the State of technologies, sustainability from Wisconsin. Part of the certification the sales perspective, companyprocess involves bringing in wide recycling program, waste outside and internal stakeholders stream management, water quality, twice a year to monitor progress. LEED development (Leadership in On April 16, 2013 Empire's Green Energy and Environmental Design) air emissions and energy usage.

Internal stakeholders include our Environmental Management all members of the committee and System (EMS) and Green Tier I upper management. Our external stakeholders are as follows; Led by Jennifer Schloesser, the Tom Thompson, Sustainability Gundersen Bettis, Cathy Buttell, Keith Cook, Lutheran, Randy Nedrelo, Special Nate Monhaut, Dale Westaby and Waste Manager and Deputy Jay Yehle. Each team member will Director of La Crosse County be focusing on different portion of Solid Waste Department and Dean the presentation. Topics include an Nugent Owner/Broker of Dynamic overview of Empire's sustainability Recycling in Onalaska. With their policy objectives and future input and influence Empire will goals, the history of Empire as be taking sustainability to the next



Take Advantage of Your Wellness Benefits!

Health Tradition Health Plan provides a strong wellness' foundation with education, support and resources for employees and their family members.

The following plan options are included at no extra charge with Health Tradition Health Plan.

- Be proactive! Preventive screenings are covered at 100% http://www.healthtradition.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/PreventiveCareServices.pdf
- Learn more! Access to the award-winning Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth Web Portal https://www.healthtradition.com/EmbodyHealth/
- Know your health status! Mayo Clinic Health Asesssment available on the Web Portal
- Become tobacco-free! Programs for guitting tobacco 4 times as effective as the norm http://www.healthtradition.com/members/prevenitve-care-and-wellness-services/tobacco-cessation
- Be rewarded! Eat Well Move More Rebate http://www.healthtradition.com/members/prevenitve-care-and-wellness-services/eat-well-move-more
- Talk with the experts! 24/7 Nurse Line http://www.healthtradition.com/members/prevenitve-care-and-wellness-services/247-nurse-line
- Empower yourself! Free educational videos to help you save money and become a wiser consumer of health care - Health Savvy and Wealth Savvy

https://www.healthtradition.com/health-savvy & https://www.healthtradition.com/Wealth-Savvy/





Inventory Kaizen Team: (L to R) First Row: Justine Kruckow, Fawn Marsh Second Row: Brian Hundt, Alicia Gilbertson, Rhonda Peterson, Theresa Baird, Sheila Fox (Team Leader) Third Row: Amy Bettis, Lee Veith, Shane Hulburt

Finished Goods Inventory Kaizen ~Justine Kruckow & Sheila Fox



New barcode label w/ Int. #

kaizen Our off by going over the overstock system that was already in place. The system

worked

it

well. but

still needed some improvements to eliminate human error, improve efficiency of inputting overstock and create a more accurate inventory of the

overstock itself.



Amy & Theresa updating inventory tags

current overstock program and system. Box labels were automated and updated to pull data from a new overstock barcode label and print an overstock

Our team came from all different areas of the plant. This helped the kaizen greatly, by offering different points of view. You could see the dedication each employee brought to this kaizen and to Empire, and how we could improve the system that was in place.

With the help of Sam Sokolik doming Curt Johnson we made and

several improvements the to



Justine & Rhonda test the newly written overstock software

started label with an internal number, revision level, and shelf number. This helped shipping

with the accuracy of the data and improved efficiency



utilizing

an efficient and accurate

manner. This will allow

Lee & Sheila discuss 5S

this

and

by having all pertinent info on each package. The new barcode labels were also created for the plant to apply to parts being sent to overstock in shipping or doming. Scanning these barcodes reduced

human error and eliminated the need to input

Bv

overstock data manually. improved program labeling system, shipping and doming will be able to audit the overstock in

Shane & Fawn update & tag overstock in the plant and office to

> rely shown in

on the data the overstock program, eliminating tedious stock checks.

A big shout out to all the team members and support staff that helped on the Inventory Control Kaizen, "Thank you for a job WELL DONE!"



Brian verifies that tag info & overstock match



Alicia, kaizen service with a smile

A Success'full' Event!!! ~ Amy Bettis

It was a very success 'full' event. Bellies were groaning and belts loosened and on February 20, 2013 at the 4th Annual Empire Chili Cook-off and Bake Sale. With the company matching funds, employees raised \$950 plus a van load of food and clothing for the Salvation Army in La Crosse.

The judges included; Julie Nelson, Development Director for Salvation Army, Chris Roderique, Owner/Chef of Piggie's Restaurant, Lindsay Hayes and Scott Hackworth from Channel 19 News, Chris Callaway, 100.1FM/ La Crosse Tribune and Kelly Wilde 100.1FM Program Director.

Judges had many interesting things to say about the 24 different chillies they sampled, such as, "Interesting flavor, grows on you...surprisingly sweet, great for Octoberfest, nice smoky flavor... ketchupy but good... nice heat, good spice...too many beans...not enough meat..." the list goes on.

Chili Winners for each category are:

Mild/Medium

1st - Amanda Hanson, Mild Chili 2nd - Andy Kiedrowski, Guiness Chili 3rd - Kaara Freismuth, Mild Chili

Specialty Chili

1st - Amy Bettis, Jalepeno Brat Chili 2nd - Amanda Kuehl, Pork & Bacon Chili 3rd - Rhonda Peterson, Bacon Chili

Hot & Spicy

1st - Lisa Slonka, Adirondak Chili 2nd - Doug Billings, Creeping Death 3rd - Tina Karraffa, Hot Chili

"THANK YOU, to all who made chili, sent baked items and helped with setup/ clean up. Everyone had fun and we will be looking forward to next year's event to be even better!"





Ready to kick off the Bake Sale & Chili Cook-Off



These judges take their job seriously



Diane Simonsen visits Rebecca Burg at the sweets table.



First Place winners (L to R) Lisa Slonka-Hot Chili, Amy Bettis-Specialty Chili, & Amanda Hanson-Mild Chili



(L to R) Julie Nelson, Lindsey Hayes & Scott Hackworth



Bring on the chili! (L to R) Chris Roderique, Chris Callaway, & Kelly Wilde



Decisions, decisions...which do we try first?



Salvation Army Development Director, Julie Nelson was all smiles after receiving Empire's donation.

1/2 cup Beer (Brown Ale or 1 Fresh Jalapeno Pepper,

1/3 cup White Sugar

seeded and chopped

4 Green Onions, chopped

Jalapeno, Green Onion & Ale Corn Bread

1/2 cup Buttermilk or

1/2 cup Melted Butter

Soured Milk

2 Eggs, beaten

a Pilsner)

Ingredients

- 1 cup Cornmeal
- 1 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 tsp. Salt

Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 400°F and prepare a greased loaf pan.
- 2. Whisk dry ingredients in one bowl, & combine wet ingredients in another bowl, set peppers and green onions off to the side
- 3 Slowly add wet ingredients to dry mixture and stir til blended.
- 4. Fold in jalapeno pepper and green onion, then pour into a loaf pan.
- 5. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a knife inserted into center of loaf comes out clean.
- 6. Cool for 10 minutes, slice and serve.

This is a great companion to chili, barbeque, or Mexican food.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT (cont.) Employees reach out to Help Hannah

Family and friends of the be auctioned off at the benefit in Klinski Family are pooling their resources to stage a silent auction, cash raffle and a classic car raffle for a 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner.

The Hannah benefit committee is looking for auction items, donations, themed cash gift baskets, gift cards, restaurant gift certificates, etc... The committee also needs people to work at the benefit. Individual departments at Empire are encouraged to assemble themed gift baskets to

Employee Announcements

Hannah Klinski Benefit Sat., June 29, 2013 1pm - ?? Silent Auction. Car & Cash Raffles

\$100/Ticket for a chance to win a classic 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner (Only 500 tickets will be sold for car raffle)

\$10/Ticket for a chance to win \$500 and other cash prizes

> at St. Mary's School **308 East South Street** Caledonia, MN 55921

Proud Grandma, Deb Gilbertson Uncle, **Ryan Brandenburg**, Aunt Alicia Gilbertson, & Step-Grandpa Lee Veith would like to announce the birth of their grandson/nephew Parker Eugene Born: December 14, 2012 to Ryan Gilbertson & Lindsey Brandenburg

Congratulations to Amber Johnson and Roger Williams, on the birth of their twins, a girl Hailey & a boy, Ryley Born: December 30, 2012

QUALITY POLICY

Empire Screen Printing has an ongoing commitment to fully satisfy our customer. Through continual improvement in all aspects of our business, we supply the best product and service in the screen printing industry, in the most efficient and professional manner possible.



June. For example, Lisa Massoth and the Ink Department have



compiled a wine and cheese basket and a bird lover's basket. The bird lover's basket includes bird feeder, bird seed, bird book, and binoculars. If your department would like to donate a basket, please contact Kevin Steele.

"If it weren't for the support we have received from family, friends and co-workers I don't know how we would get through this..." Mark said, "...we are now having more good days than bad days, our cup seems half full instead of half empty."

Let's fill that cup up for the Klinski family. Empire employees can still donate personal vacation time to Mark. Helping hands and auction items are needed for the benefit. Many thanks to all who are able to contribute.

Employee Anniversaries

APRIL

Glen Schossow28 yrs. Diane Simonson 26 yrs. David Nordstrom 25 yrs. Penny Nordstrom ... 24 yrs. Randy Lemke21 yrs. Kevin Mason......21 yrs. Jenny Ledman......20 yrs. Amy Bettis 20 yrs. James Brom Jr.....19 yrs. Cathy Buttell*.....18 yrs. Diane Borger 16 yrs. Bill Feyen.....15 yrs. Cathy McMahon9 yrs. Laura Snodgrass8 yrs. Keith Gaarder......8 yrs. Jonathan Meyer......8 yrs. Rhonda Peterson......6 yrs. Justin Boone......3 yrs. Tamara Stenberg 3 yrs. Rebecca McCutchen.3 yrs. Richard McDowell....3 yrs. Teri Herold......3 yrs.

Brennan Bonnar2 yrs.
Nicole Barry*2 yrs. Kristine Zwiefel*2 yrs.
Kristine Zwiefel*2 yrs.
Krista Gorniak*2 yrs.
Andrew Hagen1 yr.
MAY
Lori Taube34 yrs.
Lisa Massoth23 yrs.
Travis Brush23 yrs.
Sam Sokolik20 yrs.
Chad Heyroth18 yrs.
Dallas Lewis16 yrs.
Tom Donaldson16 yrs.
Debra Gilbertson16 yrs.
Donald Olson13 yrs.
Katie Schaller8 yrs.
Ed Lee7 yrs.
Mike Stenberg7 yrs.
Dave Faas7 yrs.
Greg Loomis7 yrs.
Autum Jacobs5 yrs.
Justine Kruckow4 yrs.
Pao Yang3 yrs.
Brian Hundt3 yrs.
Chase Penkalski3 yrs.
Rose Chamoun3 yrs.
Megan Fortun*3 yrs.
Nathan Monhaut2 yrs.
Fawn Marsh2 yrs.
5

Crystal Butterfield*....2 yrs. Brian Subjek1 yr. Ryan Brandenburg.....1 yr. **JUNE** Dawn Gorniak......29 yrs. Sophie Cornforth 25 yrs. Russell Kuehn...... 18 yrs. Rebecca Stark......17 yrs. Sheila Fox.....14 yrs. Robert Fischer......11 yrs. Matt Vanderloop......9 yrs. Carina Olson7 yrs. Sarah Erickson......6 yrs. Curt Blair6 yrs. Adam Luedtke 5 yrs. Jamin Bishofsky......4 yrs. George Yang......3 yrs. Debbie Lawrence 3 yrs. Wade Mikunda3 yrs. Nathan Monhaut......2 yrs. Lauren Cunningham .. 2 yrs. Rebecca Burg2 yrs. Michael Herold......1 yr. Codi Jacobs1 yr. Caitlyn McMahon*....1 yr.

*Part-time employees

Welcome New Employees! Danny DeLao, Kelly Oliver, & Shawn Lemke

Coordinators:Doug Billings	Contributors: Diane Simonsen	
Layout Design:Cathy Buttell	Amanda Kuehl, Amy Bettis	
Photographers:Jennifer Schloesser	Tom Donaldson, Diane Fitzpatrick	
Amanda Kuehl, Amy Bettis	Kevin Steele, Jen Schloesser	
Proofreaders: Clark Martin	Sheila Fox, Justine Kruckow, Jay Yehle	
DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: June 24, 2013 All articles and announcements can be submitted to: Doug Billings (2311) or Amy Bettis (2371)		