



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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Abbott Nutrition expansion

The Abbott Nutrition facility in Tipp City, Ohio, is a manufacturing plant specializing in the production of nutritional products. Construction began in 2011, with an investment of around \$270 million to build the state-of-the-art facility. It was part of Abbott's effort to expand its nutritional product capabilities, including popular brands like Ensure, Pedialyte, and Similac.

The plant became operational in 2014, featuring advanced technology and automation to meet the high standards for nutritional product manufacturing. The facility's location in Tipp City was strategically chosen for its proximity to transportation

networks, which facilitates efficient distribution. The plant's establishment has also



contributed to local economic development by providing jobs and boosting the region's economy.

Recently, the company pursued a \$17.2 million project

to develop a warehouse and distribution facility at its existing location. The new

construction is set to be a significant addition to their 367,924-square-foot facility, indicating Abbott's ongoing growth in the region.

The production of

nutritional products at Abbott Laboratories involves several key steps in a highly automated process that ensures quality and safety. Here's a general outline of how their products are made:

Ingredient Sourcing and Mixing: The process starts with sourcing high-quality raw materials such as proteins, vitamins, minerals, fats, and carbohydrates. These ingredients are precisely measured and mixed in large stainless-steel blending tanks. This step ensures a balanced nutritional profile for the drink. **Homogenization and Heat Treatment:** The blended mixture undergoes homogenization to ensure a uniform consistency. It is then subjected to a heat treatment process (pasteurization) to eliminate any potential microbial contamination, which is critical for the safety and shelf stability of the product. **Filling and Packaging:** Once pasteurized, the mixture is

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Supporting 4 Paws for Ability

The LMCC/IBEW/NECA hosted their 21st Annual Golf Outing in September at Sycamore Creek Country Club in Springboro. All proceeds from hole sponsorships and the raffle are donated to 4 Paws for Ability, an organization in Xenia, Ohio that trains and places service dogs with children with disabilities and veterans. Development Director, KaLynn Clark, brought a service dog-in-



From left, KaLynn with a dog in training, Doug Targett, Gail Targett and their service dog, Alfie.

training to the event. Doug Targett and his wife Gail also attended bringing Alfie, Doug's service dog. Alfie has been trained to be task oriented

and can pick up anything off the ground, from Doug's cane to his socks! If Doug should suffer a fall, Alfie will bark for help and lay next to Doug waiting for assistance. The LMCC/IBEW/NECA members raised \$2867.00 this year for 4 Paws for Ability.

4 Paws for Ability has placed 1800 dogs since 1998. 4 Paws works closely with the individual to determine their unique needs that can best be met through the support of a service dog. Research

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Abbott cont'd

cooled and transferred to aseptic filling lines. At the Tipp City facility, the process is highly automated, allowing for rapid production. The liquid is filled into pre-sterilized bottles in a sterile environment to prevent contamination. Each bottle is capped and labeled with batch information and expiration dates.

Quality Control: Throughout the production process, there are stringent quality control measures in place, including testing samples for nutrient content, taste, and microbiological safety. This ensures that each bottle of Ensure meets Abbott's quality standards.

Warehousing and Distribution: After packaging, the products are stored in climate-controlled warehouses to maintain quality before being distributed to various markets.

The Tipp City plant, being a modern facility, employs advanced technologies such as robotics and automation, contributing to a production rate of up to 800 bottles of Ensure per minute, amounting to roughly a million bottles a day.

Chapel Electric, Sidney Electric and Kastle Technologies have played a pivotal role in the construction of not only the original facility, but in the current Phase III (of four phases) expansion of the plant. From all basic electrical and lighting needs to installation of the entire conveyor line with control cables and motor controls, they are responsible for the success of this multi-step system from production to distribution.

To show their appreciation for the excellent work performed by the employees in the electrical industry, the Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC) made up of members from the Western Ohio Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82 are continuing to provide lunches to workers at various jobsites throughout the Dayton area.

On, October 10, 45 lunches were distributed to the workers at the new Abbott Nutrition facility, a Chapel Electric, Sidney Electric and Kastle



Technologies project. The dedication of these workers is essential to the growth of the Miami Valley and the success of the NECA Contractors in Dayton.

4 Paws cont'd

suggests that psychiatric service dogs may be an effective complementary treatment option for military veterans with PTSD. Service dogs are trained to interact with individuals when they begin to feel panicked, position themselves between a veteran and others, and interrupt night terrors. The results come in the form of a non-judgmental living being who can provide unconditional love 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Some trained tasks include picking up on cues veterans display when experiencing distress or anxiety and consequently nudging, pawing, or licking them to encourage the veteran to focus on the dog. Trainers also teach the service dogs to notice when veterans experience anxiety at

night and will actively wake the person up from nightmares.

The dogs also learn to perform tasks in public—such as looking the opposite way in a crowded room or store to provide a sense of security for the veteran. In addition, these service dogs offer valuable companionship, provide joy and happiness, and add structure and routine to veterans' lives.

The cost to raise and train just one service dog is \$40K-\$60K so the support of their donors and volunteers is essential to their success. If you are interested in

donating to the care and training of these service dogs, please visit 4pawsforability.org.

Congratulations to the winning team: Joe Ervin, Eric Nation, Dallas Kaylor and Jeff Gyurasics of High Voltage Maintenance.



October, 2024

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

website: www.wocneca.com
phone: 937.361.7879

New Leadership at IBEW Local 82

New leadership was voted in to IBEW Local 82 in July, 2024. The new Business Manager is Tom Anderson; Assistant Business Manager is Curtis Henry, and the new Membership Development Coordinator is Steve Tolson.

Tom's first day in the trade was 8/08/1988. He spent his apprenticeship with Freedom, Turner and Chapel Electric. Most of his career was spent installing or troubleshooting industrial motor controls and working with PLCs.

Once his kids were out of the house, Tom and his wife Denise (also a JW out of Local



From left, Membership Development Coordinator Steve Tolson, Business Manager Tom Anderson, and Assistant Business Manager Curtis Henry.

82) spent about six months out on the road. "We traveled from Local to Local, seeing the country, until the grandkids started popping up. That's

82 and starting his new position on 7/2/24.

Curtis began his apprenticeship in 1992. His was a path of exploration. After topping out, Curtis

when grandma needed to get close to home," says Tom.

Tom and Denise returned to Dayton and both went to work for Chapel Electric again. Tom was with Chapel until being elected BA of Local

worked around the Local 82 jurisdiction for a while then decided to see the country, carrying his tool bag. In 2017 Curtis returned to Dayton and worked for various contractors. "I am proud to serve in the Assistant Business Manager role and look forward to giving back to an organization that has given me so much," states Curtis.

Steve came into Local 82 through the organizing department. He worked for Wagner Industrial Electric, ESI Electrical Contractors, and Chapel Electric. Steve served as a job steward on several projects. Says Steve, "Joining the IBEW has been the best career decision I have made and I have a passion to give back to this local union."

Welcome aboard!

Dayton BX presents industry awards

The Dayton Builders Exchange held their 20th Annual Team Building Night in August 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, project teams and BOLT award.

The Electrical Craftsmanship award was presented to Zach Pilcher, Foreman at Sidney Electric.

Zach began his electrical career at 19, right out of high school. He worked at Richard's Electric, a small business in

Enon. Eventually he was accepted in the Dayton IBEW Local 82 Apprenticeship program where he completed the five-year Inside Wireman program, graduating as a Journeyman Electrician. He



Electrical Craftsman of the year, Zach Pilcher, Foreman, Sidney Electric.

did a short stint with Chapel Electric during his first and second year, working at the Kettering Cancer Hospital, and Wright Pat Air Force Base. Shortly after his second year, Zach was rotated to Sidney Electric where he has been working for roughly seven years.

Currently, Zach is the Foreman for most all of the Hobart factories around the Troy and Piqua area. He oversees work at the Hobart factories, the Speedway corporation office in Enon, and various other companies/jobs in the Troy area. Zach says, "I am going on my 15th year in the trade and wouldn't trade a thing. Along my side for most of my career has been my

beautiful wife, Savanna Pilcher. We have been married for almost 6 years and have 2 amazing boys Bentley (6) and Westin (2). Hopefully one of my boys will follow in my footsteps and see how much hard work can pay off!"

NECA Contractors received several awards. The Showcase Award was presented for work at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. This includes the installations completed by ESI Electrical Contractors, Chapel Electric and CRT. The BOLT award was presented for the Welcome Stadium, Dayton Public Schools project. Chapel and CRT were instrumental in the updates for this project. A Gold DBX Safety Award was also presented to ESI Electrical Contractors.



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16th Annual Construction Career Expo

On September 19, the 16th Annual Construction Career Expo was hosted by 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 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. You earn while you learn, working every day, earning a great wage. Classes take place in the evening, once or twice a week. Apprenticeship programs take 3 to 5 years to complete, and you graduate as a Journeyman. For more information visit daytonapprenticeships.org.



The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

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Western Ohio Chapter - NECA
580 Lincoln Park Blvd.
Suite 155
Dayton, OH 45429

