



RETIRING!!

By Karen Van Berkel

“I’m retiring after 24 years with Lafayette Industries, and 42 years with sheltered workshops altogether! At Lafayette I have most recently been the Vice President of Sales, with the honor and opportunity to provide meaningful, dignified work for the employment of our employees. It has been a challenge that I have enjoyed. I have family in Branson Missouri, Chattanooga Tennessee, and Alexandria Virginia. So, COVID permitting, I plan to catch up on some long-needed visiting, especially with my 2-year-old grandson. I’m a native plant gardener and avid butterfly watcher, and I’m looking forward to seeing what new species might stop by. I still have to complete my goal of visiting all 50 states, eight states to go, including Alaska. Maybe now I’ll have time to do that! I also plan on becoming more active in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the St Louis Genealogy Society. Although I will be busy with new and exciting endeavors I won’t forget my friends at Lafayette, and I will continue to advocate in support of sheltered workshops! “

Thank you, Karen, for your dedicated service and all that you have done to provide meaningful work for hundreds and hundreds of people — quite a career accomplishment! Enjoy your well-earned retirement!



Rob Libera

CEO & Executive Director
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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



IT IS TAX PREPARATION TIME!

By Dick Kallemeier

Becky Stillwell bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com and Dick Kallemeier dickkall@charter.net will start accepting email requests for 2020 tax preparation appointments some time soon – we will notify you know when we do. The appointments at the Lafayette West office will *hopefully begin Wednesday, February 17th* and continue each Wednesday until April. However, this beginning date is not written in stone, due to some technical issues the group of preparers are trying to work through. Please don't call us yet, as we are still working to set up both the schedule and giving time to the main groups to see if the software issue is going to work or not. To start the tax season, appointments will be scheduled for an hour and a half beginning at 9:00 a.m. We are also working on a drop-off method for those wishing to have no personal contact. If you want to use this method, contact Dick Kallemeier by email for further instructions. This free service is available to all Lafayette workers, staff and immediate family members. If you don't have access to email please call Becky Stillwell at (636) 227-5666, ext. 1100.

This year completion of the IRS tax intake / quality review form 13614-C is required. In addition to the basic tax information, demographic information is also needed along with permission forms to allow the IRS to share data with AARP. The intake form, tax preparation guide and demographic data explanation are available by email when you make an appointment.

The new tax rates and increased standard deduction have eliminated many taxpayers from itemizing, but just in case remember to bring all income forms (W2, 1099R, Social Security, SSI Letter, Interest, Dividends, Capital Gains), adjustments to income (IRA contribution, student loan interest, etc.), Real Estate Tax receipts, rent receipts, proof of medical insurance and premium expenses (forms 1095A or B), and if you itemize (mortgage interest, charity gifts, medical expenses including mileage). Also needed for each person listed on the tax return is a photo ID, Social Security card, proof of age, direct deposit account numbers, a copy of last year's tax return (2019) and if a victim of tax fraud your IRS ID PIN.

Many Lafayette workers owe no tax but may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and possibly the Missouri Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker). A review of the employee's income, disability status and housing rental expense determines eligibility for the Property Tax Credit. Tax returns will be completed on the IRS computer tax preparation system and efiled with the IRS. Federal income, state income and property tax credit (if applicable) forms are completed as one package.

Stay tuned and we hope we will have an answer for you soon. In the meantime, please have patience and we will get the information to you as soon as it becomes available.



SAFETY TIP FOR FEBRUARY 2021 – SAFETY HABITS By Tom Heitert (Safety Guru)

Perhaps one the very best things we can do for our personal and corporate safety is to build good safety HABITS. By definition a habit is a thing done often, thus easily. The thought here is that one doesn't even hesitate, we just do it WITHOUT thinking. Lafayette Industries strives to build good safety habits into our staff's and employees' lives. Pushing in a chair; picking up tripping hazards; responding to dangers (spills, etc.) the right way, and of course communicating perceived dangers.

One of our tools is the daily Safety Second. A staff member announces to the entire shop the safety reminder for that day. It is a CONSTANT reminder of the same old rules and precautions. This type of repetition works, and is scientifically proven.

Signage throughout the shop also contributes. Awards are given monthly to employees for doing safe acts. I speak of the **Caught Being Safe** program. We shall always be open to suggestions and new ideas. Injuries to our people are just awful.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT! - **MORE LATER!**

NORTH

Carl	Lampkin	1
Thile	Bryant	4
Antwoine	Edwards	4
Blake	Heida	4
Marquis	Walker	4
Raynal	Bell	5
Kenneth	Harrell	6
James	Bateman	8
Janay	Edwards	8
LaTosha Ann	Young	8
Felita	Jenkins	12
Henry	Anderson	16
Damien	Allender	19
Natasha	Wyatt	21
Anthony	Tull	23

WEST

Charles	Pfeil	1
Pat	Clark	2
Henry	Shelton	3
Roman	Pfeiffer	5
Cory	Owen	6
Mark	Grosch	9
William	Bolster	11
Jim	Bianchi	12
Sarah	Sanchez	13
David	Vanek	14
Joshua	Stuart	15
Sarah	Bolton	16
Sherri	Farmer	16
Zach	Leeker	16
J. T.	Farmer	23
Ronald	Hantak	24
Michael	Gaglio	27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY FOLKS!



JULIE TENNENBAUM'S FIRST VIRTUAL WEDDING

By Enid Tennenbaum (Proud Mother)

Julie Tennenbaum *virtually* attended the wedding of her cousin, Sarah. It was a beautiful, traditional Jewish wedding. It took place in the front yard and on the porch of Sarah's parents, Julie's Aunt and Uncle. There were a small number of guests there, but 150 other people watched online. We were all pleased to have the happy occasion.



CORY OWEN, PUZZLE MAN!

By Carolyn Owen (Proud Mother)

Cory Owen did training from home for several weeks in November and December. First he was quarantining so he could go see his two grandmothers. Then he quarantined because he had been out of town before he could come back to Lafayette. He (with a bit of Mom and Dad help) finished eight different puzzles during this time, from 48 pieces to 350 pieces. His favorite was the fireworks and the hardest was the tacos. Like many others we have rediscovered how much fun it is to put together puzzles and we plan to continue with more!



WHAT DO YOUR FAVORITE MASKS LOOK LIKE AND SAY ABOUT YOU?

Please take a selfie of you wearing your favorite mask, and email to bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com. Be sure to include your name as well. Let's see how many masks we can get. It'd be sad if we let the opportunity go by.

Cindy's favorite rocker, Bon Jovi, is on one of her favorite facemasks. Andy likes New Kids On The Block for his mask. The Editor likes lots of colorful flowers on her's (Spring is coming). Twana's got one full of shiny crystals (for when she wins the lottery). Brad Jandro has a favorite with Chucky, who tells us we're doomed. Linda Jandro, Brad's mother, has Wonder Woman on her mask, and she's got this. Andrew Furrer is sporting the mask of his favorite super-hero, Batman. What does your favorite facemask look like and say about you? We'd like nothing better than to have a gallery of pictures of unusual facemasks that people model for us. Since we are going to have to wear these masks for a good part of this year, we'd like to have a picture of your favorite mask as a part of that gallery. So send your picture to bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com with a clear shot of your face wearing your unusual mask. Sorry, Andy and Twana, we didn't mean to zoom in on you guys quite so much. It looks like this one would be easy to get going. If you're bored at home, this picture will take a bit of time. So take a picture of you in your favorite mask (.jpg, .png or .gif), send it to the email address above, and we'll put it in the next newsletter.



CAUGHT BEING SAFE FOR DECEMBER 2020

Immediate left: Leslie Kallemeier and David Kendall

CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL FOR DECEMBER 2020

Far left: Blake Maurer and Emily Prado

BROTHER AND SISTER SHARE WORK ANNIVERSARIES AT LAFAYETTE WEST



We had a recent celebration of two employees work anniversaries at Lafayette Industries. These anniversaries are big deals to our employees, and Lafayette recognizes both employees and staff, including how many years they've been here. Among those with the most enthusiasm were a brother and sister who happened to start work here the same month. David and his sister, Allison, started in December on different days. We celebrate with them in this accomplishment. Not a lot of brothers and sisters share the same month they started working the same place, nor do they share as much enthusiasm as these two have. Congratulations, and many more work years to you both!!

LAFAYETTE WEST LOSES TWO OF THEIR OWN – JOHN GRUNZ AND PATTY REDD By The Editor

Lafayette West lost two of our great employees and friends to *non*-Covid-related illnesses. Our hearts go out to their families and also to their Lafayette family. Patty and John, you made a difference in the world around you, and we feel lucky to have known both of you.



Patty Redd was always a bundle of energy. She seemed to be everywhere at once. Patty was one of those folks who helped out whenever and wherever she could. If someone was playing a dance song, she could be found out on the dance floor, like the far left picture shows her. She would be willing to dance with you, even if you were reluctant to do so. She also liked hanging out with her boyfriend and going to see new things with him. One of the things that I always

noticed about Patty was that she was usually smiling. The picture above left shows her hanging out with one of her many friends. There are tons of people who will miss you, Patty. You were one of a kind and always the life of the party. Thanks for being part of our lives.



John Grunz was proud to work at Lafayette West. Several years ago he received his watch for working at Lafayette for 25 years. You can tell from the picture at the far left that it meant a lot to him. It showed us what a hard worker he was. Another thing that John loved at Lafayette was Hot Dog Day. The picture at left is of John waiting to take part in the activities planned for that special day. When I first met John, he would always start my day by sliding the window back and giving me a note. If he didn't, then I would miss it and him. John,

we're really going to miss you at Lafayette. You made each day interesting, and I know your friends and family are missing you greatly!

JIM BIANCHI: FACEBOOK COVER PHOTO FOR GUS'S



Once a month at North and at West we're still having Free Lunch for our hungry employees and staff. The procedure for the meal has changed considerably. We have to have all meals packaged in separate containers, including cookies. A couple of weeks ago Jim Bianchi called us at West. He asked when we would be having our Free Lunch, and we gave him the date. So North's was set for the day following. He asked if we knew what we were having for the lunch, and we told him we "got nothin' ". Next thing that he mentioned was something that we thought about having last fall - Gus's Pretzels. Their website had a pretzel hot dog sandwich, chips and a chocolate-covered pretzel for a reasonable amount. We selected them for our Free Lunches on Jan. 22nd and 23rd. Gus's was the most patient place to deal with. We had to change our reservations several times at both locations. When Jim went to pick up the order, they took a picture of him picking up the lunches, and he was featured on Gus's Facebook page, with a shoutout to

Lafayette. Gus, we enjoyed it, and thanks for a great meal. Not a negative comment was made within earshot. Jim, thanks for delivering the food to our hungry employees and staff. You were right – it was a very filling meal.

GRACE QUINN – AUNT FOR SECOND TIME

By Jennifer Quinn (Proud Mother and Grandmother)



Grace Quinn is happy to announce the birth of her second niece, Mabel Herich. Mabel was born on January 4, 2021, and weighed 5 lbs. 10 ozs. Her parents are Becca and Phil Herich, Grace's sister and brother-in-law. Grace has been very busy helping with Mabel and her 3-year-old sister, Gweny Lou.

THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ALL YOUR HELP!
AND CONGRATS TO "AUNT" GRACE

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS SHARE
TOOTSIE ROLL DONATION CHECKS WITH LAFAYETTE**

Lafayette Industries has heard from four of its Knights of Columbus Councils, located near West, that are our loyal supporters. All four did a modified Tootsie Roll Drive this past fall, and for the past few weeks in January, either they came in to present their checks from the drive or mailed them in to us. Normally we'd have a presentation dinner with a couple of the different Knight's Councils during the Holiday season. This year, as you know, nothing is being done the same. We truly appreciate their efforts to help us out during what is a difficult time for everyone. We had our employees help out on a couple of the shifts on a couple of the Councils, and I'm proud of our employees and / or their families lending a helping hand. We left it up to everyone to make up their own minds whether or not to collect, and they really surprised me. Two of the Councils let us use our own employees to accept the checks on their behalf. However, St. Clare and Christ, Prince of Peace did send Knights to represent them, and to present the check to our representatives. A couple of our folks visit other parishes from time to time, which is why you might see the same person in more than one picture. We thank the Knights for everything they do for us. Next year I hope to be able to help the Knights out without having to wear a facemask and socially distance the Tootsie Rolls.



**ST. CLARE OF ASSISI KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS COUNCIL #7119**

Front row: Claire Gardiner, Andy Villaire

Middle row: Roland Schriever, Steve Smith, Bob Burger

Back row: Rob Libera



**ST. CLEMENT KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS COUNCIL #13604**

Immediate left: Andy Zivnuska, Rob Libera



**ST. JOSEPH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MARIAN COUNCIL #9522**

Front row: Andy Villaire

Back row: Beth Goodwin, Pam Gardner, Rob Libera

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS SHARE TOOTSIE ROLL DONATION CHECKS WITH LAFAYETTE – CONTINUED:



CHRIST, PRINCE OF PEACE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #12986

Immediate left: Brian Cahill, Craig Marek, Rob Libera

FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 GROUND HOG DAY	3	4	5	6
7 SUPER BOWL LV – Tampa, Florida	8	9	10 PAY DAY	11	12	13
14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 PRESIDENT'S DAY	16 MARDI GRAS	17 6:00 pm – Board of Directors meeting ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 PAY DAY	26	27
28						