



YOU WERE HEARD!!

THIS IS OUR RIGHT. THIS IS OUR CHOICE. OUR VOICES ARE HEARD!

In December, the United States Civil Rights Commission began hearing some anti-workshop testimony against 14C, the Federal law that allows workshops to employ a wide range of people with a wide range of abilities. (Remember: Missouri is unique, and everyone has tried competitive employment first, and always still have the option to be employed competitively).

The testimony that was submitted had multiple inaccuracies and called parents who choose workshop employment “ignorant and uninformed”. Although they have no authority to act, the Commission planned to render a recommendation in January 2020.

Lafayette families joined families from 18 states and shared our personal experience and support of sheltered workshops through a letter writing campaign. We shared that the focus on wages ignores the larger picture. We are NOT concerned with lower pay. We ARE concerned that the rights of our *family member* to work in a fulfilling, safe, stable job where he enjoys being part of a community is at risk due to the wage debate.

WE DID IT!!

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission received approximately 10,000 letters from across 18 states regarding the importance of 14C and employment of choice. Between the letters and personal testimonies the Commission has decided to take more time to research before making a recommendation. They pushed the date to make a recommendation to September 2020 AND they are officially visiting several sheltered workshops as a group to expand their research.

Please continue to share the success of Lafayette with others. Tell the story that emphasizes the larger picture, the whole story. If you have any comments or questions, please call Alesia Rocca at (636) 227-5666, ext. 1118.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rob Libera'.

Rob Libera

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

CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

**LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES
PRESENTS**



Annual Mouse Races

Saturday, March 21

**Doors Open 6:30pm
First Race 7:00pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church
14088 Clayton Road**

\$25/person ~ \$20/Lafayette employee
Sponsor a Mouse for \$25
Sponsor a Race for \$100

*Ticket price includes snacks, soda, beer and wine.
You may bring your own food. Tables of 8 available.*

*Contact Alesia Roccia
636.227.5666, ext. 1118
aroccia@lafayetteindustries.com*

www.lafayetteindustries.com



10th ANNUAL MOUSE RACES

Saturday March 21, 2020

Trinity Chesterfield—14088 Clayton Road
Doors open at 6:30pm First Race at 7:00pm



\$25/person ~ \$20/employee includes snacks, soda, beer & wine

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone : _____ *Tables of 8 available*

Tickets \$25 x _____ (person) + \$20 x _____ (employee) = \$ _____ (A)

Sponsor a mouse for \$25 each \$25 x _____ = \$ _____ (B)

Mouse Name _____

Sponsor a race for \$100 each race \$100 x _____ race = \$ _____ (C)

Sponsor Name _____

TOTAL PAYMENT (A + B+ C) \$ _____

Pay by check and mail to:
Lafayette Industries Attn: *Mouse*
179 Gaywood Dr.
Manchester, MO 63021

OR

Pay by credit card online at:
www.lafayetteindustries.com

Questions: Call Alesia Roccia at 636.227.5666, ext. 1118 or aroccia@lafayetteindustries.com



FAREWELL, BRADLEY

By Pam Gardner (Grieving Girlfriend
and Proud Lafayette Employee)

I met Bradley Ragsdale back in 2010 at work, and we instantly hit it off. Somehow we knew we wanted to be more than just friends. So a few weeks later, when God took my previous boyfriend, Tim, who did not work at Lafayette, back to Heaven, of course I was devastated. Bradley was in the right place at the right time, and he gave me a friendly shoulder to cry on – literally. We exchanged cell numbers so we could text, and we always knew how to make each other happy.

Bradley was born on August 21, 1986, the oldest son (look-a-like and namesake) of Brad and Dawnita Ragsdale, and older brother to Brandon. He had Asperger's Syndrome (a mild form of autism). His mother got very sick, and died when he was four. This was one of the things that attracted me to him -- I lost my father when I was 15.

August 4, 2010, was a day that changed both of our lives forever. All Bradley was trying to do was get a bus ride home from work when he was hit by a drunk driver who was high on drugs. Poor Bradley had to spend the last 10 years of his life in a nursing home and had to be put on a liquid diet. He also had to have a tracheotomy to help him breathe, and he was paralyzed from the waist down due to the accident. He also had to wear adult diapers, which he hated, and he spent most of his time in a large electric wheelchair or in bed. I told him he had a "very long, uphill battle" ahead of him, and I was right.

Sadly, the "very long, uphill battle" ended on December 21, 2019. I found out via social media that Bradley had passed away that morning. Eight days later his family had a very nice memorial service for him. His Aunt Sue, who is now my friend, gave me a picture magnet of me and Bradley, an 8 x 10 photo of him by himself and some flowers.



2019 TAX PREPARATION GUIDELINES

By Dick Kallemeier

The AARP Tax Aide Foundation provides no-cost tax preparation for taxpayers needing assistance. All Counselors are AARP / IRS trained and certified each year. Intake / Quality Review forms are available at the West Office. To prepare for your tax return appointment, please bring the following:

Completed Intake / Quality Review Form

Last year's (2018) tax return

Wage income – W2 forms

Gambling winnings / losses – W2G forms

Retirement Pension income – 1099R forms

Social Security pension or disability income – SSA 1099 form

If receiving SSI, then a copy of the letter from SSI listing amount to be paid in 2019

Interest from banks / brokers – 1099 INT forms

Dividend income from companies / brokers – 1099 DIV forms

Capital gains / losses from broker's 1099B forms and / or brokerage statements (If expecting a brokerage report recommend scheduling appointment after March 1st.)

Health care insurance premiums for everyone listed on return

Nursing home insurance premiums

Employer / Government health care insurance coverage forms – 1095A, 1095B or 1095C

If you itemize (commonly called the long form) –

Unreimbursed medical bills and medical mileage

Home mortgage interest

Real Estate tax receipts

Personal Property tax receipts

Charity contributions and volunteer mileage

Picture ID, proof of address, age and social security cards for all people listed on tax return. The IRS encourages direct deposit of refunds. To use direct deposit, bring a blank check or savings account deposit slip for account number verification. If you or anyone on your tax return was a victim of identity theft, the identity pin number issued by the IRS in December is needed to efile the return.

Those over 65, certain widow/ers over 60 or those permanently totally disabled may qualify for the Missouri Property Tax Credit (also called "Circuit Breaker"). This credit is for lower income residents that own or rent their home. If you rent a non-government subsidized home then bring a letter from your landlord with their name, tax identification number, address, telephone number that states the number of months and total amount of rent paid. If you own your home, bring the paid real estate tax receipt.

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.

Becky Stillwell
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Dick Kallemeier
dickkall@charter.net



WEST – CAUGHT BEING SAFE FOR DECEMBER 2019

Immediate left: Kate Gregor, Kim Lamb, Jim Eppel, Andrew Martinez, Sherri Cooley, Logan Weber, Stacey Elster.



CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL – DECEMBER 2019

Far left – left to right: Alicia Franklin, Emily Prado, Kim Lamb.

Immediate left – left to right: Alicia Franklin, Leslie Kallemeier, Kim Lamb.



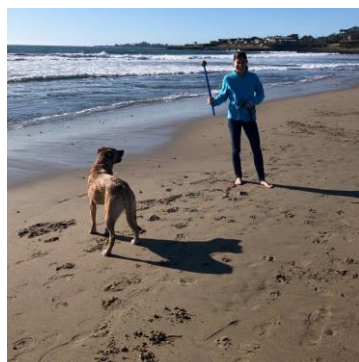
NEW WINTER HATS FOR LAFAYETTE EMPLOYEES

At the end of one particularly cold, nasty day, Alesia Roccia was walking through the front foyer when she observed that most of the employees were wearing their new winter hats that they had gotten from Lafayette. It was a photo op, and we had a ready-made crowd of models ready to show off their new beanie hats that they had received. Good job, folks, and hope that it will keep you warm in the days ahead.

VALERIE SHAW IN CALIFORNIA

By Brenda Shaw (Proud Mother)

Valerie Shaw visited her cousins in Santa Cruz, California. They went to the beach and the Boardwalk. Valerie had lots of fun.



25 YEAR GOLD WATCH RECIPIENTS AT WEST



On Wednesday, January 15th, West finally celebrated the 25 year watch ceremony with its two recipients – Ralph St. Leger and Tim Gregerson. The ceremony had to be postponed due to the one bad snowstorm that we had back in December. The first watch recipient was Ralph St. Leger, pictured third from left in the first photo on the top row with Rob Libera, his mother - Dr. Danielle St. Leger and Bill Florent, Board President. The second watch recipient was Tim Gregerson, seated in middle of the group in the second picture above, Rob Libera, Ron Gregerson, a family friend, Will Gregerson, Schaeffer Gregerson and Bill Florent. Afterwards everyone was treated to cake and got to take some home with them. We want to congratulate Ralph and Tim on 25 years of dedicated service to Lafayette. We appreciate their family and friends for taking time out of their busy days to share this important moment in their family member's working life. This type of celebration is not something we often see in business these days. Well done, everybody!



Searching for the perfect Valentine's Gift?

Show your love by making a donation to Lafayette Industries in honor or memory of your loved ones.

A Valentine will be sent to the person of your choosing.

www.lafayetteindustries.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY-ITES!



NORTH

WEST

Carl	Lampkin	1	LaTosha	Young	8
Thile	Bryant	4	Felita	Jenkins	12
Antwoine	Edwards	4	Henry	Anderson	16
Blake	Heida	4	Damien	Allender	19
Raynal	Bell	5	Natasha	Wyatt	21
Kenneth	Harrell	6	Anthony	Tull	23
James	Bateman	8	Christy	Mertz	25
Janay	Edwards	8			

Charles	Pfeil	1	Sarah	Sanchez	13
Pat	Clark	2	David	Vanek	14
Betsy	McMahon	4	Joshua	Stuart	15
Roman	Pfeiffer	5	Sarah	Bolton	16
Cory	Owen	6	Sherri	Farmer	16
Mark	Grosch	9	Zach	Leeker	16
Daniel	Lyons	9	J. T.	Farmer	23
William	Bolster	11	Ronald	Hantak	24
Jim	Bianchi	12	Michael	Gaglio	27

MY VISIT WITH FAMILY LAST FALL By Becky Stillwell (Proud Lafayette Newsletter Editor for 14 years)

In all the years that I have done the newsletter (since April 2006), I haven't come out of the shadows to really share anything publicly. However, I wanted to do something that would encourage people to share their vacations and their outings with all of us. These might be a vacation you had that was memorable or a fun outing you had. If you went to the new aquarium, The St. Louis Wheel or whatever it was, take a picture and tell us about it. You'll need to provide me with pictures from these trips as well as a brief article. When I decided how I wanted to accomplish this encouragement, I shot off an email to my sister asking if she would mind me sharing our pictures from our visit to the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland, Colorado. My visit took place in mid-October of last year, during which one day the weather was just beautiful and warm. The next day was cold and snowy. The park had statues everywhere. It was great! It was exactly like St. Louis weather has been lately. Sue-Ellen, my sister, and Richard, my brother-in-law, are in the first picture below in front of Richard's instrument he used to play all the time – the violin. We had a great time and enjoyed many memorable statues.

What is your travel story? Where have you been that you can share with us? We'd love to see it and hear about it.



WHAT'S YOUR TRAVEL STORY?



Lafayette recently started packaging work for a new customer, King Technology, based out of Hopkins, Minnesota. King Technology makes Frog® brand spa treatment products. The customer was at our West facility for two days and helped on the production line. Carson King from King Technology worked on the conveyor next to our own Dan Scholl. Dan did a great job of showing what Lafayette is all about as he diligently worked on his part of the assembly. The next week he received a personal hand-written thank you from Mr. King. Here is Dan with his framed thank you note. Lafayette will be producing orders for this customer every month.



Immediate left – left to right: Sherri Farmer, Daniel Scholl, Dan Libera, Kim Lamb, Karen Van Berkel

HAPPY GROUNDHOG'S DAY –
HOW MANY MORE WEEKS
TILL WINTER IS OVER?

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 4 th Annual Trivia Night – Manchester Parks & Rec Room C, 359 Old Meramec Station Road, Manchester Doors open – 6:00p Trivia begins – 6:30p
2 Groundhog Day Superbowl 54 - in Miami Beach, Florida	3	4	5	6	7	8 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria - 7:00-10:00p – Valentine Party
9	10 PAY DAY	11	12 Lincoln’s Birthday	13	14 Valentine’s Day North Free Lunch	15
16	17 All Presidents’ Day – Both Workshops are <u>OPEN!!</u>	18	19 6:30p – Board of Directors meeting	20	21 K of C Dance at Valley Industries – 6:30-9:00p – Valentine’s	22 Washington’s Birthday
23	24	25 PAY DAY Mardi Gras	26 Ash Wednesday	27 West – Free Lunch	28	29