

January 2024 Volume 62 Number 4 www.nationalclothesline.com

SDA and SEFA plan March meeting in Big Easy

This March, Mike Nesbit and Jason Loeb will headline a joint meeting that will be hosted by the South Eastern Fabricare Association (SEFA) and the Southwest Drycleaners Association (SDA) in New Orleans, LA.

The event will take place from March 8 to 9 at the newly renovated Hotel Indigo French Quarter.

"For the first time in memorable history, SEFA and SDA will join forces for a free eventfilled meeting," noted SEFA President Randy Parham. "Drycleaners won't be able to pass up this opportunity to network with colleagues from the two largest regional drycleaning organizations in the nation."

The meeting is free for drycleaners and SDA/SEFA allied members. Non-member vendors can attend for a \$100 registration fee.

Registrants may choose to Friday, March 8, at Deanie's Seafood, which will be at an additional cost.



When: March 8 to 9, 2024

Where: **Hotel Indigo French** Quarter, New Orleans, LA



attend an optional dinner on noted about the upcoming meeting, "We made sure to secure speakers for this meeting who will focus on expanding

and improving your business Jason Loeb of Sudsies, the 'King of Culture, will provide his secret recipe for cre-



ating dynamic, cheerful and productive teams. Mike Nesbit will share how to diversify your revenue with little to no investment funds."

Mike Nesbit's program on "Diversify or Die: Unveiling the Vision of Increased Piece

SDA President Kyle Nesbit Counts" is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morn-

After



Mike Nesbitt

hotel for this event is the Hotel Indigo French Quarter, located at 705 Common Street, in New Or-

A special hotel rate of \$199/night is available through February 13, 2024. A link for this rate, as well as more information, is provided on the SDA website at www.sda-dryclean.com.

DLI announces 2024 dates for training opportunities

For those seeking the best cleaning education and knowl- Drycleaning class, which is

edge, there will be ample opportunities offered by the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute (DLI) throughout the year.

Most notably, DLI will host its signature introductory and advanced cleaning classes this Spring and Fall at its School of Drycleaning Technology, originally established in 1927.

The Introduction

suited newcomers to the in-SCHOOL OF DRYCLEANING dustry, will take place twice this vear: March

4 to 8 and Oct. 7 to 11.

Some of the topics to be covered in the class include: sorting loads for drycleaning; fibers and their characteristics; fabric construction; cleaning

silk, stain and other fabrics; drycleaning science; operating a drycleaning machine; stain removal chemistry and procedures; pressing pants, coats and skirts; and using tensioning equipment to improve finishing quality.

For graduates of that course, or industry members with a few years of experience, the Advanced Drycleaning course consists of two full weeks of instruction.

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Clean Show '25 to open pre-sales soon

Clean Show '25 booths will open up for those who exhibited at the Clean

Show that took place in the city of Atlanta, GA, in 2022.

Next year's Clean Show will be held in Orlando the first show to do so since 2003 and the third time over-

This month, pre-sales for all it has been chosen as the host site.

Exhibitors who took part in the 2022 Clean Show will be able to begin booking space and receive

priority placement for Clean '25, starting on Tuesday, Jan.

The Clean Show will be held at the Orange County Continued on page 8

Finding a nice balance



The pandemic and Hurricane Ian have helped make Chris and Craig Bamberg's first five years as owners of Florida's Platinum Dry Cleaners "action packed." Still, difficulties have not prevented them from upgrading the business's fleet, equipment and branding. For more on the Bambergs, see page 6.



Sneak Peek Inside

ean

NCA names interim director

Dawn Hargrove-Avery is the new interim executive director for NCA in the wake of Nora Nealis's passing.

Cost-effective chemical use Dan Eisen examines some of the practices cleaners

may use that are not so efficient.

Full speed ahead Offering solid same-day service will increase the number of garments you receive from customers.

Terminate bad firing habits Frank Kollman offers an in-depth guide to properly firing an employee and avoiding any legal issues.



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Tubes went from Seamless rated pipe to seamless rated tubing which is now annealed which gives the material a mill scale coating for longer lasting and more corrosion resistance.

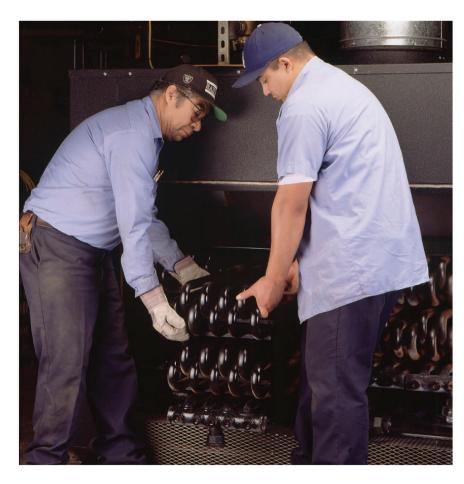
Thickness went from .133 pipe with 10 percent under to .12 with 10% over, and is always .133 wall tubing.

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Take advantage of educational offerings in 2024

The year has barely begun and it already feels like it's going to be a busy one for the drycleaning industry. There is a lot on the schedule already and much of it bears repeating — like the opening of pre-sales for Clean 2025 in Orlando that begins on Jan. 16.

On that date, those who exhibited at Clean 2022 in Atlanta will have the opportunity to obtain priority placement for the next one, which we expect to be a big one as it will once again be almost three years between shows. At any rate, those with designs on exhibiting should take advantage of the opportunity.

Speaking of opportunities, there is another pair of important ones this month. The International Committee of Textile Care (CINET) will host two events — one on each coast — to give drycleaners the chance to be a part of this year's Global Best Practices awards.

The first opportunity will take place from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. EST on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at Hallak Cleaners in Hackensack, NJ – a 2020 CINET Global Best Practices finalist. Then, on Friday, Jan. 12, CINET will host a second event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST at Margaret's Cleaners in San Diego, CA. The events will offer an introduction to CINET and its Global Best Practices Awards Program, which take place every other year and showcase the best drycleaners in the world in terms of sustainability, technology and innovation. (See our front page story in the October 2023 issue that can be found in our online archives at www.nationalclothesline.com).

The events in California and New Jersey will allow domestic cleaners to apply and take part of the contest, seeing firsthand what other cleaners are doing successfully at this time on a global level. Later this year, CINET will present the 2024 winners of its 6th edition of Global Best Practices Awards during TexCare International, which will be held from Nov. 6 to 9 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Numerous other educational opportunities are already scheduled to take place in 2024, including offerings from the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute (DLI) and the National Cleaners Association (NCA).

DLI's plans for its 97th year in existence includes Spring and Fall offerings of its signature one-week introductory and two-week advanced cleaning courses that will take place in March and October at its School of Drycleaning in Laurel, MD. Additionally, the association will also host three offerings (Spring, Summer and Fall) of its Virtual Stain Removal course.

Each class meets online over the course of seven dates — all of which must be attended in order to obtain certification. For more details and specific dates, visit DLIonline.org.

Meanwhile, NCA has named Dawn Hargrove-Avery as its interim director in the wake of Nora Nealis's passing recently. She has already announced numerous in-person course offerings from the association through July.

On the docket will be programs to supercharge CSR performance this month and May, a basic spotting course in February and June, an advanced spotting course in March and July, and a pair of pressing courses (basic and advanced) in April. For more information, visit nca-i.com.

Other notable upcoming events this year include a joint meeting hosted by the Southwest Drycleaners Association (SDA) and the South Eastern Fabricare Association (SEFA) on March 8 and 9 in the Big Easy. (www.sefa.org or sda-dryclean.com) The North Carolina Association of Launderers and Cleaners (NCALC) is planning its annual convention May 24 to 27 at the Hilton Atlantic Beach in North Carolina. (www.ncalc.org)

In the second half of 2024, the South Eastern Fabricare Association (SEFA) will host Drycleaning and Laundry EXPO East from June 7 to 9 in Kissimmee, FL, along with marketing partner Pennsylvania and Delaware Cleaners Association (PDCA).

Lastly, the California Cleaners Association (CCA) will join forces with the Southwest Drycleaners Association (SDA) to host Drycleaning and Laundry EXPO West in Las Vegas, NV, from Oct. 4 to 6. Look for more details in this publication as they become available.

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Visit us at www.nationalclothesline.com for additional coverage of the drycleaning industry including Online Exclusive columns and articles, visit our issue archives going back all the way to January of 2018.

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Platinum Finding balance



he Bamberg Brothers both grew up around their family's commercial offset printing business in Buffalo, NY, before they each found their own professional path down south in the state of Florida.

Chris bought Cache Cleaners in Naples in 1999, and owned it for seven years altogether. After working in sales and marketing for a couple of different companies, he returned to the industry to serve as the president and managing partner of Deluxe Cleaners in Jacksonville, FL, and the president of the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN).

Meanwhile, Craig found his professional path in corporate America. He spent over 17 years altogether with ASG Software Solutions in Naples, FL, handling everything from community relations to serving as senior director of central operations.

Both Bambergs had accrued a fine pedigree of professional business experience, but they never combined their skills to work together on a project until they decided to purchase Platinum Dry Cleaners in Naples, FL.

"I was getting set to look for chapter two, having left corporate America and I think Chris always wanted to get back into owning his own drycleaner, and the opportunity for Platinum came along around mid-2018, and we closed on it in January of 2019," Craig noted.

At the time, the business was in its second generation of family ownership and about 30 years old.

"It was definitely in need of a refresh, if not a reintroduction to its glorious past," Craig said. "It had four locations at the time. It had delivery routes. It had a large processing facility. If you've never done it before, I'm not sure it's your best first venture. It was a bit overwhelming."

or Chris, it was less so because he had considerable experience with big drycleaning operations. Craig, on the other hand, was glad he wasn't attempting an industry new to him on his own. Neither brother, however, were prepared for what was coming.

"We're a member of America's Best Cleaners and we were a member of Route Pros, as well — so, talk about people who have been in the industry for a while... and they talk about back when it was normal," Craig began. "When you talk to me, what is normal? I've been here for five years.

"So, 2019 was our first year, and we were just setting things up the way we wanted to do things. Then, in February of 2020, here comes the first year of the pandemic, then the second year of the pandemic. Once things started to settle down a bit, we got hit with a hurricane here about 15 months ago. So, it really has been crazy. We're on Florida's southwest coast and we're just a little south of Fort Myers Beach, which was the epicenter of Hurricane Ian."

Fortunately, Chris's background in CRDN paid dividends when it came to the Bambergs helping their customers recover through difficult times.

"The northern flank of our customer

base was certainly affected, and we were able to assist a lot of our customers with our restoration drycleaning," Craig explained. "It was a very traumatic time for a lot of our clients. For a lot of them, it was their first rodeo whereas my brother did restoration in Jacksonville. He knew what to do. It was a really big comfort to a lot of our and business. I equate it to if you and I were going to go out and buy a Ferrari, I'm not sure Quickie Oil Change is where we're going to go for the main-

Meanwhile, the Bambergs have been performing maintenance on Platinum, as well. During the pandemic, they trimmed down from four stores to two,

what they want," Craig explained. "If they respond to a mailing, I'll do some mailings. If they respond to social media, we're going to do that, too."

Marketing was a recent topic during an America's Best Cleaners meeting featuring Jeff Schapiro of Cleaners Supply who discussed the findings of his company's recent surveys on dryclean-



Chris and Craig Bamberg

Platinum Dry Cleaners Naples, FL

customer base, and they are very grateful for it even to this day."

■hough it's been an "action packed" first five years as owners of Platinum, Chris and Craig have still managed to invest in it to get the business back to its former glory.

"The fleet definitely needed an upgrade, so we invested in that right away," Craig said. "There was some equipment in the back that needed upgrading. We started off with the

converting most of the customers of the closed stores to route customers. As a result, Platinum's pickup and delivery is booming like never before with a

"Even in 2019, we lived in an Amazon and DoorDash world, but the pandemic made it more of a reality for everybody as opposed to: Do I want to try it?" Craig noted. "We were just in the right place at the right time for that. The pandemic electroshocked us into home delivery."

ing owners and customers. In particular, Craig was stunned that 54% of owners didn't believe in spending money on marketing.

"That just amazes me," he said. "Even if you open up a pizzeria, you've got to advertise. I don't know how good the pizza is. If nobody knows it's good, they're not going to sell it."

hese days, the Bambergs believe Platinum has come back stronger since the pandemic, but there was a time when they wondered if their clientele would return after a pandemic and a huricane.

"In terms of drycleaning, we were one of the first to fade away, but we were also one of the first ones to come back — and that's primarily the state of Florida," Craig said. "When something happens like Sept. 11, it's the first place to kind of curl up. When something happens like a pandemic — because there are a lot of second and third homes here — it's the first place to kind of clam up. But then, when it's time to reopen, a lot of times it's the first to re-

Every market is different, which is why the Bambergs have worked so hard to know theirs. At the end of the day, success still largely hinges on good communication with customers, whether it's in person, on the phone or

"Talk to them. They'll tell you," Craig said. "That's why we have great customer service people. I know people at the counter deal with the customer all the time. The drivers, around holiday time, will maybe see the customer in the driveway, but primarily a customer on route — the reason they're on the routes is they're busy and that works for them. But again, when they do talk to a customer, they'll just kind of listen to them and they'll tell you what you need to hear: the good, the bad and the ugly."

"I equate it to if you and I were going to go out and buy a Ferrari, I'm not sure Quickie Oil Change is where we're going to go for the maintenance."

drycleaning equipment. We've since moved into packaging and we picked up a MetalProgetti Giuletta and we've upgraded some of our pressing equip-

When it came to the company image and how to market it, however, the Bambergs decided to go back to the old school approach with the logo.

"What we ended up doing is bringing back the old logo," Craig said. "It was a reintroduction to that glorious past that Naples and Fort Myers was accustomed to with the Platinum name."

High standards are important in an area rich with wealthy residents who regularly wear the most luxurious fashion on the market.

"We live in a very, very high net worth community west of 41 here in Naples. It is considered some of the most prime real estate, not only in the U.S., but across the world," Craig explained. "There's a lot of very cultured, cultivated closets and wardrobes that come from high net worth global travel

ith 40 employees at Platinum, Craig is the first to admit that it is easy to spread yourself thin as an owner. Fortunately, with Chris as partner, he believes they have been able to find a nice balance for the

"There are some days where we don't see each other. We're going down the same road. We're just in different lanes," Craig said. "Over the summer when we installed the Guiletta, I was working on the data that was going to fill the labels that are going to be printed on the machine where Chris was in the midst of training the people who were going to actually work on the

While Chris utilizes his 15 years of production experience to make sure Platinum produces the quality their customers expect, Craig brings a global business perspective and a marketing background that has been quite useful.

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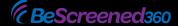
















NCA appoints Hargrove-Avery as interim director

The board of directors for the National Cleaners Association (NCA) recently

nounced the appointment Dawn Hargrove-Avery who will serve as its interim executive director.



Hargrove-Avery

She will take over the role that was left open following the recent passing of the association's longtime Executive Director Nora Nealis late last year.

Hargrove-Avery's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Technical Management.

She also has worked 22 years for NCA, including over 14 as its digital marketing manager.

In that time, she has accrued a multitude of accreditations in marketing, writing, content, and AI such as Certified Social Media Pro and Content Manager Pro.

A key aspect of Hargrove-Avery's new role will be to work side by side with Ann Hargrove and Alan Spielvogel, two prominent members of the industry. Hargrove is known for her vast contributions to the wetcleaning sector and Spielvogel brings with him a wealth of technical expertise and insight.

Hargrove-Avery's main focus will be to continue building on the strong foundation established by her predecessor and to keep NCA positioned as a leading association in the industry.

A 6-Month Planner

To that end, Hargrove-Avery also released a 6-month planner from NCA of all of its educational programs scheduled between now and the end of July.

First up is a program called "Supercharge CSR's Performance that is set to take place on Jan. 21. Other programs in the coming months will include: Basic Spotting on Feb. 11; Advanced Spotting on March 3;

Basic Pressing on April 7; and Advanced Pressing on April 28. Then on May 19, NCA plans to host another "Supercharge CSR's Performance" program. Finally, a Basic Spotting class will take place on June 2, followed by an Advanced Spotting Course set for

For more information on any of NCA's upcoming program, visit them online at www.nca-i.com or contact them by phone at (212) 967-

2024 dates for training courses announces

Continued from page 1

The course will take place from March 11 to 22 and Oct. 14 to 25.

The advanced class covers some similar ground from the introductory course, but more in-depth, plus includes additional topics such as: designing a drycleaning plant with the most effective workflow; using bleaches without damaging fabric color; current regulations facing the industry; cleaning and preserving wedding gowns; customer service techniques; and understanding the differences between solvents including perc, Green-Earth and hydrocarbon.

Both on-site classes run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuition costs vary depending on your association membership level; however, non-members pay \$1,595 for the introductory course and \$2,195 for the advanced course.

Additionally discounts are available for those who sign up for both the introductory and advanced classes concurrently.

Virtual Stain Removal

This year, DLI will also be offering three complete sessions of its virtual stain removal course. It covers everything from fiber identification and characteristics to stain removal chemistry and procedures to using bleaches and specialty products such as digesters, amyl acetate and acetone to assist in the spotting

Altogether, the class meets virtually on seven different dates, all of which are required attendance in order to graduate. There will be classes in the Spring, Summer and Fall.

The Spring session will meet on the following dates: April 30, May 2, 7, 9, 14, 15 and 21. The Summer session will take place on July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30. Finally, the Fall session will meet on Sept. 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26 and Oct. 3.

The cost to attend DLI's Virtual Stain Removal course is \$695 for non-members while DLI members receive discounts ranging from 20% off to

free, depending on the level of ings on Zoom every Tuesday association membership.

Self-Study Courses

For those whose schedule runs on the busy side, DLI does offer self-guided courses for students who wish to learn at their own pace or are not able to attend scheduled courses.

DLI issues certificates of completion to all students who pass the final exam at the end of each course.

Available courses include: Customer Service in Drycleaning; Drycleaning Finishing Procedures; Drycleaning Fundamentals; Fibers & Fabrics; Stain Removal; and Wetcleaning. For more information on the self-study courses, visit DLIonline.org/SelfStudy.

Virtual Options

DLI will also continue to host its weekly member meetmorning at 11:30 a.m. EST.

In addition to that, there will be a virtual training opportunity that will take place this month.

The program is scheduled for Jan. 17 and will be called "How to Create a Team That Operates and Grows Your Company Without You."



It will be presented Dave Coyle Maverick Drycleaners at 1 p.m. EST. Also on

Jan. 17, DLI Dave Coyle will host a Marketing Lab Virtual Roundtable Discussion.

For more information about any of DLI's upcoming programs, visit their website at www.DLIonline.org.

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Clean Show '25 to open pre-sales soon Continued from page 1 Convention Center in Orlando

from Aug. 23 to 26, 2025. The 2022 outing that took place in Atlanta saw approxi-

day event. The exhibit hall at the Georgia World Congress Center included 347 exhibiting companies altogether filling up 216,400 sq. ft. of space.

For those registering to attend the Orlando show next year, Messe Frankfurt is utilizing Map Your Show to provide exhibitors with an online contract and exhibitor portal that will serve as a one-stop shop for all show information.

This will be the second Clean Show by Messe Frankfurt, who purchased the show from its sponsoring associations who still work to coordinate it today.

Those sponsoring organi-

zations are: the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute (DLI); the Textile Care Allied Trades Association (TCATA); the Textile Rental Services Association mately 10,000 attendees show (TRSA); the Coin Laundry Asup to participate in the four- sociation (CLA); and the Association for Linen Management

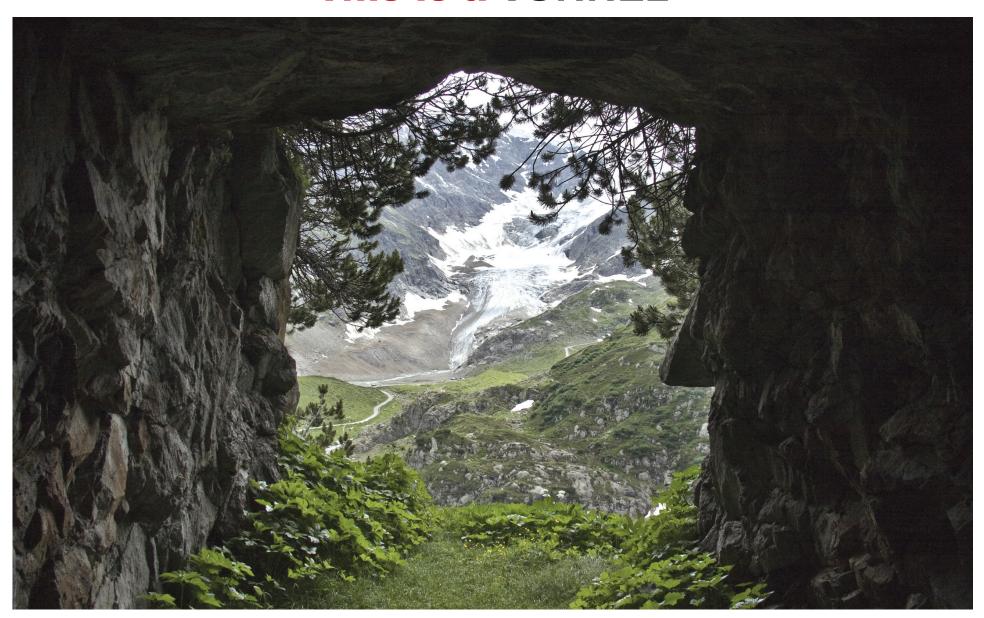
> The first Clean Show dates back to 1977 in Chicago where it possessed a fancier title: the World Education Congress for Laundry and Drycleaning.

> For questions, contact the sales team by email at cleanshow@usa.messefrankfurt.com.

> Additionally, more information about Clean 2025 can be found at Messe Frankfurt's official website located www.cleanshow.com.

> After Clean 2025, the next installment of the Clean Show is scheduled to take place from July 16 to 19, 2027 in Las Vegas, a city that has previously hosted it on six occasions.

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The chemicals produced how to use them effectively. moval.

These are some reasons sive, but can be cost effec- why cleaners are increasing

All spotters hold the steam gun too close to the fabric. This may remove a portion of the stain but the residue left over is a set stain. This means more chemicals and time are required tor removal.

am able to reduce the costs of the product by teaching quire more chemicals for re-

1) Setting stains that re-

- 2) Spotting procedures that use more expensive chemicals first.
- 3) Using pre-spotting agents because of poor wetcleaning formulations.
- 4) Failure to properly dilute their formulations.
- 5) Failure to properly combine some chemicals to make the spotting more effi-
- 6) Using chemicals in wetcleaning that do nothing.
 - 7) Failure to use enzyme-

based products which can be more cost effective.

Now, let's talk about the first one this month.

1) Set stains. All spotters hold the steam gun too close to the fabric.

This may remove a portion of the stain but the residue left over is a set

This means more chemicals and time are required for removal.

The steam gun should be held six inches from the fabric. This will make the lubricant used more effective.

The new lubricants are very effective and will remove most stains as long as they have not been set by high heat.

These lubricants have also been known to work on dye transfer from wetclean-

This will give you a valuable spotting agent that is very cost effective on a multitude of stains.

We will talk about other cost saving procedures in my next article.

If anybody would like to discuss chemical usage with me, please contact me at the phone number or email listed below.

Dan Eisen, former chief garment analyst for the National Cleaners Association, can be reached at (772) 579-5044, or e-mail dannyeisen39@gmail.com or through his website www.garmentanalysis.com.



COMPLETE CLEANERS in Trussville, AL, replaced two 23-year-old Union HP 850 machines with two new Union Nova 60SS machines. Pictured at the startup, from left to right, include: David Daniels, owner of Trademark, Vic Williams, Union's eastern sales manager, and Alex Yearout, owner of Complete Cleaners.

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TURNAROUND TIME



BY JOHN ROTHROCK

The pros and cons of same-day service

than your fair share of the drycleaning market you serve? If you answer that question with anything other than yes, there is no point in reading further.

The formula for dominating your market is remarkably simple: Offer fast same-day service, six days a week, at a fair price. Believe me, Yale Cleaners isn't the only company to discover this secret. There are more than a few of us "crazy cleaners" out in the wild.

So, if the winning formula is really that simple, why haven't most cleaning businesses found the winning answer? Because, winning ain't easy!

Since 1980, my family has been perfecting the art of same-day service. For over four decades now, through tireless trial and error and far too much misspent money to count, The Focus **Method** is the culmination of what is possible in the in-

At its heart, The Focus Method is a continuous improvement system for cleaners. It has no starting or ending point and seeks to manage the constant conflict between increasing sales and reducing costs. For The Focus Method to work, same-day service must be your company's unwavering ultimate goal.

If your sales are stagnant and neither quality nor store location is the problem, then increasing your service speed is the only way to organically grow

Sure, there are a lot of marketing gimmicks that provide temporary results. However, actual sustainable growth will only be achieved when your company meets — or, better yet exceeds customer expectations of faster service.

Operationally, the slower your service speed, the higher your costs. It takes time and money to let clothes sit in carts waiting for their chance to be serviced. You are quite literally letting cash flow die a painful death in that buggy.

Instead, becoming a same-day cleaner will increase your sales. More importantly, doing what it takes to provide same-day

o you desire more service will decrease opera- and quicker turnaround tional costs.

> The benefits of sameday service compound daily for you and your customers alike. Let's explore how it accomplishes this and compare it to the drawbacks so you can decide for yourself.

times contribute to overall operating efficiency.

Being same-day a cleaner will force you to evaluate and subsequently eliminate many non-valueadding activities in your current workflow.

ably significant.

The Drawbacks

Limited time for processing difficult items or stains, potentially compromising quality.

The faster turnaround time may pose challenges in

proach to your same-day service pledge will require building a culture that can withstand the pressure.

Possible challenges in maintaining consistent quality with a faster turn-

Ensuring consistent quality becomes challenging when striving for a quicker turnaround as it requires a delicate balance between speed and precision in the drycleaning process. Building a culture focused on fast service with a quality product will be required.

While acknowledging these drawbacks, it's essential to implement strategic measures to mitigate these challenges. Addressing these concerns proactively can help businesses harness the benefits of same-day service while maintaining a high standard of quality and employee satisfaction.

As we usher in the start of 2024, consider this a pivotal moment to redefine your business strategies. Make same-day service the cornerstone of your operations. Embrace the transformative potential it holds for your business.

Make 2024 the year you set a bold goal, shattering the barriers that have held back your potential for too long. Let the promise of same-day service be your catalyst for growth, operational efficiency, and a competitive edge.

Same-day service is not for the faint of heart. The path to success is paved with challenges, and while the drawbacks may seem daunting, conquering them is where the true victory lies. Ultimately, it's not just about offering same-day service; it's about transforming your business into a well-oiled machine that seamlessly delivers on its promises.

John Rothrock is the president and CEO of Yale Cleaners, a family drycleaning business in Broken Arrow, OK, that is focussed on providing high quality, same day drycleaning with exceptional customer service. He earned a degree in Business Administration in 2005 from the University of Oklahoma. He is a graduate of the **Drycleaning and Laundry Insti**tute, and is a Certified Garment Care Professional (CGCP).

While most customers have huge closets of clothes, they only wear a tiny percentage of those items. If their cleaner offered faster service, they would bring in their favorite items more often, thus increasing sales.

The Benefits

Aligns with customer expectations.

Catering to the demand for quicker service meets customer expectations, fostering satisfaction and loyalty. Meeting or exceeding customer expectations builds confidence and satisfaction, building long-term relationships. Remember those stats from Cleaners Supply's 2023 Consumer Report?

Increases sales due to customer preference.

Fast service is a significant factor influencing customer choices, translating into higher sales. While most customers have huge closets of clothes, they only wear a tiny percentage of those items.

If their cleaner offered faster service, they would bring in their favorite items more often, thus increasing

Minimizes customer service problems related to delays.

Quicker service mitigates potential issues and complaints associated with delays, ensuring a smoother customer experience.

Facilitates same-day payment, improving cash

Prompt service allows for quicker payment, positively impacting your business's cash flow.

While not every customer will come back the same day, most will, so you actually get paid the same day you did the work. It is like being a pre-paid cleaner without all the related prob-

Enhances operational efficiency.

Streamlined processes

Eliminates the need for time specials or multiple service speeds.

Offering consistent same-day service removes the complexity of managing multiple service speeds or time-specific special customer requests.

Reduces claims and lost clothes with quicker turnaround.

Faster service reduces the chances of claims or misplaced items, enhancing customer satisfaction.

Requires less customer service representative (CSR)

A streamlined service process reduces the need for extensive training, saving time and resources.

Imagine never again having to answer the question, "When were these clothes promised... are they due today?"

Simplifies management processes.

Same-day service simplifies managerial tasks by offering a clear, consistent operation approach.

Provides a distinct competitive advantage, especially in a crowded mar-

Offering same-day service sets your business apart, giving it a competitive edge in the market.

Since the majority of cleaners offer two-plus day service, being a same-day cleaner will set you apart, which, over time, will result in increased sales.

The drawbacks associated with same-day service should also be acknowledged and addressed for a balanced perspective. However, the advantages of implementing a same-day service strategy are undenithoroughly addressing stubborn stains or handling delicate garments, possibly affecting the overall quality of the service. You will be required to set up systems to move orders efficiently throughout the cleaning process; this is where the One-Hour Lot system becomes the most valuable.

Increased pressure to complete work within the promised timeframe.

Same-day service places additional stress on employees to meet tight deadlines, impacting potentially morale and job satisfaction.

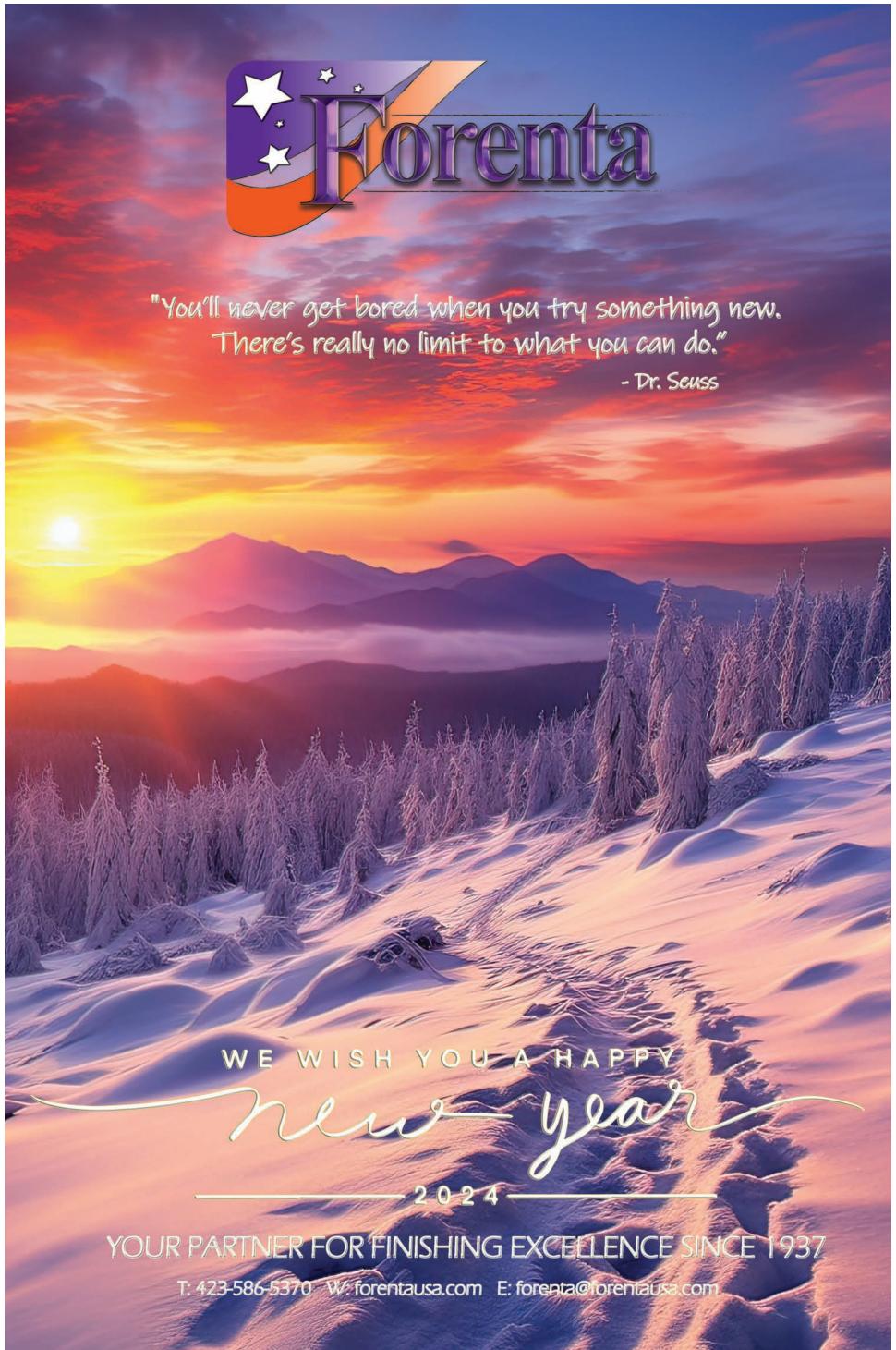
If running a same-day cleaner was easy, everyone would do it. Remember, just because something is hard doesn't mean it shouldn't be done; it just means it's hard, and that's OK.

Requirement for redundant equipment, backup plant, or backup partnerships to handle equipment breakdowns or the loss of utilities.

To ensure seamless same-day service, businesses must invest in redundant equipment or establish backup plans, which will incur additional costs and logistical challenges. Additionally, you may need to keep an ample supply of replacement parts with the ability to repair anything that breaks quickly.

Potential labor issues due to increased workload, tight deadlines, and absenteeism.

The increased workload and strict deadlines may lead to burnout, absenteeism, or potential labor disputes, affecting the overall productivity and wellbeing of the workforce. Taking a no-excuses ap-



WRENCH WORKS



By Bruce Grossman

Controlling your water boiler level II

ast issue, we took the Honeywell or Fire Eye (and ated switch is pressed to necessary components and cobbled them together into a configuration that controlled the maintenance of the proper water level inside the boiler. That was half of the picture. Controlling the fire or "firing" the boiler is the other half.

In this issue, I'll describe how the different components are organized into a safe and reliable system to convert the water inside the boiler into steam, and maintain that steam within a specific pressure range.

Controlling the fire

The fire is controlled by simply turning a gas solenoid (an electrically operated valve) on and off. Sounds simple, but there are a lot of things that need to happen to accomplish this safely. An ignition controller coordinates the activities of the different sensors used for this opening and closing of the gas **solenoid**. These ignition controllers may be called a

other brand names depending on the manufacturer of the boiler).

Ignition controllers usually do six things (refer to the corresponding number) in the illustration):

1) The output from the first low water sensor located in the water column is monitored when the water level drops below the probe, the gas solenoid is shut off, and an audible alarm is sounded. When the water level is at or above the sensor, the gas solenoid circuit is enabled (if other conditions are met, the flame will go back on), and the alarm

2) The output from the second low water sensor located in the **pressure vessel** is monitored when the water level drops below the probe, the gas solenoid is shut off, and an audible alarm is sounded. The alarm will continue until the water level is at or above the sensor and a manually operclear the alarm condition.

The gas solenoid circuit is then enabled (if other conditions are met, the flame will go back on), and the alarm will stop.

3) The high-water sensor output (not found on all boilers) in the pressure vessel is monitored when the water level is at or above the probe, the gas solenoid is shut off, and an audible alarm is sounded. The alarm will continue until the water level is below the sensor and a manually operated switch is pressed to clear the alarm condition.

The gas solenoid circuit is then enabled (if other conditions are met, the flame will go back on), and the audible alarm will stop.

4) The condition of the operating pressure control switch is monitored. This switch normally has closed contacts that open when a pre-set pressure in the pressure vessel is reached and closes again when the pres**IGNITION AND BURNER CONTROLS** * ITEMS MARKED WITH ASTERISK MAY NOT BE REQUIRED IN ALL LOCALITIES AC POWER TO GAS SOLENOID MANUAL RESET BUTTON TURNS GAS SHUTS GAS WATER LEVEL WATER INLET BLOW DOWN

sure drops to a pre-set pressure (the difference between this switch's opening and closing pressure setting is called the differential).

The opening of the gas solenoid valve can only occur if the operating pressure control switch is closed. This means the upper limit of the boiler operating pressure had not been reached.

5) The condition of the high-pressure safety limit switch. This switch normally has closed contacts, which open when a pre-set pressure in the pressure vessel is exceeded and requires a manual reset.

Opening the gas solenoid valve can only occur if the high-pressure safety limit switch is closed. When this switch opens, it indicates the safety limit of the boiler operating pressure has been exceeded. Usually, there is no alarm indicating this condition.

6) Gas ignition is monitored. Before the gas solenoid valve is opened, a smaller pilot solenoid valve is opened, and an electric spark is used to ignite a small burner to act as an ignition source for the larger volume of gas released by the gas solenoid valve.

If a flame is not sensed

after a short pre-set time, the pilot solenoid valve is shut. Depending on the ignition controller, it will try a few times for a successful pilot ignition, then go to an alarm condition requiring a manual reset. Most ignition controllers provide a visual indication when an ignition fault has occurred.

Most ignition trollers have visible indicator lights; use a smartphone to record light patterns while the boiler operates properly. Referring to that video goes a long way in enabling you to troubleshoot ignition problems, perhaps saving an expensive, unnecessary service call.

Bruce Grossman is the Chief of **R&D** for **EZ**timers Manufacturing. EZtimers manufactures machines that make your machines run better. For those needing to replace Zero-Waste or Galaxy misters, see our SA-HARA 2 model. For those with boiler problems, check out our EZ-Level and EZ-Dose machines. For more information on EZtimers products, visit www.eztimers.com. Please address any questions or comments for **Bruce** bruce@eztimers.com or call (702) 376-6693.

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BUILDING VALUE



BY KERMIT ENGH

Strategically preparing your business for sale

ecently, a survey conducted by Cleaners Supply found that the average age of the operators surveyed was 58. Think about that for a moment. Are you close to that age or older? Have you thought about your future and what that could look

At the recent Methods for leaders. Management (MfM) Success Conference in Chicago, Steve Baker of The Great Game of Business presented a workshop on quality time remaining. Rarely does a presentation create the emotions and discussion as this one did.

If you don't intend to transfer ownership to a family member, which is the case for me, you will eventually need to sell your business.

Whether you want to sell your company next year or a decade from now, you will have two basic options for an external sale: the financial buyer or the strategic **buyer.** Let's examine these two options.

The Financial Buyer

The financial buyer is buying the rights to your future profit stream, so the more profitable your business is expected to be, the more your company will be worth to them.

driving up the value of your presses them in a Venn diabusiness in the eyes of this buyer include:

- De-risking it as much as possible.
- Creating recurring revenue.
- Reducing reliance on one or two big customers.
- Cultivating a team of

If you have followed the column for the past three years, you have been introduced to the Eight Drivers of Value.

The Strategic Buyer

The alternative is to sell to a strategic buyer. They will care less about your future profit stream and more about what your business is worth in their hands, typically calculating how much more of their product they can sell by owning your business.

Strategic buyers are usually big companies, so the value of selling more of their product or service with the purchase of your business can be substantial.

This motivation often leads strategic buyers to pay more for your business than a financial buyer ever would.

For example, Nick Kellet's Next Action Technologies created a software application that takes a set

Strategies that are key to of numbers and visually exgram.

> Next Action Technologies was generating approximately \$1.5 million in revenue when they received their first acquisition offer; Kellet's first valuation was for \$1 million, which was a little less than the revenue being generated at the time, which is typical of a financial buyer.

Preparing for Every Eventuality

Why bother making your business attractive to a financial buyer when the strategic buyer typically pays so much more?

The answer is that strategic acquisitions are very rare. Each industry usually only has a handful of strategic acquirers, so your buyer pool is small and subject to several vari-

sure she has a backup plan. I have a grandson who aspires to get into the NFL. His backup plan is the NBA. Ten-year-olds dream big. His grandfather focuses on content in school.

The same is true of positioning your company for an exit. You may want to sell your business to a strategic buyer in a spectacular exit. Still, a financial acquisition is much more

Whether you want to sell your company next year or a decade from now, you will have two basic options for an external sale: the financial buyer or the strategic buyer.

Kellet knew the business could be worth more to a strategic buyer, so he searched for a company that could profit by embedding his Venn diagram software into their product. Kellet found Business Objects, a business intelligence software company looking to express its data more visu-

Business Objects could see how owning Next Action Technologies would enable them to sell more of their software, leading them to acquire Kellet's business for \$8 million, more than five times revenue — an astronomical multiple.

ables out of your control; the economy, interest rates, the competitive landscape, and a whole raft of other variables can all impact a strategic acquirer's appetite to buy your business.

Imagine your child is a promising young athlete who intends to go pro. Becoming a professional athlete is a long shot, fraught with unknown hurdles: injury, the wrong coach, or not having what it takes to compete at the highest levels. Do you squash her dream? No, but you ensure she does her homework, so if her dream fades, she has her education; you make

likely, and financial buyers are looking for companies that have done their homework and have worked to become reliable cash machines.

In summary, while the allure of a strategic buyer is undeniable, it's essential to recognize that such opportunities are rare and often influenced by factors beyond our control. Just as we prepare for all eventualities in life, the same principle applies to preparing your business for sale. Whether enhancing profitability, diversifying customer base, or cultivating a strong leadership team, the goal is to make your business a robust, attractive asset for any potential buyer.

Remember, the journey to a successful exit requires foresight, planning, and guidance. If you're contemplating this significant step and seeking expertise to navigate these waters effectively, I am here to help.

Kermit Engh has been an owner/operator in the drycleaning industry for over 30 years and has been a Methods for Management member for over 27 years. His positions as managing partner of MfM and as a **Certified Value Builders Coach** allow him to share his extensive background in strategic planning, finance, process improvement, packaging and branding, employee training programs, profitability, cost analysis, acquisition analysis and succession planning. To find out more about how Kermit can help you maximize the value of your business, contact him kengh@mfmi.com.





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KEEP IT LEGAL



BY FRANK KOLLMAN

How to discipline or discharge an employee

have been a management labor and employment attorney since 1977. When I practicing, started unions were still very active and the anti-discrimination laws were still in their infancy. Today, unions are extremely active organizing government employees, but not so much in the private sector. The anti-discrimination laws go far beyond race, sex, color, age, national origin, and religion in their requirements now, in many

have become even more difficult than they were in 1977, especially since Congress decided that employees have the right to jury trials for discrimination claims.

Employee discharges in the employee handbook, posted on bulletin boards, or distributed separately to all employees.

Employee discharges have become even more

Employees should either sign a receipt stating that they have received a copy of

circumstances should an employer make up rules as he goes along.

The work rules themselves should contain a program of immediate and progressive discipline. Certain serious misconduct, such as theft, insubordination and intoxication on the job, should call for immediate discipline up to and including discharge.

Other minor offenses, such as absenteeism, lateness, and unsatisfactory work performance, should be subject to progressive discipline. That program of discipline progressive should provide for an oral warning, followed by a written warning, suspension, and discharge. Some employers may wish to dispense with the suspension phase, especially where absenteeism itself is the misconduct involved. In those cases, a final warning should be substituted in the progression of discipline.

Another important element in a solid disciplinary program is a comprehensive personnel filing system. At the very least, personnel files should contain the disciplinary record of each employee. Employees should be permitted to examine their personnel files at reasonable times.

A good disciplinary program also has a senior management official who is responsible for employment decisions. In large and medium companies, this position is normally filled by a full-time personnel director. In smaller companies, this responsibility should be assigned to the chief executive officer. This individual should be responsible for reviewing all employment actions, especially discharge.

The last, and probably the most important element of a good disciplinary program is supervisor training. Supervisors — especially those who directly supervise rank and file employees should be given regular instruction on good personnel practices, including discipline and discharge. Too often, a supervisor is selected because he was a good worker. As a result, he infrequently has the requisite skill and ability to perform the personnel functions that are central to

difficult than they were in 1977, especially since The first step toward a Congress decided that employees have the right solid program of discipline is the preparation and distrito jury trials for discrimination cases. bution of written work rules. These work rules should outline the bound-In addition, they should the work rules or a notation should be made in their peraries of proper conduct for be redistributed to all emsonnel files that they have all employees. These rules ployees once a year, whether cases not for the better. of conduct can be contained or not they have been re- received a copy. Under no



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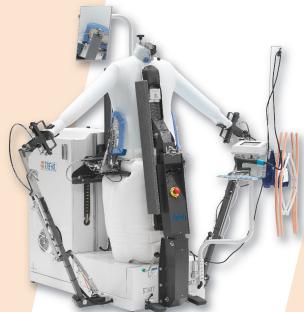


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Frank Kollman

How to discharge or discipline an employee

Continued from page 22

his success.

A good supervisor program should include the following:

1) Instruction on the applicable state and federal employment laws.

2) Lessons on how to create a positive working environment, especially where the company is non-union.

3) Instruction on how to evaluate employees.

4) Discussion on how to communicate with employees.

5) Detailed instruction on proper methods of discipline and discharge.

6) Instruction on how an employment discrimination case is prepared for trial.

Item 6 gives a supervisor a taste of what an improperly prepared discipline case could entail in time, money, and aggravation.

Discipline or Discharge?

Discipline should never be imposed precipitously or out of anger. At most, an employee engaging in serious misconduct should be suspended indefinitely pending a full investigation. That investigation should be conducted by the company's chief personnel officer. If discharge is warranted, the suspension should be converted to a termination.

The personnel officer should proceed in the investigation by first reviewing the employee's personnel file. The employee's length of service, past record, and prior evaluations could affect the decision.

The next step is to interview all the management officials with knowledge of the circumstances leading to discipline. Detailed notes of these interviews should be kept by the personnel officer for later use. If employee witnesses are involved, the personnel officer should take statements from employees, should be signed. In some circumstances, the employee should be interviewed concerning the conduct, keeping in mind that he may have the right to have a union representative present. If he makes such a request, and there is a union, it must either be granted or the interview terminated.

All the necessary written documentation for discipline should be compiled during the investigation. The investigation should be conducted as though charges or discrimination or a lawsuit have already been filed. It is wrong to assume that this documentation can be compiled later.

Once an investigation of the underlying facts has been conducted, numerous questions should be considered by management officials. First, does the conduct violate a written rule? If it does, is immediate or progressive discipline appropriate? If a minor offense, has progressive discipline been followed?

Second, the company should determine whether employees have been similarly disciplined for such conduct in the past. If the investigation uncovers that exceptions have been made, the company should explore the circumstances surrounding the uneven enforcement of the rules. If an exception has been granted in the past, it may tie the hands of the company in future cases because minorities are permitted to prove discrimination by showing that a non-minority employee was treated differently in the

Third, the company should consider the employee's length of service. If the employee is probationary, more severe discipline may be suitable. On the other hand, a long-term employee may be entitled to less severe discipline.

Fourth, the company

should ascertain whether the employee had notice of the rule violated. If not, discipline may be inappropriate. Of course, certain misconduct is clearly prohibited whether or not it is clearly set forth in work rules, such as stealing.

Fifth, the company should determine whether the employee in questions has engaged in certain "protected" activity in the recent past. For example, has the employee recently been engaged in union activity? Has the employee recently filed a charge of discrimination?

If the answer is "yes,"the decision to discipline of discharge may come under even greater scrutiny by a court or government agency.

Once the investigation is completed and the elements considered, the decision to discipline or discharge can be made. The discharge decision should nevertheless be reviewed by the chief operating officer, who has ultimate authority at the company. If he or she concurs in the decision, the decision should be communicated to the employee.

Implementing Discipline

A fully supported disciplinary decision can be weakened by poor implementation. Too often, employers confronted with a distasteful disciplinary action will try to ease their discomfort by softening the words used to tell the employee. This only helps the employee prove at a later time that he or she was the victim of discrimination.

Example: An employer's performance steadily declined. The employee has received counseling from his supervisor, though no written record was made of these sessions. Finally, the company decides to discharge the employee, but calls the termination a "layoff" to allow the employee to collect unemployment insurance with no difficulty and to make the separation less hostile. The employee files charges of discrimination.

In this example, the employer's lack of documentary evidence of poor work performance is the least of his problems. If the company now maintains that the employee was discharged for poor work performance, not laid off, the *new* reason appears pretextual. A court or jury might conclude that the "lie" told at the separa-

tion conference was designed to cover up the real reason: unlawful discrimination. Moreover, if the company decides to stick with the layoff story, which could be perjury, it may have to explain why the employee was not recalled, why new employees were hired, why less senior employees were not laid off first, etc.

Discipline, especially discharge, should be communicated to the employee in a conference with the personnel officer. The employee should be told the reason why he is being disciplined in a candid, complete manner. If disciplinary forms are used, fill one out, tracking your oral presentation to the employee. If the employee is being discharged for theft, tell him. If he is being discharged for unsatisfactory work performance, set forth in detail why his performance was substandard.

Do not under any circumstances call the discharge a layoff, furlough, or anything else except what it is. And do not indicate to the employee that the decision was hard or that you are not absolutely convinced that the decision is proper.

If an employee is discharged, do not permit him to finish the day. For this reason, the employee should be advised of the decision at the end of the day, if practical. Finally, do not embellish the reasons given for the final decision. For example, employers find it difficult to refrain from referring to incidents several years old. This may make it appear that the decision to discipline or discharge was made with some reservations. If the misconduct was serious enough to warrant discharge, there is no need to give further justification.

Established procedures for discipline and discharge are necessary for every company, small or large. Employees are more inclined to sue these days than take the company's decision at face value. The fundamentals set forth above should help most employers minimize their legal troubles.

Frank Kollman is a partner in the law firm of Kollman & Saucier, PA, in Baltimore, MD. He can be reached by phone at (410) 727-4300 or fax (410) 727-4391. His firm's web site can be found at www.kollmanlaw.com. It has articles, sample policies, news and other information on employee/employer relations.

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STUCKY'S STRATEGIES



BY STUCKY SZCZOTKA

Wetcleaning vs drycleaning cost comparison

chine is aging out and you're on the fence about whether to invest in a new one vs a wetcleaning system, read on for a head-to-head cost comparison.

In this column, I will investigate operational expenses of both options, including labor, utility costs and disposal fees, as well as purchase price and installation costs. When the numbers are crunched, there's a clear winner — wetcleaning a technology that can also help you grow wash-dry-fold (WDF) for more revenue and profit.

WDF is an easy revenue stream to adopt as long as you have the washing and drying capacity for it. It can fall right into your current route pickup and delivery program. The problem is that most cleaners are limited on washers and dryers.

So, when faced with the dilemma of adding a wetcleaning system or drycleanmachine, wetcleaning system comes out on top for more than just cost savings. It wins because it not only allows you to process dryclean only garments using water, it gives

f your drycleaning ma- you the capacity you need to and remove equipment and process and grow residential WDF.

Initial Investment

Let's begin by evaluating the initial cost of each system. In the graphic on the bottom left is the amount required to purchase new alternative solvent drycleanmachines versus similarly-sized Poseidon wetcleaning systems. There's a \$60,000 to \$64,000 cost differential in favor of wetcleaning.

Additional Capital **Expenditures**

Sometimes there are additional costs associated with a new drycleaning machine, including upgrading boilers, chillers, air compressors and electrical. If you have to upgrade any of these because of your new drycleaning machine, you'll spend considerably more. If you go with a wet cleaning system, you won't.

For example, a customer of mine recently replaced a 50-lb capacity perc drycleaning machine with an 80-lb capacity alternative solvent drycleaning machine at a \$100,000 list price. To get it installed, we had to replace existing doors in the plant

the slick rail. We also had to upgrade the plant's electri-

By comparison, an 80-lb capacity wetcleaning system, which operates on two 15-amp breakers, doesn't require anything extra. So, if you add a wet cleaning system, you'll likely not have to purchase or upgrade anything else. The new wet cleaning system also helped increase WDF revenue from current customers.

Yet another high-end cleaner was operating two drycleaning machines. When one was aging out, they brought in wetcleaning. Now, they do more WDF using the wetcleaning machines. They grew that revenue stream so much that they've since added more wetcleaning machines and a flatwork ironer, which allows them to iron sheets, duvets, drapes and table linens.

Installation Costs & Hassles

Consider the installation process for both machines. When you get into larger capacities, installation can get tricky. Let's say you are installing that 80-lb capacity drycleaning machine. Because of its large footprint, it won't fit through a 42" door opening. But, an 80-pound capacity Poseidon wetcleaning system will.

Recently, we installed an 80-lb capacity drycleaning machine for a customer. Because it would not fit through the doorway, we had to replace the original with a roll-up door and upgrade the electrical at a considerable cost.

If that customer had gone with an 80-lb capacity wet cleaning system instead, it would have fit through the door and eliminated the need to stop production and replace the door.

Operational Costs

The minimal initial investment of a 60-lb capacity drycleaning machine is at least \$60,000 greater than that of a similarly sized wetcleaning system. Other capiexpenditures upgrades are also part of the installation and operational equation. Now, let's compare labor, chemistry/solvent, regulatory/licensing fees and utility costs.

Chemistry

Initial start-up costs for chemistry for a 60-lb capacity wetcleaning machine is around \$1,300. It's \$5,000 or more for a 60-lb capacity drycleaning machine. From there on, there is not a huge difference.

Water

Water usage can vary. On the drycleaning side, when a chiller is utilized to recycle water through a drycleaning machine, very little water is used. However, a chiller costs between \$15,000 to \$45,000. The other way to cool a drycleaning machine is through the use of a cooling/water tower. These are located on the roof, so they can lose some water through evaporation, and at certain times of the year, can't be utilized because of high temperatures and extremely high humidity levels. When this happens, plants rely on city water to cool the drycleaning machines.

In general, a 60-lb capacity wetcleaning machine uses 40 gallons of water per load, and over the course of a year, would go through as much water as a drycleaning machine hooked to a water tower. A drycleaning machine hooked to a chiller is most water efficient. The only problem is that this scenario requires a costly initial investment.

Electricity

When it comes to electricity, wetcleaning wins. This is because a drycleaning machine requires 60 to 90 amps to operate, whereas a wetcleaning system requires just two 15 amps.

Natural Gas

Natural gas usage follows suit. The boiler needed to operate a drycleaning machine uses 670,000 BTUs, which dwarfs the wetcleaning requirement of 118,000 BTUs. Plus, a boiler will run until all plant production is completed for the day. A wetcleaning system dryer operates in 15 to 20 minute increments a dozen times a day.

Labor

When compared, labor costs are very similar in both drycleaning and wetcleaning. Spotting likely involves less time on the

wetcleaning side because 90% of stains are water-soluble. They come out when they are wetcleaned.

And as long as the wetcleaning machine is partnered with a properly programmed dryer (so items come out of the dryer at the proper moisture levels), finishing time is about the same as with drycleaned gar-

Without a controlled drying process, wetcleaned items might take more labor time to finish. For these reasons, labor costs are a draw.

Regulatory & Waste **Disposal Fees**

Finally, regulatory fees and waste disposal costs are not uniform across the country because each state has its own set of laws. But, you can be sure there are never disposal or regulatory costs for wetcleaning.

Drycleaning is another story. For example, Michigan drycleaners are inspected annually and licensed through the Environmental Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). They are charged a fee based on the size of the drycleaning machines in their plants. Additionally, still-bottom-solvent wastes must be picked up and disposed of, which costs hundreds per drum.

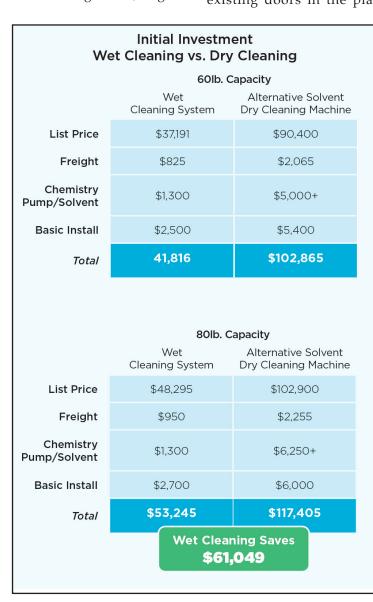
I recently had a customer dish out \$1,130 for a 35-gallon drum for a still-bottom/water separator, as well as a 35-gallon drum for

Half of the Overall Cost

When all factors are considered, wetcleaning costs are thousands less than those of *drycleaning*. The other benefit? A new wet cleaning system will allow you to expand and grow WDF.

recommendation? Make wetcleaning a larger part of your plant's production for less than half the cost of drycleaning, 50% more throughput, and the ability to significantly grow WDF business and revenue.

Michael "Stucky" Szczotka, owner of Eagle Star Equipment in Troy, MI, is a textile care, drycleaning and wetcleaning expert with more than 45 years of hands-on industry operations experience. He is a frequent contributor to industry journals and associations.





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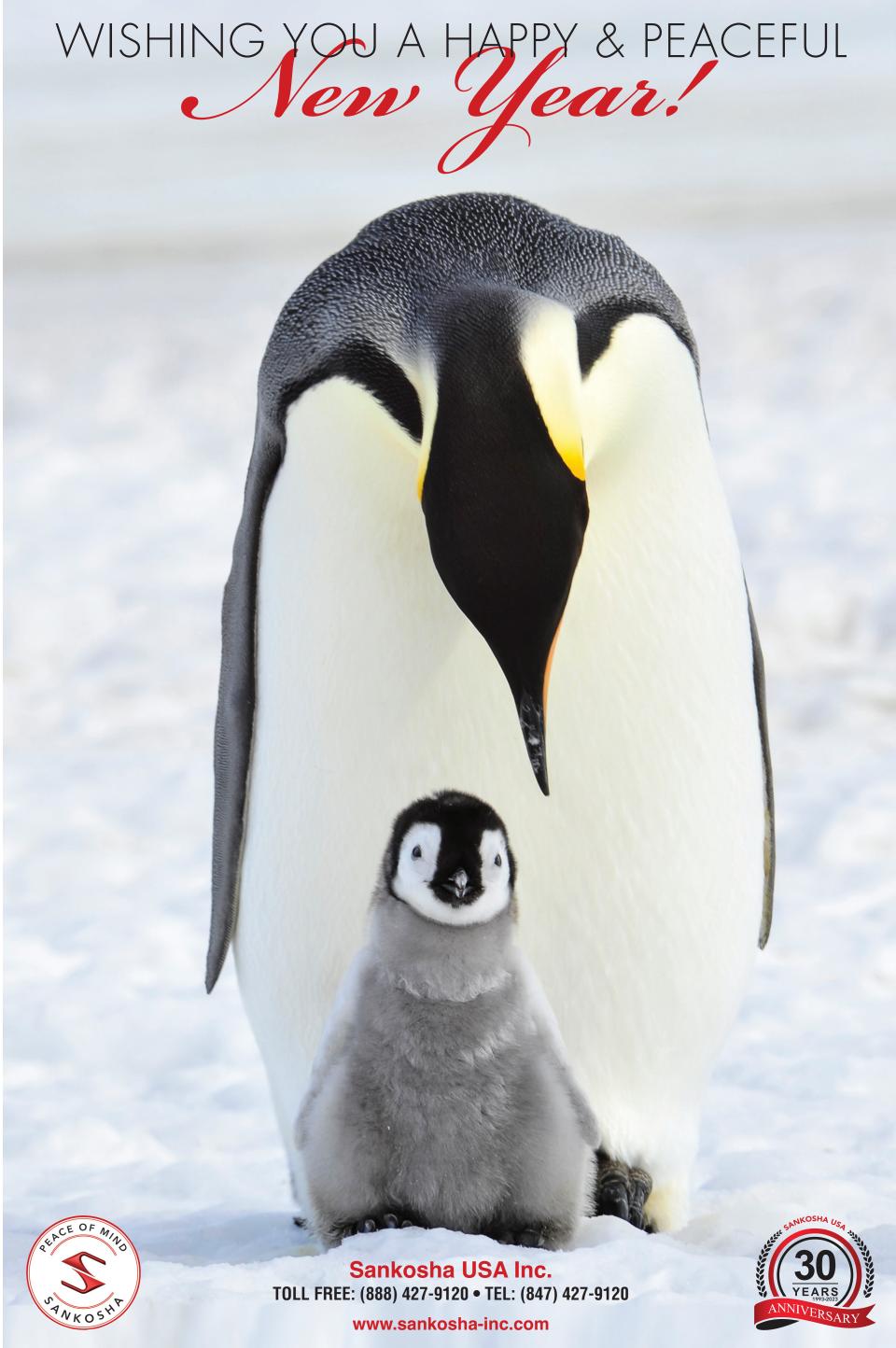
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