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325 Years of Service!



▲ **At the conclusion of the calendar year, we look back to acknowledge and thank our Team Members who reached a mile stone anniversary during the past year.**

On February 9th, we gathered 23 Service Anniversary Award recipients along with members of the leadership team to celebrate the 325 years of service that these Team Members had accumulated. During the Awards Lunch which was held at Cobblestone Creek, Team Members received the gift that they had chosen for their anniversary award.

In 2022, we had nine Team Members reach 5-years of service and received a gift valued at \$75.00. They are Jeff Biszmaier, Andrea Turner, Jay Vanasten, Bekki Eldred, Dylan Voight, Erin Keary, Josh Mocarski, Vicky Shimek and Emily Cohen.

10-year anniversary award recipients Corky Vandeburgt, Josh Behnke and Dylan Wordell each received a \$125.00 valued gift.

Jordan Miller and Denise Tamm have 15 years of service and received a \$250.00 gift.

Three Team Members reached 20 years of service in 2022. Receiving a gift valued at \$375.00 were Tammy Cummings, Aaron Barr and Andy Vandomelen.

25 years of service gifts of \$500.00 were awarded to Carrie Boettcher, Greg Lettau, Karl Bastian and Kym Rosner.

Rounding out this year's service anniversary award recipients were Dave Anhalt and Bob Zipperer, reaching the milestone of 30 years and were presented with gifts valued at \$625.00.

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920-756-2153
Check Us Out On
The Web at:
www.proplating.com

Specialty Coatings
Acrylic E-coat
Barrel Zinc
Epoxy E-Coat
Powder Coat
Pro-Advantage
Pro-Dura Clear
Rack Zinc
GM Approval
Volvo Approval

That's a lot of Brats!

▲ If you close your eyes, you can almost smell these brats sizzling over the fire on a crisp day in February! This is the work of the Brillion Volunteer Fire Department as they held their 56th Annual Mid-Winter Brat Fry.

Proceeds from the event were put toward the purchase of a pickup truck and updating other equipment. In addition to the brat fry, attendees at the event were able to purchase tickets for bucket raffles, a cash raffle and for some larger items donated by local businesses.



Professional Plating supports our local fire department and this year donated a Stihl chainsaw to be included in the raffle.

Shown at left is Fire Department Member and Brat Fry Raffle/Donation Chairman Brad Shimek accepting the donation from Professional Plating Office Manager, Sue Cohen.

Team Member Spotlight



Bekki Eldred
Zinc Scheduler

▲ I started at PPI in April of 2017, just 2 months after being blessed with my daughter. Previously, I had been working in the medical field, supervising group homes. I was in search of a better schedule in order to spend more time with my family. I started on Rack Line 2 as a Line Lead. Working on the line was very different from my previous work experiences. There were times where I felt like I wasn't helping the world. The Operator for Rack 2, Steve, along with two members of our leadership team, Kerry and Kym, helped to show me that I could find my purpose here, I just wasn't looking at it the right way. A short time later, a scheduling position for zinc came open and I applied. That is where I am today. Scheduling is perfect for me! There are never two days the same and I enjoy the challenge of making things work for our customers. I schedule for all the zinc rack lines, as well as the strip line and Shot Blaster. I have been married to my best friend for almost nine years. We have one daughter, a cat, and two loveable labs. When I am not at work, you can find me doing anything outside. I enjoy hunting, gardening, and spending time with my family. Spring through Fall, we are outside all the time. We are never short on creating more projects to keep us busy. PPI is a second family for me. I have made lifelong friends here. They are supportive of their employees and push us to want/do more. I plan to be here for a long time. I am grateful to work for a family owned company that appreciates their employees and gives back to the community.

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Random Acts of Kindness

▲ Having fun at work is a great way to beat the Winter blues, so the Team at Professional Plating enjoyed some distraction from the cold dark days of winter with several events during the second week of February.



46 Team Members signed up to be part of what has become a fun tradition at Professional Plating, our Bean Bag Tournament. 23 teams were randomly created and slotted into a single elimination bracket. After two days of fierce competition, the team of Emily Giesseman, Powder Inspector and Bob Zipperer, Engineering and Quality Manager (pictured on the left), took home the first place trophy. Giving them a run for their money and taking home second place medals were Office Assistant Jordan Miller and Powder Painter, Ryan Fleming (pictured on the right).

Our celebration also included comfort food of warm soups catered by Neighborhood Pub & Grill and Cobblestone Creek. Breads, cheese and tasty desserts were also provided to the Team.

To warm their souls, ideas for doing some Random Acts of Kindness were scattered on the tables. A Random Act of Kindness can be something that may cost a few dollars, or it may not cost anything at all. It could be a simple gesture or kind word or maybe we just need to be kind to ourselves and take the time to enjoy a sunset or write down some things we are grateful for in our life, and look back at the list when we are having a bad day. Whether the team choose one of our ideas or came up with their own, we encouraged everyone to do one or several Random Acts of Kindness during our event and/or in the days/weeks to follow! The world will be a better place because of a simple Random Act of Kindness!

Hygiene Drive

▲ Our February event noted above was also the kick off to this year's *Help for the Homeless* hygiene drive. The Team at Professional Plating collected hygiene and cleaning items for the local Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul, with all of our donations staying in Calumet County. Providing these supplies allows these agencies to direct their limited financial resources to other services they provide to those they serve.

Team Members who donated to this hygiene drive were also showing a random act of kindness. We need only to think about the "what if" we had to do without some personal hygiene items to realize that is a reality for some people on a daily basis.



Decorating for Easter

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



▲ We had a nice “wall of Easter art” displaying Easter-themed pictures submitted by children, siblings or other family of our Team Members. Two winners were randomly drawn to receive an Easter-themed gift basket.



Brynn, 8-year old daughter of Jill Trochta, Specialty Products Technician is pictured on the left.

Zoey, 6-year old daughter of Joe Gauthier, from our Logistics team is pictured on the right.

The artwork was displayed on the wall outside of our Team Center for our Team to enjoy. We appreciate all of the kid’s efforts!



Leaving Behind an Unbelievable Legacy!

▲ There are likely many businesses that have unsung hero’s working behind the scenes. Professional Plating was fortunate to have once such Team Member who has literally been instrumental in building our company and creating a foundation for our future growth.



Carl Weber, Maintenance Manager, has been a key part of every machine installation and building expansion project that has happened at Professional Plating in the past 41 years. Although Carl will continue to be available on a consulting basis for our future growth projects, he officially retired as the Maintenance Manager as of March 31st. As part of our farewell to Carl, we presented him with a video that included tributes from some current and past Team Members, along with vendors and contractors who have great respect for Carl and have formed lifelong friendships.

Carl is certainly a gem that will forever shine in the history of our company and we wish him much happiness as he moves on to the next phase of his life!

Here We Grow Again!

▲ It was just one year ago that we were in the final stages of installing our latest zinc rack plating machine, Rack 6. That machine became operational in July 2022 and the older machine that it replaced has since been removed.

So it's time...Here We Grow Again! In March, the Endries family, owners of Professional Plating, approved an investment of over \$4 million for the purchase and installation of a new Barrel Zinc Plating machine that is planned to be on line by the end of 2023.

This new machine will allow us added zinc barrel plating capacity to continue to serve the needs of our existing customers, and opens the door to potential new business that we were not able to previously take on.



A quick tutorial for those not familiar with barrel plating. As the name implies, barrel plating entails placing the parts inside a barrel typically constructed of polypropylene with small holes for drainage of solution. The barrel contains center bars that conduct the electrical current. The barrel rotates slowly while immersed in the electrolytic plating solution.

If you would like to see our machines in operation, we encourage you to contact us for a visit and tour. Our Team loves to have visitors come and see us in action!

