

MISSISSIPPI LIME

Community News



2020: A DECADE OF REFLECTION

When we started writing this article, we knew little about the coronavirus or COVID-19. But, we feel pretty certain that this episode in all of our lives will go down as one of the most noteworthy events of 2020. For now, let's reflect on the good things that happened over the past decade.

The past decade at Mississippi Lime Company was filled with growth, innovation and advancement.

In 2017, we acquired Mercer Lime Company's hydrated lime business. In 2018, Breen Energy Solutions became part of Mississippi Lime, and in 2019, we completed the acquisition of Southern Lime in Calera, Alabama.

Our employees have participated in countless community events and charitable activities over the past decade, including Pedal the Cause, Ride to Survive and Habitat for Humanity. In addition, employees have donated time to projects such as the Ste. Genevieve Community Garden, local food pantries and more.

But MLC's growth is just a small part of the past decade's success. The stories and experiences of our employees are what matters most. We asked MLC employees to reflect

back on the last decade and share some of their highlights with us.

Angie Richards, Customer Service Manager, had this to say: "I have worked for MLC a little over 21 years. The dedication and commitment of the individuals I work with on a daily basis is inspiring. When we have the opportunity to reflect back, it is simply amazing what we accomplish each day.

The level of collaboration with other employees and departments has increased significantly over the past 10 years. Whether it is participating on a learning team to improve processes, or bringing on a new MLC plant with our ERP system, I enjoy meeting employees and sharing our experiences with the company.

I am extremely proud of the work we do each day at MLC. It truly is a team effort in many areas. The level of accessibility and personal interaction you have with senior management at MLC is rare for most companies of this size. While I am partial to the service part of our business, we strive to make each experience with our customers excellent—from maintaining quality of product to invoicing."

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Scott Sipiorski, Product Manager: "I've been with MLC for almost 12 years. Over the past decade, the formation of our Core Values Recognition Platform by our VMV Committee stands out. I've seen the committee's focus grow from core value signage early on, to developing high impact projects targeting our core values which strengthen our organization's culture.

To me, working at MLC means the opportunity to enjoy a challenging work career by allowing me to hold various positions across the organization. This enables me to reach my personal career goals while creating value, which helps MLC reach its business goals. Working for MLC has been very rewarding and fun."

Bill Ayers, President and CEO: "I've worked at Mississippi Lime for 21 years, joining the company in 1999 in sales and operations. I became President

and CEO four years ago. Over the past decade I've witnessed this company transform, innovate and grow into the institution that it is today—more so than in any previous decade in the company's history.

I hear it constantly said in and around the workplace — the main thing that makes this company great is the people. We only hire the best—not just the best at what they do, but the best at who they are. Integrity is one of our core values, and over the past 10 years we've made sure everyone here embodies that to the fullest.

I could not be more proud of the people at this company and the work they do."

In April, we celebrated 113 years of Mississippi Lime. Here's to many more!

2020 NATIONAL UNDERGROUND MINE RESCUE COMPETITION

The Mississippi Lime Company Gray mine rescue team is scheduled to participate in the 2020 National Metal/ Non-Metal Underground Mine Rescue competition in Reno, Nevada at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center August 17-20. This competition occurs every two years and is the biggest mine rescue competition in the country for metal/non-metal industries. The competition is comprised of four events, all of which include a written exam for each participant. This includes a 75-minute underground simulated test in which the team will work their way through a mine to rescue survivors and identify victims. Around 50-75 teams competed in last year's national competition. In 2018, the MLC mine rescue team placed seventh out of all the teams.



One of MLC's mine rescue teams featuring (left to right): Luke Wildhaber, Nathan Comte, Sheldon Deimund, Tyler Engelhart, Nick Payne, Robbie Flieg and Charlie Gegg.

Team trainer Charlie Gegg said, "In 2018 they gave out trophies to the top six teams and our team placed seventh. We are really hungry to place in the top six teams this year. We know that this national competition is the best in the country. We're all pretty fired up about competing this August." To prepare, the MLC Gray mine rescue team trains once a month

for the competition, and then for an entire week leading up to the event.

This is the first contest of 2020 where the team will participate. Following the national competition, the MLC Blue mine rescue team is scheduled to compete at the Missouri Regional Mine Rescue Contest on September 21-24 in Rolla, Missouri.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL SPOTLIGHT: KENDALL SHRUM



Kendall Shrum, Administrator, Ste. Genevieve County Ambulance District.

Kendall Shrum, Administrator of the Ste. Genevieve County Ambulance District, has been serving the community for the past 28 years. Originally from Bollinger County, he started out as an EMT in 1992, became the Assistant Director in 1998, and Administrator in 2001.

One of the most memorable and challenging experiences so far in his

career was the flooding that occurred in 2019 in the community. "It was an unusual circumstance to live through. Our team worked a crazy amount of hours sandbagging and putting up a temporary station on one side of the town, because it was completely cut off from the other side by floodwaters. The temporary station was created to make sure that our response time still remained the same for everyone in the community."

"IT'S AMAZING TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT MLC DOES, THE PRODUCTS THEY PRODUCE, THE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY THEY PRODUCE, AND THE AMOUNT OF LABOR FORCE THAT IT TAKES TO GET THE JOB DONE."

Kendall says he and his co-workers are invested in the community, the same way MLC is. "MLC is one of the main pillars of this community and is a large employer here. It has truly been the backbone of Ste. Genevieve."

Serving on the Community Advisory Panel for MLC has been an eye-opening experience for Kendall. "It's amazing to see and understand what MLC does, the products they produce, the amount of business and technology they produce, and the amount of labor force that it takes to get the job done."

Kendall and his team have been helping train the MLC mine rescue team once a month for their upcoming competitions.

When not working, Kendall enjoys going camping with his wife Marsha and their children. Kendall has nine children ranging in age from 29 to 11-year-old triplets.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS *Ste. Genevieve, Missouri*

Brad Arnold, Executive Director
Ste. Genevieve County Community Center

Vern Bauman, President
Vern Bauman Contracting Company

Eric Bennett, Police Chief
Ste. Genevieve Police Department

Rita Brumfield, Chief Nurse Officer
Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital

Sandra Cabot, Director
Ste. Genevieve Tourism & Economic Development

Dr. Julie Flieg, Superintendent
Ste. Genevieve R-II School District

Fr. Edward Nemeth, Head of Schools
Ste. Genevieve Catholic Parish,
Valle Schools

Hank Johnson, Owner
Chaumette, Inc.

Tom Keim, CEO
Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital

Dena Kreidler, Executive Director
Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce

Garry Nelson, Presiding Commissioner
Ste. Genevieve County

Van Robinson, CEO
Citizens Electric Corporation

Kendall Shrum, Administrator
Ste. Genevieve County Ambulance District

Gary Stolzer, Sheriff
Ste. Genevieve County Sheriff's
Department

Martin Toma, City Administrator
City of Ste. Genevieve

Robert Wolk, Consultant/Trainer
Wolk's Insurance Agency, Inc.

STE. GENEVIEVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Ste. Genevieve Leadership Program helps individuals cultivate their leadership skills by learning about operations at local businesses. The eight-month professional development program was created by the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce and launched in 2019. Dena Kreitler, Executive Director at the Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce, said, "The mission of the program is to give a better understanding of what it takes to be a good leader and successfully run a business in Ste. Genevieve. When participants graduate at the end of the program, they are equipped with business information and leadership skills they can use both in their careers and in the community."



Participants come together once a month, February through September, and visit different businesses in the area to see how they run. They also make connections with other professionals in the program

Matt Hayes, Operations Team Leader at MLC's Ste. Genevieve location and a 2019 participant, said that they visited a variety of local businesses, including the City of Ste. Genevieve Fire and Police Department, Ste. Genevieve Sheriff's Department, Baetje Farms, Eric Scott Leather, Loida AG Service, the Ste. Genevieve Community Center, Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital, Mississippi Lime Company, Missouri Extension, Chaumette Vineyards & Winery, Ste. Genevieve R7 Schools, Valle Catholic Schools, and more.

Jazz Coffman, Safety and Health Partner at MLC, is currently participating in the leadership program and talked about how she plans to use what she has learned. "I plan to use the program to help clarify my vision of what kind of leader I want to

be, and to learn the essential skills and techniques I need in order to look at challenges from a different perspective." There have been two sessions so far this year, and Jazz had the opportunity to tour the local schools within the community. She said, "It was amazing. We have great resources within our small town that many may not realize are here."

Oliver Siebert, Site Shipping Manager at MLC, said, "I'm a native of Ste. Genevieve, but moved away for more than 20 years before returning in 2017. During the program I was amazed at the advances of this small community I grew up in. The economic growth in this area has sparked a great wealth of opportunity for sectors like healthcare, education, recreation, and public safety. I was simply amazed at how our local hospital has progressed over the years. Likewise, through this program, I was able to see the many faces behind the scenes that support and ensure public safety, traditions, values, and our culture. The experience was great!"

MLDS CELEBRATES TWO YEARS ON FACEBOOK



President & CEO Bill Ayers presents Janis Nickelson with items she won by responding to an MLC company post on Facebook. Be sure to watch for other opportunities to participate. All are eligible to enter.

In February, MLDS celebrated two years on Facebook by sponsoring a giveaway. Janis Nickelson, Production Planning Analyst at MLC in Ste. Genevieve, won a basket full of MLC-branded items. Each person entered by liking and commenting on the Facebook post.

Keep up with us on Facebook and LinkedIn for future giveaways. All are invited to participate.

COVID-19

Please check Mississippi Lime's website at mississippilime.com for any new information on visiting our sites during the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, go to this link to read a statement from the National Lime Association. ow.ly/cZv550yQfQ8

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ON FACEBOOK**



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