

October 3, 2021

37 Years of Service with Sharon Toth

Sharon Toth has achieved 37 years of service at Americhem working her way up from filing papers after school, to production office support after graduation, to Inventory Control, to her current role as Buyer. In 1983, Americhem visited Cuyahoga Falls High School in search of the top 2 students from Sharon's IOE (Intensified Office Education) course to offer them jobs. The following year, Americhem came back and offered another position to the next top student, which was Sharon on October 3, 1984.

To celebrate Americhem's 80 year anniversary, Sharon was kind enough to be interviewed as one of Americhem's longest tenured employees. The dialogue was as follows:

What was the field of plastics like when you first started?

Back then, I worked right in the middle of the production area so I would go home covered from head to toe in pigment colors. It was a dirty environment 30+ years ago so I never wore white clothes or nice shoes.

What were some of the biggest challenges back then?

I was only 17 when I started filing papers part time so my biggest challenge was figuring out adulthood and what I would do with the rest of my life. I looked into many options such as court room reporting or other types of office jobs, but when the opportunity presented itself at Americhem, I couldn't turn down such an incredible offer. I was fresh out of high school and my only other job experience had been working at Woolworth's. It was and has been the opportunity of a lifetime.

What changes have you seen in plastics?

Many! The supply chain especially has changed dramatically. COVID-19 has probably posed the most challenges that I've ever experienced with supply shortages and major price increases.



Picture 1: Sharon Toth (right) winning Americhem cornhole championship.

What have been the greatest developments in the field of plastics over the last 37 years?

Technology. We've always been ahead of the competition, which has given us our market edge.

From your perspective, what would you say are Americhem's greatest accomplishments?

Our Supply Chain is a small, but strong team and we all work really well together, which allows everyone's individual skillsets to be useful from a technical aspect. Our team can easily see a bigger picture over the company as a whole to make good decisions. Organizing and creating the team we have today was one of the greatest ideas and accomplishments for the company in regards to Supply Chain.

In your opinion, is there anything that Americhem should have done differently?

Honestly, no. Americhem has and will continue to be a great company to work for.

What are some of your fondest Americhem memories?

One of my fondest memories was when Mr. Richard Juve Sr. was head of Americhem at the time and he would come into the plant every Friday, walk right through the middle of the production area, and shake every person's hand. As I explained, it was a dirty job back then, but no matter how dirty anyone was, he would still shake every individual's hand and thank them for their time and dedication to Americhem.

What are the key issues that you see Americhem addressing in the future?

Even with these uncertain times we are in now, after 37 years of employment, I have seen us face tough situations and we've always come out on top. I have the utmost confidence that we will face anything that comes our way and conquer it successfully now and in the future.

Please share one memory of a funny situation that you encountered at Americhem.

Back in the day, an employee that shall remain unnamed was replying to an email chain and wrote back with a funny joke that was supposed to only go to a coworker that was his friend. He accidentally hit Reply All instead of just Reply and it went to the entire company. Needless to say, he made the ultimate slip up that all employees have nightmares about. This person swiftly apologized and actually went on to have a very successful career with the company. Proof that your mistakes are not what defines you; it's what you do after the mistake that matters.



Picture 2: Sharon (far right) with her colleagues.

Describe what Americhem means to you.

I have received a lot of on the job training over the years. I've had the opportunity to learn how each functional area of Americhem works from the beginning stages of matching a color to an order leaving the facility to our product arriving at the customer's plant, and everything that falls in between to make that happen. It has been extremely beneficial to my job and my skillset as an employee to have learned many different functions and how to use pieces of every department in my daily decision making and problem solving. And last, but of course not least, Americhem has provided me and my family with a very good lifestyle for many years and I am endlessly grateful for that.

Thank you Sharon for your endless commitment to Americhem and your timeless friendship to many of us. We wish you continued success in your long standing career and look forward to your ongoing positivity you spread across the company.