

DAY OF CHOICE

By Dennis Dillon (Lafayette Board member)



A wave of green rolled into the third-floor rotunda of the Capitol in Jefferson City on April 16 as some 300 workers from sheltered workshops around the state came to have their voices heard at the Missouri A-Team’s second annual “Day for Choice.”

There were sheltered workshop employees from St. Louis City and County, Kansas City, Columbia, Jefferson City, Moberly, St. Joseph, Springfield, Rolla, Sullivan and other cities. They were accompanied by parents, guardians, Special School District teachers, workshop managers and other support personnel.

The delegation from Lafayette Industries included Executive Director Rob Libera; Director of Programs Stacey Elster; Board President Bill Florent; his wife, Suzie; board member Dennis Dillon; and workers Alison Hanners and Casey Florent.

Wearing their distinctive green T-shirts, the A-Team representatives sat in the galleries of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and were introduced during sessions. They were welcomed by warm applause from legislators in both chambers.

The A-Team’s mission during this trip to the state capital was awareness. Its message was simple and direct: Working in sheltered workshops is a choice for persons with developmental disabilities—a choice that should not be taken away with any misguided legislation.

A-Team members held meetings with their respective representatives and senators, the governor’s office and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe. The Lafayette contingent had the opportunity to visit briefly with Speaker of the House Elijah Haahr in his office.

“‘Day for Choice’ started right here in Missouri and has grown into a national event!” said Tracy Gritsenko, director of public policy and advocacy for Industrial Aid and the vice president and co-founder of A-Team Missouri.

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Rob Libera
CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

Goals: ♦ To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled ♦ To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment ♦ To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits ♦ To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment ♦ To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings ♦ To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner ♦ To provide fair wages and good benefits

DAY OF CHOICE By Dennis Dillon – Continued:

Other states who sent A-Teams to their respective capitols on April 16 included Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

6,000 Missourians choose to work in sheltered workshops, where they are appreciated for their abilities while performing necessary business services for companies across the country.

The Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers (MASWM www.moworkshops.org) presented Kehoe, who is from St. Louis, with a plaque thanking him for his constant support of the extended employment sheltered workshop program, the official name of the workshop program.

The fourth annual Missouri Day on the Hill, when A-Teams across the state carry their message to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., will be July 17.

For more information on the A-Team, go to its website, www.dignityhasavoice.com or follow it on its Facebook page: Dignity Has a Voice.



CIRCLE 7 RANCH
TAPHOUSE & GRILL

The Manchester Parks, Recreation, & Arts Department and Circle 7 TapHouse and Grill have partnered again to present the
2019 Manchester Craft Beer Festival!
Featuring tastings from Craft Breweries, Music, and Food!

Saturday, May 11, 2019
Paul A. Schroeder Park

2019 Manchester Craft Beer Festival
Buy Now, Prices go up May 1st!
Now - April 30th \$25 each
VIP Upgrade \$10
Purchase at www.Manchestermo.gov/Parks
May 1st-10th \$30 each; \$35 each at the door
Free admission for Designated Drivers



All ticket holders must present a photo ID and MUST be 21+ to participate in the tasting portion of this event; only ticket holders may sample. Soft drinks, water, and food will be available for purchase from food vendors. For any questions, please call Manchester Park at 636-391-6326 x400

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Lafayette Industries, a local sheltered workshop.

General Admission Ticket Includes unlimited tasting from 4-7 p.m. and a Souvenir Tasting Glass. Check-in begins at 3:30 p.m.
VIP Upgrade VIP ticket holders will have access to the VIP area from 3-4 p.m. to sample before market and special brews. Only 100 available, Check-in begins at 2:30 p.m.

PARTICIPATING BREWERIES:



FOOD
in addition to burgers and hot dogs, we will have:



Thank You to our Sponsors



5th Annual Employee Celebration Family Picnic



Sunday - June 2
1pm to 4pm
McDonnell Park
2961 Adie Rd.
St. Ann 63074



Let's beat the record attendance from last year's Picnic!
Bring your family!
To help us plan for food and fun, complete the reservation below.
Return it to your supervisor at Lafayette by May 27.
Everything is FREE
Employees must be accompanied by one family member or staff person.
Please consider being a Picnic Sponsor.
Sponsorship is critical to programs benefitting employees.
Sponsor information on next page.

Food ~ Games ~ Face Painting ~ Balloons & More

YES! I am attending the Picnic.

The total number of people in my group will be _____

I work at: _____ NORTH _____ WEST

YOUR NAME _____

Return this form to your supervisor by May 27.

5th Annual Employee Celebration Family Picnic

Sunday– June 2nd 1pm-4pm
McDonnell Park

2961 Adie Rd., 63074 (.03 mi. north of the Page and North Lindbergh intersection)



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LAFAYETTE EMPLOYEES!

- Dream Builder (Major)*** - \$1,000
Premium Sign & Newsletter Recognition
 - Visionary (Ace)*** - \$500 *
 - Champion (Eagle)*** - \$300 *
 - Advocate (Birdie)*** - \$200 *
 - Patron (Par)*** - \$100 *
 - Friend***— \$25 per name
- *Sign Recognition & Newsletter Recognition

LAFAYETTE'S 28th ANNUAL RAFFLE



You will make a difference by participating in Lafayette's *28th Annual Charity Raffle*. If you've bought tickets in the past, thank you! If you haven't, this year would be a great time to start! It just might be your year to win the \$1,000 cash prize, Cardinal Tickets or a St. Louis Zoo Membership!

Lafayette Industries is *Missouri's single largest full-time employer* of adults with developmental disabilities. Proceeds from the *28th Annual Charity Raffle* directly impact over 400 Lafayette employees through our safety programs, free flu shots, and monthly free lunches.

1st Prize - \$1,000 CASH

2nd Prize – Four (4) Cardinal Tickets in Champions Club for June 19, 2019 (value \$700)

3rd Prize – St. Louis Zoo Membership – Zoologist Level & \$50 Gioia's Deli (value \$300)

EVERY TICKET MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

2019 LAFAYETTE NIGHT AT THE CARDINALS GAME

This year Lafayette's Night Out At The Cardinals game is moving up to a different time slot – **Friday, June 21st**. Mark the date on your calendars for **Friday, June 21st** starting @ 7:15 p.m. The opposing team is going to be the Los Angeles Angels. There will be no giveaways this year, but we do get to see Albert Pujols play again at Busch Stadium instead. We will be sitting in Sections 228, 229 and 231. Wheelchair seating will be available in two different sections on two different levels. The cost of the tickets is the same as it has always been – ***Lafayette employees get their first 4 tickets for just \$5.00 each*** and a discounted price of \$15.00 each after that. Please note that while we are taking the money now for the tickets, it won't be until late May or early June before the tickets will be distributed. As always, first come, first served. The deadline is Monday, June 10th.



Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ tickets at \$5 each (\$15 each after the first 4 for **employees**)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to Lafayette Industries.

I will need **wheelchair** seating _____ It is okay to send the tickets home by sheltered employee. _____

Please mail the tickets to me. _____

VACATION NOTES: We are reminding the folks at West that if you are gone for any length of time, we still need to have a written note about your requested time off. West employees - please send an email to Becky S. at her following email address – bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com . We will print out your vacation note so that we will have your vacation time in writing. If any questions arise, we can refer back to the note to see exactly what date it was. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW PROGRAM?



By Kim Lamb (Employment Development Program Manager)

Caught Being Respectful is the companion program to the Caught Being Safe Program. Positively stated expectations of respectful actions are posted, and reinforcement is given recognizing those who were caught being respectful. Additionally, daily “Respectful Reminders” are announced at lunch, providing employees examples of ways to go above and beyond daily expectations. Besides having their picture taken for the Respect Wall, they are awarded a sticker to be worn proudly throughout the day. The Lafayette community understands that when they spot a Caught Being Respectful sticker, they must encourage that employee to recount how they were “caught.” Everyone who is Caught Being Respectful for that month is recognized at an end of the month celebration.

VERY IMPORTANT TRANSITIONAL CHANGES CONCERNING PAYROLL

During our transitional change in our payroll process, if you have any questions about payroll, please call or email the following people:

North payroll questions – Jerry Phillips, phone – 636-227-5666, x2101, email: jphillips@lafayetteindustries.com

West payroll questions – Kim Lamb, phone – 636-227-5666, x1114, email: klamb@lafayetteindustries.com

WIOA TRAINING

Annual WIOA Training is scheduled on May 13th at West and May 15th at North. Please note that ALL employees are required to participate. Training is facilitated by Vocational Rehabilitation and is completed during the workday.



SAFETY TIP FOR MAY

By Tom Heitert (Production Supervisor Extraordinaire)

Floor Jack Safety: What an invention! A combination of inventions, really. With hydraulic lift, wheels and a specially-designed handle, the floor jack can lift and move some very heavy loads (1/2 ton or more). They are used prolifically around Lafayette.

Of course, they bring along some safety concerns that must be addressed. Their use is regulated and monitored. Example: A load moving too fast down an aisle, or the wrong employee (untrained or lack of access) heading for the warehouse with a load.

Still, I am hard-pressed to think of a more important tool in our shop.

Safety Is No Accident!

-

More Later!



WEST CAUGHT BEING SAFE

- MARCH 2019

Immediate left – from left to right:

Kim Lamb, Carmen Dockett, Kurt Pfeiffer, Pam Gardner, Claude Turner, Stacey Elster

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY FOLKS!

NORTH

Roosevelt	Ore	3
D'marcus	Merritt	5
Keith	Muldrew	7
Laird	Simpson	7
James	Campbell	8
Cary	Bailey	14
Terrance	Williams	14
Margot	Elgert	15
Charles	Young	19
Alphonso "Lamont"	Jackson	21
Michael	Kelly	22
Arielle	Phillips	23
Chris	Lott	24
Tammy	Cook	25
Genece	Jordan	26
Mark	Bowman	28
Morgan	Williams	31

WEST

Alesia	Roccia	2	Ian	Bagley	19
Ryan	Preston	4	Katie	Sears	19
Ryan	Dillon	5	Logan	Coffman	20
Martha	Sanderson	5	Sarah	Hartrich	23
Robert	Gregg	9	Joyce	Klipsch	26
Tim	Sitek	10	Casey	Florent	28
Brenda	Udell	10	Jacquelynn	Wainz	28
Thomas	Mondello	12	Ryan	Zimpfer	28
Kim	Lamb	16	Brad	Davis	29
Debra	Draper	17	Carrie	McKaskel	29
Wendy	Johnson	17	Valerie	Shaw	31



SUMMER CLOTHING DRESS CODE – IMPORTANT!!: It has been a whole year since last summer, and some of us may have forgotten that Lafayette **does** have a dress code. Since it already appears to be warming up, this time seems to be a good one to let everyone know for a few months what exactly the dress code is. There are ways we do and **don't** dress when coming to work. ***Absolutely no sandals or shoes with open toes allowed on the production floor.*** Wearing these types of shoes is a

BIG safety issue. We require **knee length shorts to be worn**. **NO** tank tops, **NO** muscle shirts, **NO** spaghetti straps or tube tops and **NO** inappropriate wording on clothing. ***Absolutely no sunglasses in the shop.*** Again, wearing sunglasses is a BIG safety issue. Please try to keep these things in mind as you dress for work during the summer months. We thank you for your cooperation. The dress code is the same for **both** workshops.

MARK CARLSON AT ST. JOSEPH SPECIAL OLYMPICS By Ed Carlson (Proud Father): This past March 28th-30th, Mark Carlson played in the Special Olympics version of March Madness. He played in the Bowling and Basketball Tournaments in St. Joseph, Missouri. He also got to enjoy the city's cuisine (pizza, of course!) and the Pony Express Museum. Along with Mark in the tournaments were his co-worker from Lafayette Industries, Charles Pfeil. They all did well in their games, and each received Olympic Medals.



BECKY RADIN SEES A CO-WORKER NEEDING HELP

By Sheila Zigrye (Lafayette Staff)

Becky Radin, pictured at left, saw one of her co-workers choking. She went and got her supervisor right away. Jim B. performed the Heimlich Maneuver on her co-worker. Great job being observant!

2018 TAX YEAR WRAP UP

By Dick Kallemeier

This year 70 people used the free AARP Tax Aide Foundation income tax service at Lafayette. Forty workers, 7 staff members and 23 family members filed returns. Seventeen workers qualified for the Earned Income Credit (for an average of \$258 each) and 9 for the state Property Tax Credit (average of \$547).

If you receive a letter from the IRS or the state of Missouri requesting additional information about tax returns we have filed, please contact me dickkall@charter.net. Tax fraud has been reduced but do not give your social security number or bank account information to anyone without being absolutely sure they represent a legitimate organization. The IRS does not call tax payers and request social security numbers or bank account information. A basic rule should be **do not** give information over the phone, hang up.

Special thank you's to Peter Lasalle and Andy Miller, our additional volunteer tax counselors, and Becky S. for their dedicated work supporting the program.



BRYON MINEKMANN'S FIRST CRUISE

By Karen Minkemann (Proud Mother)

Bryon spent a fun-filled week back at his favorite vacation spot Florida. Then he experienced a new adventure – on his first-ever cruise.



Far left: First stop was at DeLeon Springs, Florida. Not pictured were several alligators we spotted on our little boat tour of the Springs.

Immediate left: First day of our cruise we stopped at Key West and took a “Conch Train Tour” around the island.



Far left: We took a tour of the famous Hemingway House. This is Bryon, hanging with one of the 6 “toed Polydachyl cats”.

Immediate left: We took this picture in Cozumel, Mexico. Bryon made a few “new Friends”. These HUGE iguanas were everywhere!



Far left: This picture was also taken in Cozumel, Mexico. Bryon enjoyed the beautiful Caribbean.

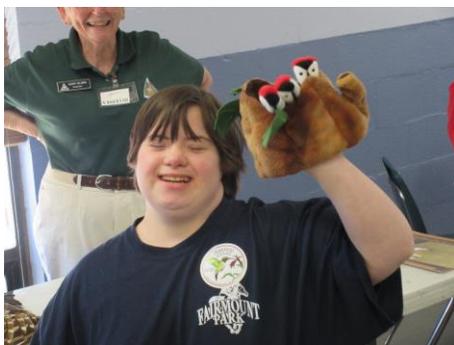
Immediate left: The last few are of us on board the beautiful ship on which we spent the week.



Far left: Dressed up for meeting the Captain.

Editorial note: It looks like Bryon and his mother, Karen, had a wonderful time on their cruise. If you are taking a vacation somewhere special, be sure to get pictures of your trip. We love a good story about special vacations.

2019 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION PROGRAM – NATIVE BIRDS



WEST ART CLASS – 4/12/2019



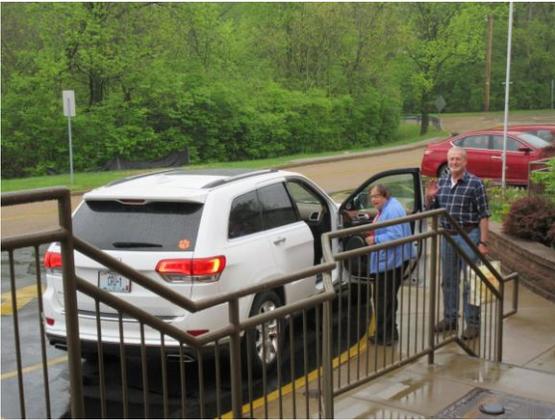
CHAS PFEIL AT ST. JOSEPH SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Sue Pfeil (Proud Mother)

The winners of the free throw contest and 3 point shootout contest. Also pictures from the Special Olympic State games in St. Joe.



BRENDA UDELL'S LAST DAY – 4/24/2019



Brenda Udell's family is departing for a new life in Texas. They have been at Lafayette a long time, and under Chuck's guidance as President of the Board of Directors, there have been a lot of changes. These are the last working pictures of Brenda at Lafayette. However, they will be back to visit. Brenda, Bonnie and Chuck – have a great time in Texas. Are you going to be able to wear 10-gallon hats, boots and say “y'all”, all the while handling a wad of chewin' tobacco? Have a safe journey!

STEVE SOSNOFF'S BIRTHDAY VISIT FROM HIS SISTER IN FLORIDA



Steve Sosnoff had a special birthday on April 24th. His sister, Joan, was in from Florida to visit him. She came . She had a balloon, and she had cookies for him to share with his teammates. Then he left with his sister to go get lunch, and just enjoy the day together. All in all, it was a good day, and we even got him to smile for the picture. Thanks, Joan, for sharing this special day with Steve and his Lafayette buddies.

MY TRIP TO ST. LOUIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Chris Brock (Proud Lafayette Employee)

Nowadays, for my birthday, I get stuffed animals so I can give them to the fire department, and so the ambulances can give them to youngsters who have had fires and lost everything. On April 19th, Good Friday, I gave 12 stuffed animals to Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson and Captain Garon Mosby at the St. Louis Fire Department headquarters. I also met Sharon, who is Chief Jenkerson's secretary, and many others at Headquarters when I toured the building. The red beacon in the telecommunications room comes on when there are more calls to dispatch. Headquarters has a bunch of old fire equipment, and Number 1 House on Jefferson Avenue has old fire equipment too. Chief Jenkerson gave me an official sweatshirt which I'll wear next winter.

Then my mom and I toured Firehouse #1 on Jefferson Avenue. House #1 took me on trips on two different fire trucks around the block in St. Louis city. I rode in the Captain's seat both times. I got to see the Strike Force trailer housed at House #1 in case of disaster and took many pictures. I also got an official St. Louis Fire Department House #1 tee-shirt that I'll wear sometime. It was a whale of a time!



At the St. Louis Fire Dept.



Chief Jenkerson, Capt. Mosby and I with the stuffed animals



Capt. Mosby and I in the dispatch room



Far left: I'm touring House #1

Immediate left: Strike Force #2 and some of the firefighters from House #1 with me



Immediate left: House #1 is Number One. I with one of the firefighters in front of one of the trucks I rode in.



WE NEED HELP!

-- Rob Libera

We have been fortunate over the years to have several “garden clubs” and some volunteer groups perform a “community day” here and there, taking care of our plants and bushes, and perform the weeding and touch up the landscaping in front of our building in Manchester. But the last group that was on the job couldn’t do it last year due to dwindling numbers of their club, and no community days by anyone either. So a couple of staff and parents hit the “high spots” in their spare time when they could.

This year we really are looking rather shabby and unkept! At North we never were able to get a group or club. We are proud of our facilities and want to keep them looking good, so if you know of any garden club(s), or groups, wanting or needing to do volunteer work, please let me or Becky know! We would like to get the areas looking good by the end of May, and we will hire a professional company to do that if we have to. However, as you know, we like to save as much of our operating dollars as possible to focus on our wonderful workers.

If you know of any groups, invite them to come look the situation over before they commit, no worries! We have had groups come out with a large number of people and get it all done in one day, to smaller groups taking several visits and methodically working their way around the areas. We can give them guidance and any materials that they need for the job — all they need is their garden tools and a passion for what they do!

Many thanks!!

MAY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo Remadan Begins	6	7	8	9	10 PAY DAY	11 7-10p – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – K of C Dance
12 Mother's Day	13 WIOA Training – West	14	15 6:30p – Board Meeting WIOA Training – North	16	17 NORTH FREE LUNCH WEST FREE LUNCH 6:30-9:00p – K of C Dance – at Valley Industries	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24 PAY DAY Both workshops are dismissing ½ hour early for the Holiday weekend.	25
26	27 Memorial Day – Both Workshops are CLOSED for the Holiday!!	28	29	30	31	