



# CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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## Employee Appreciation Lunch at Royal Canin

A new construction project is underway at Royal Canin U.S.A. Inc., a Mars Petcare brand that is a subsidiary of multinational manufacturer Mars Inc. The \$390 million construction project consists of a new dry pet food manufacturing factory in the village of Lewisburg, which is located in Harrison Township in Preble County. The new facility is being built to meet increasing demand for Royal Canin's pet nutrition products. The facility is located on the same property as the company's existing operation in Harrison Township, and is expected to create 224 new jobs that

would generate \$11.5 million in new annual payroll.

The Electrical Contractors for the project are NECA members



Chapel Electric and Sidney Electric. Chapel is currently working 35-40 men and Sidney has 4-6 workers. Chapel is performing installations in the main plant and Sidney is taking care of the 5

outbuildings associated with this project. There are 14 different contractors on site and a total of 280 tradesman/tradeswomen, so coordination can be challenging at times.

As with all jobs now, procurement of major components within the supply chain is an issue. But everyone is working toward the same goal, the completion of the project.

Recently, the Labor Management Cooperation Committee sponsored an employee appreciation lunch at the facility, as a thank you to all the electrical workers that are making this new expansion possible.

The factory will manufacture both Royal Canin and EUKANUBA health and nutrition brand dog and cat food product lines. The facility is being built to meet leading-edge environmental standards, and will pursue a LEED Silver Certified upon completion.

"Our investment in the new Ohio manufacturing facility will enable us to meet the ever-growing needs of pets and their owners across North America," Royal Canine President Cecile Coutens said. "Our new site will help ensure we can serve more pet owners and bring our

*Cont'd, pg. 2*

## 15th Annual Construction Career Expo

On September 13, the 15th Annual Construction Career Expo was hosted by the Miami Valley Building Trades Apprenticeship Council. Over 800 high school juniors and seniors attended from 26 different schools, CTCs, or programs in the Miami Valley. The event was supported by dozens of volunteers from 14 various building trades apprenticeship



Electrical JATC Training Director Eric Gray (right) with a high school student.

programs. The goal of the Expo is to inform students about career opportunities in the Construction Industry through the apprenticeship training centers affiliated with the union building trades. Apprenticeships lead to careers in a variety of trades and there is no cost to being an apprentice. The event was held again at the Operating Engineers Training Center in Miamisburg. Visit: [www.daytonapprenticeships.org](http://www.daytonapprenticeships.org).

# Award Winners at Team Building Night

The Dayton Builders Exchange held the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Team Building Night on August 11, 2022 at the Carillon Park Eichelberger Pavilion. In addition to a great networking opportunity, the event presents awards to the leaders in the construction industry in the Dayton area. Winners include contractors, craftsmen, and project teams.

## Iinthia Harris

The Craftsmanship Technology award was presented to Iinthia Harris of Chapel-Romanoff Technologies (CRT). Iinthia moved to Dayton from St. Louis after high school and began working but without much direction. She had the

opportunity to work for a company doing teledata installations and that



Iinthia Harris

changes her life. She applied to the IBEW Apprenticeship program in Teledata in 2010, and received the high scholars award for her GPA. "It was challenging at first," says Iinthia, "seeing that this field was

predominantly male, but here I am still standing." Her main field specialty is Access Control, Intrusion Detection, CCTV, and Programming. What Iinthia finds most challenging in her work is that it is not "cookie cutter." There is a thought process to the work she performs and there I always something new to learn.

Iinthia has her BICSI Tech certification and became a Service Foreman/Programmer and has competed in BICSI skills challenge competitions. She owes her success to her own diligence and the opportunities provided by IBEW Local 82 and CRT.

## Jeff Carr

The Project Management Electrical award was presented to Jeff Carr of Chapel-Romanoff Technologies. Jeff started as an apprentice 1979 and became a Journeyman wireman 1983 when he started working for Chapel Electric when Grandview



Jeff Carr

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## Royal Canin cont'd

nutrition to more cats and dogs than ever before."

Royal Canin currently operates its Pet Health Nutrition Center, a global research and development hub for the company, in Lewisburg. It will join Royal Canin's five other manufacturing sites across the U.S. and Canada.

JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef, in partnership with the Dayton Development Coalition, welcomed the new manufacturing facility in Lewisburg.

Founded in 1968 and purchased by Mars Inc. in 2001, Royal Canin U.S.A. is a pet science, health and

nutrition company. It manufactures and supplies pet food using science-based research and innovation that provides individualized nutritional solutions for cats and dogs. The company's product line



From left, Assistant Business Manager Local 82 Johnny Morris, Membership Development Coordinator Ray Camp, and Business Manager Local 82 Greg Gust.

includes a range of diets based on size, age, breed, lifestyle and therapeutic requirements. Its products are available at veterinary

hospitals and pet specialty stores nationwide.

With 85,000 employees in more than 55 countries, Mars Petcare is a growing segment of approximately 50 brands that include Iams, Pedigree, Cesar, Sheba,



Temptations, Royal Canin and more.



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Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

website: [www.wocneca.com](http://www.wocneca.com)  
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## Award Winners cont'd

hospital was building an addition. He was on job sites, out in the field for Chapel for 23 years, mostly as a Foreman and General Foreman. For the past 16 years, Jeff has been a Project Manager for CRT. That's 39 years with Chapel!

Jeff's first job as a Foreman was at a bio communications lab at WPAFB, and he continued to work several projects at the base air craft modification. Other Foreman projects include Building 13 at Sinclair Community College, DMAX (the largest job with 65 electricians), and the Greene Town Center.

Jeff started as a project manager with CRT in 2006 and he went to BISCO in Florida to train. His first job was the NASIC data center auditorium addition. And he discovered that Teledata is a different world than electrical. He is now dealing with technicians installing fiber, copper, AV and security systems. As a manager, he works with the Construction Manager (CM) on scheduling, materials acquisition, labor, and billing. So a key strength is versatility.

Other CRT projects that Jeff has managed include Soin hospital, including all additions and fit outs; Hollywood Gaming campus; WPAFB museum hanger 4; Mercy Jewish-Mercy Anderson hospitals; City of Dayton Main branch library (in addition to 6 other new libraries); Kettering Cancer Center; Troy hospital Speedway Corporate headquarters; and DPG

retrofit after the tornado. Jeff has managed the low voltage installation for too many schools to mention, but next is Fairborn High school, a new site scheduled to finish in 2024..

Jeff's success is backed by family support and inspiration from his father, who is a hall of fame electrician at Local Union 82, good training and most of all the people employed by Chapel, who are the best in the industry. According to Jeff, "You do not build these larger projects by yourself!"

On a personal note, Jeff has been married to Gwen for 40 years, has two boys Patrick, 37, and Ryan, 34.

### Heath "Billy" Mitchell

The Foreman of the Year award was presented to Billy Mitchell of Sidney Electric. Billy started as an electrician at the age of 19. He completed the Local 82 apprenticeship program as an Inside



Heath "Billy" Mitchell

Wireman. Billy says, "I worked with a couple of contractors in the field then went in-house as a maintenance electrician for almost two years, but

realized it wasn't for me." He went to work for Sidney Electric and has now been there for 19 years. Professionally, Billy has worked primarily in industrial food settings, working with Abbott and ConAgra. "I believe that the job isn't just quantitative, but quality is essential. Doing a job right instead of just getting it done," says Billy.

One of the most challenging jobs he has worked on was the most recent where Sidney did a complete refeeding of the entire plants processing center while processing was still in operation. "We only had two days of absolute shut down to switch out all the electrical feeds. I personally worked more hours a week on that job than I have in my entire career," states Billy.

Billy wants future foremen to know that you only get out of this trade what you put into it!

The DBX Showcase Award was presented to all those who worked at the Dayton-Phoenix Group Reconstruction Project following the Memorial Day tornados in 2019. Awards were presented to Shook Construction as the Team Leader, and Outstanding Contractors included: Rieck Construction, RJR Erectors, Valley Interiors, and Chapel Electrical.

The Chapel team included: Project Management Rick Weiser, Craftsmanship Electrical Josh Roark and Craftsmanship Electrical Chris Toon.

## 4 Paws for Ability

The LMCC/IBEW/NECA hosted their 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing in September. All proceeds from hole sponsorship are donated to 4 Paws for Ability, an organization in Xenia, Ohio that trains and places service dogs with children with disabilities and veterans. Kyle and his wife Kristie, brought their dog Korey to the event.

Kyle related a story about his relationship with Korey. One day when walking, Kyle tripped next to ravine and would have fallen down a steep incline. But Korey rushed to Kyle's side and stabilized him before he could fall. According to Kyle, "Korey has come to aid on several occasions to help stabilize me when I am walking. In addition, he has become a member of our family and our two kids wouldn't know how what to do without her." Visit [4pawsforability.org](http://4pawsforability.org).



(from left) Kyle, his wife Kristie, and Korey.



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**IBEW Local 82 marches in the Kettering Holiday At Home Parade on Labor Day 2022!**



**Congratulations to the winners of the 19th Annual LMCC golf outing. (from left) HVM's Jeff Gyurasics, Eric Nation, Jake Alspaugh and Thomas Ford.**

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