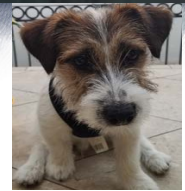


## Kevin Hogan Writes...

I have included Lisa Grecco's obituary in this month's newsletter because many people at both Komatsu and Pierce know her. I am taking this opportunity to share Donna and my relationship with Lisa and her husband, Fred, who passed away in 2017. I first met Lisa in the mid 80s at Komatsu's Broadview Distribution Center. I was a salesman for the company and Lisa was one of my contacts there. If she asked to see me, something was wrong. She was tough and scary so those meetings made me nervous but we got through them. Fred Grecco, her husband retired from International Harvester at Broadview (shared a building with Komatsu). Komatsu bought the construction business from IH. We needed someone to help us with our Komatsu (Westmont, IL) facility so we hired Fred. Fred had a great deal of knowledge with part numbers and packaging specs. That didn't work out so well. So when, we had to let Fred go, he took it well but I worried about the reaction from Lisa the next time I went to Broadview. When I arrived there and walked by her office, she stopped me and asked me to stop by her office before I left. I thought to myself, oh boy, here we go. On the way out, I stopped by her office and she said, I heard you let my husband go. I said, yes we did, it wasn't working out well. I waited what seemed like an eternity for her reply and then she said, "I am surprised he lasted that long with your company." We both laughed and a ton of weight was lifted off my shoulders. Well, Komatsu moved the operation to Ripley, TN. I continued to have some business contact with Lisa. We also met a few times socially and I became friends with Lisa and her husband Fred. Donna Hogan at that time worked for Lisa. There were Christmas Parties, Golf Outings and lots of

meetings. Fred use to call me every St. Patrick's day knowing I am Irish, say something rude to me and hang up. This became a tradition between us. Prior to Lisa retiring, Fred and Lisa would come every year to Port Orchard to spend a week with Donna and me. We had some great times together which always included lots of laughs. When Fred became seriously ill at their Florida home, Lisa called Donna very stressed. Donna caught the first plane to Florida to help Lisa cope with Fred's passing. Fred passed away and Donna stayed with Lisa a while. Weeks after Donna returned to Port Orchard, she received another call from Lisa who was very upset. She had become very ill and needed some help. Donna caught the next plane to Florida where she set up Lisa with doctors in Chicago. Donna also helped Lisa sell all the possessions at their house because Lisa was moving in with us so that Donna could oversee her treatment. Lisa has lived with us for over 2 years and we had some laughs and some tears. Lisa became very close to our dogs Jack and Russell. Jack passed away last July and she became closer to Russell, her buddy. He still goes to her room every morning looking for her. It was Lisa's request that upon her death, Fred's and her ashes be placed in the water in front of our Port Orchard home. Donna and I have decided that Jack's ashes will be put in the water with Fred & Lisa. This will be done in the upcoming weeks. RIP Lisa! On July 9<sup>th</sup>, I will be celebrating my 40<sup>th</sup> year with the company. All I have to say about it, is when you spend so much time with co-workers and customers through the years, you develop friendships that go beyond work. You actually spend more time with them than your own

family. On occasions, they become an extended part of your family. This is my story with Pierce. I would like to wish everyone celebrating a birthday in July a Happy Birthday. There are three Milestone Anniversaries in July: Donnel Mann (Ripley) celebrates 5 years on July 20<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Theus (Ripley) celebrates 5 years on July 21<sup>st</sup> and Joella Cook (Ripley) celebrates 5 years on July 21<sup>st</sup>. There are some notable Anniversaries in July; Tabitha Chandler (Ripley) celebrates 12 years on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Korey Smith (Ripley) celebrates 14 years on July 29<sup>th</sup>, Eav Tan (ICP) celebrates 16 years on July 30<sup>th</sup>, Bertha Gonzalez (Rockford) celebrates 18 years on July 19<sup>th</sup>, Steve Chipman (ICP) celebrates 19 years on July 5<sup>th</sup> and yours truly celebrates 40 years on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Yes, 40 years, a long time. I would like to thank everyone celebrating Service Anniversaries in June for their years of dedication and commitment to ICP and Pierce.



### Russell's Words Of Wisdom...

"There's always somebody who is paid too much and taxed too little—and it's always somebody else."



**Kevin Hogan**





## ICP Writes...

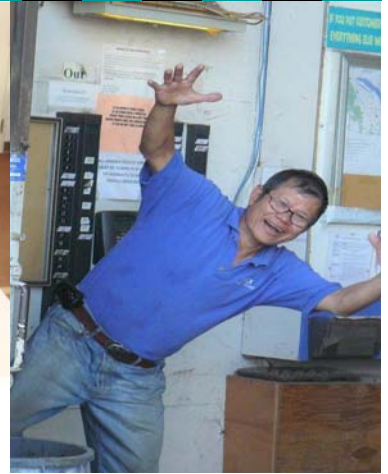
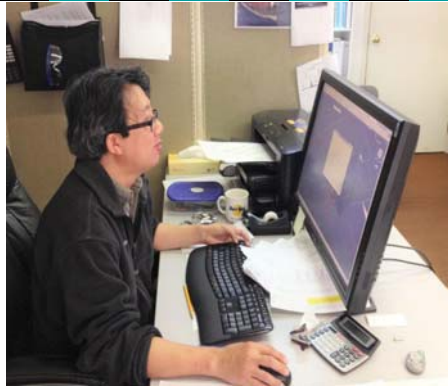
### ICP July Milestones

Shiman Yee 4 years

Eav Tan 16 years

Steve Chipman 19 years

**The ICP wellness garden is coming along nicely...**



**Seung Chheung celebrates his 15 year anniversary with ICP in style, with a brand spanking new PS4!!**



## Our C.F.O. Writes...



### Wellness & Prevention Newsletter June 2019

## Volunteerism: Health Benefits and Common Activities

Many people volunteer here and there throughout the year, usually by donating money or canned foods, preparing or serving food, or through a work activity like cleaning a park on Earth Day. But if you hope to make volunteerism a bigger priority in your life, here are a few things to keep in mind.

## VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

### Volunteerism Offers Big Health Benefits

Helping others really is the gift that keeps on giving. Studies have shown people who volunteer have a longer lifespan, improved heart health, lower cholesterol, and reduced anxiety and depression as compared to volunteers.<sup>1</sup> Get active in your community to enhance your overall wellbeing!

1. [https://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07\\_0506\\_hbr.pdf](https://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0506_hbr.pdf)

2. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2009/ian/wk4/art01.htm>

3. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/volun.pdf>

### Go Where You're Needed

The most common volunteer activities are:

1. Fundraising or selling items to raise money
2. Tutoring or teaching
3. Collecting, preparing or distribution food.<sup>2</sup>

If you're looking to get involved and these areas are already well-served in your community, consider other places you could focus your time instead. Mental health facilities, hospitals, recovery shelters and retirement homes are all great places for qualified volunteers to help out!

### Help Isn't Just for the Holidays

72% of volunteers work with only one organization each year.<sup>3</sup> What does this mean?

- To look at the positive, it means there are many people who do long, sustained work with a volunteer organization each year. That's great!
- On the other hand, it also reflects the one-and-done volunteers out there, those who donate time or resources once each year (likely around the holidays). If that sounds familiar, that's okay—anything helps. But try to consider organizations you could join or different ways to work volunteer time into your weekly or monthly routine.

## SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

**Donate Resources:** Donate clothes and household goods, books, food or anything else that will help those in need.

**Donate Your Time:** Walk dogs at an animal shelter, read stories or spend time at a retirement home or find another way to help others that works within your schedule.

**Volunteer at a Food Pantry:** Visit [www.foodpantries.org](http://www.foodpantries.org) to find a pantry near you.

**Head to the YMCA:** Here you can volunteer to help children or adults, teach a course or coach a sports team. Check your local YMCA's website to get started, or simply walk in and introduce yourself!

**Care for the Homeless:** Clothes (winter gear and socks), linens & food are needed.

**Support Local Events:** Keep an eye out for flyers, news reports or advertisements for local events, especially those that raise funds for charities. This is an opportunity to support local artists with your patronage, donate time as an usher or hang posters to help spread the word.

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Plant
Kevin Hogan	7/9/79	C
Steve Chipman	7/5/00	ICP
Bertha Gonzalez	7/19/01	2
Eav Tan	7/30/03	ICP
Korey Smith	7/29/05	7
Tabitha Chandler	7/2/07	7
Mark Tavarez	7/12/10	10
Anne Jarnigan	7/5/11	7
Donnell Mann	7/20/14	7
Michelle Theus	7/21/14	7
Joella Cook	7/21/14	7
Todd Johnson	7/6/15	2
Shiman Yee	7/20/15	ICP

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Day	Plant
Felicia Bonds	1	7
Robert Howell	2	7
Warren Bouknight	2	4
Eric Jones	3	7
Irma Villa De Cantu	5	2
Eav Tan	7	ICP
Judy Spitson	17	C
James Willingham	17	4
Alinel Castro	17	5
Jessica Valdez Kercado	21	2
Randy Cantonwine	21	ICP
Kelvin Cole	26	7
Casey Rouser	27	7
Marlos Johnson	28	7
Monique Williams	30	5

**Tony Chiodini**



## Ripley Writes...

### ASSOCIATE OF THE MONTH



L TO R: Tabitha Chandler, Dorothy Rouser, and Balinda Hairfield

### From Ashport Bottom, by way of Durhamville, to Ripley TN

"I love it, I love it, I love it!" These were the words of Plant 7's newly selected Associate of the Month, Mary Rouser, when she learned she had won the honor. "I am so excited to even be nominated, and to win is such an accomplishment for a life-long resident of Lauderdale County born in the Ashport Bottoms near the banks of the Mississippi River, raised in the community of Durhamville and now a resident of Ripley". The mother of two sons, Kenneth - age 43 & Curtis - age 26, and the grandmother of 8 wonderful grandchildren, Ms. Dorothy is happy, happy, HAPPY! Balinda Hairfield is Ms. Dorothy's Line lead and Tabitha Chandler is her supervisor in the Service Department of first shift. Ms. Dorothy is never late, never complains and always has a BIG "mischievous smile". Ms. Balinda still questions "where" Ms. Dorothy goes on Fridays when she leaves work wearing her apple bottom jeans - Ms. Dorothy responds with never an explanation but always with her BIG smile. "I love working with my friends at Pierce - I love coming to work, staying busy and always looking forward to the weekends when I have my two youngest grandchildren staying with me. When I'm not working, I enjoy working in my flower garden, visiting with my sister, Mary Ann, and attending Sunday services at Greater Mt. Zion Church. Ms. Dorothy worked for Metro (as a temporary) for three years before being hired full time with Pierce in February of 2016. We are happy, happy, happy to have Ms. Dorothy as a member of the Pierce family. Congratulations! M&M (the nickname she has always called me) certainly enjoyed our conversation today.



**WANTED**  
FOR 15 MORE YEARS  
OR LIFE!

#### Leads by example

Does not ask any associate to do anything that he wouldn't do himself

Respectful – encourages his associates to be team players

Encourages, participates and promotes daily devotion time in his department (every day at 7:00am)

At former job worked 20+ years with perfect attendance – continues the tradition

Family man who raised two children of his own, and now assisting with raising two more children. Attends sporting events and offers encouragement.

Ready for a challenge and battle at all times and at any costs – loves watching videos on fighting, sharing knowledge of guns and shooting and handling knives, spending time in the gym.

### MIKE MOORE



### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Success for any team is dependent on the coach. The Woodshop team here at Ripley's Plant 7 has that coach in Tony Strawn. The coach who does not ask any team member to do anything that he would not do him-

self. After 15 years as a supervisor at Pierce, he has certainly proven himself and truly deserves the respect. And now a little history. Tony left a local plant, Colonial Rubber, in Dyersburg, TN after 20 years of employment when the plant closed. Our current Plant Man-

## Ripley Cont...

ager, Mark Strawn, introduced Tony to the late Jay Hogan, who was manager at that time 15 years ago. Jay was impressed by Tony (not only because Tony was an avid golfer) but because he had leadership skills and hired him as a 2nd Shift Supervisor. Later Tony was transferred to first shift as our Woodshop Supervisor. (Mark added that it was tough, but he soon replaced Tony as Jay's golf partner – don't know how true that part of the story might be.) Mark is proud of Tony and all his accomplishments citing Komatsu's Jimmy Hill's statement that Tony is the most positive person he has ever met – he's the same every day and always pos-

sesses the big smile and upbeat mood. This leadership is extended to our Woodshop team and each of the 28 members who would go above and beyond for Tony. As the supervisor, Tony is ready for all challenges/battles at all times at any cost and encourages his associates to be team players. This leadership is seen every day (at 7:00am) as Tony leads/promotes a daily devotion time for his department. When Tony responded to receiving his 15 Year Anniversary Certificate (June 28, 2019) he acknowledged that it had been a great 15 years with the Pierce team. "There have been lots of challeng-

es, but with a great team it is always easier. I have made many friends throughout the years and it is a pleasure working with them every day. I appreciate this recognition and especially the Glock 43 9mm handgun. Everyone knows I love my guns, knives and watching fight videos." This family man had already raised two daughters, Carley and Adriana, and now assists with raising two more beautiful children, attending sporting events, working out at the gym and a little family fun in the pool. Now, let's go back one more time – during his 20 years with Colonial Rubber he obtained "perfect attendance". As a

Pierce associate, he had bragging rights of 15 years of perfect attendance! You go Tony – we are PROUD of your contributions and friendship. We celebrated this milestone with a meal at Ripley's Olympic Restaurant and came back to the plant for a decorated cake and a choice of homemade chocolate or fresh peach ice cream.



**MIKE  
MOORE**





## Ripley Cont...

### What a Cutie!

Ripley's Plant 7 associate, Rhonda Sparks, shares the birth of her grandson, Klayton Lee Daniel Sparks, who was born June 18<sup>th</sup>, measuring 20 inches, and weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces. (check out that head full of dark hair) Klayton's parents are Christy and Dwayne Sparks. Rhonda reports that both Mom and Baby are home and doing well. Let the spoiling begin!

### MIKE MOORE



## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

As we all know, we are living during a time where you have to be prepared for the unexpected. In a world experiencing so many tragic events, we often think, "it won't happen to me". It is a must to expect the unexpected. Being prepared by knowing what to do in an emergency situation is crucial. Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Dirk Rouser with Komatsu held an active shooter training session and created several possible scenarios to help us understand how important it is to always be ready. Moe Jordan graciously volunteered to be the active shooter in these scenarios for us to practice the steps that if taken could possibly save our lives if we are ever in a life threatening situation. This training was very informative and I truly believe we all walked away from it with very valuable information that we didn't have before this training. If you have not had any type of training like this, it is

highly recommended. It is our hopes that we will not ever be in a tragic / serious situation as this, but the training provides knowledge that is not only beneficial to have in our workplace but you may apply it if there is ever a situation outside of the workplace.

### TRACY SCHMITT



**LEARN**

## Ripley Cont...



### "The Green Hornet" OR "Wonder Girl"

Your choice: "The Green Hornet" OR "Wonder Girl". Help us select the winner. Actually, our dear friend, Gloria McDonald, is having some eye problems and twice a day per doctor's orders (& always during her break time) she has to apply heat pads to her eyes to relieve pain. It just so happens the heat pads are "green" in color and adds lots of mystery to the procedure. Along with some other prescribed meds, we hope she improves quickly. In the meantime, should you need to be rescued from "whatever", please don't hesitate to contact Ripley's very own SUPERHERO. We (Judy Borgmann & I) love you, Ms. Gloria!

## MIKE MOORE

## 52 WEEK MONEY CHALLENGE

Did you know you could save \$1,378/year by putting away as little as \$1 a week? The 52 week money challenge goes like this: you save \$1 the first week, \$2 the second week, \$3 the third week, and so on until you put away \$52 on week 52. Even without the interest from a savings account, you would

save \$1,378 after the challenge is over! Saving a little every week does add up, and you'll thank yourself for taking on this money challenge.

Courtesy Illinois Bank and Trust AT-WORK newsletter

## Corporate writes...

### HR MEETINGS HELD AT CORPORATE



On May 14 and 15, HR meetings were held at the Corporate Office. We went over loads of information including but not limited to: FMLA, 401K, ADP issues, the newsletter, attendance, insurance, benefits, and let's not forget: the Pierce Distribution handbook.

Of course, after all that learning our brains needed nourishment. Pictured above are the dinner guests we had at Lino's.

L to R: Chris Cacciatore, Beth Futrell, Kim Quartaro, Marianne Lewin, Jason Smith, Lois Patmythes, Sarah Hinchee, Sylvia Davis, and Mike Moore.

## CHRIS CACCIATORE





## WE SAY GOODBYE TO A DEAR FRIEND

### *Elisa Bonita Buti Grecco*

Lisa died on Sunday, June 9th after a long battle with an illness. She was born in Chicago, April 24, 1950. She married Fred Grecco who



worked at International Harvester. Lisa worked for Komatsu Construction Equipment Company in Broadview, IL and she later transferred when the company relocated to Ripley, TN. She held many positions with Komatsu like Manager, Material Planning and Allocation, Scheduling Manager and Supplier Performance Team Leader. Fred and Lisa spent many years in Ripley, TN before she retired in June of 2015 and they moved to Florida.

They loved taking trips to Mexico and the Dominican Republic. They also made their annual trip to Port Orchard, Washington to spend time with their friends.

Fred Grecco died on April 30, 2017. Lisa moved to Port Orchard, Washington. She is predeceased by her father Otto Buti. She is survived by her stepmother, Jane Buti, her best buddy Russell and her many friends and loved ones in Ripley, Florida, Iowa, Chicago and Port Orchard.

There will be a private service in Port Orchard where Fred & Lisa's ashes will be laid to rest in the Puget Sound.

### *The Dash Poem*

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth  
And spoke of the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,  
The cars, the house, the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard;  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile,  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash?

© 1996 Linda Ellis

