

Omaha Works Together team sets a cost-savings record



Members include (standing, l. to r.) LARRY ANDERSON, 704-3, Coach BONNIE SPENCER, 571; ED DERGAN, 553; HELEN OTT-BRASCH, 741; KURT WATTELET, 741; (seated, l. to r.) SHARON REIMERS, 521; LU WINDELS, 571; SHARON JUSTSEN, 557; and MARCY DERGAN, 771.

A self-formed team headed by leader SHARON JUSTSEN and coached by BONNIE SPENCER has received approval for an idea that, when implemented, will result in a savings of \$120,000--the largest amount saved as a result of one suggestion since the program began in early March.

The idea earned team W57154 a total of 285,600 points--142,800 points when the idea was accepted and 142,800 when the idea was implemented.

The team suggested that damaged pads on printed wiring boards of maintenance termination units (MTUs) be repaired using a small copper rivet.

Team leader SHARON JUSTSEN feels "This has been a real morale boost (to our team) because we've had several ideas rejected. People think when you turn in an idea it gets approved. Most of the time that's not the case. It helps you to work harder to come up with more."

The team has racked up an amazing grand total of 312,300 award shares in the OMAHA TEAM WORKS suggestion program--285,600 from this idea and 26,700 from two previous suggestions.

Employee Involvement

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Issue 11



New Employee Resource Center to open soon

The all-new EMPLOYEE RESOURCE CENTER is a great program for represented employees coming to the Omaha Works on Monday, April 23.

According to Resource Center Staffer JOHN SCHWENCK, the program "was bargained for in the last contract to provide guidance for represented employees on future training and career planning. The office will also provide information on the AT&T voluntary transfer system, tuition assistance and benefit packages."

Omaha is one of the first AT&T locations to open such a center. Eventually, an office will be opened at all manufacturing locations.

The office is located in Rm. 80 at the west end of the lower level of Bldg. 20 and is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An appointment can be made by calling any of the center staffers:

JOHN SCHWENCK, ext. 3523, CHERE HUNT, ext. 3601, JUDY TYLER, ext. 3509 and BARB GRAY, ext. 3607.

"The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them."

--Albert Einstein

Meet your area coordinators!



(Back row, l. to r.) RON DICKMEYER, PAT MEIMAN, CHUCK MEYERS, PAUL BAUMANN, (front row, l. to r.) PHIL WARREN and CONNIE SCHMIDT.

These people are into communication--between the coaches and the evaluation committees who consider all those wonderful ideas submitted by all those deep-thinking teams!

The coach of each team works with an area coordinator to assure ideas and paperwork are processed rapidly and successfully.

Coordinator PHIL WARREN relates "I'm extremely excited about the enthusiasm the majority of teams are showing. They're super. They want to get ideas in here and they want to see us be successful. And you can't beat that."

CARL PECKMAN is the team leader of group B55242 that won 17,800 shares for each member in March for their idea that resulted in a \$14,511 saving in the cable shop.



So what advice does Peckman have for other team leaders? "Keep an open mind, listen to your team members and be persistent in pursuing your ideas. You might also take a second look at the idea if it's rejected. There might be a good way to write it from a different perspective."

O-H-I-O, Here they come...

QWL Circle 3 "Connector Pride" will make a presentation at the annual conference of the Association for Quality and Participation. The meeting will be in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 24-26.

The circle was among 12 selected from over a hundred to tell their story of quality, participation and cooperation. The circle found a way to reduce packing problems by eliminating air in the plastic packaging used for 710 connectors.



"Connector Pride" members who will be making the trip to Cincinnati include (front, l. to r.) DAN DEHNING, 551; PAT HAMILTON, 571; VIRGINIA BARKER, 571; (standing, l. to r.) GARY SCOTT, 571; ELMER "PETE" PETERSEN, 571-5; KITTY McCANTS, 571; and DENNIS FLEMING, 571. Not pictured is JOY BENNING, 575.

PROTECTING YOUR VITAL DATA

That 5 1/4-inch floppy diskette next to your PC can store more than 80 pages of single-spaced material. To protect this data:



- Use a felt-tip pen on the label rather than a pencil or ballpoint pen which can damage the label.
- Don't stack one label on top of another. Multiple labels can jam the drive.
- Don't deform the jacket or the internal plastic disk. This can happen by attaching reports to the diskette with paper clips or allowing the diskette to get hot.
- Always return the diskette to its protective sleeve when it's out of the disk drive and use covered disk boxes to keep disks dust-free.
- Keep your fingers off the shiny plastic disk. Fingerprints contain oil and are great collectors of grit and dust.

Certification efforts continue

Congratulations to the folks in the AUTOMATIC WIRE WRAP area in Bldg. 30. (That's where those amazing machines do the wiring). The area became certified in March, the fourth area in the copper apparatus shop to achieve this status.

Facilitator AL PICKERING worked with certification team members CAROLYN YATES, MARK CURTIS, JAHAN ZEB and PAT HARTUNG and says "the area's better organized now and people know more about what's going on. We're all more aware of the job requirements and layouts and we're more quality-conscious."

Pickering is now working on certification with employees in the building entrance protector and central office panel assembly area.

Here's where the program stands...

Over \$463,000 in savings have been realized since March 5 as a result of ideas generated by teams in the OMAHA TEAM WORKS program.

As of April 9, 1990, the statistics look like this:

| <u>Approved ideas</u> | <u>Dollar value</u> | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Tangible (approved) | 35 | \$463,009 |
| Tangible (implemented) | 7 | 18,857 |
| Intangible | 39 | |

Ideas submitted since the beginning of the program:

Tangible 414
Intangible 121

Performance shares issued:

Tangible 5,247,800
Intangible 705,000

*'Be slow in choosing a friend,
slower in changing.'*

--Benjamin Franklin



Members of team B08112 include (seated l. to r.) BILL HUETSON, 552; Team Coach PEGGY HURD, 081; TED BULLING, 559; (standing l. to r.) RON BROCK, 552; BILL BRINK, 552; LLOYD DONAHOO, 559; JOHN LANGLE, 558; ARLO OLSEN, 552; and NORM HONAKER, 553.

Meet the cable shop's lean, mean idea machine...

This gang of idea generators from the cable shop has earned $29,500 \times 2 = 59,000$ (once for the idea acceptance and then for the idea implementation) award shares for each member on a suggestion recently implemented in the cable shop. The group suggested the realignment of a vertical and horizontal roller on the jacketing lines, preventing tears in the cable jacketing at startup.

The savings on this idea are \$21,040. An earlier idea from the group concerning temporary layouts saved \$34,000.

DRAWING OUT SILENT FOLKS

To encourage participation by a person who's usually silent at meetings, try this:

--Tell the person before the meeting you'll be asking her/him for her/his contribution on a specific topic.

--Tell the person you'll want her/him to add something when a new topic is brought up.

--Try the "go-round" technique, in which each person is asked to make a statement on a topic. It's not a good idea to start with the person who's reluctant to comment.

This and That...

World traveler ERNIE WESOLOWSKI--who's an AT&T electrician when he's not out trottin' off to fabulous and interesting places around the globe--has just come back from a trip to the Soviet Union. (He thought it would be hard to beat last year's trip to China, but it sounds like he has.)

Ernie says he was most impressed by "the strength of the faith of Soviet Christians who practiced their religion in the closets of their apartments. They've been afraid of the Soviet officials since the end of World War II."

Ernie spent 10 days on tour in Moscow and Leningrad. Next trip, he says, will be after he retires in 1991...Down Under to Australia and New Zealand. He's going to set a departure date and leave the return open-ended...

PROFESSIONAL ANESTHESIA SERVICES gives AT&T employees a discount on the difference between actual charges and reasonable and customary charges (what the insurance plan will pay) for anesthesia and services for AT&T employees and their dependents who have surgery at Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha.

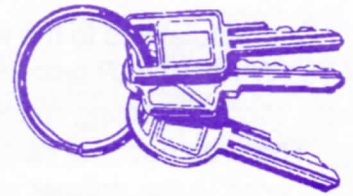
This discount applies ONLY to charges for anesthesia and related services provided by Professional Anesthesia Services physicians and related personnel at Bergan Mercy Hospital ONLY.

Employees should give the admissions office their Traveler's plan number, which triggers the computer to institute the discount. Plan number: GA797000 (non-management), GA798000 (management) and GA799000 (retired).

For children or grandchildren who spend time alone while the adults work, "What If I'm Home Alone" is a valuable booklet for the kids to read. The booklet is available at the AT&T Phone Center in the Westroads, and is designed to prepare children for problems and emergencies that crop up.

Your risk of death or serious injury doubles with every 10 mph you drive over 50.

Drive it home:
Speed kills



The OMAHA TEAM WORKS progress board is now in the main cafeteria, so you can check out all the ideas that have been submitted and monitor the numbers.

The board is designed to eliminate time spent documenting ideas that've already been submitted.

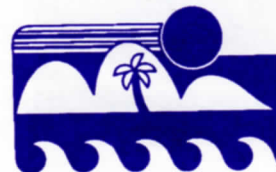
Updates will be made weekly on the idea list and program statistics.



Omaha Works Factory Engineer DEBORAH DeBOER has been named the recipient of the Distinguished New Engineer Award by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). Deborah's being honored for outstanding performance in engineering and her leadership in the eastern Nebraska section of SWE. She is one of five recipients selected from candidates throughout the U.S.

Deb graduated from UNL in 1983 with a degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Omaha Works in 1984 as a product engineer in the cabinet shop. She now works as a factory engineer on various projects in Bldgs. 50 and 30.

The Product Display Center's FRANK MARKESI says officials of the Taiwan Telephone Co. are scheduled to visit Omaha on Monday, April 16...a good will and cultural exchange between the two companies.



QUESTION: Why shouldn't you go hungry on a desert island?
ANSWER: Because the sand-which is there.
