



GETTING ON BOARD WITH ... BILL FLORENT

By Dennis Dillon (Lafayette Board Member)

When it comes to volunteer work, Bill Florent takes his cue from his daughter, Casey. You might say Casey is her father's community service compass.

When Casey went to school at the Miriam Foundation, which provides specialized learning programs for students who learn differently, Bill served as president of Miriam's Board of Directors. When Easterseals Midwest started providing services for Casey, Bill became a two-time treasurer on its board.

The pattern continues at Lafayette Industries, where Casey has worked for 10 years and Bill is president of the board.

"I've tried to help the organizations that have helped my daughter," Florent says.

Professionally, Florent's background is in finance. He was the chief financial officer at Cassidy Turley (formerly Turley Martin), a privately owned commercial real estate services firm, for 14 years. He now works for Selequity, a multi-faceted consulting firm, where he has been the CFO since 2015.

Florent has always had an altruistic itch he needed to scratch. So when former president Chuck Udell recruited him for the Lafayette Board, Florent could hold out for only so long. He joined the board in January 2018, and succeeded Udell as president 10 months later.

Florent knew a lot about Lafayette beforehand.

"I knew that it was the largest single fulltime employer of people with developmental disabilities in Missouri," he says. "I knew it was a sheltered workshop that had many (additional) programs that were beneficial, such as the glee club, the art club, poetry — some of the things that help Casey live a more full life."

Still, Florent's eyes were opened wider as he learned more about Lafayette.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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

Getting On Board With Bill Florent by Dennis Dillon – continued:



“I really wasn’t that knowledgeable about the business model,” he says. “I guess I was surprised by the number of clients we serve, the variety of business activity that there is here, and the support —the camaraderie— the employees give each other. When they gather around to celebrate something special — someone celebrating a (work) anniversary or receiving an award — they’re all cheering and very interested.”

Florent witnessed that camaraderie firsthand recently, when he awarded gold watches for 25 years of service to workers Tim Gregerson and Ralph St. Leger, who were cheered on by their fellow employees.

As he settles into his second full year as board president, Florent has a clear vision for Lafayette’s future.

“I’m all about growth. Growth leads to new business,” he says. “How do we grow this type of business model, whether that’s with new business or new programs? It’s unique, and somehow we need to put that into a positive sales pitch for the business.

“And I’m all about awareness. Better awareness within the community about what the company does is important.”

Florent grew up in Springfield, Illinois, where his family was split when it came to baseball allegiance. His parents and his older brother were Cubs fans, but Bill became smitten with the Cardinals, who won three National League pennants and two World Series while he was growing up in the 1960s.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Florent relocated in St. Louis in 1981 and started working for the accounting firm KMPG. Florent met his wife, Suzie, in St. Louis. They have three children: Casey, 31; Megan, 28, who, like her father, works in the accounting world; and Tom, 23, who is working on his master’s degree at the University of Kansas.

Education. Services. Employment. Florent has devoted a lot of energy to the environments that have helped Casey. But he’s not through.

Florent and another parent whose child went to school with Casey have partnered up in a venture called “Building for Independence,” a non-profit whose mission is to find a unique, integrated, housing experience in St. Louis County for people with developmental disabilities who can live independently. They have targeted an apartment building currently being used by seniors in Kirkwood that is only half occupied.

“Our drive,” he says, “is to find a safe, secure community for Casey to live in with her peers and neighbors ... because we believe she can live independently, with a couple of hours of support, and experience a full life.”



**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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH FOLKS!!

NORTH

Timothy	Cagle	1
Jason	Doss	3
Debra	Coleman	8
Stefanie	Taylor	9
Leona	Shadwick	11
Stephen	Bindbeutel	19
Michael	Terry	19
Eric	Klein	22
Travis	Carter	24
Lavonda	Daniels	24
Jason	Boedicker	26
Donna	Love	28
Charlie	Weaver	29

WEST

Timothy	Black	7
Travis	Nichols	7
Dalton	Brown	12
Courtney	Guenther	14
Christopher	Brock	15
Marla	Dehahn	16
Mark	Becker	19
Peter	Johnston	20
Petra	Bauer	22
Brian	Bradshaw	23
Dennis	Palmisano	25
Meri	Rohan	25
Jennifer	Schweiss	29
Ben	Kaufmann	30



WIN this beautiful Queen/Full handmade quilt!

\$5 a chance or 5 chances for \$20

Drawing March 21 at Mouse Race

Need not be present to win

Donated by Jim & Mary Sparks

Purchase your chances at Lafayette West front desk, Mouse Race event
and online at lafayetteindustries.com, DONATE, Select Quilt Raffle.



ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT SHOWS GREAT 2020 VISION!

A sold-out event, the enthusiastic crowd gathered at Manchester Parks & Rec for Lafayette's Annual Trivia Night. Thanks to Board and Development Committee volunteers for an outstanding Annual Trivia Night, raising over \$5,000!



WEST – CAUGHT BEING SAFE FOR JANUARY 2020



Far left: Carl Berger, from United Healthcare, Kim Lamb and Rob Libera call name of first award recipient

Immediate left: Dana Thebeau, first award recipient and Rob Libera spin the tumbler for the number and name of the next award recipient



Far left: Rob Libera and Sherri Cooley spins tumbler for the number and name of the next award recipient

Immediate left: Award recipients are Cynthia Jackson, Sherri Cooley, Dana Thebeau and Carl Berger from United Healthcare. Carl Berger is sponsoring the prizes for the award recipients.

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL FOR JANUARY 2020



Far left: Mary Klevorn, first award recipient, and Kim Lamb

Immediate left: Keenan Retzlaff, second award recipient, and Kim Lamb

COLLIN WINS MEDALS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Carol Gage (Proud Mother)



Collin Gage won a silver medal in the intermediate downhill, and bronze medals in slalom and giant slalom! Arthur McCarver won 3 bronze medals in advanced levels. It was great seeing all of you recently. Thanks for your kindness. We miss all of you.

MARCH ART CLASS
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Register today for March!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station including Poetry. You may attend one Art Class or both classes. **Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by March 6th**

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

Name of participant _____

Preferred Phone _____

Preferred Email _____

Contact name / phone number of person picking up art student at 4:00 p.m.:

Lafayette Industries
Art Class Calendar

Tuesday, March 10 – Theme: St. Patrick’s Day

Monday, April 6 – Theme: Spring & Easter

Thursday, June 11 – Theme: STL Cardinals

Wednesday, September 9 – Theme: Nature & Conservation

Monday, October 12 – Theme: Fall & Halloween

Monday, November 16 – Theme: Holidays

Monday, December 14 – Annual Art Show & Concert at Manchester United Methodist Church, 7:00 p.m.

Registration notices will come home with employees for each class. If you want to register for multiple classes, please send an email to aroccia@lafayetteindustries.com with a list of dates.

ALICIA'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM VISITS THE AQUARIUM AND THE WHEEL

By Polly Rutherford (Proud Mother)

Alicia's Special Olympics team visited the Aquarium and Wheel on January 29, 2020. In the large group there may only be a few who work at Lafayette. In front of the fish tank in the first picture, there is Tim Sitek, Alicia Rutherford and Angela Gentile of Lafayette. The others in the larger group shot in front of the tank - some of you may recognize are Andrea Perolio, Bradley Jandro, Scott Carron and Alicia. In the largest group, they are in the back. The Aquarium stayed open for the group after closing time, and treated the group with free entry and a ride on The Wheel. Some of you may know Mark Bussen, and he's in the large group picture in the back row on the right side.




TIM CARLSON'S BEST MAN AT HIS OCTOBER 2019 WEDDING

By Ed Carlson (Proud Father)

One of Mark's younger brothers got married this past October 2019. Mark was the Best Man for Tim and Jess, and he gave a heart-warming speech at the reception. Mark also did some DJ singing like John Travolta.

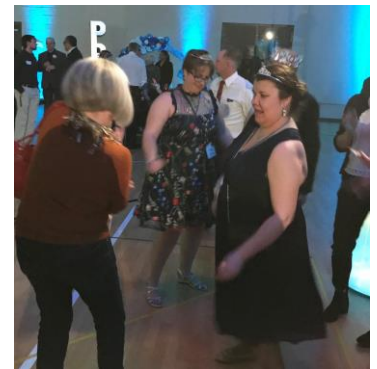
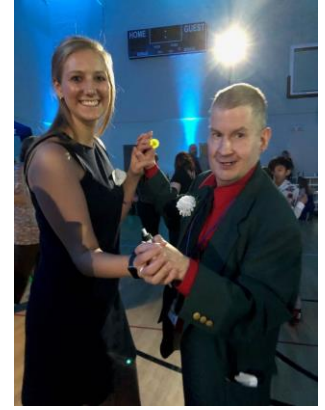


LAFAYETTE INDUSTRIES' NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

 Lafayette Industries' Night at the Ballpark is going to be held this year on Friday, June 19th, starting at 7:15 p.m. The Cards will be playing the Cincinnati Reds. Rob picked that evening because we will get a giveaway. If you go early enough, you can get a unique bobblehead of the former Redbird catcher great, Ted Simmons. Simmons played for the Cardinals from 1968-1980, and he will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. Come get your free bobblehead and enjoy a night out under the stars. Will the Cardinals be guaranteed to win? Probably not, but at least you will enjoy the fresh air and camaraderie of many folks that comprise the enormous Lafayette "family" and the even bigger "family" of Cardinal Nation. We will be sitting in the same sections as last year, and the costs will remain the same. ***We won't be taking any orders / money for tickets at this time.*** When you see the registration form in the April newsletter, that registration form will be the signal that we will be taking orders *as of that time* for the Cardinals game at that time. Go, Cards!!

THE TIM THEBEAU FOUNDATION NIGHT TO SHINE PROM By Ann Kelly (One of the Proud Mothers)

On Feb 7th, the Tim Tebow Foundation hosted the Night to Shine prom at various churches around the St. Louis and St. Charles areas. The prom goers received corsages and boutonnieres, walked the red carpet, had prom pictures taken, got limo rides, dinner, danced to a fabulous DJ and tried their singing skills at the Karaoke table. It was a VERY busy night, but our Lafayette employees were up to the task. At the end of the night, everyone was crowned Kings and Queens of the prom after an inspirational video from Tim Tebow telling them all how special they are. Just look at the happy faces. Can't wait for next year's prom!!



SAFETY TIP FOR MARCH 2020

By Tom Heitert (Safety Guru)



In the last two months we at Lafayette have practiced a couple of important safety drills. In January we all participated in our Earthquake Drill. Of course, the only protection afforded us in such a sudden occurrence are the work tables in our zones. During such a drill we all crawl under the nearest table. It's clear my teammates enjoy seeing me under the table with them.

The February drill was for tornadoes. The safest place at our plant are the restrooms and a few inner walls. Let's hope we never need either drill.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!

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MORE LATER!



THEATER UNLIMITED

By Ann Kelly (Proud Mother)

For over 30 years, Theater Unlimited at the Jewish Community Center has been producing plays starring people with different abilities. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was the Fall production, however rehearsals have already started for the Spring play, The Little Mermaid. Lafayette has actors from both shops in the play. They work hard learning their lines and singing their songs. *The Spring productions will be on May 13th and May 14th at the JCC (or The J), located at 2 Millstone Campus Drive, 63146.* Come and support all their hard work.

REAL ID

Everyone in the state of Missouri is going to be required to have to have a Real ID by October 1st. There is a list of required documents that you will need to take with you when you go to the DMV to get the new ID. I found a 2 page .pdf that gives you the information you need of what to bring with you. Here it is:

<https://dor.mo.gov/forms/5754.pdf>. This one is very serious because without it, you may not be able to fly, get on military bases, get into buildings, etc. If you type in or copy the address above, it takes you to a 2-page flyer put out in .pdf form from the Department of Revenue for the State of Missouri. If you take time to read what you need to take with you, it's very easy to do. You can even use your current photo on your current driver's license. Hope you find a spot in your schedule to take care of this item. Hate for anyone not to be able to go somewhere they need to go due to not taking care of a relatively simple matter. Up to you all!

LAFAYETTE PARTNERS WITH ST. LOUIS ARC FOR A FREE LEARNING SERIES

Last year the St. Louis Arc presented “*Aging, Retirement and Beyond*” at Lafayette Industries. There was overwhelming interest in finding ways to learn more about planning for the future. We are excited to share a new learning series, “Planning Forward”, for your family member working at Lafayette and you as the primary caregiver /guardian / family member.

Join the [St. Louis Arc](#) on the road to discovery for six, two-hour sessions to outline you and your family member's vision of a good life and plan for the future. “*Planning Forward*” is a learning series using UMKC Institute for Human Development Charting the [LifeCourse tools](#) and philosophies that assist with self-reflection, exploration and discovery of future opportunities, and build confidence to create your future plan.

What are your plans for the future?

Have you considered what options are available to your family member to live their best life when you can no longer care for them?

Join us for

PLANNING FORWARD

a FREE six-part series to guide you in planning for the future.

Topics Covered Will Include

Daily Life and Employment
Community Living
Safety and Security
Healthy Living
Social and Spirituality
Advocacy and Engagement



Monday evenings from 6:30—8:30pm

April 13, 20, May 4, 11, 18 and June 1

To register for this **FREE** learning series or learn more,
contact Mary Anne Tolliver, mtolliver@slarc.org 314-817-2218



"Funding for the MO Aging Project provided in part by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (MODDC), Grant #1801MOBSDD Seq. No.: 2018 as authorized by Public Law 106-402 - Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 PAY DAY West Art Class	11	12	13	14 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria - 7:00-10:00p – St. Patrick Party – Wearin’ of the Green
15	16	17 St. Patrick’s Day	18 6:30p – Board of Directors meeting	19 First Day of Spring North Free Lunch	20 K of C Dance at Valley Industries – 6:30-9:00p – St. Patrick’s Day	21
22	23	24	25 PAY DAY	26 West Free Lunch	27	28
29	30	31				