



**ABOUT US**



A true partnership removes the need for luck. As a KEP customer, you don't need to find a lucky four-leafed clover to ensure you're getting quality solutions, high-quality processes, a commitment to lean management and more. See why in our [Leader Views blog](#).

**LEADER VIEWS**



Will you be filling out a college basketball bracket this year? As we watch our favorite teams compete for the championship title, we'll be thinking about the teamwork it takes to enable each win!

At KEP, teamwork is the essence of what it takes to earn our customers' business and to be successful as a company. Our Kent Elastomer teams

work tirelessly to bring customer solutions to life, because we know the importance of creating true partnerships with our customers.

We work alongside our customers to provide solutions catered to their needs and industries served, which help them meet the goals and objectives of their businesses. Because of this dedication to forming valuable partnerships, many KEP customers have been with us for 20+ years! [Contact us](#) to share your challenge or idea – we want to help make it happen!

## 60 STORIES



Our FIRST EVER Kaizen event addressed our box pack and reels area in our Winesburg location over 14 years ago on January 20, 2006! Extrusion operator Walt Mudrick, QA director Jim Houser, Kent supervisor Bryan Hastings, latex tubing employee Darlene Miller, plant manager Keith Wengerd, and plant engineer Terry Mustard were all a part of this first Kaizen team – paving the way for many more Kaizen teams and events to come!

Exactly 14 years and one month later, on February 20, 2020, we completed our 834th Kaizen event – revisiting that same area in Winesburg, box pack and reels! Since 2006, our 5 person Kaizen teams have dedicated an equivalent of 3.6 YEARS solely to improving our processes. Follow KEP on [LinkedIn](#) for more stories throughout the month!

## SERVICE YOU CAN SEE



## DON'T JUST STAND THERE

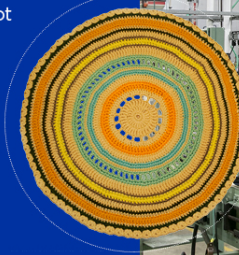
At KEP, we challenge employees to stand in one spot for 30 minutes. Observe. Find opportunities for improvement – and implement them.

We call this Stand-in-a-Circle.

The results – continued improvement.

## SERVICE YOU CAN SEE.

(They do.)



We employ a tool in our facilities called “Stand-in-a-Circle.” During this 30 minute activity, an employee stands on a multi-colored circular rug and jots down 30 observations for improvement.

Learn how Stand-in-a-Circle helped KEP implement new earth-friendly, money-saving team practices in our [Leader Views blog](#).

## THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE



## Revisiting Our Order Entry Process



The order entry process has been refined several times since 2006 with positive changes being made to speed up the process, eliminate waste, and improve communication between the sales and production teams. However, in our ever changing environment, we believed that there were still ways to improve the process and revisit the goals and plans of previous Kaizen events. Learn more about the latest improvements made to our order entry process in our [Leader Views blog](#).

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Timothy Hawkins



A team member at our Mogadore facility, Timothy Hawkins works as an Assembler. His attention to detail helps ensure that we provide high quality and consistent finished products to our customers and stay on top of productivity goals. Read more about Timothy in our [Leader Views blog](#).

## ANNIVERSARIES



## This Month's Anniversaries



Whether it's been a quarter century of commitment or a great first year, we are proud of all of our team members who are celebrating anniversaries this month! Please join us in congratulating the following team members:

**Keith Wengerd** – Winesburg – 25 years on 3/6

**Lisa Smith** – Mogadore – 18 years on 3/11

**Michelle Walker** – Mogadore – 16 years on 3/15

**Brock Lauvray** – Winesburg – 16 years on 3/30

**Nheng Rassavong** – Mogadore – 15 years on 3/14

**Michael James** – Kent – 13 years on 3/21

**Derrick Kendrick** – Kent – 13 years on 3/29  
**Terry Powell** – Kent – 5 years on 3/9  
**Matthew Hills** – Kent – 3 years on 3/13  
**Sharee Dyer** – Mogadore – 3 years on 3/27  
**Mizusa Hagen** – Mogadore – 1 year on 3/18  
**Derek Dunn** – Kent – 1 year on 3/20



**NEWS**



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