

**SHE JOINED THE BOARD ... AND STAYED FOR 33 YEARS**

By Dennis Dillon (Proud Board Member)

In 1988, shortly after Diane and Russ Ortlip had moved to St. Louis from Columbus, Ohio, they joined St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin and met the pastor, Reverend Dr. Howard Gleason.

Gleason told the Ortlips about Lafayette Industries, which he had helped found in 1976. Diane learned that there was an opening on Lafayette's Board of Directors.

Diane had an awareness and empathy for people with disabilities that went back to her childhood in Columbus. When she was nine, her sister Valerie was born with Down syndrome. Valerie also had cardio-pulmonary issues which kept her in and out of hospitals.

Diane and her older brother helped their parents care for Valerie, who passed away when she was only four.

In 1989, Diane decided to fill the Lafayette Board opening, thinking she would serve for a few terms. She wound up serving for 33 continuous years — 33 — before she announced her retirement in October.

Over the years, Diane worked on multiple Board committees and volunteered at many fundraisers, including the picnic golf shootouts and the mouse races. She was there for the highs, such as the expansions of both the West facility in Manchester and the North facility in Berkley. And she was there for the lows, such as when former Lafayette executive director George Schumacher was tragically killed in an automobile accident August 26, 2003.

"I've seen a lot of changes, a lot of Board members come and go," Diane said.

Diane graduated from Ohio State University, where she earned a teaching degree. Later, she took some graduate-level courses and became certified to teach special education. After three years of teaching, she earned a law degree and worked as an attorney for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities from 1984-88.

The Ortlips moved to St. Louis with their daughter Valerie to be closer to Russ's parents, who were retired and living in Arkansas. Soon, they had another daughter, Allison. When Allison was two, Diane went back to work fulltime and ended up working for two St. Louis law firms before retiring in 2020.

**STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

Rob Libera  
CEO & Executive Director  
[rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto: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

## Story continued from front page:

All the while, she was a constant on the Lafayette Board. What impressed her so much that she stayed on for so long?

“The dedication of the Board members and their level of involvement in making sure that the facilities are well run, and their interest in the sheltered workers—and also the staff,” she said. “I really enjoy seeing the workers and how they love working there.”

Diane won't have any trouble occupying her post-Lafayette time. Four of her five grandchildren live in Kirkwood (a fifth lives in Chicago), and there will be lots of soccer games, hockey games, swimming lessons and babysitting. She likes to play golf and belongs to a Tuesday women's group at Ballwin Golf Course. And she and Russ love to travel to new places in the U.S.

Next year, Diane will turn 70, and she and Russ will be married for 40 years. To celebrate those anniversaries, they have planned a family trip to Ireland in June. They also hope to visit London to watch the Cardinals play the Cubs in a two-game series.

“That's what we're looking forward to,” Diane said.

What she can look back on is a time well served on the Lafayette Board.



**First photo – above left:** The beach photo is Russ and Diane with their grandchildren at the beach in South Haven, Michigan in July of this year (2022).

**Second photo – above middle:** Diane holding her sister, Valerie.

**Third photo – above right:** Picture of Diane's mother, her brother and herself.

**Photo at immediate left:** Diane and her husband, Russ, after the latest Appreciation dinner.

**WE WILL MISS YOU ON THE BOARD, DIANE!**  
**HAPPY RETIREMENT!**



Friends of Lafayette,

During this season of gratitude, we are thankful for our supporters, like you, who help Lafayette Industries accomplish their goal of Creating Opportunities and Building Dreams. We have launched our largest fund-raising effort of the year our Annual Appeal. Together, we can continue providing employment and opportunities for those that choose Lafayette as their employment of choice!

Thank you in advance for your support and have a joyous Holiday Season. For more information, please contact me, Vicky James, at 636-227-5666, x1118. To donate from our website visit [www.lafayetteindustries.com](http://www.lafayetteindustries.com) and click on Events / Donate.

Warmest Regards –  
Vicky James



**Everyone is invited to Lafayette's  
Holiday Concert & Art Exhibit**

**December 12, 2022 - 7:00p**

Manchester United Methodist Church  
129 Woods Mill Road ♦ Manchester MO 63011

*Art Exhibit Open 6:30 - 7:00p*





## **Annual Christmas / Holiday Party-Lafayette West**

**Friday, December 16, 2022**

**11:30a-1:00p**

The party will be held at  
The First Free Evangelical Church  
1375 Carman Road  
Ballwin, Missouri 63021

If you are interested in volunteering to serve food,  
contact Vicky James by email at [vjames@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:vjames@lafayetteindustries.com)  
Or call by phone at (636) 227-5666, x1118



### **ANOTHER TAX SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

By Peter LaSalle

Although Dick has retired, we plan to offer tax preparation services at Lafayette Industries this year. You'll see one familiar face (mine) and a new face (Ellen's), she has worked for several years at Salem Methodist as a preparer.

Now is a good time to get a new check register from your bank for 2023, even as you start collecting data and your thoughts in preparation for income tax time. As your tax information begins to come in, keep it in a safe place and find last year's return to begin the file. For those of you that are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA plan/s, make sure that you will have received your entire RMD by year's end because there is a stiff penalty for not doing so.

Many Lafayette employees 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. Tax returns will be completed using the IRS computer tax preparation system and e-filed with the IRS and state of Missouri. Federal income, state income and property tax credit (if applicable) forms completed as one package. Hopefully we will be able take appointments in January, and then begin doing returns the third week of February.

### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

1) We want to remind everyone that earlier this year they were informed of a change in the vacation policy. The balance of vacation hours won't roll over to the new calendar year, but will be deleted at the end of the year. Then on January hours will be renewed, and the employee will have their new total number of vacation hours for the year. For this reason we have been encouraging people to take their hours so they don't lose them. Common sense.

2) West folks – we request that you send us a note for your vacation days in advance. We are reiterating that if a problem crops up, then we will have a way to check your hours and what went wrong. But you have to tell us you want vacation hours. Please be sure and send an email to [bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com](mailto:bstillwell@lafayetteindustries.com) to let us know about your desired time off. Thanks in advance for your help.

3) If you are sick, please stay home. You're not the most dedicated employee if you come in sneezing, hacking and runny nose dripping everywhere. What you are doing is spreading your illness to folks who don't need to be exposed to your germs. Again, we appreciate you using good common sense. Good common sense says stay home when you're sick, and don't make everyone else sick.



## STEPUP PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE

By Cat Woerner (Proud STEPUP Program Coordinator)



Graduates with STEPUP Team are as follows in picture immediately left - Jack G, Harry S, Nick V, Owen G, Colton R, Derek B, Mark K, Jenny P & not pictured Sam L

On September 29<sup>th</sup> nine STEPUP participants celebrated their graduation from the STEPUP-Lafayette Industries' competitive employment training program at Pioneer Bakery Café. All nine participants showed growth in their employment soft skills and hard skills. Seven out of the nine graduates were already working competitively in the community at employment locations all around St. Louis County on this date. The STEPUP graduates received their certificates of completion, their personal portfolios and a STEPUP graduation gift bag to support their career success. The Pioneer team, Smiley Cookie

instructors, STEPUP team including Chelsea and Courtney (who were former instructors) came together to celebrate the hard work of these graduates and to send them off to follow their dreams. We have no doubt they will all be successful!



## GAYWOOD IS REPAVED

By The Editor

Rob and I go way back to when he first came to Lafayette in 2004. I've worked alongside this man for 19 years now. Yet even to this day I can't tell you exactly what he has in mind when he says, "Grab your camera." Cautiously I grabbed the camera, and he pointed in front of us and down the street. When we came out we were greeted by a cloud of tar fumes and what my picture of the Underworld might look like. It would be a terrible job to have on a hot summer's day for sure. They were repaving Gaywood Drive, and hopefully it'll be an easier ride now. It looks much nicer now, and less tired and pot-hole-y.



## WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE - OCT. 2022

**CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL:**  
**Immediate left:** Andy Rossel, Carl Berger  
(United), Shad Burnett

**CAUGHT BEING SAFE:**  
**Immediate right:** Jenelle Winders, Carl  
Berger (United), Keenan Retzlaff



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER FOLKS!

### NORTH

Markus	Allen	1
Lois	Ross	1
Tim	Hubbard	3
James	Nelson	3
Michael Daine	Sweeney	3
Steven	Buswell	5
Tina	Tackett	5
Jamika Shunta	Jones	10
Tiffany	Sudin	10
Angela	Taylor	12
Glen	Moore	14
Sheila	Zigrye	16
Torrey	Watson	19
Christina	Sanders	26
Glendall	Davis	29
Kaleigha	Cross	30
Vonita	Jimmerson	30

### WEST

Daniel	Zeller	1
Atul	Kakaiya	7
Ian	Wainz	7
Coranda	Edwards	10
Vicky	James	10
Nathan	Hughes	12
Keenan	Retzlaff	12
Anna	Walters	13
Elizabeth	Goodwin	14
Matt	Berry	16
Paula	Aleto	17
Camille	Lawrence	17
Jeffrey	Beckerle	18
Mackenzie	Carr	19
Daniel	Scholl	26
Samantha	Behlmann	29
Emily	Prado	29
David	Markham	30
Grace	Quinn	30



We are so very sorry if your birthday falls near Christmas. You have our permission to ask for an extra-special birthday gift from Santa Claus himself!

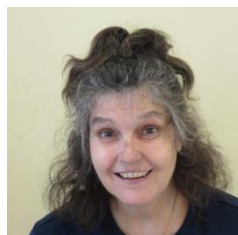
- Lafayette's Newsletter  
Editor up to her usual mischief

### NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL – OCTOBER 2022



**Farthest left:** Charles Cooper  
**Second from left:** Chay Muse  
**Second from right:** Kevin Thompson  
**Immediate left:** Sean Watson

### NORTH – CAUGHT BEING SAFE – OCTOBER 2022



**Farthest left above:** Sandy Hite

**Third from left above:** Glendall Davis

**Second from left above:** Vaughn Caldwell

**Second from right above:** Donald Jackson

**Farthest right above:** Veronica Quinn



## ROBIN CORPORA'S CARNIVAL CRUISE

By Jane Corpora (Proud Mother)



**Editorial note:** Robin Corpora and her family went on a cruise recently. Her mother provided me the names of the cruise ships, and we provided you with a little information about each of them. We only have a picture of Carnival Glory, but both cruise ships are exactly the same in appearance.

**Carnival Glory** – 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 Conquest-class cruise ships. It was launched July 19, 2003, with a crew of 1,150, and can carry up to 2,980 passengers. It operates out of New Orleans, Louisiana, and sails to Caribbean and Panama Canal. **Carnival Valor** – Panamax Conquest-class cruise ship. It was launched on March 27, 2004. She has a crew of 1,180, and can carry up to 29,974 passengers. It

sails to the Caribbean from New Orleans, Louisiana. We'd like to thank the Corporas for letting us share their vacation with them. Can you feel the heat? I have some pictures that'll make you feel even more heat. (End of editorial note).

During late October and early November, Robin Corpora enjoyed two weeks of cruising in the Caribbean. The trip took her to Mexico, Belize and Honduras.



**Far left:** Since it was October, the ship was decked out for Halloween, one of Robin's favorite holidays.

**Middle:** She dressed up as her favorite Disney character, Snow White.

**Immediate left:** In Honduras, Robin didn't want to hold a sloth, but made friends with a monkey.



**Upper left:** Robin's favorite place onboard – the pool!

**Upper right:** Robin's favorite activity in Belize was shopping.

**Immediate left:** On the ship Ellen (her sister) took her to what was a silent dance. Everyone had earphones to choose their style of music. Robin loved it.



**Immediate left – left to right:** Scott Skarstad, Rob Libera, Mayor Mike Clement, Ian Bagley, Alan Bagley, JoAnn Bagley.

## **ACCEPTING PROCLAMATION FOR LAFAYETTE**

By Ian Bagley (Proud Lafayette Employee)

On November 21, 2022, I was invited to the Manchester Board of Alderman meeting.

I was there to accept the proclamation for Lafayette Industries that was presented by the Mayor of Manchester, Mike Clement.

This was a really cool honor to accept this proclamation on behalf of everyone at Lafayette.

I love working at Lafayette because it shelters all of the employees safely. I love the bosses and all of the people that I work with. Some of the work challenges are hard but we get through them together as a team.

Thanks for letting me accept the proclamation for everyone.

Sincerely,

Ian Bagley



## **SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2022**

by Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

### **DON'T BE A BLOCKHEAD!**

The Lafayette shop floors can be seriously busy places. Production requires a quick pace that ideally will go faster still at some point. Products move quickly to assembly areas, and then quickly away when completed. Meanwhile, managers, supervisors and employees are asking themselves, "Where can I quickly put this stuff?" We must all be aware of where NOT to put things while deciding on an answer to that question. Safety to all is paramount here, but there are some very stiff fines for failing to follow THESE rules.

Here is a starter list:

Electrical Panels	Machine Emergency Off Switches	Fire Extinguishers
First Aid Stations	Exits	Aisles

Most safety rules transfer to our homes, and this is certainly one of those. Here's a list for home use:

Water Heaters	Heat Ducts	Water Shutoffs	Gas shutoffs
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**SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT** - **MORE LATER!**



## ANNIE WALTERS AND JULIE AUFDENSPRING VISIT DISNEY WORLD By Trish Walters (Proud Mother)

Annie Walters and Julie Aufdenspring had a Blast at Disney World in November!! They visited to all four parks - Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Epcot and Hollywood Studios. They also went on all the rides, but the best were Guardians of the Galaxy and Avatar!!



### ROBBIE GREGG: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BOWLING

By The Editor

- 1) You said that you won a gold medal for bowling earlier in November. What does that mean? *It means I won a gold medal for the area, for St. Louis. I will bowl for the state in March.*
- 2) Did you compete as an individual or in teams? *I competed against 10 people, not in a team.*
- 3) Who was your bowling coach in the picture? *Linda was my bowling coach.*
- 4) How did she coach you? *She got us ready for the tournament, and made sure we were in the right places. She also gave us support and encouragement.*
- 5) What's your next step now? *I'm going to be training for state competition in March now. I bowl 3 nights a week, so I get plenty of training.*
- 6) Do you have any other sports that you're participating in? *I'm participating in basketball. It's like bowling competition – area and state, and every now and then – districts. I'll be with my local team in this sport.*
- 7) When's your next event? *I have a basketball tournament in January, and then my state bowling, again, which will take place in March.*
- 8) Are you going to try to go to Nationals again? *I'm done with Nationals. I've gone as many times as I can.*



## 2022 WEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

By Barb Aufdenspring (Proud Mother)

Everyone who attended the Halloween party had a SPOOKTACULAR time!



WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ENJOYED THE PARTY, AND WE HOPE THAT  
YOU WILL COME BACK AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!  
SEE YOU THEN??!!

**DECEMBER 2022**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 PAY DAY	10 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p – Christmas Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus
11	12 Holiday Concert & Art Exhibit – 7p Manchester United Methodist Church 129 Woods Mill Rd. Manchester, MO 63021	13	14 Life @ Lafayette 4:00p via Zoom	15	16 West's Holiday Party 11:30a-1:00p at First Free Evangelical 1375 Carman Rd. Ballwin, MO 63021 Workshop closed, but is still a workday. Oats will pick up later than usual (Free Lunch for Dec.)	17
18	19	20	21 Winter begins  6:00p – Board of Directors meeting	22 PAY DAY  North – leaves early at 1:00p  West – leaves ½ hour early	23  Both Workshops are closed for the Holidays.	24
25	26 Both Workshops are closed for the Holidays.	27	28	29 North's Holiday Party At the Workshop Time: 7:30-11:00a (Free Lunch for Dec.)	30 Regular work hours for both Workshops	31 New Year's Eve