



CONNECTION

Greater Kansas City Chapter #92

April 2004

IN THIS ISSUE

1 – April Meeting Details	5 – Upcoming Events	9 – JEC Information
2 – President’s Message	6 – Membership Status	10 – Job Postings
3 – May Community Service Project	7 – Chapter Update	11 – Officer Listing
4 – IIE Chapter Website	8 – News from Headquarters	

1 – APRIL MEETING – Tour of Hallmark Cards

The story of Hallmark Cards, Inc. began almost 100 years ago when founder, J.C. Hall moved to Kansas City, MO and began wholesaling postcards from his room at the YMCA. Since then, Hallmark has grown in to a worldwide company with more than 42,000 retail outlets! With over 18,000 employees worldwide, Hallmark produces product in more than 30 languages and distributes product in more than 100 countries.



Come join us as we tour their Lawrence production facility. The Lawrence Production Center employs 800 people and operates across 3 shifts. The facility opened in 1958 and is 650,000 square feet. It produces 35% of Hallmark’s greeting card volume, invitations, ribbon, bows, stickers, and other specialty related product. The Lawrence Production Center ships over \$700 million in wholesale goods annually to the Liberty, Missouri and Enfield, Connecticut distribution centers.

In addition to the tour, there will be a short presentation on the Continuous Improvement (CI) activities at Hallmark Cards. We will discuss the following:

- Who is responsible for CI
- How activities are structured
- Lean tools frequently utilized
- Examples of successful implementation of Lean principles
- Question and Answer session

When: Tuesday, April 6th
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: 101 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS (just south of the West Lawrence exit off of I-70, exit 202)

Cost: Free to members
\$5 for non-members

RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, April 2nd to Anita Ranhotra (aranho2@hallmark.com; 816-545-2671) or Amy Martens (amy.martens@bcbsks.com; 785-291-7610)

Please note: Closed toe and closed heel shoes will be required for this tour. You will also be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to the tour.

2 – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce the successful completion of our Chapter’s Spring Conference on March 4, 2004 at Cabela’s. One of our members and chapter chairpersons, Brian McCarthy, spoke on Lean Six Sigma. He covered quite a bit of information in one day, but it was definitely informative! The group interaction was beneficial, and besides, the food was delicious! We had record attendance at 53, which makes it the largest conference our chapter has ever hosted. Many thanks to Brian McCarthy, Keith Johnson and Anita Ranhotra for all your hard work making this happen.

The meeting in February was a tour of Kohl’s distribution center. Kohl’s is a new, total flow-through facility with 550,000 square feet where nothing is warehoused! Product enters and either goes directly out via crossdock, or is broken down in to a smaller ship quantity and shipped via a pack to light system. This facility is the #1 producing DC in the Kohl’s network, and ships up to 4 million retail units in one day, utilizing their sixteen miles of conveyor systems. Kohl’s even provided refreshments and muffins for all. Many thanks to Beth Kelly for setting up this tour.

The upcoming event is scheduled for April 6th. We are very excited to host this tour of Hallmark Cards, as they are one of our chapter’s primary supporters, and we have not toured a Hallmark facility in many years! Besides a tour, there will be a short presentation on the Continuous Improvement activities at Hallmark, and examples of successful implementation of Lean principles. This is an especially good follow-up event for those of you that attended the Lean Six Sigma conference, as it gives practical examples of what works (or doesn’t work!) for Hallmark. Also, please note the facility is located in Lawrence, which means less driving time for the IIE members from the western portion our region. Hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Brandy L. Collins

3 – MAY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Mark your calendars: May Community Service Event on May 22, 2004. This year, we will again be helping the Union Cemetery Historical Society with a workday at the cemetery. This event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 22nd, with lunch provided to the workers at noon. More details will follow in the May newsletter.

4 – IIE CHAPTER WEBSITE LAUNCH

We are proud to announce the launch of the Greater Kansas City IIE Chapter Website! The site can be found at <http://www.iienet.org/kansascity>. Here you can find out all the latest news and information regarding our chapter’s IIE program, from local scheduled events and job postings to contact information and newsletter archives. Best of all, we’re part of the IIE National Web Page, so National IIE info is just a click away. We can post just about anything in *.html, *.doc, *.pdf, and *.jpg format. You can also advertise with us. For next two months, advertising on the Webpage is FREE! After that, it’s only \$50 per half page. Enjoy the site!

Please contact Webmaster Jim Vonachen at jdvonach@jcpenny.com to place an ad or provide feedback.

5 – UPCOMING EVENTS

Tentative Schedule of Events

- April 6th – Tour of Hallmark plant in Lawrence
- May 6th – Tour of Robbie Manufacturing, Topic: Strategic Planning
- May 22nd – Community Service Project – Union Hill Cemetery

6 – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Chapter 92 Region 5 Membership 117

Welcome new members!

Shawn Chase, Bill Goodman, Robert Forrester, Jay Logan, Curtis Mears, and Thomas Pritchard

Shawn Chase - Shawn is the Plant Engineer for Bunge North America's Emporia facility. Bunge is a global, \$13B commodities-oriented company. Shawn graduated from Kansas State University with a BSIE, manufacturing systems option, in May of 1995. He moved here from Rockford, IL, where he was a Project Manager in Corporate Engineering for Dean Foods Company. He is working on his MBA at MNU in Olathe. Shawn also has a three-year-old cat, Sadie, and in his free time he enjoys biking, hiking, hunting, home improvement projects, and woodworking.

Robert Forrester - Robert works for Applebee's International. At Applebee's, he works with creating operating platforms, restaurant layout, systems and equipment selection or development, cutting-edge automation, robotics, and patented baking and heating technology. Robert is a 1975 graduate of Kansas State University with a BS in Engineering Technology. He recently returned to KS after rounding out a terrific career heading up IE, Systems Eng. or Advanced Manufacturing Engineering for Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, Hardee's, Whatatburger, ITT Business and Consumer Comm., ITT Mackay Marine, ITT Telecom Raleigh, Europe, and Haiti. Robert is a past president of the Raleigh IIE chapter and a past student chapter president at K-State. He has also been a member of the IIE chapters in Dallas, Coastal Bend, TX and Orange County, CA. In his free time, Robert likes sailing, coastal cruising, and open ocean yacht racing.

Curtis Mears - Curtis is currently the Manager of Material and Resource Services (Industrial Engineering and Configuration Management) at Honeywell FM&T. He has worked in the KC area for 22 years and is a 1981 graduate of the University of Missouri - Columbia, with a BS in Industrial Engineering.

7 – CHAPTER UPDATE – The Chapter Activity Report (CAR) was submitted. See summary below.

Chapter Activity Area	Possible Points	Score
Plans & Operations	15	13
Chapter Programs	20	6
Membership Communications, Growth, & Retention	25	22
Student Outreach & Community Affairs	20	15
Members, Chapters, & Institute Support	20	18
Total	100	74
The average membership of your chapter over the past two years is:		114
This chapter falls into size class:		B
Tentatively, your award prior to certification by the RVP and IIE is:		Silver Award

8 – NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

IIE Annual Conference – Plan on attending the IIE Annual Conference in Houston, Texas from May 15th through 19th! This revitalized event promises more practical, real-world solutions to everyday workplace challenges. A mix of take-home applications and innovative research makes this conference unique and one not to miss. Early-bird rate of \$399, if you register by April 2, 2004! For more information, go to the website at <http://www.iienet.org/annual/>.

9 – JEC INFORMATION

American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) Meeting

Topic: "Benefits and Costs of Global Demand Chains and Global Supply Chains"

Date: Thursday, April 29th, 2004

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Delaware Café

For more information, go to www.apics-kc.org or email programs@apics-kc.org.



10 – JOB POSTINGS

Associated Wholesale Grocers has an excellent Industrial Engineer opportunity.



Position responsibilities:

Responsible for the development and maintenance of labor standards and developing and implementing systems and layout changes to enhance operational productivity efficiencies.

Position Requirements:

Background in Industrial Engineering - Degree preferred.

Computer literate in Microsoft Office (Word, Access, Excel, Power Point). CADD experience helpful but not required.

Practical knowledge in predetermined time systems, stop watch study and pace rating.

Good communication skills (written and verbal).

Must be able to stand, sit and walk for long periods of time. Some bending, stooping, squatting, kneeling and reaching required. Indoor and outdoors. Temperature range from -10 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Must be willing to occasionally work nontraditional hours.

Travel for extended periods required.

Please send resume to: Associated Wholesale Grocers, Human Resources-Dept. IE P.O. Box 2932, Kansas City, KS 66106, email: hr.kc@awginc.com or fax to 913-288-1547. EOE

Job Posting from MedNex...

"Our client delivers integrated business support services to healthcare providers, enabling them to reduce costs and improve operational performance. They have asked us to identify candidates to head up a newly created function within their organization.

Our client is looking for someone who can build a new department to provide industrial engineering expertise to help put the organization and process infrastructure in place to help manage high growth. A number of departments within the company have initiated projects to streamline, standardize, automate, and create performance measurement systems for their business units. These departments include contracting, customer service, sales and account implementation services. Each of these business units has assigned one or more individuals to work on these initiatives. Some groups are setting goals to show measurable productivity improvements in 2004. The role of the new Process Engineering group is to work with each of these groups to provide guidance, insight, and specific expertise in process methodologies and measurements. Business units will be responsible for the ROI of their individual projects.

While specific healthcare supply-chain knowledge is not required, the candidate should have a solid understanding of primary business functions and ideally have experience with business process design and measurement projects. Successful candidates should also possess a degree in Industrial Engineering and have experience in business process simulation and design.

This position will require relocation to San Francisco. Our client offers a very competitive compensation package including a base salary, bonus potential, generous stock options, great benefits and relocation."

For more information, or to apply, please contact Hollie Krantz.

(Hollie Krantz, MedNex, 7515 Greenville Avenue, Suite 901, Dallas, TX 75231; 214-691-2000 Ext 101; 214-691-2605 Fax; 888-847-6613 Toll Free; www.mednex.com)

11 – OFFICER LISTING

- President - Brandy Collins**, Sprint, 6100 Sprint Parkway, OP, KS 66251 MS: KSOPHK0214-2B558 (913)315-4285, Fax: (913)315-3929, brandy.l.collins@mail.sprint.com
- President Elect - Aaron Cross**, Sprint 5101 W 107th Pl., Apt 311, OP, KS 66211 (913)794-5035
aaron.d.cross@mail.sprint.com
- Treasurer - Jeff Poehls**, Farmland, 13104 W 76th St., Lenexa KS 66216 (913)268-7881, rjpoehls@farmland.com
- Secretary – Robert Stillwell**, Burns & McDonnell, 9400 Ward Pkwy, KC, MO 64114 (816)822-3449,
rstillwell@burnsmcd.com
- Membership - Lori Ashford**, Robbie Manufacturing, 10810 Mid America Ave, Lenexa, KS 66219 (913)492-3400,
fax (913)492-1543, loria@robbiemfg.com
- Membership - Anita Ranhotra**, Hallmark Cards, 2501 McGee; Box 419580 MD 226, KC, MO 64141-6580 (816)
545-2671, Fax: (816) 545-6567 aranho2@hallmark.com
- Newsletter Editor – Amy Martens, P.E.** – Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS, 1133 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka KS 66629
(785)291-7610, fax (785)290-0801, amy.martens@bcbsks.com
- Distribution - Beth Kelley**, Hallmark Cards, 450 Eisenhower Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913)727-6692 x323,
fax (913)727-2423, bkelle1@hallmark.com
- Webmaster – Jim Vonachen**, JC Penney, 1500 Lackman Rd., Lenexa KS 66219 (913)541-3171,
jdvonach@jcpenny.com
- Corporate Relations - Brian McCarthy**, Missouri Enterprise, 1575 Universal Ave Lakeside Plaza Suite 130, KC,
MO 64120 (816)482-1176, fax (816)482-1191, bmccarthy@mebac.umn.edu
- Student Chapter Liaison - Rachel Dubbert**, Hallmark Cards, 450 Eisenhower Rd., Leavenworth, KS 66048
(913)727-6692 x458, rdubbe2@hallmark.com

Conference Director – Keith Johnson, Hallmark Cards, 240 Madison, Topeka, KS 66607 (785)233-3241 x624, kjohns7@hallmark.com

Co-Conference Director – Jairo de Jesus, Associated Wholesale Grocers, 15880 W 157th Terr., Olathe, KS 66062 (913)254-7362, it1997@aol.com

Community Affairs Coordinator – Jennifer Albers, Yellow Freight, 21725 W. 56th Street, Shawnee, KS 66218 (913) 441-8527, GandJAlbers@GBRonline.com

Community Affairs and Web Co-Chair – Luke Goodrich, Garmin Industries, 8221 Renner Rd. #3, Lenexa, KS 66219 (913)888-6422, glukie23@hotmail.com

JEC Rep. - Gary Hanson, Honeywell FMT, 2000 E 95th St, Kansas City, MO 64131 (816)997-5563, fax (816)997-5649, ghanson@kcp.com

Board Members -

- Bill Czeschin**, (816)796-6231, czeschin@msn.com
- Gary Hanson**, (816) 987-5563, ghanson@kcp.com
- Quarterman Lee**, (816) 931-1414, q@strategosinc.com
- Bill Wrennall**, (913)681-8435, wrennall@tlgltd.com