

**In This Issue:**

- From our Humble Beginnings
- Zinc Department Recognition
- Rock the Block
- Field Trip!
- Fire Safety Training
- Boss of the Toss
- ISO Surveillance Audit
- Salutatorian Scholarship
- Perks

**From our Humble Beginnings**

▲ In 1979, Professional Plating was founded, offering the ability to zinc plate fasteners and other small parts, in a barrel line. A rack plating line was added to our offerings in 1983. Since that time, the zinc plating department at Professional Plating has grown to now consist of a barrel line and three rack lines. None of the original plating equipment is still in use, as we have continually improved and updated our zinc plating capability as industry and customer needs have changed. We have 50 production team members working on these lines, including several team members in dedicated support functions such as Schedulers, Planners, tank maintenance, etc.



Overseeing the zinc plating department are three leadership team members who collectively have 47 years of service with Professional Plating! Shown from left to right are Kerry Behnke, Zinc Business Manager; Kelsey Burkhalter, Zinc Operations Assistant; and Kym Rosner, Zinc Team Leader. Each of these ladies has “worked their way up”, starting in production technician-type roles. The knowledge they have gained over their years of hands-on work, along with leadership skills training, has allowed them to successfully lead these production areas to achieve great results!

**Zinc Department Recognition**

▲ The first week in June, Zinc Business Team Manager, Kerry Behnke traveled to Chicago to attend the 2019 Sur/Fin show, which is the only conference and trade show sponsored by the National Association of Surface Finishing. Additionally, Kerry represented Professional Plating in an awards program hosted by Product Finishing Magazine.

In our April newsletter, you read about the award that Professional Plating received for being a “Top Shop” for 2019. There were over 600 plating shops throughout United States, Canada and Mexico that applied for the award, which is awarded to only the top 50 shops. Additionally, Professional Plating was recognized as being a Top Shop for the past five years. There were only 11 shops that received recognition for this achievement.

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The Web at:  
www.proplating.com

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Upon her return, Kerry had these words for the zinc teams, "Thank you all for making daily contributions toward making Professional Plating the success it is and will continue to be. This award is for you! I was proud to represent each of you and Professional Plating at the awards ceremony". Shown below are Zinc department Team Members, along with Team Members from various support areas, accepting the Top Shop awards.



## Rock the Block

▲ Professional Plating is located in the City of Brillion, with a population of 3,148 people, according to the 2010 census. The city's logo is "Small City, Big Heart". That logo was brought to life this past May when the Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity choose Brillion for a "Rock the Block" event.

Rock the Block brings together friends, family and community members to improve neighborhoods by doing park clean ups, exterior home repairs, landscaping, painting and more! Professional Plating was on board right from the start, with team members assisting with planning and fundraising. On the three days in May when the physical work was done, we had 20 Team Members who volunteered to help where needed.



Pictured are Dedra Boettcher, Estimator/Planner and Jordan Miller, Office Assistant, ready to volunteer on the first day of the event, which started out with rain! These ladies spent their volunteer time hauling mulch (by wheel barrow) to the trails at the Brillion Nature Center.

Homeowners in the city who received help with projects on their property were overjoyed with seeing how total strangers were willing to step up. There were 23 homes, several public parks, area churches and schools and the local nature center that were on the work list. Local volunteers were partnered with "senior crew members" from Habitat from Humanity to get the work done.

Watch for Rock the Block Cities coming to a neighborhood near you!

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## Field Trip!

▲ Recess and field trips are some of our fondest memories of our school days! Professional Plating is happy to accommodate local teachers in their quest to provide learning opportunities that happen outside of the classroom!



On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Professional Plating was happy to host 18 students from the Brillion Middle School STEM class, along with their teacher, Mr. Matt VanThiel.

Tours of our production area were led by Powder Coat Manager, Jessica Moskow and Zinc Business Team Manager, Kerry Behnke.

## Fire Safety Training

▲ Along the lines of a field trip, a large number of Professional Plating were able to step away from their work on production lines and offices to get some hands on fire safety training.

We were happy to welcome Brillion Fire Department Chief Joey Diener along with firefighters Matt Rehme and Eric Burich who lead the training. 48 Professional Plating Team Members were split into five classes held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Training started with some classroom information and then moved to our production area for fire extinguisher training with a fire simulator.

In the picture, Jesse Becker, Strip Line Operator, is demonstrating his skills in proper fire extinguisher use.

Many thanks went out to the volunteers from the Brillion Fire Department for assisting us with this safety training.



For information about Professional Plating and general questions related to metal finishing, check the FAQ section of our website at:

Frequently Asked Questions

[www.prolating.com](http://www.prolating.com)

## Boss of the Toss

▲ Spring can be a difficult time of year when we are anxious to get outside and enjoy nice weather after months of snow and cold, but rain is another of Mother Nature's tricks that can keep us indoors!

In an attempt to provide some fun distraction from the weather for our Team while we wait for the weather to cooperate, we added a new element to our Cinco de Mayo celebration this year. In addition to a taco bar catered by Braun's Deer Run Golf Course and Restaurant, Professional Plating has jumped on to the bean bag toss craze! Most back yard parties and campgrounds are home to bean bag or corn hole boards. Professional Plating is equipped as well and we have had two successful indoor bean bag tournaments. Teams of two are put into a single elimination tournament that is run throughout the work day. Team Members are allowed to be excused from their work for 15 minutes to participate.

In our inaugural tournament, first place went to the team of Emily Lambie, who is our Powder Lead Racker, and Josh Behnke, Shipping Clerk. Our next tournament, held in conjunction with our fry out on June 27<sup>th</sup>, awarded bragging rights to Robby Wordell, Powder Painter, and Brock Behnke from our Flex Team.



As you can imagine, the competition has created quite a bit of "smack talk" among the Team and we look forward to the next tournament to see who will be the "Boss of the Toss"!



## ISO Surveillance Audit

▲ The ISO Quality Management System certification at Professional Plating is valid through July 2020. In advance of the recertification audit next year, we hosted an auditor from DQS to do a surveillance audit on June 25 – 27<sup>th</sup>.



The purpose of a surveillance audit is to look for evidence that the quality system is being maintained and point out any items that may need attention in advance of the recertification audit.

We are happy to note that the auditor, who had not previously been to Professional Plating, feels that we are in a good spot and that our processes and procedures that are in place to allow us to be repeatable and consistent, are being followed within our daily work routines.

## Salutatorian Scholarship

▲ Professional Plating is proud to be able to continue to support education on the local level by again sponsoring the \$5,000 Salutatorian Scholarship to a graduating Senior at Brillion High School.

This year's recipient is Ms. Brianna Popp. Brianna will be attending St. Norbert College in DePere. Brianna was also selected as one of WLUK - Channel 11 "Best and Brightest" in NE Wisconsin.



Brianna is the Daughter of Jennifer and Jason Popp of Brillion.

## Perks

▲ Through various sponsorships that Professional Plating does throughout the year, we are able to offer tickets to our Team, to enjoy a wide range of local events and activities.



The Endries Performing Arts Center, located at Brillion High School, has done a tremendous job of bringing in some very high level entertainment this past show season! In April, the show, "Dancing Queen - A Tribute to the Music of ABBA" was a sell-out. "The Four C Notes", featuring the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, entertained the crowd in May; and the 2018-19 season concluded with the high-energy show "Kids from Wisconsin", in June. We are anxious to hear what the 2019-20 season will bring!



Professional Plating Team Members who are race fans, were able to snag tickets to Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI to watch the June Sprints, and through our sponsorship of Eastern Wisconsin Racing and the Outagamie Speedway in Seymour - we had General Admission tickets good for their normal Friday night race programs to hand out for free!

For the first time, we also had a limited supply of SummerFest tickets available to those who were interested, allowing 24 Team Members to spend a day in Milwaukee at "The World's Biggest Music Festival".



