



FAREWELL TO THE TAX MAN

By Dennis Dillon (Proud Board Member)

The Lafayette Industries community has lost a valued family. Dick Kallemeier, his wife Ruth, and their daughter Leslie, who worked at Lafayette for nearly 37 years, have moved to Des Moines, Iowa to be close to their son and two granddaughters.

Most people know Kallemeier as the “Tax Man” — he prepared tax returns, pro bono, for Lafayette workers and their parents / guardians for the last 12 years — but there is much more to his story.

Kallemeier grew up in Bellefontaine Neighbors and went to Riverview Gardens High School. He graduated from Missouri Valley College in Marshall with a degree in history. He thought he would become a teacher, but Uncle Sam changed that plan.

“They were waiting for me to be drafted when I graduated from college,” said Kallemeier, who lost his student deferment once he was out of college. Instead of waiting to get called by the Army, Kallemeier joined the Navy, where he became a line officer. “That’s a term for someone who is supposed to be qualified for anything except fly an airplane.”

Kallemeier spent five years on active duty — two and a half years on board a research vessel followed by two and a half years in Philadelphia, where he was a damage control instructor, focusing on nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defense.

After that, Kallemeier returned to St. Louis, where he re-affiliated with the Naval Reserve. In total, he served 28 years in the Naval Reserve, drilling one weekend each month and two weeks active duty every year at various Navy ships and commands. He retired with the rank of Captain.

Meanwhile, Kallemeier was hired by McDonnell Douglas in human resources. He was the director of human resources when he retired in 1995.

(Kallemeier story continued on page 2)



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

Kallemeier Story – continued:

Two years later, he started volunteering as a tax preparer for AARP. His base was Salem Methodist Church in Ballwin, and some of his clients were parents of Lafayette workers.

"I thought, 'Why couldn't I do this at the workshop?' " said Kallemeier. He and Peter LaSalle became tax-preparing partners at Lafayette.

"The tax service at West started off slowly, but it gained steam," said Becky Stillwell, Lafayette's secretary / receptionist. "Now people rely on them for their taxes, and start asking in January when Dick's coming back."

Kallemeier estimates that he and LaSalle prepared an average of 70 to 80 tax returns a year. That number dropped in recent years during the Covid pandemic.

Asked what he will miss most about Lafayette, Kallemeier said, "I'll definitely miss working with the staff at the workshop. And, of course, the parents, of whom many became friends. I was their tax man. There was a relationship — and it's pretty personal because I knew a lot about them."

Stillwell said, "We appreciate all that you have done for us. We will miss you and your family more than you know."

Even though Kallemeier is gone, Lafayette parents, guardians, staff and workers will still be able to have their tax returns prepared for free. LaSalle will become the lead preparer and will be assisted by Ellen Lenox.



Immediate right – left to right: Dick Kallemeier and Peter LaSalle



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #9522 - ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MANCHESTER, MISSOURI

Immediate left – left to right: Tom Landzaat, Dennis Pezzani, Joe LaFiore, Angela Gentile, John Dobrynski, Rob Libera.

Recently St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Manchester held a Trivia Night. Council #9522 is a long-time, loyal supporter of Lafayette. We appreciate these guys, and they are just the nicest people to us. They came earlier this month, and they presented Lafayette a check from the proceeds of the recent

Trivia Night. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued generosity. Lafayette will make good use of the funds.

PARADE PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

The city of Manchester has invited Lafayette Industries to participate in its Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Sept. 10. Entries will start lining up at 8:30 a.m. at The Journey Church, 625 N. Meramec Station Rd. The parade will start at 10 a.m., and the route is approximately two miles long.

This is a great opportunity to generate community awareness for Lafayette as it celebrates its 45th anniversary! **But we need your help.**

We're looking for parents/guardians, caretakers and workers who can ride on the back of a truck and throw candy along the parade route; ride in their own vehicles; or walk the route. We also need someone who has a truck or can get access to one.

Volunteers should respond to Chief Advancement Officer Vicky James (vjames@lafayetteindustries.com) no later than July 29.



FLORICA GAULT OF NORTH WINS MEDALS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA!

By Sheila Zigrye (Proud Lafayette Staff)

Immediate left: Florica Gault with her medals from the Special Olympics Games

Immediate right: Florica Gault with her unified Doubles partner, Peggy

Florica Gault participated in the Special Olympics in Florida. Florica won 4th place in Tennis singles, and 2nd place in unified Doubles.



WAY TO GO, FLORICA!!

NORTH – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – JUNE 2022

By Sheila Zigrye (Proud Lafayette Staff)



Immediate left: Dion Austin

During the recent fire drill Dion held the door open for his co-workers to exit the building easier and safely.

WEST - CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL – MAY 2022

Immediate left – left to right: Joe Farinella, Carl Berger (United Healthcare), James Riester

WEST - CAUGHT BEING SAFE – MAY 2022

Immediate right – left to right: Rob Libera, Angela Gentile, Carl Berger (United Healthcare), Casey Florent



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JULY FOLKS!

NORTH

Tem-ra	Rakhem	2
Jerome	Binder	3
Brittany	Sudin	4
Melissa	Jordan	5
Mary	Willenborg	8
Joseph	Cain	13
Lucretia	Hardy	15
Marie	Ball	17
Shawn	Flaherty	17
Colten	Lee	20
Brandon	Poindexter	20
Dion	Austin	26
Abibat	Akinola	31

WEST

Nicholas	Altmeyer	8
Stephan	Eyer	8
Steven	Smith	8
John	Langley	9
Kathryn	Luckey	12
Chase	Burnside	14
William	Hawn	15
David	Kendall	15
Zach	Adams	18
Bradley	Jandro	21
Claude	Turner	24
Diane	Hoeferlin	26
Jason	Marx	28
James	Nash	31



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR JUNE 2022

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

MACHINES AND LAFAYETTE

The transition over the years at Lafayette from a little warehouse and office in Valley Park to what it has become today is remarkable. From the move to Manchester, Missouri, to its expansion, to Lafayette North and then its expansion is just incredible. Along with the building changes, and the enormous increase in employees, came the transition to mechanized production. Machines alone can keep the Safety Committee quite busy.

There are numerous types of machines from cardboard balers, heat tunnels, shrink wrap machines to blister machines. Each is important to the profitability of Lafayette, but also brings potential harm if misused. St. Louis has been the scene of tragedy a few times this year where corporations were cited by OSHA for failure to protect their employees.

I am here to tell ya folks: That ain't happenin' here! There are incredible safety features and guards on our baler, blister machines and the rest. The heat tunnels are inspected during breaks, lunch and the closing bell for any objects stuck inside. Automatic shutoffs are everywhere. Knowledgeable machinists, mechanics and managers are looking over them each and every day.

There are simply no bounds on the love and responsibility we feel toward our employees. We just can't allow safety features to be ignored here. Nor shall we.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

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MORE LATER!



COUNTRY MUSIC STAR
**STEVE
AZAR**

LIVE AT
THE FACTORY CHESTERFIELD
JULY 9, 2022

SHOW STARTS @ 7PM

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL LAFAYETTE EMPLOYEES + 1 CAREGIVER OR RELATIVE
LIMITED SEATING-COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW BY JUNE 27TH

ADDITIONAL TICKETS \$45

Any employee who wishes to attend the Benefit will get in free *along with* a caregiver or relative. All attendees **MUST** complete the below registration form and return to:

Becky at Lafayette West or Jerry at Lafayette North or
Scan and email to rsvp@lafayetteindustries.com

Employee Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Caregiver/Relative Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Additional Attendees: _____

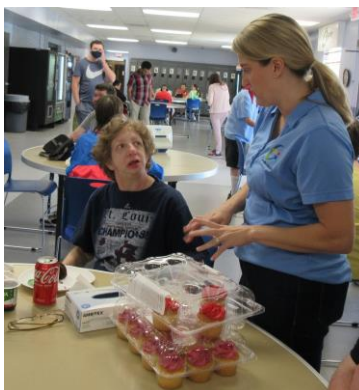
No. of additional attendees: _____ \$45 per attendee = _____ (total amount)

For **ANY** questions regarding registration, please call *Vicky James at (636) 227-5666 x 1118*
or *Kate Gregor at (636) 227-5666 x 1103*

LESLIE KALLEMEIER RETIRES



Leslie Kallemeier poses with her fellow co-workers



Stacey Elster gives parting advice



Rob Libera poses with the Kallemeier's

Leslie Kallemeier is a woman who works hard and plays hard. She has worked at Lafayette Industries for approximately 36½ years. During her evenings, after the workday was over, she goes home to do something that many adults won't or can't do. Many would call her an artist, some might call her a designer, but she's talented at what she does. With meticulous patience she takes her colored pencils and colors in the elaborate pictures and designs of adult coloring books. She has to plan out and implement what colors she wants to use and where to use them. Leslie's mother Ruth said, "I don't know how she picks the colors she does." She would bring the books into the front office, and we would look at them together, and also wonder. It would take her hours to complete one, but always stuck with it. That was the same kind of worker she was – one that stuck to it and got the job done. Leslie, we will miss you greatly, but we know you have earned your retirement. When your family comes to visit St. Louis, feel free to drop by and say hello to everybody at Lafayette.



SADIE AND JAMIE

By Denise Bovyn (Proud Mother)

Sadie came to us a year ago from the APA in St. Louis, but they had just gotten her the day before from APA in Alabama because of overcrowding. It was our lucky day!! She is the sweetest and most lovable dog ever!!!! (And yes, she sheds terribly so sheets everywhere). She is a beautiful combination of English Springer Spaniel, Dalmatian, Labrador and hound dog mix.



COURTNEY GUENTHER IN BRANSON

By Debbie Guenther (Proud Mother)

Once again, we came across the Treat Planet dog treats at Dick's 5 & 10 store in Branson on our vacation!

MY FLORIDA TRIP

BY: KELLY BAKER (PROUD LAFAYETTE STAFF)

Hello everyone!! Belated greetings from one of my favorite places in the world!!! Every year I get to go see my Mom (Best Adopted Mom Ever!!). She and her husband Bill just recently moved to Winter Garden Florida. ❤️

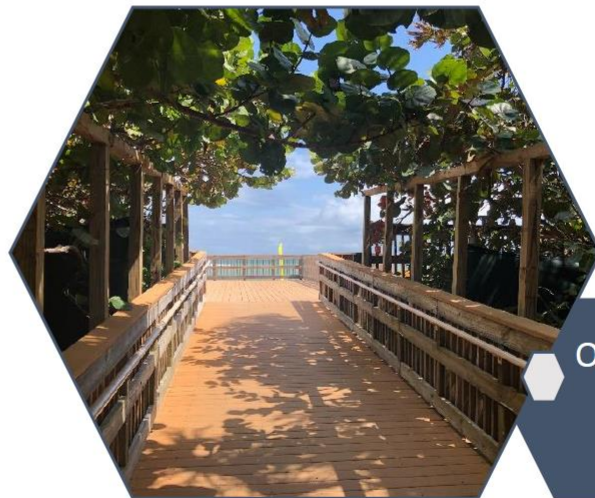


We get to stay a few days at their house. We talk for hours and go for walks in very pretty places like in the picture

above with my mom & son Robert.

Bill makes the best omelets ever! My mom has 6 cats! They all have great personalities.

After a few days we take off to Disney's Vero Beach Resort. We all love Disney & we all love the beach. It is a wonderful combination.



Our walk out to the beach.



This is a Jellyfish we took a picture of on one of our walks on the beach.

MY FLORIDA TRIP

-CONTINUED

Visiting with my family makes me jump for joy!



We can not make a trip to Disney's Vero Beach without having Mickey Waffles!

JULY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>HOT!!!!!!</u>					1 North is dismissing ½ hour early for the Holiday	2
3	4 Independence Day – <u>both Workshops are closed!</u>	5	6	7	8	9 Country Music Star Steve Azar – Live at The Factory in Chesterfield Show starts @ 7:00p
10	11 PAY DAY	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Lafayette Charity Golf Tournament	19	20 No Board Meeting	21 North Free Lunch	22	23
24 / 31	25 PAY DAY	26	27	28 West Free Lunch	29	30