



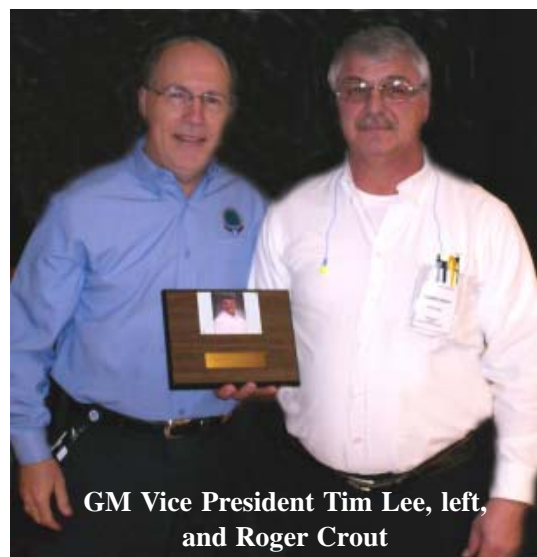
AutoKnow



Grand Rapids Metal Plant Mission Statement: Working within an empowered team environment and utilizing Quality Network/GM-GMS strategies, the people of GRMP will safely provide world-class products and services. The GRMP will be the preferred choice of our people, customers and stakeholders.

Supervisor of the Year -- Roger Crout

Congratulations to **Roger Crout**, who was named Supervisor of the Year by the Grand Rapids Metal Plant Professional Managers Network (PMN). Roger was given this award because he “is very involved in the performance of his press, and nobody knows the quality of his or her parts better than he does. Roger and his teams follow up on quality issues to make sure they are corrected, and they implement corrective actions to prevent the problems from occurring again so his customers are impacted as little as possible. His teams are very functional because of his clear guidance and consistent management skills.” Roger works in South Press, second shift.



GM Vice President Tim Lee, left,
and Roger Crout

GMS Corner – The Seven Forms of Waste

The last few weeks we’ve looked at the seven forms of waste (**COMMWIP**) identified by GMS. They are:

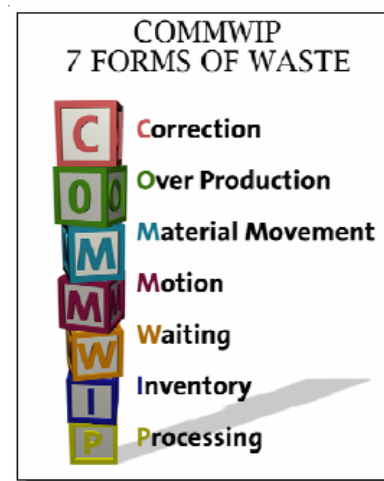
- Correction – Rework or work done because of errors in the previous process.
- Over production – Making more than is necessary or making things faster than is necessary (working ahead).
- Material movement – Unnecessary handoffs, transfers, distances of material, designs or information.
- Motion – Unnecessary people motions, travel, walking and/or searching.
- Waiting – People waiting on machines or for information and/or machines waiting on people or information.
- Inventory – Information or materials waiting in queue.
- Processing – Redundant or unnecessary processing, work that is giving the customer more than they are willing to pay for.

Last week we gave you some examples of waste due to motion. This week, let’s look at waste due to waiting.

Waste due to waiting:

Plant: This is usually the easiest type of waste to see in a plant. Anytime an operator is waiting on a machine or for help or whenever the machine is waiting on the operator is considered waste. If a line makes an Andon call and there’s a delay in help coming, that’s the waste of waiting, while the equipment and people running it are idle.

Office: Anytime you are waiting for a call or waiting for information.



Rates Up, Usage Down

Over the last several years we have increased our focus on reducing our energy consumption here in Grand Rapids, which in turn reduces our energy cost. For the calendar year 2007, we reduced our energy use by 17.4% for natural gas, 3.3% for electrical, and 11.9% on water consumption. Our energy cost has increased significantly due to rate increases. As an example, our electric rates have increased by 36% since 2002 and our natural gas rates have increased 145% for the same period. These increases are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. We all need to work harder at reducing our energy cost.

Some of the things we can do is shut off all unnecessary energy users at break, lunches and especially the end of our shifts and weekends. Some examples are lights, fans, TVs, radios, etc.

Following is a comparison of energy costs for Grand Rapids for calendar year 2006 versus 2007.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cost of electricity	\$4,300,000	\$5,000,000
• Average monthly cost	\$ 358,000	\$ 417,000
• Average daily cost for Mon. thru Fri.	\$ 13,800	\$ 16,800
• Average daily cost for Sat. thru Sun.	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,000
Cost of electricity for compressed air	\$ 422,000	\$ 396,000
• Average monthly cost	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,000
• Average daily cost for Mon. thru Fri.	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300
• Average daily cost for Sat. thru Sun.	\$ 740	\$ 650
Cost of natural gas for heating	\$1,300,000	\$1,014,000
• Highest month cost	\$ 359,700 (Jan)	\$ 235,000 (Feb)
• Minimum cost per day with boiler on	\$ 4,600	\$ 3,900
• Maximum cost per day	\$ 11,500	\$ 8,500

As a plant we must do everything we can to reduce our energy cost for Grand Rapids. Saving energy helps the environment, helps reduce our costs, and keeps us working.



Know Safety, No Accidents

	<u>Through 12/31/07</u>	<u>Through 2/01/08</u>
First-aid Injuries	454	31
Recordable Injuries	65	6
Lost Work Days	6	0
Near Misses Reported	232	18

Safety Corner

Health & Safety Core Elements

There are five Health & Safety Core Elements. Last week we looked at the second, Safety Observation Tours. This week we look at **Safe Operating Procedures (SOP)**:

Definition: An operator instruction tool that describes the required steps for completing a work operation in the safest possible manner.

Purpose: SOP's contribute to standardized work and take the guess work out of performing work tasks that involve risk to employees. They also contribute to high process and product quality.

Problem With a Vending Machine?

If you have an issue with a vending machine, please call the cafeteria at extension 2760 and they will take care of the problem as soon as possible. Also, please don't kick or shake the machine because most of the time it only makes the problem worse.



Around Grand Rapids

UAW-GM Quality Network Suggestion Corner

Reminder: Win \$1,000!

In addition to the 1st quarter 2008 drawing of four team suggestions (\$500 to each team), the UAW-GM Quality Network Suggestion Plan is adding a second drawing. **Any employee or team that submits a suggestion about eliminating waste (submit between February 1 and March 15, 2008) will be eligible for another drawing.** One winner will receive \$1,000, and the second and third names drawn will each win \$500. Start suggesting today. Submit more than one and increase your chances!

	<u>01/19/08-01/25/08</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
*Number of Awards Paid:	53	90
\$ Paid Out:	\$ 1,502.45	\$12,755.68
Savings to GM:	\$ 0	\$84,410.83

Tangible Awards Paid Last Week:

There were none last week; all were intangible awards.

*Tangible and intangible awards

UAW-GM Quality Network Employee Recognition

Congratulations to **Don Dykstra**, pictured below, who was named Employee of the Month for December 2007. Don was recognized for going above and beyond as an expeditor to locate the best deals to save us money without sacrificing quality. Don is representative of GM's Core Values of

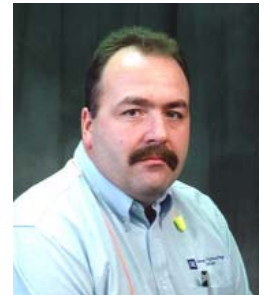
Teamwork, Customer Enthusiasm, and Individual Respect and Responsibility. Don works for WFG, 1st shift.



PMN Recognition -- Charlie Thomas and Kathy Razzoog

The Professional Managers Network (PMN) has recognized **Charlie Thomas** as its Supervisor of the Month for January 2008. The PMN noted that "Charlie has always treated people (both hourly and salary) with respect. He goes above and beyond to work with his team and customers to solve quality issues. He is constantly looking for a new way to fix a repeat problem, and he thinks out of the box."

The PMN also recognized **Kathy Razzoog** as Support Person of the Month for January 2008. The PMN told those at last week's PMN luncheon that "Kathy always goes the extra mile to help supervisors from Maintenance and other departments. She always acts as a team player and supports the first line supervisor with respect and integrity."



Blood Drive February 6 and 7

Grand Rapids Metal Plant will be sponsoring our **126th** quarterly **blood drive** in Conference Rooms 4/4A on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, February 6, 2008: 6:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 7, 2008: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Employees who wish to give blood should contact your supervisor and schedule a time to give.

Beyond Grand Rapids

Consumer Reports--best and worst for 2008

GM's results are mixed in *Consumer Reports'* annual New Car Preview/Best and Worst for 2008. Seventeen GM products earned "recommended" status, an increase of one from last year:

Buick: LaCrosse and Lucerne

Cadillac: DTS and STS

Chevrolet: HHR, Impala, Silverado 1500 and 2500

GMC: Acadia, Sierra 1500 and 2500

Pontiac: Torrent and Vibe

Saab: 9-3 and 9-5

Saturn: Aura and Outlook

Buick was the only domestic brand to make the top ten list of most reliable brands. Unfortunately, our full-size SUVs lost "recommended" status because of quality issues detected during the early launch period.

This year Ford topped the list with 25 "recommended" vehicles, followed by 21 for Toyota, 17 for GM, 15 for Honda, 12 for Nisan and eight for Chrysler.

Third straight year over 9,000,000 sold

We told you two weeks ago in the *AutoKnow* that GM sold 9,369,524 cars and trucks around the world in 2007, an increase of 3% over 2006. The 2007 tally was the second-best global sales total in GM's 100-year history and marked the third consecutive and fourth time (2007, 2006, 2005 and 1978) GM sold more than 9 million vehicles in a calendar year.

Epsilon Team Update

As fast as the Epsilon equipment is arriving, the team is setting it into place. The third line has been installed, and the fourth line is progressing well. We will finish receiving equipment this week when a sub-assembly station arrives for the small parts area of Metal Assembly.

The WEMRs ran the first tryout parts last week on the left-hand and right-hand rear rail lines. These parts are being used at Fairfax Assembly to determine areas of die improvement required before regular production begins.

GM employees talk about being a global company on GMnext.com

The new *GMnext* website is up and running smoothly with fascinating videos, photos, blogs, podcasts and more for everyone. If you haven't had a chance to pop in and browse the site yet, try starting with a short video clip called "One Global Family," which captures GM employees around the world talking about what it means to be a global company. Visit: <http://www.gmnext.com/videos.aspx?id=f19f2973-be3d-4142-accc-f634fa74c331>

After you watch the short video clip, visit the GM employee blog and let us know why you chose to work for GM. Visit: http://blogs.gm.com/blogs/prod_182/index.php?blog=22&p=1062&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1#more1062

GMnext.com helps explain GM's lineup of electric propulsion vehicles

There's a lot of talk these days about alternative energy sources for our future vehicles, but do you really know the difference between hybrids, fuel cells, and electric drive systems? *GMnext.com* followed our experts to a recent Electric Vehicle Symposium (EVS) in Anaheim, California, to ask the tough questions and provide us, the average vehicle consumer, with easy answers.

Visit *GMnext.com* and catch the story called "Plug In and Go" at: <http://www.gmnext.com/Stories.aspx?id=bc0088dc-67a3-419a-aea8-d04c052ccb1c>.

To the right of the story are two video clips that will help you understand where technology is taking the auto industry as it aims to reduce and potentially eliminate the use of gasoline in future vehicles.

Click on "The Power of Electricity" and hear what Alicia Amie has to say about the three types of electric drive propulsion vehicles that GM had on display at the EVS.

Click on "Full Charge at EVS 23" to hear about the highlights of this year's show. Brian Wynne, president of the Electric Drive Transportation Association, and a few of the international visitors give their optimistic opinions.

Want to learn more? Click on the related stories that are listed just below the videos. They are filled with great information to help you "get electrified."

Contact Gary Evey (616-246-3132) or Rick O'Rourke (616-246-3124 - UAW). Fax 616-246-3150.

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