

# We Are The Z-Team!

Volume 7, Issue 1  
January 31, 2020

## NEW YEAR'S EVE SPARK STARTS CONFLAGRATION

It started with a spark from an electrical cable underneath the hood of truck 1159. That spark ignited the insulation on the wiring harness, which in turn spread to the fiberglass under the hood. Shortly after 8 PM on December 31, our observant eastern neighbors at PV Transport alerted the fire department. When the fire trucks arrived, two vehicles were fully involved and a third catching. Additional fire apparatus was summoned until there were a total of three fire engines and three tanker trucks from a total of four local fire companies.

Strong westerly winds that evening helped spread the fire and destruction. Four company trucks were totally destroyed along with one truck owned by a shop customer. Mark Zimmerman was alerted to the situation around 8:05 PM. He personally moved a fifth ZTL truck. This not only likely saved the truck, but the vacated space created a break to help stop the fire from spreading further.

It took just under a half hour from the time the call came in until the fire was extinguished around 8:32 PM.



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### **How This Fire Was Investigated**

The first investigator on the scene was a State Police Fire Marshall on Wednesday January 1st. He looked for obvious signs of arson or other crime. The in-depth investigation is conducted by forensic experts hired by the insurance company.

They were on the scene on Monday January 6th. In this case they determined the cause was electrical in nature, confirming the initial findings of the Fire Marshall.

*Read more about the fire on Page 3.*

**Jeanne Cashman** has more than hinted at her intention to retire at the end of 2019 (see story in last month's WATZT.) So no one was surprised when her last day of work was December 31.



Also announcing their retirement at year end were two long-time drivers, **Herb Haagen**, a 20 year veteran and lifetime member of the Wall of Fame having driven over 2 million safe miles, and **Dave Ritter**, also a lifetime member of the Million Mile Club who worked here for 16 years.

They join the retirement ranks together with long-time Parts Manager, **Sonny Dobson**, after he retired at the end of May 2019, ending his 42 year career at Zimmerman Truck Lines. Congratulations and good luck to all of you!

*Post Script: Except Jeanne couldn't stay away! She returned to help out for one more week between January 20th and 27th while **Samantha Syjud** was on vacation.*

**FUEL BONUS PLAN HAS NEW AND REPEAT LEADERS**

**OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 — FUEL EFFICIENCY LEADERS**

**Best in Group — Each Received A \$100 Bonus**

- 2014 KW T680 Van: **Scott Landis** @ 7.3 (goal: 6.9)
- 2015/16 KW T660 Flatbed: **Harry Clayton\*** @ 7.0 (goal: 6.2)
- 2016 KW T660 Van: **Tony Gudonis** @ 7.7 (goal: 7.2)
- 2017 KW T680 Van: **Gordy Fultz\*** @ 8.0 (goal: 7.4)
- 2017 International Flatbed: **Mark Kling** @ 7.0 (goal: 6.2)
- 2020 KW T680 Van: **Scott Benfer\*** @ 7.5 (goal: 7.1)
- 2020 KW T680 Flatbed: **Gary Beatty\*** @ 7.5 (goal: 6.5)

\*Indicates a repeat leader from the previous measurement period.

Mark Kling was chosen in a random drawing from all the fuel group leaders. He was given a \$500 bonus for his achievement.



**ZTL Fuel Bonus!**

**Truck Groups and 1st Quarter Goals (2020)**

- 2014 KW T680 Van: 6.6 mpg
- 2015/16 KW T660 Flatbed: 5.9 mpg
- 2016 KW T660 Van: 6.9 mpg
- 2017 KW T680 Van: 7.0 mpg
- 2017 International Flatbed: 5.9 mpg
- 2020 KW T680 Van: 6.8 mpg
- 2020 KW T680 Flatbed: 6.2 mpg

**Total fuel bonus paid this past quarter (October through December, 2019): \$20,756. Did you get your share?**

**Want to change the way you look in the newsletter? See Gina Himes in the front office so she can take an updated photo!**

## FIRE'S OUT, NOW THE AFTERMATH

Once the crisis passes, then the hard follow-up work begins. Investigators, insurance companies, lawyers, and even environmental restoration companies are called into action.



"The environmental clean up team was here the first two full weeks of January to do their job," said Operations Manager, **Dave Wetzler**. "At first we thought only a

small patch of soil needed to be removed, but then discovered oil / fuel residue in the retention ponds located behind the buildings across the street. That extended the entire cleanup project." Dave told us the final debris removal was completed on January 27th.



Chief Financial Officer, **Derek Ritzman**, said that our company's insurance rates will surely be affected. "We had three not-our-fault accidents, including one more where a truck was blown over by a tornado, and then this fire—all in one calendar year, 2019. Even when accidents are not our fault, rates are affected. Safety is everyone's responsibility, so please be careful out there."

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## SHOP PERSONNEL GO THROUGH TRAINING CLASSES

Training is a critical part of being successful in a shop. With the proper training, technicians can diagnose and repair equipment much more efficiently. Training also allows techs to recognize potential issues before they cause a breakdown. **Jeremy Wilson**, Shop Manager said, "We have begun to shift our focus toward shop efficiency, and training is a huge part of that. In the past year we sent many to school as well as focused on on-line training."

In 2019 **Carter Smith, Damien Ebersole, Jake Strauser, Wes Williamson**, and **Shane Kreamer** all went to Kenworth in Chillicothe, OH. Jeremy and Shane also went to Cummins training. **Grant Leister** and **Logan Wise** went to Eaton for transmission and clutch training. Last Fall, Jeremy became certified as an ASE Master Medium and Heavy Duty Technician as well as an ASE Electronic Diesel Engine Advanced Level Specialist.



"We're doing a lot in-house as well," Jeremy told us. "I've developed several training classes using Power Point. We had Kim Manning from Stemco come out this summer and teach a class on wheel end training. Carter, Logan, Grant, Damien, **Amanda Trego, Josh Gabbard**, and **Ethan Woodward** all attended."

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## Holiday Party Raffle Winners

Gina Himes reports that 35 gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$250 totaling \$4,000 were drawn.

Jon Kindervater  
Dan Haubert  
Josh Gabbard  
Steve Tarr  
Chadd Walters  
Gary Beatty  
Dan Hesketh  
Ian Rosensteel  
Samantha Syjud  
Mike Snyder  
Rick Orwan  
Roger Collins  
Curt Beatty  
Scott Powell  
Daryl Feltman  
Roy Huffman  
Steve Clouse

Perry Goss  
Bill Carra  
Scott Benfer  
Ed Brooks  
Tina Fantaskey  
Scott Walter  
Kevin Swailes  
Scott Landis  
Jean Cashman  
Terry Wagner  
Norm Goodling  
Dan Hackenburg  
Carol Morrison  
Tim Barner  
Paul Yeater  
Tracy Harris  
Gordy Fultz

Gina Himes

### 401(K) ALERT

Everyone enrolled in the 401(k) program received literature about the changes coming with the new local plan administrator, **Kish Financial Solutions**. All funds will be transferred from the outgoing administrator, Principal, starting on February 11th. That transfer will be completed no later than March 20th. Derek Ritzman reminds 401(k) members that during this five week period they will not be able to access their funds or accounts. This is known as "the blackout period." 401(k) withholding and investment will continue as usual, but if you need access to your 401(k) funds be sure to do so before February 11th!



### Dates to Remember

Valentine's Day — February 14  
Presidents Day — February 17  
Spring Safety Meeting I — April 11th @ 9 AM  
Spring Safety Meeting II — April 25th @ 9 AM

*Together we are making it better!*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS ...

Kevin Bowes — Feb 7  
Scott Immel — Feb 7  
Dennis Weaver — Feb 11  
Carl Heffner — Feb 14  
Mike McGovern — Feb 14  
Steve Detra — Feb 17  
Evan Kauffman — Feb 18  
Norm Goodling — Feb 23  
Grant Leister — Feb 27  
Geoff Hosband — Feb 27

## ... AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mark Zimmerman — 28 years  
Bill Carra — 25 years  
Chris Witter — 20 years  
Ricky Orwan — 12 years  
Carol Morrison — 11 years  
Scott Immel — 9 years  
Gordon Fultz — 6 years  
Bob Camenisch — 4 years  
Harry Everly — 2 years  
Carter Smith — 1 year

### Kish Representative On Site

Next month there will be three opportunities for 401(k) members to talk face-to-face with Wade Curry of Kish Financial about the changes and opportunities with the new 401(k) plan.

Friday February 7th from Noon to 2 PM.  
Friday February 14th, from 9 AM to 11 AM.  
Friday February 21st from 3 PM to 5 PM.

Because of the anticipated demand, it's necessary to schedule a time slot by calling Megan Dietz at (717) 247-6291. If you can't make it during any of these Friday time slots, you can also schedule a conference call with Wade by also talking with Megan.



### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*"It ain't over 'till it's over."*  
— Yogi Berra

**ZIMMERMAN TRUCK LINES, INC.**