



FEATURED ARTICLES

SUSTAINABILITY

- 10-Year Green Tier

SAFETY AWARENESS

EMPIRE NEWS

- to Education

EMPLOYEE NEWS

PARTNERS IN PRINTING EXPO

Empire's 7th biennial **Partners In Printing Expo** occurred on July 25th - July 27th, 2023. There were numerous events and presentations throughout the three days:

GOLF TOURNAMENT: The Partners In Printing - 3M Golf Open was at Fox Hollow Golf Course. This event raised money for The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater La Crosse Area.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY was held on Wednesday, July 26th at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska, Wisconsin. From the impacts of the last two years, our world-renowned speakers helped navigate the changing landscapes of business culture, marketing, and personal growth, with focus on helping build brands and transforming them into today's needs.

EMPIRE TOURS were provided throughout the day on Thursday, July 27th. This gave outside reps, vendors and customers a chance to see Empire's latest technology advancements and production process.

NETWORKING: Whether it be the Wisconsin BBQ, the charity golf tournament, or the after-expo celebration, PIP2023 helped develop valuable connections to positively impact businesses.

PEER-TO-PEER INTERACTION: PIP2023 brought together like-minded individuals for the ultimate knowledge-sharing experience not found at most other expo events.

TECHNOLOGY: PIP2023 attendees explored key print segments, and gained knowledge about new business opportunities, materials, and technology from solution providers and industry peers. (continued on pg. 10)

GREEN TIER

GREEN TIER MILESTONE (EXCERPTS FROM DNR PRESS RELEASE)

On Oct. 24, 2023, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrated the environmental leadership of Green Tier participants and Legacy Communities with another regional **Green Tier Connections event** geared at highlighting partners and their participation in the program.

Representatives from Green Tier businesses, local governments, and partners joined the Wisconsin DNR staff in Eau Claire, WI to celebrate achievements of those in the program. It was also an opportunity to take steps in transforming traditional regulatory relationships into collaborative partnerships that achieve better environmental results than the individual participants could alone.

Empire was recognized for our 10-year milestone of being a DNR Green Tier participant since 2013. This recognition is a testament to our ongoing commitment to sustainability and accountability for our activities and processes, both internally and within our community.





BOY SCOUTS RECYCLING

Former Empire employee, Amy Bettis (now the Development Director for the La Crosse area Boy Scouts) approached Empire about starting a recycling partnership with the Boy Scouts. All aluminum cans collected at Empire will be donated to the Boy Scouts. Their first load came to 160 lbs which totaled \$64.00 for the organization.



GREEN COMMITTEE



GREEN COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

Jennifer Schloesser - - - - ------ Creative Director

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cathy Buttell ----- Project Manager Keith Cook - ------- Electrical Technician leff Gierok - -

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

M3 Insurance nominated Empire in September of 2023 for the prestigious award of WISCONSIN MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD. The MOTY program recognizes the state's top manufacturers of all sectors and sizes for their commitment to quality careers, good business practices, financial growth, innovative processes, and reinvestment into local communities. Although we did not win, we were honored to be nominated for this award.

The Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council (WSBC) recognized Empire Screen Printing as a **GREEN MASTER** through its new Materiality Matrix Green Masters Program on November 15th, 2023. Awards were presented at their WSBC Annual Conference, located in Madison, WI. At this event, Empire also sponsored a booth and had opportunities to collaborate with like-minded businesses. This is the first year that Empire has reached the level of MASTERS.

WSBC Annual Conference also recognized Empire in the following categories:

- · Top Performers with 100-500 Employees (tied for 3rd)
- Customer Welfare (Mfg/Utility division)
- · Diversity Equity & Inclusion (Mfg/Utility division)





SPRING CLEANING DAY AT EMPIRE

Every year, we celebrate Earth Week by doing a spring clean-up day. Although Mother Nature had packed in a week of snow, rain, and low temperatures which delayed the cleanup by a week, we were fortunate to have a bright 75° spring day to get out and have some fun, while making an impact. We had representation from customer service, the art department, SVS and LVS screen printing, HR, Digital printing, IT, and R&D. The group collected 37 pounds of waste.



SAFETY AWARENES

RECOGNIZING OUR SAFETY CHAMPIONS BY: ALEXIS MARSH

In the spirit of gratitude and recognition, Empire wants to shine a spotlight on our dedicated Safety Committee, our diligent Maintenance Staff, and our exceptional employees. Their unwavering commitment to creating and maintaining a safe work environment is imperative to our organization's success. It's their foresight and consistent efforts that ensure our workplace fosters a culture of care and vigilance that protects us all.

The **SAFETY COMMITTEE** deserves a special mention for their proactive approach in identifying potential hazards, and implementing safety protocols for best practices. Their observance and communication with management is instrumental in preventing accidents and ensuring that safety is not just a policy, but a priority. Their efforts identify safety risks and conducting regular safety drills have prepared our team with the knowledge and confidence to handle emergencies, should they arise.

Equally deserving of our gratitude is our **MAINTENANCE STAFF**, the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes to ensure our facilities are not only operational but safe. Their meticulous approach to maintenance, from routine checks to the swift resolution of issues, ensures that every piece of equipment on our premises is in safe operating condition. Their hard work often goes unnoticed, but it is crucial in mitigating risks and providing a secure environment for everyone.

Lastly, our heartfelt thanks go out to all of our EMPLOYEES, whose adherence to safety protocols and their proactive engagement in safety initiatives have been vital. It's your commitment to not just your safety but that of your colleagues that has created a supportive and secure work atmosphere. Together, through collective

efforts, we will continue to grow a safety-first culture ensuring that our workplace and everyone in it stay safe and healthy.

To our Safety Committee, Maintenance Staff, and all our employees, your dedication to safety is invaluable. It's with immense gratitude that we thank you for your contributions. Let's continue to work together, uphold our safety standards, and ensure our workplace remains a safe, healthy, and happy environment for all.



SAFETY MEAL

On August 16th, 2023, Empire hit a safety milestone of 765+ days with no losttime due to accidents! In celebration, Empire provided a safety dinner for all employees to enjoy. The meal was catered by North Country Steak Buffet.

Along with the meal, 100 employees were randomly selected to win \$20.00 cash.

SAFETY COMMITTEE



SAFETY COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

Keith Cook - - - - -

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nancy Gilbertson------Customer Service Curtis Johnson - - - - I.T. Tom Donaldson----- Digital Manager Theresa Antony - - - - - - SVS Operator Bob Fischer ------ SVS Operator Mike Wakeen - - - - Director of Manufacturing

COMPANY PICNIC

On September 16th, Empire hosted a company picnic at the Town of Holland for an afternoon of food (catered by Rooster Andy's), socializing, games, and prizes.

Employees signed up for a variety of prizes. Names were randomly drawn and the employee would participate by pulling tabs from the "Pick It to Win It" board, created by Creative Director, Jennifer Schloesser.













EMPIRE NEWS

COMPANY PICNIC [CONTINUED]



















See Empire T.E.A.M Facebook page for more photos of the picnic

COMPANY PICNIC PRIZE WINNERS

Altec Lansing Lifejacket 2 Bluetooth Speaker	Steve Limper
Gearwrench 20pc Ratcheting Wrench Set plus various additional hand tools	Kayla Selberg
Stemless Wine Glass Set (4 pack) Plus a Lunch Bag - Camo	Petra Voge
\$50 Olive Garden Gift Card	
\$40 Coulee Golf Bowl Gift Card	
4" Weber Grill	
340 Coulee Golf Bowl Gift Card	Patty Wells
50 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Petra Voge
ibby Mixology Set	David Collins
30 Walmart Gift Card	
Solar Power Bank 38800mAh with Flashlight and USB Charging portsports	Shane Paler
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Jeff Gierol
linja Foodi 8.5 Qt Possible Cooker Pro	Raven Ericksor
50 Festival Foods Gift Card	Kathy Vaughar
cho Show 5 with Music	Shane Paler
temless Wine Glass Set (4 pack) Plus a Lunch Bag - Green	Bonnie Andersor
mazon Fire TV Stick 4K	
50 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Jared Bal
lykolity 22" Heavy Duty Gas Tabletop Griddle	Karen Conway
40 Coulee Golf Bowl Gift Card	Jenny Ledmar
eorge Foreman Grill	Chris Mikunda
50 Festival Foods Gift Card	Crystal Monr
ecorative LED Rope Light (Indoor or Outdoor) 33 Ft x 2	Blake Sabine
olar Power Bank 38800mAh with Flashlight and USB Charging ports	Terri Sullivar
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Steve Vinsor
50 Olive Garden Gift Card	Crystal Monr
35 Senor Villa Gift Card	Cory Krajewsk
Sissel Handhel Cordless Pet Stain Remover	Rob Kransk
mazon Fire TV Stick 4K	Sarah Haskin
mazon Fire TV Stick 4K	Dawn Bentzer
ltec Lansing Lifejacket 2 Bluetooth Speaker	Eileen Ustb
Pirt Devil Handheld Cordless Wet-Dry Vacuum	Shane Hulbur
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Kevin Gerstenberge
50 Visa Gift Card	Dustin Maule
x7 Sherpa Blankets	Rhonda Petersor
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Eileen Ustb
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Kathy Vaughar
lintendo Switch Lite - Yellow	James Owsle
40 Coulee Golf Bowl Gift Card	Shane Hulbur
ltec Lansing Lifejacket 2 Bluetooth Speaker	Rhonda Petersor
uisinart Vegetable & Fruit Chopper/Battery-Powered Salt and PepperGrinders	Curtis Johnson
30 Walmart Gift Card	Becca Bridge
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Sharon Ronnie
cho Show 5 with Blink Mini Camera	Lucille Breneger
50Festival Foods Gift Card	Brenda Hanser
Vireless Earbuds Bluetooth 5.0	Eric Colemar
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	lordan Wit
mazon Fire TV Stick 4K	Terri Sullivar
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	Blake Sabine
linja Foodi XL Pro Gill & Griddle	Colleen McCani
35 Senor Villa Gift Card	Steve Lechni
ltec Lansing Lifejacket 2 Bluetooth Speaker	Karen Conwa
50 Walmart Gift Card	Gigi Cundy-Lalande
30 Walmart Gift Card	Dustin Maule
Chairs plus towel - beach theme	Dawn Bentzer
50 Walmart Gift Card	
30 Walmart Gift Card	
George Foreman Grill	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
Vireless Earbuds Bluetooth 5.0 Gigi	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
owerXL Duo Nutrisealer Vacuum Sealer Set	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
-Day PTO	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
50 Visa Gift Card	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
x7 Sherpa Blanketsano Bag, Soft-sided cooler, Folding Table, Magnetic Utility Light,	
amo Backpack, Camo Lunch Bag, Soit-Sided Cooler, Folding Table, Magnetic Otility Light, 2 Collapsible LED Lanterns	Thoraca Anton
	Hieresa Antoni
-Day PTO Curtis Johnson 6" Natural Wood Wall Clock	lach Darrer
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
50 Festival Foods Gift Card	
30 Walmart Gift Card	
50 Home Depot	
Qt Dutch Oven	
30 Kwik Trip Gift Card	
Craftsman 9 Gallon 4.5 HP Wet-Dry Vacuum	
:100 Cash	Diana Kurt
100 Cash	

HALLOWEEN AT EMPIRE

Halloween at Empire included a Murder Mystery for employees to solve, a candy guessing game, and a costume contest.



Emily Syring, Eric Wienkes, Matt Vanderloop, Rick Burg

CANDY GUESSING GAME (They win the jar and the candy)

JAR #1 (122 pieces).... Mike Smith won with a guess of 120

JAR #2 (99 pieces)..... **Candy Amann** won with the exact amount of 99!

JAR #3 (39 pieces)...... Vanessa Fox & Theresa Antony won with exact amount of 39!

*In the event of a tie, one person gets the candy, the other gets the jar. Vanessa gave up her winnings and everything went to Theresa.

COSTUME CONTEST

19 Empire employees participated in this year's costume contest. Employees were invited to vote on the costumes the week after Halloween. There were four (4) categories. The winner of each category won \$50.00.



MOST CREATIVE Cheap Traveler Jared Ball 1st Shift Laser/ Shipping Dept.



SCARIEST Samara (The Ring) Janie Uy 1st Shift LVS



FAVORITE Willie Nelson Jenny Ledman 1st Shift Art Dept.





HALLOWEEN AT EMPIRE COSTUME PARTICIPANTS

































EMPIRE NEWS

This was a thoroughly enjoyable event with the opportunity to meet and interact with very

knowledgeable people from the industry. A must attend for anyone in this industry.

PARTNERS IN PRINTING EXPO 2023

JULY 25th • Charity Golf Tournament

As part of the Partners in Printing 2023 Expo, Empire partnered with 3M to host our 3rd charity golf tournament on July 25th at Fox Hollow Golf Course, with proceeds being donated to The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater La Crosse Area.

72 golfers competed in an 18-hole scramble, with prizes and awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place teams. We were able to raise \$5,191.51 for the Boys and Girls Club, which was presented to the organization in November.









JULY 26th • Professional Learning Day

Our speakers helped navigate the changing landscapes of business culture, marketing, and personal growth. These world-renowned speakers focused on helping our attendees build their brand and transform it into today's needs, offering professional insights and giving tools to improve oneself and business goals.











Amir Ghannad Kelly Swanson

Jessy Servi Ortiz

MPIRE NEWS

PARTNERS IN PRINTING EXPO 2023

JULY 27th • Vendor Fair & Breakout Sessions

Exhibitors filled the Stoney Creek Inn conference room for our Expo's **VENDOR FAIR**, highlighting: Printing industry's top suppliers, latest technology advancements for screen, offset, lithography, flexo, and digital printing, and one-on-one key business professional insights.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS were also held throughout the day. Amir Ghannad showed practical applications of proven approaches to energize and motivate team members. Jessy Ortiz talked about integrating sustainability and improving business outcomes.







I am always impressed with the innovation of **Empire Screen** Printing. The tour is the highlight. (Printer)

JULY 27th • Plant Tours

Visitors learned first-hand knowledge and more about Empire Screen Printing's latest technology and production process.







PARTNERS IN PRINTING EXPO 2023

JULY 26th • Famous Wisconsin BBQ

Following the Professional Learning Day, John Freismuth's Famous Wisconsin BBQ event was held at Castaways on French Island. Everyone who attended enjoyed games, drinks and food, along with plenty of opportunities to network and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Mississippi River.







JULY 27th • After Expo Celebration

A closing celebration was held at Castaways on French Island after all the events. Everyone was able to unwind and enjoy live music to end the productive day.











COMMUNITY OUTREACH CMN HOLIDAY CARD PRINT TOUR

Empire has had a special relationship with the Children's Miracle Network at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The founder of Empire, Jim Brush, wanted to give back to the community and especially children, so for the past 36 years we have been the official printer of the CMN Holiday Cards.

Each year, the card designs are created by a talented group of kids. This adds a special touch to the project, allowing their creativity to shine while supporting a good cause. 100% of the card sales benefit CMN Hospitals, ensuring the funds generated go towards helping those in need.

Not only does Empire cover all costs of printing the CMN Holiday cards, the Hero kids and their families get a chance to tour the plant and see their designs coming off the production line. It adds a personal and meaningful connection to the entire process. It's not just about financial support but also about creating memorable experiences for these young individuals and their families.







PUPPIES & HUMMERS

In January 2023, we did some early spring cleaning and came across these adorable peace puppies and rockin' hummers left over from Iim Brush's World Peace Foundation. We were fortunate to find some local non-profit organizations for donation. Former employee, Amy Bettis, took some for the Boy Scouts of America Gateway Area Council and the remaining went to the Northside Elementary Neighborhood Center. Together, these great non-profits are using them as prizes throughout the year at events. Jim would be proud knowing that these wonderful toys are putting smiles on children's faces.



L-R: Julie Nelson (Community School Coordinator, Northside Elementary School), Cindy Brush (owner, Empire Screen Printing), Amy Bettis (Development Director, The Boy Scouts of America Gateway Area Council)

OPENING DOORS TO EDUCATION BY: JENNIFER SCHLOESSER

Empire is proud to bring in local students for tours, that are seeking out career opportunities. Onalaska HS toured our facility on October 25th, 2023. They came loaded with great questions as they researched their own career paths and received first-hand expertise from Empire management and employees.









EMPIRE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES COMMENDATION

Congratulations to **Troy Stockers** (1st Shift, Art Dept.) for receiving the Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation Award from the United States Coast Guard, for recognition of outstanding achievement or service. Troy has been a member of the Coast Guard for 14 years. Thank you for your service, Troy!







EMPLOYEE FAREWELLS





Congratulations to Dawn McGrath's retirement after 28 years at Empire. We wish you the best with your future adventures!





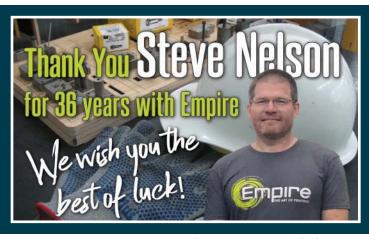


Congratulations to Lori **Taube's** retirement after 44 years at Empire. Have fun with all the new exciting experiences coming your way!



Congratulations to John Johnson's retirement after 37 years at Empire. Enjoy the next part of your journey!





After 36 years at Empire, **Steve Nelson** has moved on to other opportunities. We wish him the best of luck!

ANNIVERSARIES & NEW EMPLOYEES

MAY

Travis Brush33 years
Lisa Massoth33 years
Sam Sokolik30 years
Sheldon True26 years
Deb Gilbertson 26 years
Tom Donaldson26 years
Katie Schaller 18 years
Autum Jacobs 15 years
Jacky Vue10 years
Kiecila Fruetel 9 years
Cory Krajewski 7 years
Brenda Hansen 6 years
Diana Kurtz 5 years
Megan
Dickerson-Caacbay 5 years
Nicholas Lubinsky 2 years
Jordan Witt2 years
,

JUNE

OOIIL
Dawn Gorniak39 years
Debbie Michel38 years
Russell Kuehn28 years
Rebecca Stark27 years
Sheila Albers24 years
Robert Fischer21 years
Matt Vanderloop 19 years
Carina Olson 17 years
Sarah Erickson 16 years
Rebecca Burg 12 years
Codi Jacobs 11 years
Britney Henkel 8 years
Ronnie Tilson 7 years
Audra Moline 7 years
Charles Beck
Bradley Ames 6 years
Raven Erickson 2 years
Bradley Cook2 years
Gavin Burr 1 year
Cory Freehill1 year
Ethan Anderson 1 year
Ediair/Mider 5011 1 year

JULY

Ralph Young32 years
Laramie Schwier 29 years
Joann Anderson 26 years
Curtis Wier24 years
Teresa Sullivan24 years
Robert Kranski 19 years
Colleen McCann 14 years
Robert Wellnitz 13 years
Joshua Leisgang 11 years
Zachary Johnson 7 years
Ethan Walker 6 years
Tanya Thompson 2 years
David Kubas 2 years

AUGUST

Sue Maule40 year
Angela Pierce40 year
Mike Smith36 year
Steven G Johnson 33 year
Lee Vieth32 year
Jeff Meyer32 year
Doug Kuehn 18 year
Troy Siverhus 9 year
Casey Wilkins 3 year
Brittany Clements 3 year
Chris Rogowski 2 year
Dalton Johnson 2 year
Anita Johnson 2 year
Katrina Murphy1 yea
William Sabine 1 yea

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

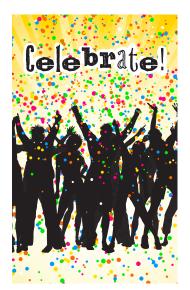
Eileen Ustby29 Cathy Buttell28	years
Laurie Arentz18	years
Charles Hills17	years
Benjamin Bakken 13	years
Traci Low9	years
Troy Hanson8	years
Robert Bialecki5	years
Tyler Allen3	years
Shane Palen 2	years

NOVEMBER

Jim Weber38 years
Keith Cook32 years
Roman Kamrowski 29 years
Dawn McGrath 29 years
Marcia McFarlane . 26 years
Candy Amann23 years
Theresa Antony 19 years
Jonathan Schubert 17 years
Kevin Gerstenberger .17 years
Chris Kendhammer.16 years
Rick Auterson 15 years
Bonita Anderson 14 years
Dustin Maule 11 years
Jason Koopmann 9 years
Todd Lejeune 8 years
Francis Schmitz 6 years
Dawn Bentzen5 years
Mike Wakeen4 years
Bronson Tamke 2 years
Jonathan Valley 2 years

DECEMBER

Kathy Vaughan35 years
David Collins29 years
Steve Johnson28 years
Steven Vinson24 years
Eric Coleman 19 years
Kathy Inglett18 years



NEW EMPLOYEES

Daric Olson Dylan Spranger Quinn Cain Rebecca Bridges Mark Klinksi **Noah Stebbins** Laura Wright Alexia Sanderson Rachel Busch Remberto Gomez Philip Piskach Julie Minneker Brittany McKee Kollen McFarlane Lisa Anderson Christal Lamothe Sena Castonia Suki Vue Anna Plumer Hunter Krajewski Stephen Stenberg

Deadline for the next newsletter: **05/27/2024**



















Krystle Roller



Coordinator: Jennifer Schloesser | **Editor:** Jenny Ledman, Kathy Vaughn | **Layout:** Cathy Buttell **Contributors:** Jennifer Schloesser, Cathy Buttell, Alexis Marsh, Jenny Ledman, Angie Severson

This year's Company Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 16th, at Stoney Creek Inn. Food, prizes and games were held throughout the event, with live

music performed by The Bear Creek Band.











PIRE NEWS

XBox Series S

Raven Frickson

XBox Series S	
Pit Boss Electric Smoker	Remy Gomez
Nintendo Switch	Janie Uy
36" Blackstone Griddle	Casey Wilkins
Gas Assist Charcoal Grill	Theresa Antony
Gas Assist Charcoal Grill	
70" Hisense Roku TV	
Pizza Oven	
Nespresso Coffee Machine	
Ninja Air Fryer	
Ninja Blender	
Schmidt Knife Set	
50" Roku TV	
50" Roku TV	
Keurig K-Mini Coffee Machine	
Keurig K-Mini Coffee Machine	
MD Sports Basketball Hoop	
Smart Home Photo Share	
FUJIFILM instax mini Camara	Krystle Roller
LEAF Robotic Vacuum Cleaner	
Dash Griddle	
Kitchen Aid Mixer	Chris Mikunda
Keurig K-Elite Coffee Machine	Lee Vieth
Cordless Hand Vacuum	Chris Rogowski
PTO (or \$100 PT)	Amie Miller (PTO-1DAY)
PTO (or \$100 PT)Curti	s Johnson (PTO - 1Day)
\$100	
\$100	Sarah Erickson
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Remaining employees received \$20.00

Mystery Prize (Dice Game):

Theresa Antony won \$100.00. She rolled a 1, allowing another person to be selected, which was Sherri Vinson who rolled a 4, for \$400.00. Congratulations to all of our winners!









