

July 2023

Electronic Newsletter

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Building for the Future!

In our last quarterly newsletter, we announced the addition of a new zinc barrel production line that will increase capacity.

Here we are just a few months later announcing that we are also in the process of replacing our Epoxy Ecoat production line, which has served us well over the past 30 years. This capital investment of \$5.3 million to design, build and install the new machine allows us to increase capacity and includes features and automation for improved efficiency and safety for our Team.



The plan is to have the new machine operational in July 2024. At that time, our current Epoxy Ecoat machine will be decommissioned.

Boy Scout STEM Night

Professional Plating was contacted back in Spring by the local Cub Scout Pack Leader inquiring if we would be interested in hosting a visit by the Brillion Boy Scouts to introduce them to some aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) that are used at Professional Plating. We of course agreed!

Two of our Operations Managers, along with one of our Quality Analysts enjoyed discussing and demonstrating some of the lab tests we do to 14 very energetic scouts along with some parents and Scout leaders.



The group also spent some time seeing our robotic stacker in action (pictured left).

For their good behavior, the group enjoyed a cold treat before we sent them on their way (pictured right)!

Professional Plating is the local charter sponsor for Scouting in Brillion.



Contact Us: 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

When a Strike is a Good Thing!

Back by popular demand, a bowling outing was planned for our Team in April. Team Members and a guest were excited to spend a few hours in some non-work socializing. We had 45 bowlers attend.



The first game of bowling was Bowling Bingo where the result of each ball thrown might have checked a box on the Bingo scorecard. No one got "Bingo" without having to do a few nontraditional/fun activities, such as bowling blindfolded, sitting down and pushing the ball with their feet, or wearing the "bowling hat".

Game two included "Bowling Poker" and was also a "blind doubles" event.



Raising Funds for NHC

New Hope Center (NHC) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to inspire freedom and independence in the lives of people with disabilities. Professional Plating currently employs several Team Members who initially came to us through New Hope's "Connect" employment services. New Hope also has housing services that some of their clients may qualify for. These NHC residential homes were the focus of our last bucket raffle.

Through the generosity of our team to both donate items for the raffle and purchase tickets to win those items, we were able to donate \$3,679.00 to NHC. This money was earmarked to purchase items such as raised garden beds, fire pits and outdoor furniture for the clients living in the residential homes provided by NHC.



Shown far left, accepting our donation is Harry Kratz who is the Maintenance Director at NHC. Harry is also Dad to Steven Kratz (presenting the check) who is a Professional Plating Team Member representing the PPI Team.

ISO Audit

Professional Plating respects the time and privacy of our customers. In no way is this update meant to be spam mail.

If you no longer wish to receive a quarterly electronic update from Professional Plating, please click the following link.

To Opt Out

A Bob Zipperer, Engineering & Quality Manager at Professional Plating, spent five days in May leading our ISO Recertification Audit. Various Team Members were pulled into the audit to answer questions or perform tasks for the auditor to review.

We are very proud to have again passed our audit with flying colors and know that it is due to the strong quality system that is in action day after day, that gives each member of our team the confidence to simply do their job in the way they were trained and hit the bullseve every time!



If you need a copy of our ISO certificate, you can find it under the Services/Quality Systems section of our website at www.proplating.com.

Celebrating our \$uccess

Those of you who have read our newsletter before know that we love to celebrate our Team and keep them guessing on what new way we will come up with to do that.



All the stops were pulled out for a well-kept secret celebration on June 8th dubbed to our team as "The Next Big Event". What the team walked into as production was paused for 90 minutes that day, was a live concert by Chris Kroeze (www.chriskroezemusic.com). Chris' hometown is Barron, WI but in 2014 he ventured to Nashville as a country music hopeful and in 2018, Chris landed a spot in the finals of the show "The Voice". While the PPI Team enjoyed Bernatello's pizza and Cold Stone ice cream, Chris entertained with many of his own songs and took requests from the PPI audience!

<u>Honor Flight</u>

The Primary Companies located here in Brillion have been raising money for the Old Glory Honor Flight, to date raising over \$170,000 and sending over 325 veterans to Washington, D.C.



The Team at Professional Plating once again supported their efforts and presented them with a \$1,000.00 check at their recent brat fry event. Pictured is PPI General Manager, Larry Dietz

presenting our donation to members of the Honor Flight fundraising team.

We are honored to help with this cause and thank all veterans for their service.

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

Frequently Asked Questions



BHS 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 Ella Wolff. Ella's salutatorian speech focused on five valuable lessons – find the joy, be persistent, welcome relationships, be true to yourself and be proud but stay humble.

Ella will be attending UW-Madison with a focus on Biochemistry. We wish Ella success in all of the adventures that lie ahead for her!

Team Member Spotlight

Josh Behnke Shipping/Logistics Dept Lead



▲ I began my career at PPI in July of 2012 working on the Acrylic Ecoat line in a back-up Lead Inspector position. I moved around and worked on the Epoxy Ecoat line and in zinc and powder coat as needed. I was also trained as a sandblaster. In August 2013 I moved into the Material Handling department which is where I have been ever since, working across all three shifts. I have learned a lot in my ten years in Material Handling which helped me transition into my new role as Department Lead. I look forward to growing in this role and seeing where it can take me!

I met my wife Emily here at PPI. We have been together for eight years; married for four years. We have two kids, our three-year-old boy Oliver, and our five-month-old little girl, Aspen. We have three pets, our Shepherd named Bailey, and two cats. We also have several aquariums, as I love relaxing while watching my fish. I am an avid outdoorsman. I love bow hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking.

Drum Roll Please...

The Team at Professional Plating is proud to share that we have again been recognized by Products Finishing magazine as a "Top Shop" in their 2023 benchmarking survey! We are honored to accept this award!

This is the ninth year in a row that Professional Plating has been recognized for the efforts that our Team puts forth on a daily basis. We will continue to look to make our processes more efficient and always keep quality, safety and customer satisfaction in the forefront of our growth.

