



The Enterprise

The Newsletter of Central States Enterprises

Vol. 2 Iss. 1
Since 2014

New Year Rings in New Employee Additions

Kat Benton

Marketing & Communications Specialist

Central States brought in the New Year with three solid additions to the staff that include: Teri Adkins as our Administrative Assistant, Dorinda Ellis as our Payroll Accountant, and Shaun Costello as our new Sales Representative.



From left to right: Adkins, Costello, and Ellis.

Adkins takes care of the initial contact points from customers, accounts receivable, and shipping/receiving among other duties. Adkins is a native of Salina, KS; consequently it is also where Central States is headquartered. Adkins has been with Central States since the middle of 2015, and has 5 years experience as an Administrative Assistant along with 20 years in customer service.

“I like working at Central States because of the people, camaraderie, and the atmosphere,” said Adkins.

Ellis has been in the accounting industry for most of her career. She graduated with an Accounting Degree from Kansas Wesleyan University, and appreciates the “logic of the numbers” in her career.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at Central States, Ellis said, “It’s a family environment.”

Costello is the newest member of the Sales team. He received his Associate’s Degree from Arizona State University and has over 21 years experience in sales. Costello’s goal is to expand the customer base and increase the reach and quality of customer service in a dedicated capacity.

Costello said that since his time at Central States, he has noticed “an unprecedented retention of customers... once Central States gains a customer they keep their business as a lifetime customer.”



Thadd Bigler

CSE Vice President

Calendar Year 2015 was a very good year for Central States Enterprises, and our customers. We all would have wished for a bumper crop of above average quality HRW. What was harvested was an average size crop with below average quality. The markets then dictated that a large portion of the crop remain in storage which kept our inland division busy throughout the fall and winter season.

CY 2016 promises to be another busy year as we continue to experience growth in the Central Plains as well as the Gulf South. In preparation for this, we recently hired another crew lead that will be responsible for North Central Kansas and Nebraska.

I was very happy with our safety record for CY 2015. A special thanks goes to Ward Stockamp, our Safety & Human Resources Director for strict adherence to our safety and accountability programs. We look for continued improvements for CY 2016.

We are proud to be one of the few companies in our industry that employs a full-time Safety Director.

- Thadd Bigler



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Meet Ward Stockamp: Central State's Safety and Human Resources Director

Ward Stockamp has been the Safety & HR Director at Central States Enterprises for the past 4 years, and has been in the business of safety for 23 years.

Stockamp's education and technical background are impressive: Kansas State University Environmental Engineering courses, ISO 14001 Lead Auditor: RAB certified, ISO9001 Internal Auditor, TS16949 Internal Auditor, Army Ammo-62 certified (Technical transportation of hazardous materials), Army Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), Federal Express Dangerous Goods, and OSHA Outreach Trainer for General Industry (10 and 30 hour).

What is your focus on Safety & HR now and in the future?

Staying abreast of the regulatory landscape, and how that impacts our business model and operations. It is a daily, weekly, to monthly monitoring situation, and I pride myself on being proactive.

What is something you bring to the table that our competitors do not have?

I'd say it's my background. I've worked in heavy industrial manu-

facturing facilities with 1,000 employees on site, law enforcement, retail safety and Department of Defense contracting. I've been through several variations of quality systems, safety systems, and environmental systems management training and been dealing with federal regulations for a long time. With my diverse background I've learned to adapt and apply novel solutions to safety problems.



Stockamp (pictured above) speaking at a job fair in Kansas

What is something you have learned about CSE in your time so far?

That we fumigate a lot of grain. I've lived in the area my entire life and never realized the amount of storage there is, and just how many facilities there are.

What do you enjoy most about working at CSE?

The diversity of the operations we do. From ships to containers to elevators, it seems like there is always something new popping up.

Anything else you would like to say?

I really enjoy the culture of safety we have built here at CSE. When I show up unannounced to perform an audit, and I have to dig to find something to write down, that gives me a sense of accomplishment. I know our crews work hard and have a very busy workload, but if I have to dig to find anything wrong, that tells me that safety is built in to what we do and they are doing things right even when no one is watching.

When a brand new employee takes me aside a week or so into the job and tells me how his On-the-Job Trainer points out a safety violation, and tells him flat out that is not how we do things around here, and how that has never happened anywhere else they have worked - that makes my day.

I want CSE to be the example of how to do things safely, efficiently, effectively, and make the customer glad they selected us.



Stockamp (pictured left) updating personnel on new OSHA Standards

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