



KENT HEINTZ

Kent Heintz was a man who put all his energy into everything he did. He passed away on December 16, 2024. He worked for BMO Bank, and he was a great addition to the Board of Directors of Lafayette Industries. He served for 3 years as a Board member, and he had just been elected as the treasurer. All who worked with him as a colleague, a friend or a Board member will miss him sorely.

Kent's daughters, Madeline and Meredith, were the pride of his life. He taught them lacrosse, and showed them life lessons through it, which they will carry with them the rest of their lives. He also included his daughters in many of the professional and charitable endeavors in which he participated. He taught them that giving back was important. Recently they had participated with him in the United Services for Children Gala, and Kent received the Champion for Children Award. It recognized his advocacy for children with special needs and their families.

families.

He always made time on Sundays for his mother, Marilyn, in which they went to church together and also shared meals. They would explore new restaurants and post the results on Facebook. He thought of himself as a social media "influencer". At the same time he was also creating memories with his mother and his Facebook community. He truly had a lot of people that he connected with.

Kent graduated from Christian Brothers High School and Wilbraham Monson Academy. His classmates knew him for his charisma, humor and loyalty. It made him a leader and a confidant throughout his life. He was able to extend these to the workplace, and made an impression on the people who came in contact with him. Described as a "larger-than-life" personality that allowed him to be the life of the party and a confidant at the same time. He also showed he was truly kind and carried himself with a quiet humility.

His family is encouraging people to be kind to others and to support causes that help children with special needs to lead fulfilling lives. In this way you can show others how much of an impact he had in your lives. Kent, you will truly be missed by all who knew you.



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

PRESENTATION OF CHECKS FROM AREA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #7119



Immediate left – left to right: David Epessmann, Woody Tramwell, Mark Winkle, Becky Crump (Lafayette employee), Bob Burger, Colleen Kelly (Lafayette employee), Rob Libera (Lafayette staff), Bob Klimt and John Johnson.

On December 6th the St. Clare of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council #7119, came by Lafayette. Their purpose in coming by was twofold. First, they were coming to take a tour of Lafayette with Rob. Then they were also here to present a check to Rob, Becky and Colleen on behalf of the St. Clare Knights. They are part of the group of Knights that keeps a monthly dance going from September through May. It allows folks to get out and have a taste of social life. They get to eat snacks and dance to the tunes that the DJ is spinning. We appreciate the Knights learning what Lafayette is all about,

but also we appreciate their generosity. Thank you, St. Clare.

ST. CLEMENT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #13604



Immediate left – left to right: Becky Crump, Becky Stillwell (Lafayette reps) and Grand Knight Steve Kuryla.

On December 5th Becky Crump and myself went to the Christmas party being held by the St. Clement Knights of Columbus. We have a long-standing relationship with St. Clement in relation to the Tootsie Roll Drive. Helen Roder was the first person to introduce Lafayette to them. They have proven that they are among some of our most faithful supporters. They never fail to come through, and we appreciate their steadfastness. This year brought new faces to the forefront. Their Grand Knight was new, and so was their Tootsie Roll Drive Chair, Mr. Dunn. Thanks again for all you do for Lafayette, and you know that we will put your gift to good use.

ST. JOSEPH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARIAN COUNCIL #9522



Immediate left – left to right: Colleen Kelly, Becky Crump, Joe Hagan (Lafayette employees) Grand Knight Peter Bitzer and Rob Libera (Lafayette staff).

On Thursday, December 19th, St. Joe's Council #9522 had their Christmas party to present a check from the Tootsie Roll Drive to a group of Lafayette reps. Rob Libera said a few words about Lafayette and then the Grand Knight presented the check from St. Joe's to Rob. St. Joe's was one of the first Councils back in 2002 that we had come by and introduce themselves to us. After Rob came, this Council was one that he joined, and he enjoyed himself.

He was the one that began allowing the staff to sign up for a 2 hour Tootsie Roll shift during working hours. We had a good number of staff and employees who would sign up for it. We appreciate all of you who signed up for the Tootsie Roll drive, and support this loyal Council. Thank you, Marian Council!



STEVEN JOHNSON By Sheila Zigrye (Proud Lafayette Staff)

Steven Johnson passed away in December 2024.

Steven was an exemplary employee. He was here every day making his breakfast bright and early. When he was happy, which was always, he would play the air guitar.

Steven worked for Lafayette Industries for 20 years. He will be greatly missed.



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR JANUARY 2025

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

CORDS CAN BE SAFETY HAZARDS

Happy New Year. Mine is off to a rough start, but hey, not your fault right? I spent Christmas in the hospital, and it was the worst of all the days there as well. What came out of THAT is that I now wear oxygen at home (temporarily, I hope). The biggest hurdle was how to move about the home or anywhere else with it for that matter. I have chosen an extremely LONG oxygen hose. I can drag it the length of the house. Of course, the lovely wife has already tripped once, and it got caught under the refrigerator, yanking it right off my face.

Cords are DEFINITELY tripping hazards in your work areas! Some may require taping to the ground. Others rerouting. Just don't ignore them or say you will get to it later. Fix it!

One fall can change your life. And not for the better.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - MORE LATER!

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – NOVEMBER 2024



CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL
– immediate left – left to right:
Kate Brown, Stuart Harlan, John Langley and Rob Libera (staff).



CAUGHT BEING SAFE
– immediate right – left to right:
Casey Florent, Suzy Morrow and Atul Kakaiya.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JANUARY FOLKS!

NORTH

Emmanuel	Lowe	4
Jesse	Carpenter	9
Telly	Mays	11
Briana	Beasley	15
Duvunier	Gear	19
Dalana	Graves	19
Homer	Wells	20
Tim	Wafford	24
Kevin	Thompson	25
Sharon	Williams	25
Terry	Stevenson	26
Marina	Raskin	30

WEST

Allison	Branham	3	Stacy	Elster	10
Craig	Conrad	4	Julie	Aufdenspring	14
Matthew	Marien	5	David	Reardon	14
Julie	Wefel	5	Gayle	McAleese	20
Austin	Combs	5	Brian	Dunn	27
Mary	Klevorn	7	Arthur	McCarver	29
Heather	Rice	8	Scott	Skarstad	31
Laura	Meyer	9	Brendan	Sonnabend	31



THEATRE UNLIMITED: ALADDIN, JR.

By Ann Kelly (Proud Mother)



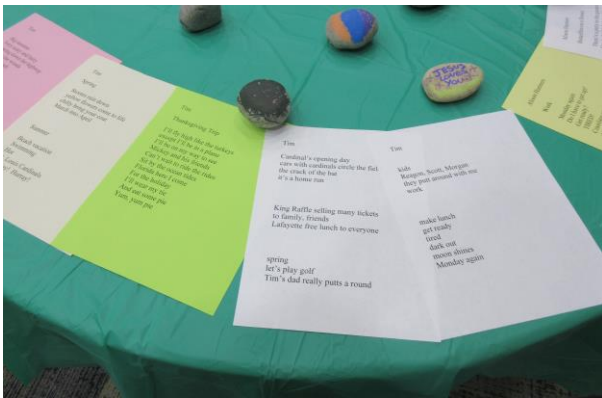
Theater Unlimited at the Jewish Community Center put on Alladdin, Jr. on December 4th and 5th. Lafayette employees (West and North) were well represented. Our Thespians did a wonderful job. Here are some of their pictures while performing on stage.

CAST OF CHARACTERS FOR ALADDIN, JR.

Darrius Roberts - Omar Laura Fortus – Shop Owner Meri Rohan - Agrabahn
 Hank Shelton – Prince Abullah’s Attendance Mindy Proctor – Narrator
 Colleen Kelly – Jafar from Marketplace

Editorial note: If you haven’t been to a production of Theater Unlimited, it’s quite an experience. The actors practice to get their lines and the songs right. The shows take place in a theater setup on the J in St. Louis. You will be amazed at what they can do. Thanks to Ann Kelly for providing the pictures for us when they do the productions. Good job, Ann, and good job to our actors that are part of the Theater Unlimited group.

WEST - ART CONCERT – DECEMBER 9, 2024 (In Pictures)



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR?

COME SEE OUR
BEAUTIFUL WORKS OF
ART!!!!!!

ROBIN CORPORA'S HAWAIIAN CRUISE

By Jane Corpora (Proud Mother)

Robin Corpora recently enjoyed a long cruise to Hawaii. She visited Honolulu, Kawaii, Maui, Hilo and Kona, and even enjoyed one day in Mexico.



Formal night



Robin really enjoyed
decorating gingerbread
Christmas tree ornaments



Rainbow Falls in Hilo



Cocoa tree in Hilo



Beautiful flowers
were everywhere



Kona



In Kona we saw sea turtles (in
the distance behind Robin). We
weren't allowed to get too close.



On Maui we visited the Haleakala
Crater up above the clouds.



In Kawaii we visited the Grand Canyon
of the Pacific, Waimea Canyon.

Pictures from Robin Corpora's cruise to Hawaii is continued on next page

ROBIN CORPORA'S CRUISE TO HAWAII – Continued:



Honolulu luau



Robin really enjoyed the luau



Robin won \$75 playing bingo on board the ship



As usual, the pool was her favorite place

ALICIA RUTHERFORD AND ANGELA GENTILE CRUISE INTO THEIR 40'S –

IN STYLE, IN THE SUN AND WITH LOTS OF FUN!!

By Ron and Diane Gentile (Proud Parents) and Mike and Polly Rutherford (Proud Parents)

For the girls 40th birthday, their parents took them on a cruise to the Bahamas. It's cold here, so they enjoyed traveling to warmer climates for a few days. The girls absolutely loved it! There was pool time, live performances, boat rides, beach time and lots of food! The girls especially enjoyed the live production of Mamma Mia, which elicited a lot of laughter and singing. We don't think they could have had more fun. Happy Birthday Angela Gentile and Alicia Rutherford!! From your very proud, but very tired parents, Ron and Diane Gentile and Mike and Polly Rutherford.



Far left: Girls in front of the ships

Immediate left: The girls beach background

Pictures continued on next page

ALICIA RUTHERFORD AND ANGELA GENTILE CRUISE INTO THEIR 40'S – Continued:



Far left: Sunset



Immediate left: Light tunnel



Far left: Girls dressed up



Immediate left: The Angela Gentile Family - Angela, Diane and Ron Gentile; The Alicia Rutherford Family - Polly, Mike and Alicia Rutherford

NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – DECEMBER 2024



Aaron Smith - Caught Being Respectful –
December 2024



Camren Williams – Caught Being Safe –
December 2024

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day – <u>Both Workshops</u> Closed	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 North Free Lunch West Free Lunch	10 Pay Day	11 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p – Welcome in the New Year
12	13	14	15 Exec. Comm. 5:30p Board Mtg. at West 6:00p	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – <u>Both Workshops</u> are Open! <u>NO OATS!!!!</u>	21	22	23 North Free Lunch West Free Lunch	24 Pay Day	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	